

# Jennifer Ann Ho

Current Address:  
21 Woodbridge St., Apt. 1  
South Hadley, MA 01075  
jho@mtholyoke.edu  
(413) 538-6989

Mount Holyoke College  
Department of English  
50 College Street  
South Hadley, MA 01075  
(413) 538-2103

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## Education

Ph.D. 2002                      English Literature  
Defense date:                Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts  
November 18                  Dissertation: Consumption and Identity in Asian American Coming-of-Age

### Novels

M.A., May 1996                English Literature  
Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

B.A., June, 1992                English Literature, Magna Cum Laude  
University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California

## Dissertation Description

“Consumption and Identity in Asian American Coming-of-Age Novels”

First reader:                  Susan Mizruchi  
Second reader:                Anita Patterson

My dissertation examines the theme of consumption in Asian American literature, connecting representations of cooking and eating with ethnic identity formation. Using four discrete modes of identification as organizing categories—historic pride, consumerism, mourning, and fusion—I examine how Asian American adolescents challenge and revise their cultural legacies and experiment with alternative ethnic affiliations, by way of the food they consume and fail to consume. My analyses of Asian American texts will attend, in particular, to the tensions between Asian stereotypes and more “authentic” portrayals of Asian American consumptive practices.

## Awards

Five College Minority Dissertation Fellowship, Mount Holyoke College, September 2000–May 2001.

## Publications

### Articles

“When the Political is Personal: Life on the Multi-Ethnic Margins.” *Race in the Classroom*, eds. Maureen Reddy and Bonnie TuSmith. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2002.

“Critical Works of Milton Murayama.” *Asian American Casebook*, eds. Rowena Matsunari and Angela Williams. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press (forthcoming 2003).

Entries for *Donald Duk* (Frank Chin), *Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers* (Lois Ann Yamanaka), and *All I Asking for Is My Body* (Milton Murayama). *The Facts on File Companion to the American Novel*, ed. Abby H.P. Werlock. New York: Facts on File, Inc. (forthcoming 2003).

### Articles Under Review

"Feeding the Spirit: Mourning for the Mother(land) in Lan Cao's *Monkey Bridge* and Nora Okja Keller's *Comfort Woman*." Submitted for review to *Studies in the Literary Imagination*.

### Book/Film Reviews

*Masking Selves, Making Subjects: Japanese American Women, Identity, and the Body*, Traise Yamamoto (forthcoming *Sojourner: The Women's Forum*).

*Contours of the Heart: South Asians Map North America*, eds. Sunaina Maira and Rajini Srikanth. *Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States* (Winter 1999), 208-210.

*Snow Falling on Cedars*, dir. Scott Hicks. *Sojourner: The Women's Forum* (January 2000), 39 & 42.

*Leaving Deep Water: The Lives of Asian American Women at the Crossroads of Two Cultures*, Claire S. Chow. *Sojourner: The Women's Forum* (October 1999), 36-37.

*What the Fortune Teller Didn't Say*, Shirley Geok-lin Lim. *Calyx: A Journal of Art and Literature for Women* (Summer 1999), 139-40.

*My Year of Meats*, Ruth L. Ozeki. *Sojourner: The Women's Forum* (February 1999), 43.

*Feminist Accused of Sexual Harassment*, Jane Gallup. *Sojourner: The Women's Forum* (November 1997), 44-45.

*Everyday Acts Against Racism: Raising Children in a Multiracial World*, ed. Maureen T. Reddy. *Sojourner: The Women's Forum* (August 1997), 36-37.

*Where the Oceans Meet*, Bhargavi C. Mandava. *Sojourner: The Women's Forum* (May 1997), 48-49.

*Among the White Moon Faces: An Asian-American Memoir of Homelands*, Shirley Geok-Lin Lim. *Sojourner: The Women's Forum* (November 1996), 34-35.

### **Conference Presentations**

"Building, Sustaining, and Enriching Asian Pacific American Studies Programs and APA Communities Using the Five College APA Certificate Model of Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, Smith, and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst," panelist. Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education Conference, New York, NY, November 1-3, 2002.

"Survival and Success: Asian American Studies and the Chosen Few in Liberal Arts Colleges," panelist, Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education Conference, New York, NY, November 1-3, 2002.

"Ethnic Anxiety in Times of Terror: the Japanese American Internment and post-September 11," Asian American Film Conference, Amherst, Massachusetts, November 16-18, 2001.

"To Eat, to Buy, to Be: Themes of Consumption and Identity in Lois Ann Yamanaka's *Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers*," Contemporary American Literature Association Conference, Santa Fe, NM, October 26-28, 2001.

"Trespass and Consume: Invasion and Survival in Nora Okja Keller's *Comfort Woman*," Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada, March 28-31, 2001.

"When the Political Is Personal: Life on the Multi-Ethnic Margins," Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States Conference, Knoxville, TN, March 1-4, 2000.

"Whose Story Is It Anyway? No Redress for Japanese Americans in *Snow Falling on Cedars*," Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Phoenix, AZ, May 23-26, 2000.

"Self-Naming and Ontological Unification in Sui Sin Far's 'Pat and Pan,'" Northeast Modern Languages Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, April 16-17, 1999.

"The Dangers of Treat Eating in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*," Oral Fixations: Cannibalizing Theories, Consuming Cultures Conference, Washington, D.C., April 4-5, 1999.

"The Violent Instability of the Mulatta in *Passing*," Reading Ethnicity: Cultural and Literary Issues in Aesthetic Discourse Conference, Washington, D.C., October 18, 1997.

## Teaching Experience

Visiting Professor. Department of English, Mount Holyoke College, 2002-2003.

