

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## *American Studies* 2022 Special Issue

### **Across Global Souths: Asian Migrations through the U.S. South and the Circum-Caribbean**

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*Across Global Souths: Asian Migrations through the U.S. South and the Circum-Caribbean* seeks to investigate Asian/American cultures, politics, and relationships across multiple Souths, with an emphasis on the U.S. South and the Caribbean. In the United States, ideas of "Asian America" continue to circulate around communities on the East and West coasts. The *Across Global Souths: Asian Migrations through the U.S. South and the Circum-Caribbean* project reframes the conversation with an emphasis on journeys to and from multiple *souths*. The CFP considers the broader U.S. geopolitical designation of "South" (including Texas and the US Gulf Coast). Grounded within recent scholarly developments in the field of American Studies, the CFP invites further reflections on the diasporic condition of the category "Asian," as well as the diasporic condition of the category "Southerner," and simultaneously challenges conceptions of an exclusively white, Euro-American U.S. citizenry.

What distinguishes this research, firmly ensconced within both American Studies and current Global South frameworks, is the comparative focus on Asians in the U.S. South and the Caribbean and Caribbean diasporas. While Global South Studies has raised important questions on "south/south" and hemispheric discourses, and Caribbean Studies has long foregrounded archipelagic and transnational critiques of colonialism, an interdisciplinary examination of Asian migrations within two locations that share centuries of overlapping histories—the U.S. South and the Caribbean—has been understudied. Even as we foreground the geographical spaces of the U.S. South and the Caribbean, we also invite broader theorizations of "south" that convene other underexamined geographies, such as the U.S. Midwest, and a range of methodologies.

We seek essays that articulate the transregional, comparative U.S. South or Caribbean emphasis and interdisciplinary approaches. Possible topics could include:

- politics and politicians of Asian heritage across the U.S. South and Caribbean, Asian American grassroots politics, and radical political cultures;
- nineteenth-century history, such as Asian indentured servants transported to the Caribbean, the arrival of Chinese workers from Cuba and California to the Mississippi Delta, the building of the Panama Canal, the Filipino Saint Malo settlement in Louisiana;



An Afro-Indigenous enby with their best friend, an Asian trans femme enby in their queer home. Courtesy of ggggrimes Art.

- twentieth-century history, such as Japanese American internment in the U.S. South, the Japanese American presence in postwar Georgia and Arkansas, including in the chick-sexing industry;
- literary representations of Asian/Americans in the Caribbean, in the U.S. South, in Latin America;
- films; visual arts, music, and sound studies;
- Indigenities across the Caribbean
- studies of multiracial subjectivities: racial affiliation, being “claimed” or “rejected” by multiple heritage communities;
- Gulf South and Caribbean ecologies;
- ethnographic work that investigates convergent spaces and unexpected places in the American Souths (e.g. farms, restaurants, motels, beauty supply stores, spas, fishermen’s circles, Asian sweatshop economies) as sources of cultural production;
- overlapping legacies of food and colonialism across the U.S. South and Caribbean;
- gender, sexuality, and/or misogynist anti-Asian/American violence; queer and trans\* liberation;
- alternate kinships and genealogies; the movements of DNA ancestry testing on Asian/American populations; Asian adoptees in the U.S. South;
- exploring or challenging archival collections;
- parallels among South Korea, South Vietnam, and the American South;
- religion and spirituality.

Email abstracts of 250 - 400 words to [j.kim@ku.edu](mailto:j.kim@ku.edu) and [ganatol@ku.edu](mailto:ganatol@ku.edu) by May 21, 2021. Notification of invitation to submit articles by mid-June 2021. Full drafts will be due by Friday, December 3, 2021.

# Women, Gender, and Families of Color



*WGFC* is a multidisciplinary journal that centers the study of Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and Asian American women, genders, and families. Within this framework, the journal encourages theoretical and empirical research from the social and behavioral sciences and the humanities. It welcomes comparative and transnational research as well as analyses of domestic social, cultural, political, and economic policies and practices. Available in libraries through Project MUSE and JSTOR, the journal has a rolling submission policy to receive manuscripts, proposals for guest-edited special issues, and book reviews at any time.

*WGFC*, published bi-annually in the spring and fall, is available electronically and in hard copy. It is sponsored by the University of Kansas and published by the University of Illinois Press.

For more information, contact the editors or visit our website: [wgfc.ku.edu](http://wgfc.ku.edu)

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