

Nat Newton, Ph.D.

nnewton@uci.edu | www.natnewton.org | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/natalienewtononline>

Education

- 2025 (expected) Research Psychoanalyst Student, Newport Psychoanalytic Institute (RPS #281)
- 2022 (expected) M.S., Counseling, California State University, Fullerton
- 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 was the first full-length ethnographic study of Vietnamese homosexuality. The research 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
- Training in SPSS for anthropology
- 2005 B.A., Women's Studies, University of California, Los Angeles

Academic Appointments

- 2013-2018 University of California, Irvine, Department of Anthropology, Postdoctoral Researcher (Assistant Specialist II)

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

- 2020 University of Southern California and Hoag Hospital, March 7. "Social Work & Me Conference." *Reiki master volunteer*.
- 2019 California State University, Fullerton, Department of Anthropology, November 15.

- Applied Anthropology Professional Development Workshop, Moderator: Phuoc Duong, Ph.D. *Guest speaker*.
- 2019 Asian American Psychological Association, October 5. 2019 Annual Convention. "Centering Intersectional AANHPI Voices in Research to Make the Invisible Visible." Panel organized by Angela Minh-Tu Nguyen, Ph.D. *Discussant*.
- 2019 University of California / New Center for Psychoanalysis Interdisciplinary Psychoanalytic Consortium (UC/NCP ICP), May 4. 27th Annual Lake Arrowhead Meeting. "Karen Horney and Feminist Psychoanalysis." *Discussant*.
- 2019 University of Southern California and Hoag Hospital, March 16. "Social Work & Me Conference." *Reiki master volunteer*.
- 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 with Quyen Nguyen-Le, Natalie Newton, Rosi Vo Nghiem, and Shannon Le." *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 with Quyen Nguyen-Le, Natalie Newton, and Shannon Le." *Speaker*
- 2016 Brea United Church of Christ Unorthodox Café. June 20. "Queer Vietnamese: A documentary by Quyen Nguyen-Le." *Panelist*
- 2016 University of Southern California. February 18. "Queer Vietnamese: A documentary by Quyen Nguyen-Le." *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 Le
- 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

- 2020 Giles T. Brown Student Conference Travel Grant, CSU Fullerton
- 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 for Excellence in Teaching, 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
- 2009 Summer Research Grants: Center for Asian Studies, UC Irvine, Department of Anthropology, UC Irvine
- 2007 Summer Research Grants: Center for Asian Studies, UC Irvine, Department of Anthropology, UC Irvine
- 2006 Summer Research Grants: Center for Asian Studies, UC Irvine, Department of Anthropology, UC Irvine
- 2005 UC Irvine Social Science Graduate Fellowship: 5 year-award

Professional Employment

Jan 2017-present

Reiki Master & Sole Proprietor, Luminous Reiki Orange County

- Provide reiki energy healing to clients to promote mind, body, and emotional wellness
- Coordinate care, documentation, and observable progress
- Certified Usui Reiki Master (2017): fifth generation from the founder of reiki Dr. Makao Usui
- Certification in Reiki for Anxiety and Depression, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Kundalini Reiki

Nov 2019-present

Mental Health Technician, The Mental Health Collective, Newport Beach, CA

- Facilitate and ensure client attendance at activities. Responsible for admitting, transferring, and discharging specific clients as assigned. Provide direct client care as assigned by licensed staff. Observe, report and document client issues / complaints. Monitor clients' whereabouts at all times and document specific targeted behaviors during activities. Provide supervision of self-administration medication program. Transport residents to and from appointments, meetings, facilities, outings, and other pre-authorized destinations when applicable. Provide a daily written report on rounds.

