

# **The 57<sup>th</sup> Texas Tech Comparative Literature Symposium**

## ***Fifty Years after the Fall of Saigon: Colonialism, Interventionism, and Critical Refugee Studies***

**April 25-26, 2025 (All times Central Standard)**

**Free Registration on Zoom [Here](#)**

***This year's symposium is generously supported by the Texas Tech College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, the College of Media & Communication, the Harris Institute, and the Departments of English, History, and Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures***

**Friday, April 25, 2025**

### **9:00-9:15a: Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Sean Cunningham, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

Michael Faris, Chair of the English Department

Yuan Shu, Director of the Comparative Literature Program

### **9:20 -10:30a: Keynote Lecture I: John Carlos Rowe, University of Southern California**

**"Viet Thanh Nguyen's *The Sympathizer* and the American Literary Tradition"**

Moderator: Yuan Shu, Texas Tech University

### **10:30-10:40a: Break**

### **10:40a-12:10p: Concurrent Sessions I**

#### **Session I (a): Community Mobilization, Gaze Resistance, and Refugee Experiences in an Archipelagic Framework**

Moderator: Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University

1. "Unsettling Refugees: Vietnamese Community Mobilization," Jennifer Huynh, University of Notre Dame
2. "The Refugee Daughter's Tender Gaze in *Appocalips* (2023)," Saomai Phuong Nguyen, Cornell University
3. "Archipelagic Vietnam: Refugee Ecologies in the Indigenous Pacifics," Ding-Liang Chen, Yale University

**Session I (b): South Vietnamese Women: Striving for Peace and Longing for Reconciliation ([Zoom](#))**

Moderator: Sophie Quinn-Judge, Temple University

1. “South Vietnamese Women and the Representation of the Vietnam War,” Jane Barton Griffith, author and co-director of the Quaker humanitarian projects
2. “‘Sometimes hope, sometimes despair, but always love!’: Non-Communist Women’s Struggle for Peace in the Vietnam War,” An Thuy Nguyen, University of Maine
3. “The Vietnam Wars: Women, Peace, and Reconciliation,” Sherry Buchanan, author and publisher, Asia Ink, London, the United Kingdom

**12:10-12:30p: Lunch Break**

**12:30-1:20p: *Moving Vietnam: Diasporic Art after Reunification*, an art exhibition at the Landmark Gallery, TTU School of Art**

Moderator: Kevin Chua, exhibition curator, Texas Tech University

1. “Đất Nước: On the Metabolic Entanglements of Life and Death,” Boone Nguyen, California State University at Los Angeles
2. “On Self + Family (1998-2002),” Phuong M. Do, Independent Artist

**1:30-2:30p: Keynote Lecture II: Lan Duong, University of Southern California  
“Breath, Eyes, Memory: Critical Refugee Studies in the Vietnamese Film Archive”**

Moderator: Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University

**2:40-4:10p: Session II**

**Reading and Revisiting Vietnamese American Literature: Memories, Complexity, and Displacement**

Moderator: Nesrine Chahine, Texas Tech University

1. “Memory, Re-memory, and Postmemory in Contemporary Vietnamese Refugee Texts: From Viet Thanh Nguyen’s *The Refugees* to Ocean Vuong’s *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous*,” Clodagh Philippa Guerin, University of Limerick, Ireland
2. “Revisiting Trần Văn Dĩnh’s *Blue Dragon, White Tiger*,” Sydney Van To, University of California, Berkeley
3. “Reading Eric Nguyen’s *Things We Lost to the Water*: Shore, Sovereignty, and Displacement,” Rachael Schiel, Texas Tech University

**4:10-4:20p: Break**

**4:20-6:00p: Session III**

**Women's War, American Friends Network, and Archives of Cambodian Refugees**

Moderator: Roger McNamara, Texas Tech University

1. "Girls Don't! A Woman's War in Vietnam," Inette Miller, *Time Magazine* war correspondent (1970-71)
2. "Those Who Stayed," Claudia Krich, author and co-director of the American Friends Service Committee in South Vietnam (1973-75)
3. "Cambodian Refugees in the 1970-1975 Civil War: Narratives of Mobilities, Humanitarian Archives, and Material Voids," Stéphanie Benzaquen-Gautier, the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden, Netherlands
4. "Tony Pham: 'The Anti-Refugee' Refugee," John Honey, Hawaii Pacific University

