

Natalie Newton, Ph.D.

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Areas of Specialization

Cultural anthropology, ethnographic methods, queer anthropology, feminist anthropology, urban studies, and Southeast Asian studies.

Academic Appointment

2013-present Postdoctoral Researcher (Assistant Specialist II), Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine

Education

2012 Ph.D., Anthropology, University of California, Irvine

- Winner: American Anthropological Association's Association for Queer Anthropology Kenneth Payne Prize for student writing in queer anthropology.
- Winner: Fulbright-Hays Award for Doctoral Dissertation Research.
- Winner: American Anthropological Association's Minority Fellowship Honorable Mention.
- Graduate Feminist Emphasis (GFE) Certificate.
- *A queer political economy of 'community': Gender, space, and the transnational politics of community for Vietnamese lesbians (les) in Saigon* (dissertation). This ethnographic study analyzed how the globalization of LGBT human rights through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) interfaced with existing Vietnamese lesbian (*les*) community projects that are "hidden in plain sight" in Saigon.

2007 M.A., Anthropology, University of California, Irvine

2005 B.A., Women's Studies, University of California, Los Angeles

Research Publications (peer reviewed)

2016. Contingent Invisibility: Space, Community, and Invisibility for Les in Saigon. *GLQ* 22(1):109-136.

2015. Review of Brown Boys and Rice Queens: Spell-binding performance in the Asias by Eng-Beng Lim. *Anthropological Quarterly* 88(2):587-596. (invited by editor)

2015. Homosexuality and Transgenderism in Vietnam. *Handbook of Sexuality Studies in East Asia*. Vera Mackie and Mark McLelland, eds. Pp. 255-267. London: Routledge UK. (invited by editor)

2012. Feature book review essay. "Tình dục: Chuyện dễ đùa khó nói [Sexuality in Contemporary Vietnam: Easy to Joke About, Hard to Talk About] ; Hạnh Phúc là Sống Thật [Real Life, True Happiness] ; Ironies of Freedom: Sex, Culture, and Neoliberal Governance in Vietnam." *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*. 7(2):170-179. (invited by editor)

Invited Presentations and Talks

- 2017 Yale University, April 26. "Vietnamese lesbian (les) space, community, and the phantasmagoria of real life." *Brown Bag Seminar*. Center for Southeast Asian Studies.
- 2017 University of California, Irvine. Feb 1. "Queer Vietnamese-ness with Quyên Nguyễn-Lê, Natalie Newton, Rosi Vo Nghiem, and Shannon Lê." *Panelist*. Cross-Cultural Center.
- 2016 Refugees, Survivors, and Ex-detainees (RISE), Melbourne, Australia. Dec 8. "Vietnamese Diaspora" panel with R-Coo Tran, Dom Golding, and Duc Nguyen. *Panelist*.
- 2016 Queering the Air on 3CR Community Radio, Melbourne, Australia. July 31. "Queer Vietnamese-ness with Quyên Nguyễn-Lê, Natalie Newton, and Shannon Lê." *Guest*.
- 2016 Brea United Church of Christ Unorthodox Café. June 20. "Queer Vietnamese-ness: A documentary by Quyên Nguyễn-Lê." *Panelist*.
- 2016 University of Southern California. February 18. "Queer Vietnamese-ness: A documentary by Quyên Nguyễn-Lê." *Panelist*.
- 2015 University of California, Irvine. May 19. "Vietnamese American queer experiences" with Dr. Long Bui. *Guest lecture*. ASAM 151D "Vietnamese American Experiences." Invitation by Tram Lê.
- 2015 KPFK Pacifica Radio 90.7 FM. "Uprising!" with Sonali Kolhatkar. Apr 30. "A sweeping look at the Vietnamese Community in the U.S., 40 years after the end of war." *Guest*.
- 2015 Scripps College. Apr 23. "Of Parades and Politics: The Fight for LGBT Inclusion in Little Saigon's Tet Parade." "Art and Activism," *Guest lecture*. Invitation by Erin O'Brien.
- 2014 University of California, Santa Barbara. Nov 19. "Of politics and parades." *Guest lecture*. "Asian American Women." Invitation by Erin O'Brien.
- 2013 Hai Bà Trưng School For Organizing. Oakland, CA. June 30. "What does it mean to you to be a Viet progressive/radical organizer?" *Panelist*.
- 2012 CSU Fullerton. Mar 19. "Ethnographic Research Methodologies." *Guest lecture*. AFRO 302 "Research and Writing in Ethnic Studies." Invited by Kendhal Radcliffe.
- 2011 University of California, Irvine. Nov 17. "Queering Asian American Women." *Guest lecture*. SOC 161 "Sociology of Gender." Invited by Dr. Catherine Bolzendahl.
- 2010 CET Academic Study Abroad Program, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Nov 12. "The Emerging Lesbian Cosmopolitan." *Seminar presentation*.
- 2008 Consultant for Investment in Health Promotion, Hanoi. July 31. "LES 101: Giới thiệu về đồng tính nữ ở Việt Nam" [LES 101: An introduction to Vietnamese les]. *Seminar presentation*.
- 2008 Consultant for Investment in Health Promotion, Hanoi. July 13. "Methodology: Studying same-sex relationships." *Seminar presentation*.
- 2008 Asian and Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center, Seattle. Mar 19. "Domestic Violence and Queer Asian and Pacific Islander Women." *Staff training*.
- 2007 University of California, Irvine. June 1. "Queer Asian and Pacific Islander Women's Gender and Sexuality Formations." *Guest lecture*. ASAM 162 "Asian American Women," Invited by Karen Yonemoto.

