

mads (Madalyn) lê, MLIS

Department of Information Studies
Graduate School of Education &
Information Studies

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EDUCATION

PhD Information Studies	Expected 2027
Graduate Concentration: Asian American Studies	
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) , Graduate School of Education & Information Studies	
<i>Dissertation:</i> Chronic Possibilities: Writing a Historiography of Exposure, Sickness, and Care in Vietnamese American Diaspora	
<i>Committee:</i> Thuy Vo Dang (chair), Michelle Caswell, Anne Gilliland, Crystal Mun-hye Baik, James Kyung-Jin Lee	
MLIS Master of Library & Information Studies	2025
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) , Graduate School of Education & Information Studies	
BA English and Minor in Media & Cultural Studies	2016
University of California, Riverside (UCR)	

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

* Indicates equal authorship

le, mads*, James Huynh*, Victoria Huynh*, Sheila Sy*. "Toward a Politics of Care: Southeast Asian Refugee Organizing, Kinship, Care, and Reunion." *Health Promotion Practice*, 25(3), 326-330. doi.org/10.1177/15248399231164411.

Book Chapters

le, mads. "Empiric Entanglements: The Census as a U.S. Imperial Securitization Project." *Across Oceans and Waves: Asian Diasporic History, Politics, and Disinformation*. Ed. by Rachel Kuo, Leezel Tanglao, Mark Calaguas. University of Washington Press (Under review).

Public Writing

le, mads*, Kuo, Rachel*, 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. In Proceedings of the 2025 Society for Social Studies of Science conference.

[*Dark Lens/Lente ng Karimlan: The Filipino Camera in Duterte's Republic*](#). Edited by mads le, Sarita Echavez See, and Claire Counihan. Stonybrook, NY. 2018.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Rose Eng Chin and Helen Wong Eng Best Paper Scholarship Award, UCLA 2025

"A Utopian Hope: Listening and Locating Vietnamese Archival Sensibilities"

Funder: UCLA Asian American Studies Center

ACLS Digital Justice Seed Grant 2024 – 25

Queer and Trans Viet Oral History Project

Funder: American Council of Learned Societies

PI: Crystal Mun-hye Baik; **Co-PIs:** Ivy Hang, Uyen P. Hoang, mads le, James Huynh; **Grant Award:** \$17,135

This project created a multi-lingual digital repository that contains a collection of oral histories from LGBTQ+ Vietnamese Americans

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Fellowship Award, UCLA 2024 – 25

Chronic Possibilities: Writing a Historiography of Care, Disability, and Illness in Vietnamese American Diaspora

Funder: UCLA Asian American Studies Center

PI: mads le; **Faculty Advisor:** Thuy Vo Dang

This award fulfilled oral history narrator compensation for participating in my dissertation research.

Keck Humanistic Inquiry Graduate Research Award, UCLA 2023

Legacies of Multiplicity: Memory, Politics, & Identity Formation of Chinese-Vietnamese Americans

Funder: UCLA & W. M. Keck Foundation

PI: Thuy Vo Dang; **Co-PIs:** mads le and Kai Nham

This oral history project explored place-based Chinese-Vietnamese cultural, social, and/or political identity formations in Los Angeles' County's San Gabriel Valley region, an understudied ethnic enclave.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Interests: Critical Archival Studies, Theory, & Practice; Oral History Methods & Practice; feminist, queer of color, and DisCrit+ (disability studies & critical race) theory; Asian American Studies; Vietnamese diaspora; qualitative methods

UCLA Disability Studies Program

Graduate Student Instructor

DS 195CE: Disability Studies- Internships & Community Engagement (DS Major/Minor Req.)

AY 2023 – 24

Teaching Asst.

DS 101W: Disability Studies 101-Writing II (Minor/GE Req.)

Winter 2023

DS 101W: Disability Studies 101-Writing II (Minor/GE Req.)

Fall 2022

UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies

Special Reader

IS 212: Values & Communities in Information Professions (Core MLIS Course)

Spring 2026

IS 270: Systems & Infrastructures (Core MLIS Course)

Spring 2023

Viet Rainbow of Orange County (VROC) Oral History Workshop Series

Curriculum Development & Facilitator/Trainer

How to Conduct Trauma-Informed Oral Histories: VROC's Theory, Methodology, & Practice

2022 -24

How to Process & Archive Oral Histories: Transcription, Description, and Organization

2022-24

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING

Research Asst. for UCLA Labor Center and California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative

2024 – 26

UCLA, *Labor Center*

Advisor: Lucero Herrera

Research Asst. & Participant for UCHRI Multicampus Faculty

AY 2024 – 25

Working Group: *Reparative Memories: Communities in Crisis and Archival Care*

Co-PIs: Crystal Mun-hye Baik, Thuy Vo Dang

Cornell Migrations Summer Institute

2023

Advisor(s): Christine Bacareza Balance, Derek Chang

Critical Refugee Studies Collective Writing Institute

2022

Advisor: Yen Le Espiritu

Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow: Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI)

2022

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Intermediate Conversational Vietnamese

Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow: UCLA Center for Southeast Asian Studies

AY 2021 – 22

UCLA, Intermediate Vietnamese

Research Asst. for Homeland Security Biodata Research

2022

UCLA, *Luskin School of Public Affairs*

Advisor(s): Lee Ann Wang, Jolie Chea

Research Consultant & Vietnamese American Expert for Asian

2021

Americans and Pacific Islanders in California Multiple Property Documentation Form, Amended Submission (AAPI in CA Amended MPDF) Project

Page & Turnbull, Inc.

PI: Flora Chau

Seeding Change Fellow

2018

Chinese Progressive Association (San Francisco, CA), 501©3 non-profit & A Center for National Asian American Movement Building

Host Organization: Vietlead (Philadelphia, PA), 501©3 non-profit

at land's edge Art & Research Fellow at Southern California Library

2017 – 18

Advisor(s): Latipa (née Michelle Dizon), Sandra de la Loza

Research Asst. for Orality/Aurality & Feminist Oral History Syllabi

2018

University of California, Riverside, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Department

Advisor: Crystal Mun-Hye Baik

PRESENTATIONS

Selected Conference Presentations (in reverse chronological order):

Preserving LGBTQ+ Oral Histories: VROC's Queer and Trans Viet Oral History Project. **Vietnamese American Experiences Model Curriculum Conference.** Garden Grove, CA. 2025.

"Reparative Memories: Communities in Crisis and Archival Care" (Roundtable & oral presentation). **Human Rights Archives and the Problems of Provenance Symposium.** University of Sydney, NSW, Australia. 2025.

Corroding Empire's Infrastructure: Enacting Care, Resistance, and Refusal in Information Systems & Networks (Roundtable). **Association for Asian American Studies**, Boston, MA. 2025.

le, mads. "Chronic Possibilities: Living in and with Toxicity": Illness & Activism (Panel). **Oral Histories of Environmental Illness Symposium: Canary Knowledge: Chronic Fatigue, Chemical Sensitivities, and the Limits of Medicine.** University of California, Los Angeles. 2023.

Meet Them Where They Are: Approaches to Community and Family-Based Oral Histories (Roundtable). **Oral History Association**, Baltimore, MD. 2023.

le, mads. "Multiple Inheritances: Oral History as Lessons in/on Caregiving and Feeling through the Archive": Interpellating Care: Towards a "Sustainable Publics" Through Interdisciplinary Inquiry (Panel). **Association for Asian American Studies**, Long Beach, CA. 2023.

le, mads. "Historiographic Caretaking: Interdependency as a Medical Undercommons of Care": We Inherit the World on Fire: Imperial Toxicity & The Politics of Care (Panel). **American Studies Association**, New Orleans, LA. 2022.

le, mads. "residual cadences: refugee latency, language, and memory registered through the multi-medial": Refugee Dis/inheritances: Multimodal Archives, Intergenerational Healing, and Differential Remembrances of the Vietnam War (Panel). **Association for Asian American Studies**, Madison, WI. 2019.

le, mads. “Detention Destinations: Thanatourism, Leisure, and Brutalistic-Minimalism as Infrastructural Digital Violences”: Techno-Sanitation: Racial Biopolitics amidst Digitized Neoliberalism (Panel). **Association for Asian American Studies**, San Francisco, CA. 2018.

Invited Presentations (in reverse chronological order)

“Our Work is Everywhere”: Community-Centered Memory Work in Times of Rupture (Panel). **Trauma-Informed Interviewing, Reckoning & Beyond: A Virtual Symposium. Oral History Association.** 2026.

“Reparative Memories: Communities in Crisis and Archival Care.” 2025. Discussant with Crystal Mun-hye Baik (UCR), Rana Shariff (UCB), Latipa (UCR), and Rebecca Hernandez (UCSC), moderated by Thuy Vo Dang, for Information Studies: Artifacts & Cultures at University of California, Los Angeles. Los Angeles, CA.

“Searching for Myself: Disability in Vietnamese American Community-Based Archives & Oral Histories.” 2025. Guest lecture for Asian American Studies: Gender & Sexuality in Asian America at California State University, Long Beach. Long Beach, CA.

