

Updated 1/19/26

COURTNEY SATO

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APPOINTMENTS

- 2021- Mellon Assistant Professor, Department of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora, Tufts University
2019-2021 Postdoctoral Fellow in Global American Studies, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University

EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D., American Studies, Yale University
2015 M.Phil., American Studies, Yale University
2015 M.A., American Studies; concentration in Public Humanities, Yale University
2013 M.Phil., Modern South Asian Studies (Distinction), University of Cambridge
2009 B.A., English (*cum laude*, Departmental Honors), Wellesley College

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Asian American studies; U.S. intellectual & cultural history (late 19th-20th Century); women, gender, and sexuality studies; U.S. empire; transpacific studies; digital and public humanities

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

Pacific Projections: Transpacific Feminisms and Internationalist Visions (Under contract with Duke University Press)

EXHIBITS

- 2015-2016 Public Humanities M.A. Project. Curator, *Out of the Desert: Resilience and Memory in Japanese American Internment*. Sterling Memorial Library Memorabilia Room, Yale University. Reviewed by the *New York Times*, December 1, 2015, <http://nyti.ms/1lsGXgC>.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

- Sato, Courtney. "The Boundless Sea: Gary Y. Okihiro and the Reimagining of Asian American Studies." *Journal of Asian American Studies* 28, no. 1 (2025): 37-49.
Sato, Courtney. "Settler Colonial Projections: The Visual Politics of the Interwar Pan-Pacific Movement." *Verge: Studies in Global Asias* 8, no. 2 (2022): 201-232.
doi:10.1353/vrg.2022.0037.
Sato, Courtney. 2018. "A Picture of Peace." *Qui Parle* 27 (2): 475-510.
<https://doi.org/10.1215/10418385-7200287>.

In Progress

Sato, Courtney. "Racialized Contagion and Care: Tuberculosis and Wartime Japanese American Incarceration." *American Quarterly*. Revise and Resubmit.

Peer Reviewed Book Chapters

Sato, Courtney and Randa Tawil, "Race and Ethnicity." *The Routledge Global History of Feminism*. Ed. Bonnie G. Smith and Nova Robinson (Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge, 2022), 515-532.

Sato, Courtney. "A Picture of Peace," *Unequal Sisters: A Revolutionary Reader in U.S. Women's History* (5th ed.). Eds. Narrow, S., Warren, K.C., Tzu-Chun Wu, J., & Ruiz, V.L. (2022). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003053989>

Sato, Courtney. "The Interwar Period (1918-1939): Internationalism in the Pacific." *American History in 15 Photographs*. Bloomsbury Press. *In Progress (Publication in 2025)*.

Book Reviews

Sato, Courtney. 2022. "Unsustainable Empire: Alternative Histories of Hawai'i Statehood." *Amerasia Journal*, 1–2. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00447471.2022.2084307>.

Sato, Courtney. 2021. "Opening the Gates to Asia: A Transpacific History of How America Repealed Asian Exclusion." *Journal of American History*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jahist/jaab293>.

Other Publications

Denning, Michael, Ed King, Iliana Rodriguez, Jorge Cuéllar, Gabriel Winant, Sigma Colón, Courtney Sato, and Alyssa Battistoni. 2017. "An Interview with Michael Denning and the Yale Working Group on Globalization and Culture." *Revue Française D'études Américaines* 151 (2): 8–22. <https://doi.org/10.3917/rfea.151.0008>.

TEACHING

SP 26	Introduction to Asian American Studies
SP26	Histories of Race, Contagion, & Confinement
SP 25	AMER 193: Independent Study
SP 25	RCD 199: Thesis B
SP 25	RCD 179: Asian American Mobilities & Transpacific Movements
SP 23	Asian American Feminisms
FA 22	Introduction to Asian American Studies
	Introduction to Studies in Race, Colonialism, & Diaspora
SP 22	RCD 194: Asian American Mobility and Transpacific Movements
	RCD 150: Methods in Race, Colonialism, & Diaspora
FA 21	Introduction to Asian American Studies / Methods in RCD
FA 20	Asian American Mobility and Transpacific Movements
	Lecturer, Program in Ethnicity, Migration & Race, Harvard University
SP 20	Asian American Mobility and Transpacific Movements

2015-2017 Lecturer, Program in Ethnicity, Migration & Race, Harvard University
 Graduate Teaching Fellow, History and American Studies, Yale University

PUBLIC & DIGITAL HUMANITIES

2022 Historical Consultant, Documentary - Dr. Iga Mori: Dean of the Islands' Medical Men (Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, 2022).

2020 *Co-Organizer*. "Detention, Deportation, and Resistance: Bridging Scholarship and Activism." Harvard University, April 17-18, 2020. *Canceled due to COVID-19.

2020 Reparative Archival Description Task Force, Yale University Library.

2015-Present *Co-PI and Project Director*. The *Out of the Desert* Project at Yale University combines context-rich historical curation with modern web application to archive and interpret the history of World War II Japanese American incarceration for a broad public audience. The site offers multiple modes for exploring this history: an interactive map of incarceration sites, an image gallery of digitized material objects, and downloadable curricula (outofthedesert.yale.edu)

2017 *Co-Organizer*. "Legacies of Incarceration: 75 Years After Executive Order 9066" (October 5-7, 2017). Yale University. This three-day public symposium marked the 75th anniversary of Japanese American WWII incarceration through public lectures, roundtable discussions, a keynote address by legal scholar Hiroshi Motomura, and workshops related to historical preservation, curation, and digital interpretation.

2017 *Selected participant*. Public History Institute: "Interpreting Difficult Histories" (June 25-30, 2017), Yale University. Convened by the Yale Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

2014-2016 *Advisory committee*. World War II Nisei Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition for the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American History and the National Veterans Network.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2025-2026 Tufts University Faculty Research Fund Grant

2024-2025 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship

2023-2024 American Association of University Women (AAUW) American Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship

2023 Award for Asian American Student Advocacy, Tufts University

2023 Tufts University Faculty DEIJ Grant-in-Aid

2022-2023 Tufts Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship

2022 Tufts DEIJ Start at the Source Grant

2022 Grant-In-Aid Research Funding, Tufts Faculty Research Awards

2020 Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Harvard University

2018 MacMillan International Dissertation Research Grant

2017 Edward A. Suisman and Samuel C. Suisman Fellowship, Yale University

2016 Bordin-Gillette Summer Research Fellowship, Bentley Library, University of Michigan

2016 Yale Center for Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration Dissertation Research Grant

- 2015-2016 Mellon Graduate Fellowship in Digital Humanities, “(En)Visualizing Knowledge: Text Mining, Mapping, Network Analysis, and Big Data,” Graduate Seminar & Academic Year 2015-2016 funding, Yale University
- 2015 American Studies Summer Research Grant, Yale University
- 2014 U.S.-Japan Council Emerging Leaders Fellowship
- 2014 Council on East Asian Studies Summer Language Grant, Yale University
- 2014-2015 HASTAC Scholar
- 2013-2015 A. Bartlett Giamatti Fellowship, Yale University
- 2013 Institute for Recruitment of Teachers Associate, Phillips Academy Andover
- 2013 C.A. Bayly Dissertation Prize, University of Cambridge
- 2013 Arthur Sale Prize, Magdalene College, University of Cambridge
- 2012 Edna V. Moffett Fellowship for Graduate Study in History, Wellesley College
- 2011 Fulbright Research Fellowship, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2009 Thomas J. Watson Fellowship
- 2007, 2009 Academy of American Poets Award, Wellesley College
- 2007 Florence Annette Wing Memorial Poetry Prize, Wellesley College

PROJECT GRANTS

- 2017-2019 Japanese American Confinement Sites Project Grant, US National Park Service (\$76,374) for *Out of the Desert*
- 2017 Yale Digital Humanities Lab Grant for *Out of the Desert* (\$20,000)
- 2017 Yale Center for Race, Indigeneity, & Transnational Migration Research Grant
- 2017 Internal funding awarded for the *Legacies of Incarceration* Symposium: The Office of the Secretary and Vice President for Student Life and the Harvard Isaac H. Bromley, and Daniel S. Lamont Memorial Lectureship; the Yale Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Dean’s Fund for Research Colloquia; Yale RITM; and Traphagen Alumni Speakers Fund
- 2016 Digital Humanities Seed Grant for *Out of the Desert* Web Development

SELECT INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

- Invited Keynote.* “Digital Memory, Hidden Histories: Reconstructing Japanese American Experiences of Incarceration and Illness.” Yale Asian American Cultural Center (AACC) Community Research Day, March 27, 2025
- Invited Panelist.* Ideologies of Mass Incarceration. Brandeis University. November 21, 2024.
- Invited Panelist.* Histories and Worlds Unbound: A Conference honoring the life, legacy and scholarship of Professor Gary Y. Okihiro. Yale University. November 8, 2024.
- Invited Keynote Lecture.* “Transnational Asian/American Women’s Activism & Pan-Pacific Internationalism.” Distinguished Five College Asian Pacific American Studies Lecture. Hampshire College, MA. May 2, 2023.
- Invited Talk.* “Gendered Care and Racialized Contagion during WWII.” Dalhousie Feminist Seminar Series. Dalhousie University. February 17, 2023. Dalhousie University, Canada.
- Invited Panelist.* Reparative Archival Description: Japanese American Incarceration. Reparative Archival Symposium. Yale University Library. April 19, 2022.
- Invited Lecture.* “Materiality, Curation, and Public History: Japanese American Wartime Incarceration” for class “Asian American History, 1800-Present.” Amherst College, Department of History/Sexuality, Women’s and Gender Studies, October 18, 2021.