Courses include an upper-level seminar on postmodern Asian American narratives, an introduction to the study of literature, a composition course on Asian American coming-of-age novels, and a literature course on Asian American women writers. For detailed syllabi and sample assignments see <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/jho>.

Instructor. Department of English, Mount Holyoke College, Spring 2001-Spring 2002.

Courses taught include an upper-level seminar "Coming-of-Age in Asian America: The Asian American Experience in Novels and Narratives," a composition course on Asian American coming-of-age novels, and a course about contemporary Asian American literature. For detailed syllabi and sample assignments see <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/jho>.

Scholar. Project 2050/New World Theater, Amherst College, July 5-13, 2001.

Participated as a resident scholar in a week-long artists' camp for Pioneer Valley youth. Taught sessions about personal identity and incarceration (as related to the Japanese American Internment).

Instructor. Department of English, Boston University, Fall 1996-Spring 2000.

Courses taught on expository composition, American literature, and fiction. Planned lectures, facilitated discussions, graded assignments and papers, and worked individually with students to improve their writing. For detailed syllabi and sample assignments see <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/jho>.

Teaching Assistant. Department of English, Boston University, Fall 1995-Spring 1996.

Assisted in an introductory fiction course, led two small classroom discussions each semester, presented guest lectures, and graded all assignments.

Reader. Department of English, Boston University, Spring 1998 & Spring 1999.

Contemporary American Fiction (Spring 1998) and Introduction to Poetry (Spring 1999). Graded half of all papers, midterm examinations, and final examinations.

English Literature Instructor. Upward Bound/Project Achieve, Boston University, Summer 1998 &

Summer 1999. Taught literature to college-bound high school students. Created all lesson plans, led discussions of literature, and graded all assignments.

## Guest Lectures

### Invited Speaking Engagements

"Chinese Immigration and Foodways in the United States," Anthropology 307: Food and Culture, Merry White, Boston University, Boston, MA, July 19, 2002.

Respondent, "'You're a Better Filipino than I Am, John Wayne': World War II, Hollywood and U.S.-Philippines Relations," Professor Charles Hawley, "Reimagining 'America' in a Global Age," Mount Holyoke College lecture series, South Hadley, MA April 16, 2002.

"Deconstructing 'The Great American Melting Pot,'" Five College Asian Pacific American faculty seminar,  
Easthampton, MA, November 13, 2001.

Keynote speaker, "Reflections on My First Year at Mount Holyoke College," Passages First Year Orientation, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, August 31, 2001.

"Hop Sing Doesn't Cook Here Anymore: Re-visioning Asian Americans and Food in Popular Culture," panel on "Food and Asian American Culture," Asian American Writer's Workshop, New York, NY, June 9, 2001.

"Mourning for the Mother(land) in Lan Cao's *Monkey Bridge* and Nora Okja Keller's *Comfort Woman*," American Studies Forum, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, April 8, 2001.

"Food and Ethnic Identity in Nora Okja Keller's *Comfort Woman*," Anthropology 308: Food in Asian Culture, Merry White, Boston University, Boston, MA, February 21, 2001.

"Asian American Media Images and Stereotypes in *Rush Hour*," sponsored by AASIA (Asian American Sisters in Action), Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, December 6, 2000.

"Images of the Japanese American Internment in Print and Media," English 200: Introduction to the Study of Literature, Jennifer Margulis, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, November 14, 2000.

"Contrasting Images of the Japanese American Internment in Hollywood Film," Asian American Studies 101: Introduction to Asian American Studies, Karen Cardozo-Kane, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, October 5, 2000.

"African American Women's Writing and *Sula*," English 141: Fiction, Emily Dalgarno, Boston University, Boston, MA, April 17, 1997.

"Feminism and *The Handmaid's Tale*," English 141: Fiction, Aaron Fogel, Boston University, Boston, MA, November 21, 1996.

### Organized Speaking Engagements

Mei Ng (author), *Eating Chinese Food Naked* reading, English Department Lecture Series, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, March 6, 2002.

Jean Wu (director of the Office of Diversity Education and Development, Tufts University), keynote speaker, "Asian American Teach-In," Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, March 2, 2002.

I Was Born with Two Tongues (Asian American spoken word group), "From Poetry to Performance," Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, October 17, 2001.

Cynthia Gates Fujikawa (filmmaker/performer), *Old Man River* film screening, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, April 18, 2001.

Asian American Literary Cabaret (featuring writers Tahira Naqvi, Nurjehan Aziz, and Rita Wong), Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada, March 29, 2001.

### **Academic Service**

Academic Advising, Mount Holyoke College, 2002-2003.

Program Advisor for the Asian Pacific American Five College Certificate, Mount Holyoke College,

2001-2002.

Co-chair, Graduate Student Advisory Board, Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States, 2001-2002.

Co-chair, Literary Caucus, Association for Asian American Studies, 2000-2001.

Elected Graduate Student Representative, Department of English, Boston University, 1997-1998.

### **Professional Memberships**

American Literature Association

Association for Asian American Studies

Five College Asian Pacific American Committee

Modern Languages Association

Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States

### **Languages**

Spanish, reading proficiency

French, reading proficiency

### **Technology Based Classroom Experience**

Dreamweaver (used to create course web pages)

Videoconferencing workshop (for future lesson plans and collaborative teaching)

Web CT (on-line course management system)

### **References**

Professor Susan Mizruchi, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

Professor Anita Patterson, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

Professor Merry White, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

Professor Elizabeth Ammons, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts

Professor Amy Kaplan, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts

Professor Donald Weber, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts

Professor Elizabeth Young, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts

Professor Floyd Cheung, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts