

## Qianru Li

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2024-present      Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh
- 2022-2023          Adjunct Professor, Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, "Intro to Asian Pacific American Studies," Loyola Marymount University (LMU)
- 2013-2015          Assistant Professor, Department of Dramatic Literature, "Intro to Theatre," "Theatre Histories," "Theatre Appreciation," "Playwriting Series (one-act plays to full-length plays)," "Chinese Opera Writing," "Asian Theatre and Film," "Screenwriting," "Script Analysis," and "Modern Chinese Literature," Xi' An University of Architecture and Technology  
Six months as the Undergraduate Advisor, spearheading the redesign of the undergraduate curriculum

### EDUCATION

- 2024                  Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, Drama and Theatre  
Graduate Emphases in Asian American Studies & Global and International Studies
- 2015-2018          Doctoral Coursework, University of Georgia, Theatre and Film Studies
- 2013                  M.A., Shanghai Theatre Academy, Theatre and Traditional Chinese Opera
- 2010                  B.A., Shanghai Theatre Academy, Literature of Theatre, Film, and Television

### RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Theatre and Performance Theory / Asian and Asian Diasporic Theatres / Decolonizing Theatre Histories / Inter-racial and intra-racial Relations / Multi-model Research Methodologies / Ethnic Studies / Memory / Disability Studies / Student-centered, Anti-racist, Feminist, and Trauma-informed Pedagogies / Community Engagement

### JOURNAL PUBLICATION

"Oral History as Theater: Transnational Legacies of China's One-Child Policy," *Amerasia Journal*, forthcoming.

### BOOK REVIEW

- March 2017      Ju Yon Kim, *The Racial Mundane: Asian American Performance and the Embodied Everyday*, *Texas Theatre Journal* 13, no. 1 (March 2017), 116-117.

### PERFORMANCE REVIEW

- July 2012          Edna Mazya, *Games in the Backyard*, produced by the Shanghai Art Theater, *Journal of Shanghai Theater* (上海戏剧) 53, no. 7 (July 2012), 14-15.

## SELECTED AWARDS & GRANTS

2023-2024	University of California President's Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCI
2023-2024	Ithaca College, Diversity Scholar in Theater Studies (Declined)
2022	UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts, 21C Arts Research and Innovation Grant
2022	UCI International Center for Writing and Translation, the Schaeffer Graduate Fellowship
2022	UCI Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation, Summer Teaching Apprenticeship Program Fellowship
2021	UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts, Medici Scholarship
2021	UCI Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation, Graduate Fellowship Summer 2021
2021	UCI Center for Medical Humanities, Mellon Sawyer Seminar Suffer Well Summer 2021 Fellowships
2020	UC Speculative Futures Collective, Transnational Equivalences and Inequalities Grant
2019	UCI Center for Asian Studies, Graduate Student Grant Award
2018	UGA Graduate School, Communication of Research and Scholarship Grant
2017	UGA Graduate School, Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant

## INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECT

2021-2022	<p><i>Who Will Look After Me? Transnational Legacies of China's One-Child Policy</i></p> <p>An oral history and documentary film project on women's reproductive rights under China's One-Child Policy in relation to immigrant elderly care in the U.S. For sixteen months, I conducted participant observation, semi-structured interviews, interview transcript translations, and archival research, while spearheading the production of a forty-five-minute documentary film. I partnered with the Asian American Senior Citizens Service Center (AASCSC)—a senior-serving, non-profit, and community-based organization in Orange County, California. (<a href="https://vimeo.com/843324851">https://vimeo.com/843324851</a>)</p>
2020-2021	<p><i>Sharing Comfort and Care: Intergenerational Story-mapping in the Cambodian and Pacific Islander Communities of Orange County</i></p> <p>Participated in an oral history, digital mapping, and online cookbook project that documents the displacement stories of the Cambodian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities in Southern California. Twelve months as a student researcher conducting semi-structured interviews with Cambodian Americans and Pacific Islanders, creating a digital map, and designing a physical recipe book. The faculty leaders of the project were Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, Dorothy Fujita-Rony, Thuy Vo Dang, and Madelynn Dickerson. (<a href="https://sites.google.com/uci.edu/sharingcomfortandcare">https://sites.google.com/uci.edu/sharingcomfortandcare</a>)</p>
2019-2020	<p><i>Count Us In 2020</i></p> <p>An oral history and documentary film project on the participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders(AAPIs) in the 2020 U.S. Census. Six months of semi-structured interviews with eleven AAPI community leaders in Orange County, California for a series of documentary shorts that focuses on the significance of AAPIs' engagement in the U.S. Census. I partnered with the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA), the largest AAPI-serving organization in Orange County. (<a href="https://rb.gy/udfj0c">https://rb.gy/udfj0c</a>)</p>
2019-2020	<p><i>Learning from Our AAPI Leaders: Toward a More Inclusive History of Santa Ana</i></p> <p>A digital mapping, oral history, and documentary film project that captures the one-hundred-and-fifty-year history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Santa Ana. Nine months as a student researcher conducting and documenting semi-structured interviews, creating a digital map on the History Pin, and producing a series of thirteen documentary</p>

