

**Mika Kennedy**  
Curriculum Vitae  
July 2022

Kalamazoo College  
Department of English  
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Kalamazoo, MI 49006

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<http://illiterature.org>

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**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

- 2022- **Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies**  
Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity, Ithaca College
- 2020-22 **Visiting Assistant Professor**  
Department of English, Kalamazoo College
- 2014-2020 **Graduate Student Instructor**, English Department Writing Program  
Department of English, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

**EDUCATION**

- 2020 **Ph.D. English Language & Literature**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Dissertation: *Crossed Wires: Japanese American Incarceration and the Environmental Frontier*
- 2018 **Graduate Certificate in Science, Technology, and Society**, University of Michigan  
Decolonization & the Environment, History of Environmental Thought & Activism, Environmental Law
- 2015 **M.A. English Language & Literature**, University of Michigan
- 2013 **B.A. Literature**, University of California, San Diego  
Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude, Departmental Highest Honors  
Minors in Biology, Non-Fiction Writing, and Russian & Soviet Studies

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Peer-Reviewed Scholarship**

- 2022 "Peregrination 2037." *Western American Literature* Special Issue, *Emerging Writers: Western Identities and Alternative Discourses*, eds. Surabhi Balachander and Jillian Moore (forthcoming Summer 2022).
- "Japanese American Incarceration and the Turn to Earth: Looking for a Man Named Komako in *Bad Day at Black Rock*." *The Cambridge Companion to American Literature and the Environment*, eds. Susan Scott Parrish and Sarah Ensor. Cambridge University Press (forthcoming May 2022).

## Museum Exhibitions

- 2021 *Exiled to Motown: Japanese Americans in Detroit*. Detroit Historical Museum, Detroit, MI. Expansion and complete re-design of traveling exhibit, including artifacts and additional interactive exhibits (Summer/Fall 2021). <https://exiledtomotown.org/>
- 2019 *Exiled to Motown: Japanese Americans in Detroit* (Traveling Exhibit). Ann Arbor District Library (Spring 2019); Novi Public Library (Summer 2019); Little America Hotel--Salt Lake City (Summer 2019); University of Michigan (Fall 2019); Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit (Fall 2019).

## Public Writing

- 2022 "This is a Vincent Chin Essay." *The Emancipator*. June 2022. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/06/23/opinion/justus-vincent-this-is-vincent-chin-essay/>
- 2020 "Exiled to Motown: The Japanese-American Community in Detroit." *Michigan History*. Sept/Oct. 2020.

## Book Reviews

- 2019 Review of *Native Space: Geographic Strategies to Unsettle Settler Colonialism* by Natchee Blu Barnd. *Western American Literature*, 54.1. Spring 2019.
- 2019 Review of *Building Natures: Modern American Poetry, Landscape Architecture, and City Planning* by Julia A. Daniels. *Journal of Midwest Modern Language Association*, 51/1. Spring 2019.
- 2015 Review of *The Pharmacist* by Ashley Farmer. *Heavy Feather Review*. 10 Nov. 2015. <https://heavyfeatherreview.com/2015/11/10/the-pharmacist-by-ashley-farmer/>.

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

### Fellowships

- 2020-21 Frederick Donald Sober Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, University of Michigan (*declined*)
- 2018-19 James A. Winn Fellowship, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan
- 2017-18 Rackham Humanities Research Candidacy Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2017 Mellon Public Humanities Fellowship, Arab American National Museum
- 2017 Mellon Public Humanities Fellowship, University of Michigan Library (*declined*)
- 2017 Charles Redd Center for Western Studies Fellowship, Brigham Young University
- 2016 Sweetland Writing Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2015 Rackham Pre-Doctoral Research Fellowship, University of Michigan

### Awards

- 2019 Scholar-Activist Award, University of Michigan
- 2016 Louis Owens Award for Graduate Scholarship, Western Literature Association
- 2012 Dr. Milton H. Saier Memorial Award in Fiction, UC San Diego

2012 Stewart Prize in Poetry Finalist, UC San Diego

### **Grants**

2021-22 Inclusive Pedagogy Mini-Grant, Kalamazoo College Inclusive Excellence  
2021 Faculty-Student Summer Research Grant, Kalamazoo College  
2020 JACL National Legacy Grant - Detroit Chapter, Japanese American Citizens League  
2020 Travel Grant, Graduate Workshop in Research Methods: "Sovereignty and Survivance in Spatial Archives and Urban Landscapes," Newberry Consortium in American Indian Studies [canceled due to COVID-19]  
2019 Professional Development Grant (Project Management), University of Michigan  
2018 JACL National Legacy Grant - Detroit Chapter, Japanese American Citizens League  
2018 Professional Development Grant (Public History), University of Michigan  
2018 Digital Humanities Summer Institute Grant, University of Michigan  
2017 Diversity Allies Summer Mentorship Grant, University of Michigan  
2015 Symposium Seed Grant, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Instructor of Record**

2022 English 490: **Advanced Literary Studies.** Kalamazoo College, Spring 2021.

English 151: "**Reading the World: Identity at the Margins.**" Kalamazoo College, Spring 2021.

English 593: **Senior Individualized Project** with Nionni Permellia (Environmental Literature/Critical Ethnic Studies, Fiction). Kalamazoo College, Winter 2021.

English 331: **East Asian Diasporic Literature.** Kalamazoo College, Winter 2021.

Seminar 295, Sophomore Seminar: "**Island Time: Eco-Militourism and Literatures of the Pacific.**" Kalamazoo College, Winter 2021.

2021 English 593: **Senior Individualized Project** with Addissyn House (Women's Studies, Creative Nonfiction/Poetry), Kalamazoo College, Fall 2021.

Seminar 148, First-Year Seminar: "**Reading Race in the United States.**" Kalamazoo College, Fall 2021.

English 151: "**Reading the World: Race, the City, and Environmental Justice.**" Department of English, Kalamazoo College, Fall 2021.

English 230: "**U.S. Ethnic Literatures: How to Tell a Story That Can't Be Told.**" Department of English, Kalamazoo College, Spring 2021. [synchronous online]

English 156: "**Reading the World: Social Justice and Japanese American Incarceration.**" Department of English, Kalamazoo College, Spring 2021. [synchronous online]

English 593: **Senior Individualized Project** with Karen Garcia (Latinx Literature, Creative Nonfiction), Kalamazoo College, Winter 2021. [synchronous online]

English 276: "**Modernism and Postmodernism: U.S. Literature 1914-present and the Road Narrative**" Department of English, Kalamazoo College, Winter 2021. [synchronous online]

English 151: "**Reading the World: Race, the City, and Environmental Justice.**" Department of English, Kalamazoo College, Winter 2021. [synchronous online]

2020 English 593: **Senior Individualized Project** with Maya Bieszki (Asian American Literature, Poetry/Short Fiction/Creative Nonfiction), Kalamazoo College, Fall 2020. [synchronous online]

English 155: "**Reading the World: Identity at the Margins.**" Department of English, Kalamazoo College, Fall 2020. [synchronous online]

Seminar 147, First-Year Seminar: "**hello world: Geography, Identity, and the Internet.**" Kalamazoo College, Fall 2020. [synchronous online]

English 473: **Topics in American Literature**; English 317: **Literature and Culture**; English 328: **Writing and the Environment.** New England Literature Program, University of Michigan, Spring 2020. (Taught collaboratively as part of an experiential learning spring term at Camp Kabeyun, New Hampshire.) [canceled due to COVID-19]

2017 English 230: "**Race, the City, and Environmental Justice.**" English Language & Literature, University of Michigan, Winter 2017.

2016 English 125: "**Climate Justice.**" English Department Writing Program (EDWP), University of Michigan, Fall 2016.

English 125: "**(re)Writing Climate Change.**" EDWP, University of Michigan, Winter 2016.

2015 English 125: "**(re)Writing Climate Change.**" EDWP, University of Michigan, Fall 2015.

2014 English 125: "**Contemporary Longform Journalism.**" EDWP, University of Michigan, Fall 2014.

## Teaching Assistant

- 2020 English 203: "**Rhetoric and Rights: Language and Power in U.S. Civil Rights Movements.**" English Language & Literature, University of Michigan, Winter 2020.
- 2019 English 290: "**Representing Wildlife.**" English Language & Literature, University of Michigan, Fall 2019.
- 2015 English 313: "**Contemporary Muslim Literature.**" English Language & Literature, University of Michigan, Winter 2015.

