

# Kai Nham

Email: [kainham@g.ucla.edu](mailto:kainham@g.ucla.edu)  
Website: <https://www.kainham3.com>

## Education

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### Ph.D. in Information Studies

2021 – Present

### Graduate Concentration: Gender Studies

Expected Graduation: June

University of California, Los Angeles

2026

*Dissertation: Careful & Care-full Crafting: Transgender Asian American Care Webs & Information Infrastructure*

*Committee:* Michelle Caswell (Chair), Thuy Vo Dang, Tonia Sutherland, Oliver Haimson

### Master of Information and Data Science

2019 – 2021

University of California, Berkeley

### B.A. with High Honors in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies

2015 – 2019

University of California, Berkeley

*Thesis: Transpiration: the Making of Asian American Transmasculinity*

*Advisor:* Lisa Hirai-Tsuchitani

## Research Interests

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- Social movements
- Transgender (trans) communities of color
- Asian American communities
- Trans care
- Information infrastructure
- Critical infrastructure studies
- Grassroots information practices
- Racialization

## Publications

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\* Indicates equal authorship, alphabetical

### *Refereed Journal Articles*

**Nham, Kai.** “‘Paper More Precious than Blood’: Chinese Exclusion Era Identity Documentation Processes and Racialization of Identity Data.” *Amerasia Journal*, 2024.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00447471.2024.2338748>.

Ikeda, Ryan, **Kai Nham**, Laura Armstrong, Fiona Diec, Nicole Kim, Douglas Parada, Diana Sanchez, Kelly Zhen, and Victoria Robinson. “Designing for Liberation: A Case Study in Antiracism Instructional Design.” *The Journal of Applied Instructional Design* 10, no. 4 (2021).

[https://edtechbooks.org/jaid\\_10\\_4/designing\\_for\\_libera](https://edtechbooks.org/jaid_10_4/designing_for_libera).

### *Refereed Conference Proceedings*

Haimson, Oliver L., **Kai Nham**, Hibby Thach, and Aloe DeGuia. 2023. How Transgender People and Communities Were Involved in Trans Technology Design Processes. In Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '23).

Kuo, Rachel\*, mads le\*, Grayson Lee\*, Sarah Nguyen\*, **Kai Nham\***, and Tam Rayan\*. 2025. Corroding Empire's Infrastructure: Echoes of Care, Resistance, and Refusal in Information Systems and Networks Zine. In Proceedings of the 2025 Society for Social Studies of Science conference.

### *Invited Book Chapters*

**Nham, Kai.** "It's Up to Us: Trans Asian American Information Practices as Building Care and Power." In Rachel Kuo, Leezel Tanglao, and Mark Calaguas, eds, *Across Oceans and Waves: Asian Diasporic History, Politics, and Disinformation*. (Proposal under review).

**Nham, Kai.** "Jumping into the River of Justice." In *Power of the People Won't Stop: Legacy of the TWLF at UC Berkeley*, edited by Harvey Dong and Janie Chen. Berkeley, CA: Eastwind Books of Berkeley, 2020.

## Awards & Fellowships

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**Graduate and Predoctoral Fellowship in Ethnic Studies** 2025  
Institute for American Cultures

*Care-full and Careful Crafting: Trans Asian American Care Webs and Information Infrastructure*  
Recipient: **Kai Nham** | Amount: \$14,370

This fellowship supports the recipients' dissertation research. This project analyzes how transgender Asian American care is facilitated, built, and sustained through information infrastructures developed by San Francisco Bay Area community-based organization, Lavender Phoenix.

**Lucie Cheng Prize** 2025  
Amerasia Journal

*"Paper More Precious than Blood": Chinese Exclusion Era Identity Documentation Processes and Racialization of Identity Data*  
Recipient: **Kai Nham** | Amount: \$1500

Established in 2012, the Lucie Cheng Prize is awarded to an outstanding graduate student essay which is published in the *Amerasia* journal.

**Chair's Scholarship** 2024  
California LGBT Foundation  
Recipient: **Kai Nham** | Amount: \$10,000

One recipient is selected to receive the Chair's scholarship by the California LGBTQ+ Legislative Caucus. This recipient represents the ideals and values of the foundation and demonstrates aspirations and ability to make a lasting impact on the LGBTQ+ community.