---

**Saturday, April 26, 2025**

**9:00-10:00a: Keynote Lecture III: Long Bui, University of California, Irvine**

**"Graphic (Post)Memories and (Visual) Memoirs of the (Forever) Vietnam War"**

Moderator: Erin Collopy, Texas Tech University

**10:00-10:10a: Break**

**10:10-11:40a: Session IV**

**Ecological Violence, Feminist Intervention, and Representation of Queerness**

Moderator: Lucas Wood, Texas Tech University

1. "Not Quite Slow: Ecological Violence in *Living in Fear* (Bùi Thạc Chuyên, 2005)," Qui Ha Hoang Nguyen, University of North Carolina, Wilmington
2. "Reframing Vietnamese Women's Bodies on Screen: A Feminist Dialogue between Trinh T. Minh-ha and Vietnamese Female Directors," Hoàng Dạ Vũ, Hanoi University of Theatre and Cinema
3. "War and Queerness in Ocean Vuong's *Night Sky with Exit Wounds*," Manish Pandey, Texas Tech University

**11:40a-12:10p: Lunch Break**

**12:10-1:10p: Special Forum: Writing and Publishing on Global Vietnam War Literature and Culture and Critical Refugee Studies**

Moderator: Yuan Shu, Texas Tech University

1. **John Carlos Rowe**, USC Associates' Professor of the Humanities and Professor of English, American Studies and Ethnicity, and Comparative Literature, University of Southern California
2. **Lan Duong**, Associate Professor in Cinema & Media Studies, University of Southern California
3. **Pheng Cheah**, Professor of Rhetoric and Geography, University of California, Berkeley
4. **Long Bui**, Professor of Global and International Studies, University of California, Irvine

**1:20-2:20p: Keynote Lecture IV: Pheng Cheah, University of California, Berkeley  
"Boat People and Gangsters: The Vietnam War in the Hong Kong Filmic Imaginary"**

Moderator: Jason Tham, Texas Tech University

**2:30-4:10p: Session V**

**War and Imperial Violence: Biopolitics, Representation, and Self-Reflexivity**

Moderator: Nesrine Chahine, Texas Tech University

1. "Biopolitics and the Imperial Boomerang in Salvatore Scibona's *The Volunteer*," Kevin M. Gibbs, University of Texas at Austin
2. "The Filmed War and the War Film: Spectacle, Simulation, and Self-Reflexivity in *Apocalypse Now* and *Hearts of Darkness*," Matt Lawson, Texas Tech University
3. "The Dual Rhetorical Effect of Deliberate Vietnam-War Inaccuracies in *The Deer Hunter*," Michael Shevchenko, Texas Tech University
4. "*Kill Anything That Moves*: The Recuperation of American Genocide Through the Vietnam War Film," Michael Troncale, Texas Tech University

**4:10-4:20p: Break**

**4:20-6:00p: Sessions VI**

**Rethinking War and Reinventing the Other: Nationalism, Islamophobia, and Racial Exploitation**

Moderator: Roger McNamara, Texas Tech University

1. “War, Memory, and Nationalism: Cathartic, Yet Still Conflicted Representations in Post-War Japanese Anime,” Samyukthah Anandhasayanam, Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur, India
2. “United Under Terror: Minority Poetic Responses to 9/11 and US Oppression,” Sebastian Torruella Alvarado, Texas Tech University
3. “Empire, Refugee, and Racial Exploitation,” Rogelio Cruz, Texas Tech University
4. “Countering Islamophobia and Muslim Stereotypes in Ali Eteraz’s *Native Believer*,” Aamer Shaheen, Government College University, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan (Fulbright scholar at TTU), & Afia Shahbaz, Federal Directorate of Education, Islamabad, Pakistan

**6:10p:** Symposium Wrap-up: Yuan Shu, Texas Tech University