

Ann Ngoc Tran, Ph.D.

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Education

University of California, Los Angeles

July 2025–Present

UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow

Asian American Studies & Asian Languages and Cultures

Advisor: Thu-Huong Nguyen-Vo

University of Southern California

Ph.D. in American Studies and Ethnicity

August 2025

M.A. in American Studies and Ethnicity

Spring 2023

Fields for Qualifying Exams: 20th Century U.S. History (Black Social Movements emphasis),

Asian American History, Transpacific Studies, Critical Refugee Studies

Dissertation: "The Ark is Already Gone: A History of Boat Refugee Non-Arrival"

Dissertation Committee: Viet Thanh Nguyen (co-chair), Adrian De Leon (co-chair), Francille R. Wilson, Fiori Berhane

Texas Christian University

B.A. in English, *Phi Beta Kappa* and *magna cum laude*

May 2020

B.A. in History, *magna cum laude*

May 2020

Minor in Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies

Areas of Interest

Boat migrations, Diaspora and Migration Studies, maritime Southeast Asia, cultural studies, Asian American history, Critical Refugee Studies, Black Studies, Vietnam Wars, U.S. empire

Publications

Peer-Reviewed

2025 "Boat People" Entry for the *SAGE Encyclopedia for Refugee Studies*. Editors YẾN Lê Espiritu and Lan Duong. (accepted for publication)

2025 "Political Groceries: Supermarkets and Refugee Consumers in Little Saigon," *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, 32, 1 (2025): 62-88, doi: 10.1163/18765610-32010005

2023 "Imperial Gift: Soap, Humanitarianism, and Black Markets in the Vietnam War." *Radical History Review* 2023 (147): 55–76. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Book Reviews

2024 "Refugee Lifeworlds: The Afterlife of the Cold War in Cambodia" (Book Review). *Amerasia Journal*. <https://doi-org.libproxy2.usc.edu/10.1080/00447471.2023.2274269>

Awards

- 2025 Ralph Henry Gabriel Prize, American Studies Association
Awarded annually to the best doctoral dissertation in American Studies, ethnic studies, or women's studies
- 2024 Honorable Mention, Frank Gibney Graduate Essay Award
Journal of American-East Asian Relations
- 2022 USC Library Research Award (1st Place), University of Southern California
Awarded for the best graduate research paper using USC Special Collections
"USC in 1970: Politics, Race, and the Antiwar Movement"
- 2021–2024 Frank S. Kawana Leadership Scholarship Award, USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association
- 2021 Raymond J. Cunningham Paper Prize, American Historical Association
Awarded for the best published article written by an undergraduate student
"A Bloody Solidarity: Nguyen Thai Binh and the Vietnamese Antiwar Movement in the Long Sixties," *The Boller Review*, Vol 5 (2020)

External Grants & Fellowships

- 2026 UMN President's Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of American Studies (accepted)
- 2025 Charles Warren Center Postdoctoral Fellowship in Global American Studies, Harvard University (declined)
- 2025 Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Carolina Asia Center, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill (declined)
- 2024 SHAFR-Gale Summer Fellowship in Digital History
- 2024–2025 AAUW American Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000)
- 2024 Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Coast Fellowship, Lamar University
- 2024 The Dianne Woest Fellowship in the Arts and Humanities, The Historic New Orleans Collection
- 2023 Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grant, SHAFR
- 2022 Immigration History Research Center and Archives Grant-in-Aid Award, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- 2022–2023 Global South Research Grant, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South, Tulane University
- 2022 Short-Term Research Fellowship, Frances S. Summersell Center for the Study of the South, The University of Alabama
- 2022 The Portal to Texas History Fellowship, University of North Texas
- 2022 Russell F. Weigley Travel Grant, Society for Military History
- 2021 AHA Travel Award, American Historical Association
- 2021 SEASSI Language Scholarship, UW-Madison
- 2016–2020 Midland College Scholarship - \$20,000