shorts. The faculty leaders of the project were Dorothy Fujita-Rony, Isabela Quintana, and Judy Tzu-Chun Wu. (<https://sites.uci.edu/aapielders/>)

- 2017-2018 *From Cage to Stage*  
An oral history and documentary film project on the creative process of *Within These Walls*, an immersive performance on the incarceration of early Chinese immigrants at the Angel Island Immigration Station.  
Eight months of participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and archival research, while spearheading the production of a twelve-minute documentary film. I partnered with the Lenora Lee Dance, a dance company that tells the stories of BIPOC communities in San Francisco, California.  
(<https://rb.gy/pjrk7>)
- December 2012 *Composite Gong-Drum in Sijing*  
A state-level Intangible Cultural Heritage project in Shanghai that documents a dying indigenous art form—Composite Gong-Drum in Sijing Village.  
Five months as the leader of ten student researchers conducting semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and archival research for a book project: Yafeng Xue and Jinghua Gu, ed., *Composite Gong-Drum in Sijing*, (Shanghai: Shanghai Cultural Press, 2012). I contributed to Sections 1 and 4 of Chapter 4 of the book.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2023 Instructor of Record, Department of Asian American Studies, “Asian American Communities,” University of California, Irvine  
Teaching Associate, Department of Asian American Studies, “Asian American Stories,” University of California, Irvine
- 2019-2023 Teaching Associate, Department of Drama, University of California, Irvine
- Summer 2022 Instructor for the [Asian American Youth Leader 2.0](#) program at the South Coast Chinese Cultural Association
- Sep-Dec 2021 TA Professional Development Program (TAPDP), for Theatre, Music, and Arts, Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation, University of California, Irvine  
1.5-day workshop to provide new teaching assistants with pedagogical training in Sep 2021;  
6-week workshop (1 hour/week) online workshop between Oct and Dec 2021;
- Jan-Dec 2021 Pedagogical Fellow, Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation, University of California, Irvine  
Graduate students competitively selected from across campus based on teaching evaluations, letters of recommendation, and demonstrated skills and interest in pedagogy
- Fall 2021 Teaching Associate, Department of Asian American Studies, “Asian American Histories,” University of California, Irvine
- Summer 2021 Instructor of Record, Department of Asian American Studies, “Asian American Communities,” University of California, Irvine
- 2015-2018 Teaching Assistant, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, University of Georgia

## CERTIFICATE

Winter 2021 Inclusive Excellence Certificate Program, Office of Inclusive Excellence, University of California, Irvine  
20 hours of training in the intersection of diversity, equity, inclusion, & free speech at a Minority Serving Institution. Two courses: “UCI as a Minority Thriving Institution” and “Wellness (elective course),” <https://inclusion.uci.edu/education-training/inclusive-excellence-certificate-program/>

### SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

- 2024 “Tentacular Theatrical Wit.” Working Group: Reorienting the “Ecological” Thought. *American Society for Theater Research* conference, Seattle.
- 2023 “Theatrical Mind: Chinese American Inter-becoming.” Working Group: Asian American Performance Studies. *American Society for Theater Research* conference, Providence.
- 2022 “Archiving *Within These Walls* and *Dreams of Flight*.” Roundtable: Performance and the Archive. *Western Association of Women Historians* conference, Costa Mesa.
- 2021 “Dangerous Contact: The Shooting of Akai Gurley.” Working Group: Transpacific Performance. *American Society for Theater Research* conference, online.
- 2020 “Dangerous Contact: The Shooting of Akai Gurley.” Working Group: Transpacific Performance. *American Society for Theater Research* conference, online.
- 2019 “From Cage to Stage: *Within These Walls*.” Working Group: Transpacific Performance. *American Society for Theater Research* conference, Arlington.
- 2018 “Transformative Bodies and Intersectional Resistance: Outside and *Within These Walls*.” *Association for Asian Americans Studies* conference, San Francisco.
- 2017 “Resisting the Collective Amnesia: Asian American Racial Performances Online.” *Performance Studies international* conference, Hamburg.

### STAGED PLAY

- 2022 Playwright and Director, *The Interview Day*, UCI Contemporary Arts Center, April 2022.  
A short play on Chinese American immigrant senior care, featured in the Writers’ Festival: Women, Bodies, Words.
- 2019 Playwright and Director, *It is Very Important to Stay Healthy*, UCI Contemporary Arts Center, December 2019.  
A multimedia live performance on China’s One Child Policy and women’s reproductive health.
- 2012 Playwright, *Jocasta: A Contemporary Adaptation of Oedipus the King*, Directed by Xiaoyang Wang, Black Box Theater, Shanghai Theatre Academy, March 2012.  
An adaptation of *Oedipus the King* that focuses on domestic violence and women’s health.
- 2010 Playwright and Director, *SCL 90*, New Space Theater, Shanghai Theatre Academy, June 2010.  
A play on intergenerational trauma, featured in the 2010 Shanghai New Plays Festival.

### FILM

2023 Associate Producer, *To Write From Memory*, Directed by Emory Chao Johnson, premiered at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Berlin International Film Festival, February 2023, and received the Golden Reel – Best Documentary Short Award at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival. A short film about a Taiwanese-American transgender person who has been haunted by unresolved intergenerational traumas while exploring the possibilities of a major transition.

## MULTIMEDIA PERFORMANCE

2023 Director, *A Shot in The Dark*, premiered at the UCI Experimental Media Performance Lab (xMPL), June 2023. Incorporating legal testimonies, documentaries, news reports, poetry, essays, and animation, the project focuses on relationships between Asian Americans and African Americans. \*I mentored and collaborated with one UCI Drama alumnus and nine undergraduate students from all disciplines at UCI and LMU. They served as research assistants and voice actors for this project.

## SERVICE

2022-ongoing Steering Committee Member for the American Theater Archive Project.

2020-2022 Consultant for the Asian American Senior Citizens Service Center (AASCSC).

2019-2022 Co-founder of the Irvine Playwrights Workshop, a monthly new play development workshop that is free and open to the public.

2022 Guest Speaker on sexual violence and domestic abuse prevention for the We Rise Above Chapter at the Irvine Unified School District, October 2022.

Student Representative for the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American taskforce at the University of California, Irvine, March 2022 – July 2022.

Volunteer for the Teaching for Justice Conference, a spotlight on teaching Asian American Studies across the curriculum, April 2022.

2020 Inclusion Officer/Liaison to the Field Conversations Organizers at the Graduate Student Caucus Cabinet of the American Society for Theatre Research, co-created the first graduate-student-focused panel at the 2020 ASTR conference, November 2019 – November 2020.

Consultant for the Civic Engagement Program at the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA), July 2019 – July 2020.

2020 Co-organizer and co-moderator for the *Global Asia(s) Workshop* – a UCI graduate student workshop symposium co-sponsored by the Humanities Center and the Asian American Studies, February 2020 – March 2020.

2019 Archivist for the Lenora Lee Dance and documented the creative process of *Within These Walls and Dreams of Flight*, December 2018 – June 2019.

## LANGUAGE

Chinese (both Mandarin and Cantonese)