**UCLA/Keck Humanistic Inquiry Research Award** 2023  
University of California, Los Angeles & W.M. Keck Foundation

*Legacies of Multiplicity: Memory, Politics, & Identity Formation of Chinese-Vietnamese Americans in San Gabriel Valley*

Recipients: **Kai Nham** & mads le | Amount: \$8000

This project created a repository of Chinese-Vietnamese American life stories as an intervention in public historical records for this minoritized population, while also beginning new analyses of this complex identity formation through and against the contexts of imperialism, colonialism, war, and migration.

**Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award**

2022

University of California, Los Angeles

*“Paper More Precious than Blood”: Chinese Exclusion Era Identity Documentation Processes and Racialization of Identity Data*

Recipient: **Kai Nham** | Amount: \$6000

This project analyzed the digitally available Form 430 documents in the National Archives and Records Administration archive to understand: How does racialization shape identity documentation processes for American-born Chinese settlers during the era of the Chinese Exclusion Act? How are these identity documentation practices part of hegemonic data regimes?

**Research Experience for Master’s Students Fellowship**

2021

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor School of Information

Recipient: **Kai Nham** | Amount \$10,000

**5th Year Master of Information and Data Science Fellowship**

2019

University of California, Berkeley School of Information

**Chinese Chapter Merit Scholarship**

2018

UC Chinese Alumni Foundation

**UC Berkeley Leadership Award**

2017

University of California, Berkeley

## Presentations

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*Conference Presentations*

**Nham, Kai.** “Careful & Care-full Crafting: Trans Asian American Care Webs & Information Infrastructure.” Paper presented to Society for Social Studies of Science Meeting: Reverberations, September 3-6, 2025. Seattle, Washington, United States of America: Society for Social Studies of Science.

**Nham, Kai.** “Unfurling Trans Asian American Care & Digital Information Infrastructure.” Paper presented to Association of Asian American Studies Annual Meeting: Disciplinary, Ethnic, Diasporic Identities, April 25-27, 2024. Seattle, Washington, United States of America: Association of Asian American Studies.

*Conference Panels and Roundtables*

Chun, Wendy Hui Kyong, Rachel Kuo, mads le, Grayson Lee, Sarah Nguyễn, **Kai Nham**, and Tam Rayan. “Corroding Empire's Infrastructure: Enacting Care, Resistance, and Refusal in Information Systems & Networks.” Roundtable at Association of Asian American Studies Annual Meeting: Re-Orienting Asian American Studies in a time of resurgent ethnonationalism and fascism, April 17-19, 2025. Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America: Association of Asian American Studies.

Nakamura, Lisa, **Kai Nham**, Noopur Raval, Wells Lucas Santo, Cella M. Sum, Wendy Sung, and Xiaowei R. Wang. “Beyond Cyborgs and Techies: Critical Technology Studies and Asian/American Life.” Roundtable at Association of Asian American Studies Annual Meeting: Disciplinary, Ethnic, Diasporic Identities, April 25-27, 2024. Seattle, Washington, United States of America: Association of Asian American Studies.

Bui, Matthew, H. Yumi Kim, mads le, Cindy Lin, **Kai Nham**, and Ian Shin. “On data afterlives and alterlives.” Roundtable at Association of Asian American Studies Annual Meeting: Sustainable Publics, April 6-8, 2023. Long Beach, California, United States of America: Association of Asian American Studies.

### *Invited Talks*

Trans Technologies, in conversation with Oliver Haimson. 2025. Los Angeles Public Library. Los Angeles, CA.

Dong, Harvey, **Kai Nham**, and Nkauj lab Yang. “Mountain Movers: Student Activism and the Emergence of Asian American Studies.” Panel at University of California, Berkeley Ethnic Studies Library. Berkeley, CA. October 25, 2019.

**Nham, Kai**. “Whose University? 50th Anniversary of TWLF Exhibit Reception.” Invited speaker at University of California, Berkeley Ethnic Studies Library. Berkeley, CA. April 24, 2019.

## Public Scholarship

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Gilmore, Anthony and **Kai Nham**. “The Third World Liberation Front.” *The Berkeley Revolution*, 11 May 2018, <http://revolution.berkeley.edu/projects/twlf/>.

