

# **LiLi Johnson**

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## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Assistant Professor, Department of Gender & Women's Studies and the Program in Asian American Studies,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, July 2020 - present

Interim Co-Director, Asian American Cultural Center, Yale University, May 2017 – October 2017

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. in American Studies, Yale University, 2019  
Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

M.Phil. in American Studies, Yale University, 2016

B.A. in Social and Cultural Analysis with Highest Honors, New York University, 2012  
Minor in Chemistry

## **PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

(Forthcoming) “A Technology of Family: Photography and Kinship Formation in Transnational Adoption from Asia,” *American Quarterly* (December 2022)

“Transnational Family Photographs and Adoption From Asia,” *Trans-Asia Photography Review* 11.1 (Spring 2021), <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/t/tap/7977573.0011.103/--transnational-family-photographs-and-adoption-from-asia?rgn=main;view=fulltext>

“Searching in Photographs: Photography and the Chinese Birth Parent Search,” *Adoption & Culture* 6.1 (2019), 116-134.

“Paper Family Photography: Photography and the State in the Era of Paper Families and Chinese Exclusion (1882-1943),” *Photography and Culture*, 10.2 (2017), 105-119.

## **MANUSCRIPT IN PROGRESS**

*Technologies of Family: Asian American Racial Formation and the Making of Kinship*

Expanding conceptualizations of family and kinship beyond processes of biological reproduction, this book traces the construction of the Asian American family as a systematic site of racial formation in American culture. It argues that kinship itself has been newly constructed through, what I call, “technologies of family” – systems such as government bureaucracy, immigration policy, photography, online profiles, and ancestry tests, each of which serve as a case study. These technologies, demonstrate the ways in which Asian American family and kinship have been endowed with fantasies of identification, intimacy, and belonging that define racial categorization. And they reveal how kinship in its representational, institutional, and affective forms has been co-constituted with the racial shifts from exclusion to liberal inclusion in the twentieth century, to the contemporary rise of neoliberal multiculturalism into the present.

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

UW-Madison Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies Lunch Seminar, “Genetic Intimacies: 23andMe, Kinship, and the Racialization of Genetic Ancestry Testing,” April 2022

Columbia University, “Transnational Adoption from China,” Class Lecture, Course Title: Beyond Motherhood, Mailman School of Public Health, January 2021 and February 2022

Dalhousie University, “Lucky Girls”: Gender and Orientalism in Transnational Adoption From China,” Lecture for the Feminist Speaker Series, December 2021

Tufts University, “Transnational Adoption and Ethnographic Methods,” Class Lecture, Course Title: Introduction to Asian American Studies, October 2021

Dalhousie University, Daughters of Immigrants Symposium, Co-Organizer and Respondent for the panel titled “All the Feels: Affect and Emotional Labour,” May 2021

UW-Madison School of Business, “COVID-19 and the Resurgence of anti-Asian Racism,” Lecture, April 2021

Amherst College, Respondent for Lecture by Beth Lew-Williams, “The Chinese Must Go: A History of Anti-Asian Violence in the United States,” April 2021

UW-Madison Ethics of Care Workshop, “Technologies of Kinship and Care,” Workshop Presentation and Facilitator, February 2021

Harvard University, “Transnational Adoption,” Class Lecture, Course Title: Transnational Mobilities, October 2020

New York University Asian/Pacific/American Institute, Panel Curator and Moderator, “Adoption in the Wake of War,” March 2020

Yale University Beinecke Library and Toronto Photography Seminar, “Paper Family Photography: Photography and the State in the Era of Paper Families and Chinese Exclusion (1882-1943),” Reframing Family Photography Conference, April 2017

Yale University Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Colloquium, Respondent for Lecture by David Eng, “(Gay) Panic Attack,” February 2017

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“The Model Minority Family: Liberal Knowledge Production and Asian American Racialization,” Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, April 2022

“Gilding Care - Anticipatory Grief in Family Caregiving: A Conversation with Brianna L. Hernandez Baurichter and LiLi Johnson,” Relations of Care Across and After Worlds Zoom Conference, UW-Madison, May 2021

“Lucky Girls”: Gender and Orientalism in U.S. Narratives of Adoption from China,” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Washington D.C., April 2020, cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

“Fighting Categorization, Building Kinship: Genetic Ancestry Testing and Asian/American Racialization,” American Studies Association Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI, November 2019

“Emergent Kinship: Transnational Adoption From China and the Racialization of Family,” American Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2018

“Family Conceptions: Referral Photography and the Family Album in Chinese Transnational Adoption,” Reframing Family Photography Conference, University of Toronto, September 2017

“Crafting a Representation of Self: Birth Parent Searches and Photography Online,” Sixth Biennial Conference of the Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture, Minneapolis, MN, October 2016

“Roundtable on Kay Johnson’s *China’s Hidden Children* (2016),” Roundtable Participant, Sixth Biennial Conference of the Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture, Minneapolis, MN, October 2016