Internal Grants & Fellowships

2024	APAA Distinguished Scholarship, University of Southern California
2024–2025	USC-Mellon Humanities in the Digital World Fellowship (\$40,000)
2024	Teresa Wilson Endowed Fellowship, USC Dornsife
2024	EASC Graduate Fellowship, East Asian Studies Center, University of Southern California
2023	Frank S. Kawana Leadership Scholarship, University of Southern California
2023	Transpacific Studies Summer Research Grant, University of Southern California
2023	ASE Summer Research Grant, University of Southern California
2023	Diane Sonosky Montgomery and Jerol Sonosky Graduate Fellowship for Environmental Sustainability Research, USC Wrigley Institute for Environment and Sustainability
2022	ASE Graduate Student Conference Award, University of Southern California
2022	ASE Graduate Student Summer Research Grant, University of Southern California
2022	USC Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant
2022	GSG Professional Development Fund Award, University of Southern California
2022	ASE Graduate Student Conference Award, University of Southern California
2021	Transpacific Studies Research Grant, University of Southern California
2021	ASE Summer Research Grant, University of Southern California
2021	Transpacific Studies Summer Research Grant, University of Southern California
2020–2025	Dornsife Graduate Fellowship, University of Southern California
2020	Diversity Research Award, Texas Christian University
2019	Kathryne McDorman Honors Scholar, Texas Christian University
2019	Paul Wassenich Founder's Medal, Texas Christian University
2017–2020	Ronald E. McNair Fellow, Texas Christian University
2016–2020	Chancellor's Scholarship (full tuition), Texas Christian University

External Publications

“From South Vietnam to the Bible Belt: a tale of southern inheritances.” *diaCRITICS*. November 4, 2025. [Link](#).

“Vietnamese Migrations and Narratives of Unsettlement.” *University of Minnesota Libraries*. September 15, 2023. [Link](#).

“Local Fishing Villages and the Troubled Future of Fishing in Việt Nam.” *USC Dornsife*. July 10, 2023. [Link](#).

“8 Essential Vietnamese Restaurants in Houston's Bellaire Neighborhood.” *Vietcetera*. January 5, 2022. [Link](#).

Invited Talks and Lectures

“Black Social Movements and the Vietnam Wars,” Lecture for AMST 252: Black Social Movements, November 17, 2025.

“Non-Arrived Histories of Refugee Migration,” Lecture for Intro to Asian American Studies, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, October 31, 2024.

“Unsettled Histories of the Vietnamese Diaspora,” Lecture for the *Contested Histories* Workshop, World History and Literature Initiative (WHaLI) at the International Institute at the University of Michigan, June 17–18, 2024.

“The Birth of Asian America,” Lecture for AMST 206 (Sanchez): The Politics and Cultures of the 1960s, April 4, 2022.

“Race and Environmental Justice in New Orleans and the Gulf South,” Lecture for AMST 252 (Wilson): Black Social Movements, November 17, 2021.

Digital Humanities

“Community Archiving in the Digital World,” Roundtable Panelist for the Digital Humanities Consortium at Cal Poly Pomona, November 7, 2025.

Session Co-Leader, “Using 3D Data to Document and Exhibit Cultural Heritage” Presentation, ITCH: Immersive Technologies and Cultural Heritage Symposium, USC Mellon Humanities in a Digital World and the Ahmanson Lab, September 21, 2024.

Digital Humanities Workshop Training, USC Mellon Humanities in the Digital World.
Completed 20 hours of classroom training for individual projects using digital tools, including ArcGIS, QGIS, Palladio, Flourish, Tableau, and Scalar, July 2024.