Invited Panelist. “Tuberculosis Sanatoria: Racial Contagion and Confinement.” Densho Public Panel, Unexpected Sites of WWII Incarceration (Zoom). April 21, 2021.

Invited Respondent. “Cathy Park Hong presents Minor Feelings in conversation with Courtney Sato.” Cambridge Public Library. Cambridge, MA. June 28, 2021.

Invited Class Lecture. “Decolonizing Public History and Digital Humanities,” for seminar, “Race and Public History.” Temple University Department of History. Philadelphia, PA. March 10, 2020.

Invited Lecture. “Curation and Asian American Public History.” Harvard University Asian American Studies Working Group. Cambridge, MA. October 7, 2019.

Invited Panelist. “Asians & Asian Americans in Movement.” Wellesley College. Wellesley, MA. March 10, 2017.

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Panelist, “Coastal Convergences: The 1938 World Youth Congress and the East Coast as a Hub for Asian American Feminist Internationalism,” Association of Asian American Studies (AAAS) Conference. Boston, MA. April 18, 2025.

Chair, “Solidarity-Building, Place-making, and Resilience Among Asian-Pacific American Communities,” Association of Asian American Studies (AAAS) Conference. Boston, MA. April 17, 2025.

Panelist, “Racialized Confinement: WWII Japanese American Tuberculosis Sanatoria.” Western History Association Conference. Los Angeles, CA. Oct. 26, 2023.

Panelist, “WWII Japanese American Tuberculosis: Racialized Contagion and Confinement.” American Studies Association Conference. New Orleans, LA. Nov. 4, 2022.

Chair, “Multicultural Exceptionalism and the Limits of Racial Inclusion.” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado. April 14, 2022.

Chair, “Life, Land, and Labor in Late 19th and Early 20th Century Hawai‘i.” Organization of American Historians Annual Conference. Boston, MA. April 2, 2022.

“Gendered Mobilities in the Age of Asian Exclusion: The Asiatic Barred Zone and the Barbour Scholarship for Asian Women.” American Studies Association Annual Conference. Virtual. October 13, 2021.

“Collecting the Pacific: ‘Intellect’ in Interwar Pacific Internationalism.” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference. Virtual. April 9, 2021.

“Interwar Pacific Geographies: The Asiatic Barred Zone Act and the Forging of a Pan-Pacific Movement.” Conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. New Orleans, LA. June 19, 2020.

“Hawai‘i as the ‘new Geneva’: Interwar Pan-Pacific Internationalism.” American Studies Association Annual Conference. Honolulu, HI. November 8, 2019.

“Barred Zones & Ungovernable Mobilities.” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference. Madison, WI. April 27, 2019.

“Crossroads of the Pacific: ‘Asia/America’ and the Pan-Pacific Movement.” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA. March 27, 2018.

“Interwar Pan-Pacific Internationalism.” Conference on International History (Con-IH): Pacific in the World, Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. March 22-23, 2018.

“Pan-Asianist and Internationalist Networks: the Barbour Scholarship for Asian Women, 1917-1941.” The Global Pursuit of Equality: Women, Networks, and Networking 1800-2000 Conference. The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, September 2016.

- “Visualizing the Pan-Pacific: ‘Scenic Dioramas’ of the Pacific.” French Association of American Studies Conference, University of Toulouse. Toulouse, France. May 2016.
- “Japanese American Internment & ‘Negative Cultural Heritage’ Online.” HASTAC Conference, Arizona State University. Tempe, AZ. May 2016.
- “Out of the Desert, Into the Archive: In Search of the Van Patten Internment Collection.” Association for Asian American Studies Conference. Miami, FL. April 2016.
- “Steamships and Subversive Mobilities: The 1914 *Komagata Maru* Incident.” American Studies Association Conference. Toronto, Canada. October 2015.