“Legacies of Multiplicity: Memory, Politics, & Identity Formation of Chinese-Vietnamese Americans.” 2024. Guest lecture with Kai Nham for Information Studies Special Topics: Oral History Methods at the University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

le, mads. “Chronic Possibilities: Living in and with Toxicity”: Illness & Activism (Panel). **Oral Histories of Environmental Illness Symposium: Canary Knowledge: Chronic Fatigue, Chemical Sensitivities, and the Limits of Medicine.** University of California, Los Angeles. 2023.

Love Your Asian Body: AIDS Activism in Los Angeles. 2022. Discussant with James Huynh for Eric Wat’s book talk, moderated by Crystal Mun-hye Baik, at the University of California, Riverside.

“Community Organizing, the Non-Profit Industrial Complex, and Experiments in Anti-Capital Labor within Southeast Asian American Communities.” 2018. Guest lecture for Media & Cultural Studies: Senior Seminar on Race, Labor, & Culture at the University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA.

Community Presentations (in reverse chronological order)

le, mads, Ivy Hang, James Huynh. VROC Oral History: Bilingual English/Vietnamese Queer and Trans Oral Histories’ Website Launch. *ACLS Digital Justice Seed Grant.* Garden Grove, CA. 2025.

PUBLIC & CURATORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Center for Art + Thought (CA+T)

Cruising. Curatorial Consultant. Virtual exhibition featuring artists Adrian Alarilla, Daniel Ballesteros, Kelvin Burzon, Marissa Cruz, and Jana Ercilla. 2019

Empire’s Eyes: Colonial Stereographs of the Philippines. Curatorial Assistant. Virtual exhibition featuring archival stereographic images from the California Photography Museum and scholarly articles by 2018

Nerissa Balce, Melissa Banta, Vernadette Gonzalez, Mark Rice, and Neferti Tadar.

Queer Horizons. Curatorial Assistant. Virtual group exhibition featuring artists Anida Yoeu Ali, Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik, Kim Anno, Wafaa Bilal, Greyson Hong, Kiam Marcelo Junio, Việt Lê, Maya Mackrandilal, Zavé Martohardjono, Genevieve Erin O'Brien, Jeffrey Augustine Songco, Tina Takemoto, and Saya Woolfalk. 2017

Encounters. Curatorial Assistant. Virtual group exhibition featuring artists Katrina Bello, Kat Larson, Gina Osterloh, and Kenneth Tam. 2017

Southern California Library in collaboration with at land's edge
Just In Arms Reach – Children of Watts. Co-curator. Full details on project, curatorial statement, and photos can be found here: 2018
<http://www.atlandsedge.com/archives/just-in-arms-reach-children-of-watts/>

WORK EXPERIENCE

Vietlead, Philadelphia, PA 2018 – 2020
Youth Campaign & Census Field Education Coordinator
Youth & Civic Empowerment Programs

Center for Art + Thought (CA+T), Los Angeles, CA 2017 – 2020
Curatorial Consultant (2018-20)
Curatorial Assistant (2017-18)

Vietnamese American Oral History Project & Digital Archive, 2016
University of California, Irvine (UCI)
Digital Archives Intern

SERVICE

Viet Rainbow for Orange County (VROC), Garden Grove, CA 2021 – Present
Board Chair (Present)
General Board Member (2021 - 2023)

Hai Ba Trung School for Organizing 2016 – Present
Participant, Facilitator, & Program Organizer

Community Archival Consulting
Vietlead, Philadelphia, PA 2021 – 22
AYPAL, Oakland, CA 2021

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Asian American Studies
American Studies Association
Oral History Association

SKILLS

Training, Facilitation, & Workshops: Oral History (How-to conduct, process, and preserve), Community-based archival practice & protocols, Vietnamese diaspora political histories

Language: Intermediate Vietnamese language proficiency (conversational speaking, reading, and writing)

Media & Technology: Website Design (HTML/CSS); Website Content Management Systems (CMS) including WordPress, Google Sites, Squarespace, Framer; Otter.ai tools, Zoom.us Video conferencing tools for virtual and/or hybrid learning; Zoom H4n Pro audio recording equipment

Archival Preservation: Collection, Appraisal, Accession, and Deaccession standards, protocol, and workflow development; Omeka CMS; magnetic media (cassette, DAT, open reel), grooved media (vinyl record, 78 shellac), and born-digital preservation standards and digitization workflows; WaveLab Pro 11; magnetic, grooved, and born-digital media playback equipment and software