## Research Experience & Additional Training

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<b>Graduate Student Researcher for Foundations and Futures: AAPI Multimedia Textbook (University of California, Los Angeles Asian American Studies Center)</b>	2024-2025
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*Duties:* Manage the development of the textbook’s chapter glossaries, including compiling glossary terms across all chapters and ensuring glossary definitions are meaningful and accessible to students; manage the editorial development of textbook chapters’ abstracts, objectives, and keywords; proofread the footnotes and other citations for chapters to ensure they properly adhere to Chicago Manual Style.

<b>Graduate Student Researcher for Anti-Asian Violence: Origins and Trajectories</b>	2023
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*PI(s):* Letti Volpp, Laura HyunYi Kang, Susette Min, & Lee Ann Wang

*Duties:* Participate in multidisciplinary conversations on anti-Asian violence; assist in

organizing a graduate student workshop by organizing submitted abstracts, coordinating with graduate student participants, etc.

**Graduate Student Researcher for UC-UAW Labor Summer (University of California, Los Angeles Labor Center)**

2023

*Duties:* Help accession materials for the creation of an archive of UAW 4811's historic strike in 2022; create metadata schema for archival materials.

**Research Assistant for Trans Technologies**

2021-2022

*PI:* Oliver Haimson

*Duties:* Generate a list of potential trans technologies; conduct initial semi-structured interviews with trans technology creators and designers; draft literature review; qualitative coding in Atlas.ti Cloud; assist in preparation of manuscript of CHI paper.

## Teaching Experience

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*Teaching interests: Critical data studies; feminist and queer/trans of color theory; qualitative methods; critical information studies; social movements and information; contemporary Asian American issues.*

**Teaching Associate**

Fall 2025

University of California, Los Angeles

DIG HUM 101: Introduction to Digital Humanities

**Teaching Associate**

Spring 2024

University of California, Los Angeles

ASIAN AM 30W: Asian American Literature & Culture

**Teaching Associate**

Winter 2024

University of California, Los Angeles

ASIAN AM 20W: Contemporary Asian American Communities

**Teaching Associate**

Fall 2023

University of California, Los Angeles

CLUSTER 10A: Data, Justice, and Society

**Teaching Associate**

Winter 2023

University of California, Los Angeles

SOC SCI 410: Engaged Social Science: Data in Theory and Practice

**Special Reader**

Fall 2022

University of California, Los Angeles

INFO STUDIES 280: Social Science Research Methods for Information Studies

**Special Reader**

Fall 2022

University of California, Los Angeles

INFO STUDIES 434: Archival Use and Users

**Special Reader**

Summer 2021

University of California, Berkeley

DATASCI W231: Behind the Data: Human and Values

## Special Reader

University of California, Berkeley

DATASCI W231: Behind the Data: Human and Values

Spring 2021

## Professional Experience

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### Editor

InterActions Journal

January 2024 – May 2024

Los Angeles, CA

- Oversee three articles through the editorial process for publication.
- Create recruitment plan to increase Information Studies participation and representation in journal activities and decision making.
- Coordinate eScholarship trainings for editorial staff.

### Program Manager

Creative Discovery Fellows – UC Berkeley American Cultures Center

May 2019 – May 2021

Berkeley, CA

- Manage four undergraduate students in developing student resources hub for navigating and using tools, such as the Adobe Suite, and scaffolding the creative process for creating different multimedia projects, such as podcasts and infographics.
- Develop a robust process-oriented social justice pedagogy curriculum for instructors and designed a website to host it on.

### Research Analyst

UC Berkeley Asian American and Pacific Islander Standing Committee

February 2019 – February

2020

Berkeley, CA

- Analyze and frame both aggregated and disaggregated data using Python on Asian American and Pacific Islander students on UC Berkeley's campus to understand how to better serve AAPI students on campus.
- Draft report with findings to present the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Equity and Inclusion

## Service

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### Student Representative

UCLA Information Studies Doctoral Program Committee

September 2022 – June 2023

Los Angeles, CA

### Doctoral Representative

UCLA Information Studies Student Governing Board

September 2022 – June 2023

Los Angeles, CA

## Skills

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Language: English (native), Cantonese (conversational)

Qualitative Analyses: Atlas.ti

Quantitative Analyses: Python, R, Excel

Media: HTML, CSS, Javascript, Tableau, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign,

## Professional Affiliations

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Association of Asian American Studies  
Society for Social Studies of Science