Conference Papers

- 2012 "Space performativity: Vietnamese lesbian gender and community space in the

- production of neoliberalized subjectivities.” American Anthropological Association. San Francisco: Nov 14-18. (invited panelist)
- 2011 “*Les is More: Challenges to lesbian inclusion in Vietnam’s First LGBT community rights project.*” *University of Hawaii, Manoa*. Association for Asian Studies annual conference. Honolulu: March 30-April 2. (invited panelist)
- 2009 Co-presenting with Loan Vu. “Empowering Vietnamese LGBT Youth: An analysis of Project ‘Information Connecting and Sharing’.” *International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Association*. Fourth Annual Asian Regional Conference. Surabaya: April 22-24.
- 2007 “Friendship, Family and Feminism: Transnational Feminist Analyses of the Lives of Vietnamese Les in Hanoi and Saigon.” *University of California, Berkeley*. Graduate Conference on Vietnamese Studies, Center for Southeast Asia Studies: February 9-10.

Awards

- 2012 Kenneth Payne Prize for graduate or undergraduate student research paper in queer anthropology, Association for Queer Anthropologists of the American Anthropology Association. Paper title: “Contingent Invisibility: Space, Community, and Invisibility for *Les* in Saigon.”
- 2012 James Harvey Dissertation Writing Fellowship, UC Irvine.
- 2012 Pedagogical Fellow, UC Irvine (declined).
- 2012 Ford Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship, honorable mention.
- 2011 American Anthropological Association Minority Dissertation Writing Fellowship, honorable mention (first-time awardee).
- 2011 Point Foundation scholarship, semi-finalist.
- 2009 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award, U.S. Department of Education.
- 2009 University of California Regents’ Pacific Rim Dissertation Research Award (declined).
Department Anthropology, UC Irvine
Summer Research Grants: 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009
Center for Asian Studies, UC Irvine
Summer Research Grants: 2006, 2007, and 2009
UC Irvine Social Science Graduate Fellowship: 5 year-award in social science graduate study.

Professional Employment in Applied Research

- 2014-2015 Research Associate, Service Employees International Union Local 721,
Los Angeles (full-time)
- Mixed-methods researcher in a team for a campaign in higher education to unionize faculty and promote student equity at public and nonprofit private colleges and universities.
 - Designing and completing research projects such as staffing pattern analysis, social network analysis, concept mapping, profiling of individuals and organizations, public policy tracking, employee compensation and benefits analysis, financial analysis, and public records analysis.
 - One-on-one interviews with workers in diverse workplace settings: university faculty, students, San Bernardino County employees, Los Angeles County employees, and other workers.

