

# ABIGAIL JINJU LEE

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### 2022 - present | Assistant Professor of Critical Race and Moving Image Studies

University of South Florida, Humanities and Cultural Studies Department

## EDUCATION

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<b>PhD</b>	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, English and Comparative Literature	2022
	Dissertation: "Site Trouble: Asianness and Blackness in Contemporary Cultural Production"	
	Committee: Dr. Heidi Kim (co-director); Dr. GerShun Avilez (co-director); Dr. Michelle Robinson; Dr. Rick Warner; Dr. Martin Johnson	
<b>MFA</b>	Poetry Writing, University of North Carolina at Greensboro	2015
<b>BA</b>	English Literature, University of Virginia	2012

## BOOK PROJECT

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### Vexed Spaces: Asianness and Blackness in Contemporary Cultural Production

Bringing together film, television, and literature, this interdisciplinary project reflects on the relationality of Asianness and Blackness in urban geographies. Organized around three everyday sites of encounter and conflict—the Asian-owned convenience store, the college campus, and the urban freeway—it explores how carcerality, anti-Blackness, and radical experimentalism inform Asian America. Ultimately, it argues that Asian American opacity, non-representational strategies, and experimentalism in popular screen media put forward a radical ethic of solidarity with Black liberation and just futures everywhere.

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Asian American studies; Black studies  
Critical race and relational ethnic studies; Multi-ethnic literatures  
Film studies; Television studies  
Prison-industrial complex abolition; Carceral studies

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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- 2022** | Dougald McMillan Prize for Best Dissertation UNC-CH
- 2022** | Lee Green Award for Outstanding Work in Race or Ethnic Studies UNC-CH
- 2021** | Wagner-Martin Award for Outstanding Record Writing a Dissertation in Post-1900 American Literature UNC-CH
- 2021** | Critical Ethnic Studies Collective Graduate Fellow, Working Group UNC-CH
- 2021** | English and Comparative Literature Departmental Dissertation Fellowship UNC-CH
- 2021** | Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship UNC-CH
- 2018-2021** | Graduate Student Fellow | Center for Faculty Excellence UNC-CH
- Conceptualized, co-created, and co-designed the two-day Equity in Teaching Institute (EqTI) program, equipping instructors with tools to advance equity (racial, gender and sexuality, ability, language, nationality) in their course design.
  - Co-facilitated EqTI cohorts of 15-25 instructor participants in December 2019, March 2020, December 2020, February 2021.
- 2020** | Digital Dissertation Fellowship UNC-CH
- Awarded to plan and begin a digital public humanities component of my dissertation work.
- 2018-2019** | Publicly Active Graduate Education (PAGE) Fellow Imagining America Network
- Engaged a community of publicly-engaged graduate scholars across the country.
- 2018** | Humanities Public Pathways Grant Recipient UNC-CH
- Awarded to complete a project for the Correctional Education Program at UNC and design a college writing course for incarcerated students.
- 2017** | Richard Bland Fellowship | Center for the Study of the American South UNC-CH
- Assisted in archival research and curation of an exhibit of Civil Rights Movement photography organized by Dr. William Ferris, "I Am a Man;" opened in spring 2019 in Montpellier, France, and then traveled throughout the U.S.
  - Copyedited articles and strategized digital content for the journal *Southern Cultures*.
- 2014** | Graduate Student Essay Award in English UNC-G
- "The Collapsed Long Space: Genre in *Crossing the River and Cane*"

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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"Playing on the Border: Racial Ambiguity, Passing and Possibility in *Atlanta* and *Interior Chinatown*." *Greater Atlanta: African American Satire since Obama*, eds. Derek Maus and James Donahue. University of Mississippi Press, 2022. (forthcoming)

“‘When the Sun Goes Down’: Time, Space, and Genre in *Cane* and *Crossing the River*.” *Atlantic Studies*, 17:2, pp. 244-259 (2019).

## POETRY PUBLICATIONS

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“Blue can be a place/ please can it be a place.” (finalist for 2015-2016 James Wright Poetry Prize), *Mid-American Review*, 36:2 (2016).

“somebody or other pretended a revelation.” *Prairie Schooner*, 90:3 (2016).

“and while he told the sands of his hour-glass, or the throbs and little beatings of his watch.” *Bayou Magazine*, 65 (2016).

“The library of July.” *CALYX*, 29:1 (2016).

“Two Face reads that batman has returned.” *Barrow Street*, (winter 2014).

“The climber on Cold Mountain.” *491 Magazine*, (spring 2014).

“TAXOL.” *Blood and Thunder Journal*, (November 2013).

## PRESENTATIONS

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### Invited Talks

“Serial Experiments: Asian Americans, TV, and the University.” Keynote Address, Tri-College Asian Student Conference. Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore Colleges, 2022.

### Conference Presentations

“Invisible Asians, Transparent Directors: Asian Americans and Anti-Blackness in Film and Video.” American Studies Association, 2021.

Chair and discussant for panel “Poetic Crossings and Methods: Ocean Vuong, Yi Hyangji, Theresa Cha.” Association for Asian American Studies, 2021.

“‘What Could Be So Bad’: Asian Americans and Anti-Blackness in *Native Speaker*.” Association for Asian American Studies, 2020 (rescheduled).

“Grounding/Grounded Concepts: Direct Action.” (invited as a representative of Strike Down Sam) Whose Crisis, Whose University?: Abolitionist Study in and Beyond Global Higher Education, Durham, NC, 2019.