Aug 2018-Jan 2019

Market Research Coordinator, inVibe Labs, Costa Mesa, CA

- Mixed-methods research implementation for healthcare market research studies for Fortune 50 Pharmaceuticals, questionnaire design assistance, client-facing reports
- End-to-end client-facing research design and implementation on two studies: a prototype in vitro fertilization device (n=75, mixed methods quant/qual) and a major consumer survey for an automobile recall (n=800, mixed methods, quant/qual)

Feb 2018-Aug 2018

Research Associate, Lieberman Research Worldwide, Huntington Beach, CA

- Prepared client-facing consumer insight reports, illustrating data graphically and translating complex findings into written text, telling a "story" for supplier side needs with Fortune 500 retail companies
- Collected and analyzed data on customer demographics, preferences, needs, and buying habits to identify potential markets and factors affecting product demand
- Maintained quality control on 2-5 simultaneous projects in cross-functional teams, daily
- Working knowledge of SPSS Survey Reporter for quantitative research analysis of surveys of up to 1,800 participants

April 2014-Oct 2015

Research Associate, Service Employees International Union Local 721, Los Angeles

- Supplied strategic intelligence to organizational leadership, county and city officials, private company operations directors to assist in decision-making on major campaigns affecting public-private interest (up to \$115 million in stakeholder investment)

- Designing and completing investigative research using public records of city and county meeting notes, public databases, public policy and legislative information, employee compensation and benefits documents, and audited financial statements and tax forms
- Preparation of succinct reports or memos to internal leadership
- Preparation of public-facing documents and reports, including a white paper delivered to the Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti and California fState Legislators
- One-on-one interviews with university faculty, students, San Bernardino County employees, Los Angeles County employees, and other low-wage workers

Sept 2013- Apr 2014

Research Analyst, UNITE HERE Local 11, Los Angeles

- Strategic research and consulting for corporate social responsibility (CSR) campaigns in unionizing efforts in the private sector (five campaigns total within 8 months)
- Designing and completing investigative research using public records of city and county meeting notes, public databases, public policy and legislative information, employee compensation and benefits documents, and audited financial statements and tax forms
- One-on-one interviews with low-wage food service workers in corporate settings, requiring high levels of interpersonal competency, empathy, and tolerance for resistance

Teaching

2013-present Private Tutor

- Provide one-on-one private tutoring to students and children ages 14-35 in SAT/ACT preparation, math, and English. Attune to students and adjust curriculum to accommodate to documented disabilities including ADHD, dyslexia, depression/anxiety, dyscalculia, and autism.

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 (invited)

2006-2011 Teaching Assistant, University of California, Irvine

- Sociology of Gender, Fall 2011
- Sexuality in Asian and Asian American Film and Video, Spring 2009
- Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology, Winter 2008
- Asian American Women, Spring 2007
- Organizations, Winter 2007
- Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology, Fall 2006
- Language and Culture, Spring 2006
- Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology, Winter 2006

Student Mentoring

2008- 2012 UC Irvine LGBT Mentors Program. *Mentor*

- Weekly supervision and training under UC Irvine Counseling Center

2011 UC Irvine Summer Undergraduate Research Program. *Graduate Mentor*

- One-on-one coaching on personal statements and research statements for under-represented minorities applying to Ph.D. research programs in STEM and social sciences

Leadership and Community Service

2019-2020 California Association for Marriage and Family Therapists, Pre-Licensed Committee

- Committee Member (appointed), 2019-2020

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)

- Organizer

2011-2013 The Partnership of Viet LGBT Organizations, Orange County, CA

- Lead organizer in 2013 fight for LGBT inclusion in Little Saigon Tet 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.

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

- Cataloguer and indexer for a library of gender, sexuality, and Southeast Asian studies

Professional Memberships

California Association for Marriage & Family Therapists

Orange County Chapter – California Association for Marriage & Family Therapists

National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis

International Association for Reiki Professionals

Honor Societies

Chi Sigma Iota – Kappa Omega Chapter (CSUF)

Phi Kappa Phi

Certifications

2019-2021 Adult and Pediatric CPR/AED/First Aid (American Red Cross)

2019 Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Course (Palouse Mindfulness)

2019 Registered Alcohol and Drug Technician (RADT)

2017 Usui Reiki Master

Languages

Vietnamese heritage learner (speaking, reading, and writing)