SELECT CAMPUS & DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

- Panelist.* Engaging New Works in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora Studies, "Imaging and Archiving the Pacific: The Visual and Material Culture of the Interwar Pan-Pacific," Department of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora, Tufts University, Medford, MA. February 2025.
- Guest Lecture.* “Methods in Public History and Public Humanities.” Methods in Race, Colonialism, & Diaspora class. April 18, 2023.
- Faculty Fellow Seminar.* “Racialized Contagion: Japanese American Tuberculosis Patients during WWII.” Center for the Humanities at Tufts. November 30, 2022.
- Guest Lecture.* “Digital Approaches to Interpreting Japanese American Incarceration.” Introduction to Digital Humanities class. November 30, 2022.
- Presentation.* “History of Asian American Studies.” Tufts Asian American Center, Peer Tutor Training Orientation. August 30, 2022.
- Speaker.* “Asian American Studies at Tufts.” Tufts Asian Student Coalition (TASC). March 9, 2022.
- Panelist.* “Common Routes: Ethnic Centers, Ethnic Studies, and Legacy of Engaged Scholarship and Art.” Tufts University. Medford, MA. October 15, 2021.
- Presentation.* “Intersections between Carceral Studies and Asian American Studies.” Carceral Studies Working Group, Yale University. New Haven, CT. September 22, 2017.
- Presentation with the Yale Working Group on Globalization and Culture.* “Matters of Life and Death.” Critical Encounters, Yale University. New Haven, CT. April 21, 2016.
- Guest Lecture.* “Japanese American Internment during WWII.” HIST181: World War II and Its Legacies, Yale University. New Haven, CT. February 10, 2016.
- Guest Lecture.* “Curating *Out of the Desert* and Ansel Adams’ Internment Photography.” AMST 449: Photography, History & Memory, Yale University. New Haven, CT. January 27, 2016.
- Curatorial Talk* on exhibit *Out of the Desert*. AMST 445: Politics & Culture of the U.S. Color Line, Yale University. New Haven, CT. February 16, 2016.
- Presentation.* “The Poet as Public Intellectual: Tagore and Noguchi.” South Asian Studies Brown Bag Series, Yale University. New Haven, CT. March 4, 2015.
- Guest Lecture.* “Japanese American Internment Archives.” AMST 354/ER&M 385: Pacific Wars & Asian American Identity, Yale University. New Haven, CT. February 23, 2015.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION & STUDENT LIFE

Asian American Cultural Center, Yale University

- Interim Co-Director, Yale Asian American Cultural Center (May 2017-October 2017)
Senior Graduate Assistant Program Coordinator, Yale Asian American Cultural Center (October 2016-May 2017)

Graduate Assistant Program Coordinator, Yale Asian American Cultural Center (September 2014-October 2016)

Yale College Dean's Office, Yale University

Committee Member, Asian American Cultural Center Director & Assistant Dean of Yale College Search (May 2017-August 2017)

Committee Member, Assistant Director Search (May 2017-June 2017)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Studies Association (ASA)

Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS)

Organization of American Historians (OAH)

Western History Association (WHA)

JOURNAL REVIEWER:

Critical Arts

Radical History Review

History

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Historical Consultant, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (2022-2023)

Committee Member, Hawai'i Poet Laureate Selection Committee (2022)

Member, Scholars Council, Tsuru for Solidarity (2021-2023)

SELECT PRESS

Deborah Cannarella, "[Sterling Library Exhibition Celebrates 10 Years of Student Curators' Achievements](#)," *Yale Library News*, December 15, 2025.

Interviewed for documentary - [Dr. Iga Mori: Dean of the Islands' Medical Men](#). Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, March 16, 2022. <https://bit.ly/3rFq9rh>.

Liz Mineo, "The Scapegoating of Asian Americans," *The Harvard Gazette*, March 24, 2021.

Niki Anderson, "Yale reflects on Japanese internment," *Yale Daily News*, October 10, 2017.

Amy J. Barry, "Yale exhibit commemorates plight of Japanese-Americans interned during World War II," *The Day*, February 15, 2016.

Susan Dunne, "Ansel Adams' Japanese-America Internment Photos Centerpiece Yale Exhibit," *Hartford Courant*, January 26, 2016

Patricia Leigh Brown, "Life in a Japanese American Internment Camp, via the Diary of a Young Man," *New York Times*, December 1, 2015, <http://nyti.ms/1lsGXgC>.

ADVISING

Undergraduate Advising and Directed Student Learning, Tufts University

Department major advising; undergraduate senior thesis primary advisor; senior special project supervisor; and independent study supervisor (2021-Present).

Graduate Student Advising, Tufts University

Dissertation, prospectus, and comprehensive exam committee service (2023–present).