Conferences and Symposia

Vietnamese Heritage Museum Symposium, “From Exodus to Legacy: 50 Years of the Vietnamese American Journey,” Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, CA, November 21, 2025.
Invited Presentation: “Vietnamese Migrations Since 1975”

Pacific Coast Branch, American Historical Association, San Jose, CA, July 31, 2025
Paper Presentation: “Forget Her Not: Missing, Forgotten, and Disappeared Archives of Vietnamese Boat Refugee Women”

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Arlington, VA, June 28, 2025
Digital History Presentation: “‘Boat People: Shifting Meanings and Political Transformations, 1975-1992”

Organization of American Historians, Chicago, IL, April 3, 2025
Paper Presented: “Historicizing the Postwar Migrations of ‘Vietnamese Boat/People,’ 1975-1978”

Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, “Stories of Refugeeness Symposium,” March 20, 2025
Paper Presented: “Accumulated Catastrophe and Southern Vietnamese Migrations”

American Historical Association, New York City, NY, January 5, 2025
Paper Presented: “The Case of the Hai Hong: ‘Boat People’ and the Economy of Migrant Shipping”

American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 14, 2024
 Paper Presented: “Pre-Diaspora: Risk and Imagination in Postwar Việt Nam”

Association for Asian American Studies, Seattle, WA, April 27, 2024
 Paper Presented: “Uncharted Waves: Alternate Routes, Refusals, and Returns on the Boat”

CSEAS Vietnam-Centric Approaches, Berkeley, CA, April 19–20, 2024
 Paper Presented: “Imagined Diaspora: Anticipating Departure in Postwar Việt Nam”

Global Asias Conference, Irvine, CA, February 23, 2023
 Paper Presented: “Phantasmatic Geography: Riverine Wars in the Mekong Delta”

American Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, November 5, 2023
 Roundtable Participant: “The Political Lives of Infrastructure”

Western Historical Association, San Antonio, TX, October 15, 2022
 Paper Presented: “Placemaking, Cultural Memory, and Refugee Politics in Westminster’s Vietnamese Supermarkets”

Society for Military History Conference, Fort Worth, TX, May 1, 2022
 Roundtable Participant: “The Elusive Home Front and Its Place in Military History”

Vietnam War Studies Symposium, “1972: The War Between North and South Vietnam,” April 2022
 Paper Presented: “Imperial Gift: Soap, Squalor, and the Archives of Medical Humanitarianism”

Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association Conference, October 15, 2021
 Paper Presented: “Battle on Two Fronts: The Vietnamese Left in the Anti-War Movement”

Cultural Studies Association, Virtual Conference, June 10, 2021
 Paper presented: “Fooding on Facebook: How Facebook Groups Saved Asian/American Restaurants in the COVID-19 Pandemic”

Association for Asian American Studies, Virtual Conference, April 8, 2021
 Paper presented: “Archives in Transit: Boat Refugees and the Refuse of Viet Nam”

Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture Symposium, USC, March 2, 2021
 Paper presented: “Living in Memory: The Counternarratives of War at the Boat Refugee Memorial”

Society for Military History Young Scholars Conference, Arlington, VA, May 3, 2020 (cancelled)
 Paper accepted: “From Student to Hijacker: The Conversion of Vietnamese Students in America During the Vietnam War”

Teaching

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2023 AMST 150: The American War in Viet Nam with Viet Thanh Nguyen

Fall 2022 AMST 101: Race and Class in Los Angeles with George J. Sánchez
Spring 2022 AMST 206: The Politics and Culture of the 1960s with George J. Sánchez
Fall 2021 AMST 252: Black Social Movements with Francille Rusan Wilson

Service

Vietnamese Heritage Museum, Volunteer Archivist, July 2025—Present

Graduate Representative, Vietnam Studies Group, Association for Asian Studies, January 2024—Present

Co-organizer and Participant, Transpacific Research Cluster, Department of American Studies & Ethnicity at USC, August 2021—Present

Organizer, *Archipelagic/s Symposium*, University of Southern California, April 5, 2023
Invited scholars: Candice Fujikane, Keith Camacho, Jodi Kim, Evyn Le Espiritu Gandhi

Professional Academic Training

Journal of Southern History Manuscript Workshop, July 8, 2022

VOCES Oral History Center Summer Institute, June 6-10, 2022

SEASSI Summer Intensive Language Program, June-August 2021
Language Completed: Advanced Vietnamese I & II

Professional Associations

American Studies Association
American Historical Association
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Asian American Studies
The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations
Vietnam Studies Group
Pacific Coast Branch – American Historical Association