“Where Are the Asians?: Race, Representation, and Fugitive Asian-Americanness on Screen.” Association for Asian American Studies. Madison, WI, 2019.

“The Poetics of Trap: Trap Music and Radical Black Aesthetics.” Annual Conference, UNC-Kings College London Working Group: Configurations of Empire, Chapel Hill, NC, 2018.

“Allying Students in Prison and on Campus.” Imaging America Network Conference, Chicago, IL, 2018.

“Hip Hop Skits: Why They Matter.” CUNY ECL Graduate conference: I Love Pop, New York, NY, 2016.

## COURSES TAUGHT

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### University of South Florida at Tampa | 2022 - present

#### Crossings, Experiments, Futures: Asian American Media and Culture fall 2022 (F2F)

- Crosslisted graduate and upper undergraduate course analyzing Asian American film, media, poetry, and fiction.
- Uses three themes to explore comparative and relational radicalization and Asian American experiences, migration, queerness, experimental and avant-garde Asian American media, and Asian American science fiction and speculation, asking how we can build safe and thriving Asian American futures.

#### Introduction to Film fall 2022 (F2F)

- Familiarizes students with key film studies concepts through film history with a focus on film created by artists of color.

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | 2016-2022

#### Crossings, Experiments, Futures: Asian American Literature and Media spring 2022 (hybrid)

- Analyzes Asian American literature and media, including migrancy, queerness, avant-garde and experimental art-making, and Asian American futurisms in speculative media.

#### (De)constructing Race Onscreen spring 2020 (hybrid)

- Students explore how race is (de)constructed in genres of film, including science fiction, horror, comedy, superhero franchises, and documentary. Includes topics and concepts such as film history, genre theory, Afro-futurism, Afro-pessimism, U.S. imperialism, (de)colonialism, and experimentalism.

#### Literature of Imprisonment spring 2018 (F2F)

- Taught at Warren Correctional Facility.
- Introduces students to writing by imprisoned American writers and concerning the U.S. prison industrial complex. Addresses how these diverse authors approach issues of prison abolition, intersectional oppression, gender and sexuality, and literary analysis.

#### College Writing: Writing for Freedom summer 2019 (F2F), summer 2021 (remote)

- Taught and learned with students at a variety of writing proficiency levels at men's prison facilities, including a final writing assignment to develop grant proposals in response to a call for grant proposals from formerly incarcerated people.

#### College Writing: Writing to Transform Our World fall 2020 (online), spring 2021 (online)

- Students explore personal, scientific, and social transformation, including Indigenous perspectives on Western scientific knowledge, theories of social movements, and in-depth studies of argumentation and writing structure.

#### College Writing: Storytelling in the Disciplines fall 2016; spring 2017, two courses; fall 2017, spring 2018; fall 2019, two courses

- Students research and create dynamic projects in academic genres, using storytelling as a key driver of argument and social change.

### University of North Carolina at Greensboro | 2014-2016

## Approaches to Literature

fall 2015

- Introduced students to canonical and canon-challenging U.S. novelists, encouraged critical thinking and creative skills in students.

## Introduction to Poetry

spring 2016

- Using poetry writing and poetry analysis to foster an appreciation of poetry in students and to encourage critical insights into U.S. racial structures.

## College Writing

fall 2014; spring 2015; fall 2015, two courses;  
spring 2016, two courses

## INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Teaching Assistant | UNC-CH | 2019-2020

#### Film and Culture

summer 2020 (online)

- Facilitated discussion forum, supported online and remote course components.

#### History of Global Cinema

spring 2019

- Led two discussion sections, designed curricula for discussion of weekly lectures, guest lectured on race and documentary film using the work of Trinh T. Minh-ha.

### ENGL 105 Course Lead | Correctional Education Program | UNC-CH | 2021

- Coordinated, researched, and supported six ENGL 105 correspondence classes in prison; designed course materials templates, assisted instructors with navigating the prison education systems.

### Graduate Research Consultant | UNC-CH | 2019-2020

#### ENGL 265: Literature, Race, and Ethnicity

summer 2020 (online)

- Designed a final podcast assignment with instructor; supported students in researching and recording their podcasts.

#### Comics as Literature

fall 2019

- Designed a final podcast assignment with instructor; supported students in researching and recording their podcasts.

### Summer Studies Instructor | Duke TIP | June 2015, June 2016

- Designed the syllabus for and taught Symbols and Structure, a month-long, college seminar-level class on structuralism and post-structuralism for a class of 9th-11th graders.
- Designed the syllabus for and taught Creative Writing, a month-long, intensive class for upper middle-schoolers.

## SERVICE

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**2018- 2021** | Facilitator and Co-leader, Equity in Teaching Institute, Center for Faculty Excellence at UNC.

**2019-2022** | Steering Committee, Humanities for the Public Good at UNC.

**2020-2022** | Member, Antiracist Graduate Worker Collective at UNC.

**2020-present** | Organizer, Abolition Collective, Letters to the Inside Initiative.

**2019, 2020** | Organizer and Senior Teaching Mentor, Survive and Thrive New T.A. Institute with the Graduate School and the Center for Faculty Excellence,

**2013-2016** | Community Poetry Writing Instructor, Write On Greensboro (at Glenwood Library for middle schoolers and Mental Health Association of Greensboro for unhoused and/or recovering writers).