“#interracial: Race, Topic Modeling, and the Big Data of Social Media,” Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory (HASTAC) Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ, May 2016

“The Family Portal: Images of Angelina Jolie and the Multicultural Family,” Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Miami, FL, April 2016

“Selfie Photography, Birth Parent Searches, and an Epistemology of the Self,” After Post Photography 2 Conference, St. Petersburg, Russia, April 2016

“Mobile Identities: Using the Internet to Negotiate Power, Privilege, and the Articulation of a ‘Chinese Adoptee’ Identity,” Sleeping Giants in Adoption: Power, Privilege, Politics, and Class Conference, St. John’s University, New York, May 2014

## **TEACHING**

University of Wisconsin-Madison

- **Adoption, Race, and Kinship** (200 level seminar), Asian American Studies, Fall 2021 and Fall 2022
- **Race and Gender in Digital Worlds** (300 level seminar), Gender & Women’s Studies, Spring 2021 and Fall 2022 (as honors seminar)
- **Asian American Feminisms** (advanced seminar), Asian American Studies, Spring 2022
- **Gender, Women, and Cultural Representation** (100 level lecture, 240 students, 3 TAs), Gender & Women’s Studies, Spring 2022
- **Feminist Science and Technology Studies** (advanced seminar), Gender & Women’s Studies, Fall 2020 and Fall 2021
- **Research in Asian American Studies** (advanced seminar), Asian American Studies, Spring 2021
- **Asian American Family and Kinship** (200 level seminar), Asian American Studies, Fall 2020

Yale University

- **Senior Essay Coordinator**, American Studies, Yale University, Fall 2018 – Spring 2019
  - Organized and led year-long seminar for senior American Studies majors completing capstone project
- Teaching Assistant, American Studies, Yale University, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
  - **Introduction to Third World Studies**, Fall 2016
  - **Asian American History 1800-Present**, Spring 2017

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Nominee for Outstanding Faculty Award, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Student Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, April 2022

First Book Workshop Program Recipient, Center for the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison, December 2020

Anna Julia Cooper Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 2019 - July 2020

Prize Teaching Fellowship, Yale University, May 2019

American Studies Summer Research Fellowship, American Studies, Yale University, Summer 2016

Mellon Graduate Fellowship in Digital Humanities, “(En)Visualizing Knowledge: Text Mining, Mapping, Network Analysis and Big Data,” Graduate Seminar and Full Year of Funding, Yale University, Fall 2015 – Summer 2016

### **PUBLIC HUMANITIES AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Faculty Advisor, Sex Out Loud: Peer to Peer Sexual Health Education Organization, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, September 2020 – present

Invited Lecture, “What We Were Told: Gender and Orientalism in Narratives about Adoption from China,” Also-Known-As Transnational Adoption Organization, February 2022

Panel Presentation and Organizer, “Grief, Kinship, and Caregiving,” Ethics of Care Initiative Public Zoom Event, November 2021

Invited Facilitator, Discussion on “Multiracial x Transracial Adoptee Experiences,” Hosted by the UW-Madison Multiracial Students Union, November 2021

Featured Writer, “APIDA Writers with the Writing Center,” The Writing Center at University of Wisconsin-Madison, April 2021

Invited Panelist, Asian Awareness Week Panel, alpha Kappa Delta Phi Wisconsin Associate Chapter, University of Wisconsin-Madison, April 2021

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Steering Committee Member, Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 2021 - present

Leadership Team Member, Care: Politics, Performances, Publics, Practices Mellon-Borghesi Workshop, University of Wisconsin-Madison, February 2021 – present

- Conference Organizer, “Relations of Care Across and After Worlds” Conference on Zoom, May 2021

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Student Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI,

- Committee Member, APIDA Student Center Advisory Board, September 2019 – December 2020
- Faculty Advisor, September 2019 – May 2020

Asian American Cultural Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT

- Committee Member, Asian American Cultural Center Director/Assistant Dean of Yale College Search, May 2017 - August 2017
- Committee Member, Asian American Cultural Center Assistant Director Search, May 2017 - June 2017
- Senior Graduate Assistant Program Coordinator, October 2016 – May 2017
- Graduate Assistant Program Coordinator, September 2014 – October 2016

Graduate Coordinator, Asian American Studies Working Group, American Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT, November 2014 – May 2017

Yale College Dean's Office, Yale University, New Haven, CT

- Graduate Student Representative Committee Member, Asian American Cultural Center Director/Assistant Dean of Yale College Search, October 2016 – May 2017
- Committee Member, Nakanishi Prize Selection Committee, April 2017
- Graduate Student Representative Committee Member, Asian American Cultural Center Assistant Director Search, October 2015 - June 2016

Graduate Student Advisory Board Member, Student Advisory Board, Center for Race Indigeneity and Transnational Migration (RITM), Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 2016 – December 2016 (one full term)

Graduate Coordinator, Ethnography and Oral History Working Group, American Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT, September 2015 – May 2016

Operations Administrator, Department of Applied Psychology, New York University, New York, NY, September 2012 – July 2013