- 2013-2014 Research Analyst, UNITE HERE Local 11, Los Angeles (full-time)
- Strategic research and consulting for corporate social responsibility (CSR) campaigns in unionizing efforts in the private sector (five campaigns total within 8 months).
 - One-on-one interviews with low-wage food service workers in corporate settings, requiring high levels of interpersonal competency, empathy, and tolerance for resistance.
 - Qualitative study of social network analysis, investigative research, analysis and acquisition of public records through CPRA requests, legal analysis of court records, contract analysis, and other related research in a research team.
- 2007-2008 Youth and Young Adult Program Manager, Asian Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center, Seattle (full-time)
- Management and development of curriculum for anti-oppression empowerment program for youth ages 12-18.
 - Grant writing and reporting for school-based projects in K-12 public schools in Seattle and SeaTac.
 - Domestic violence and sexual violence advocacy training for case management (100+ hours).

Teaching

- 2012 UC Irvine, Pedagogical Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching
- 2012 Adjunct Lecturer, California State University, Fullerton
- “Vietnamese Communities in the U.S.,” Department of Ethnic Studies
- 2006-2011 Teaching Assistant, University of California, Irvine
- Sociology of Gender, Fall 2011 (Dr. Catherine Bolzendahl)
 - Sexuality in Asian and Asian American Film and Video, Spring 2009 (Behroze Schroff)
 - Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology, Winter 2008 (Dr. Bill Maurer)
 - Asian American Women, Spring 2007 (Dr. Karen Yonemoto)
 - Organizations, Winter 2007 (Dr. Sam Gilmore)
 - Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology, Fall 2006 (Dr. Tom Douglas)
 - Language and Culture, ASpring 2006, (Dr. Tom Boellstorff)
 - Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology, Winter 2006 (Dr. Victoria Bernal)

Student Mentoring

- 2008- 2012 UC Irvine LGBT Mentors Program. *Mentor (volunteer, 1-3 hours per week)*
- One-on-one mentorship of undergraduate and graduate students navigating coming out issues.
 - 40-hour training with UCI Counseling Center.
 - Weekly supervision under Counseling Center staff therapists Christine Browning, Ph.D. and Carolyn O’Keefe, Psy.D.
- 2011 UC Irvine Summer Undergraduate Research Program. *Graduate Mentor (paid employment, 10 hours per week for summer 2011)*
- One-on-one coaching on personal statements and research statements for under-represented minorities in undergraduate applying to graduate research programs in STEM and social sciences.
 - One-on-one mentorship on academic professionalization.

Leadership and Community Service

- 2013-2015 Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) Los Angeles.
- Executive Board Member, 2014-2015.
 - Organizing Committee Member, 2013-2014.
- 2014-2015 Viet Gathering (progressive Vietnamese diasporic activist group)
- Organizing member in monthly action, education, or social meetings.
- 2011-2013 The Partnership of Viet LGBT Organizations, Orange County, CA
- Lead organizer in 2013 fight for LGBT inclusion in Little Saigon Tet (Lunar New Year) Parade.
 - Organizer and coordinator of bilingual materials for educational workshops and booths at United Vietnamese Student Association (UVSA) Tet Festival (2011-2013).
 - Organizer for LGBT contingent in the Little Saigon Tet Parade (2011-2012).
- 2011-2012 UC Irvine Queer Graduate Caucus.
- Coordinator of bi-monthly social networking gatherings campus-wide.
- 2011-2012 UC Irvine Southeast Asian Archive Vietnamese American Oral History Project.
- Volunteer contributor and trainer for oral histories conducted by undergraduates.

Languages

Vietnamese Heritage Learner (speaking, reading, and writing)

Relevant Internships

- 2011 UC Irvine Langson Library Special Collections.
- Assistant to archivist Dawn Schmidt, MLS on Orange County LGBT special collection.
- 2008 Consultant for Investment in Health Promotion, Hanoi, Vietnam, Jun-Aug 2008
- Cataloguing and literature indexing for CIHP library on gender, sexuality, and Southeast Asian studies.