## Additional Pedagogical Training

- 2021-22 Justice at Work: Understanding Power, Oppression, Resistance and Solidarity, Kalamazoo College
- 2021 Mental Health First Aid (3-year certification), National Council for Behavioral Health
- 2020-21 Intercultural Skills and Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop, Kalamazoo College
- 2020 Teaching and Learning Workshop, Kalamazoo College
- 2020 Race & Ethnicity Learning Community, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT), University of Michigan
- 2019 Preparing Future Faculty, CRLT, University of Michigan
- 2018 Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria
- 2016 Institute for Social Change, University of Michigan
- 2016 Sweetland Writing Fellowship (Writing Across Disciplines), University of Michigan
- 2014 English Department Writing Program Instructional Training, University of Michigan

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

### Conferences Organized

- 2016 "Toxic Borders and Bondages: Intersecting Ecology with Capitalism, Racism, Heteropatriarchy and (Dis)possession." Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Graduate Symposium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 21-22 October 2016. <https://aslegrad2016.wordpress.com/>.

### Paper Presentations

- 2022 "Mitsuye Yamada's 'Desert Run' and the Outerstellar Reach of Japanese American Incarceration." *Ruin and Renewal*. Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Denver, CO [hybrid], 16 April 2022.
- 2021 "Presenting Community Ethnic History in Detroit," with Matthew Jaber Stiffler and Celeste Shimoura Goedert. National Humanities Conference, Detroit, MI [online], November 2021.
- "19th Century Canadian Mining History, but with Time-Traveling Aliens This Time." *Unsettling Transpacific Ecologies*. Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Seattle, WA [online], 8 April 2021.
- 2020 "'It'll be a strange empire of yours': Claiming and Disclaiming the 49th Parallel in

*Strange Empire.*" *Graphic Wests.* Western Literature Association Conference, San Diego, CA [online], 22 October 2020.

"Teaching Race: Identifying Challenges" (roundtable). *Graphic Wests.* Western Literature Association Conference, October 2020.

2019 "Be the Cowboy: Japanese Americans and the Exorcism of the Western Frontier." *Build as We Fight.* American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, 8 November 2019.

"California's Racial Ecologies" (workshop). *Paradise on Fire.* Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Conference, Davis, CA, 30 June 2019.

2018 "Southeast West: *The Lone Ranger* and Japanese American Incarceration." *Indigenous Hubs, Gateway Cities, Border States.* Western Literature Association Conference, St. Louis, MO, 27 October 2018.

"Reading Vulnerability: Young Adulthood in Cynthia Kadohata's *Kira-Kira.*" Modern Language Association Conference, New York, NY, 5 January 2018.

2017 "Tokyo Drift: Motor City and Japanese American (In)visibility from WWII to Today." *Rust/Resistance: Works of Recovery.* Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Conference, Wayne State University, 24 June 2017.

2016 "Strange Empires: Race, Indigeneity, and the Borderlands of Vigilante Justice." *The Profane West.* 51<sup>st</sup> Western Literature Association Conference, Big Sky, MT, 22 September 2016.

2015 "Putting the 'Anadromy' in Management and the 'Theater' in Nature: *Salmon is Everything* and the Complexities of Community-Based Decision-Making with Global Concerns." *Notes from Underground: The Depths of Environmental Arts, Culture, and Justice.* Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Conference, University of Idaho, 25 June 2015.

"'It's an Enchanted Space I Occupy': Care and Feeding in Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* and Henry David Hwang's *M. Butterfly.*" Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Northwestern University, 25 April 2015.

2014 "MEAT IS THE MESSAGE: Ruth Ozeki's *My Year of Meats* and the Transnational Transmission of Tenderloins." *Forever: The English Department Graduate Conference.* University of Toronto, 15 May 2014.

"'It's an Enchanted Space I Occupy': Care and Feeding in Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* and Henry David Hwang's *M. Butterfly.*" *What is Critical Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies?* University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 22 March 2014.

### Conference Panels Chaired

- 2017 "Fields, Gardens, and Garbage." *Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Biennial Conference*, Wayne State University, 2017.
- 2016 "Global Representations of Extraction, Colonization, and Human Disposability." Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Graduate Symposium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2016.
- 2015 "Indigenous Ecocriticisms I: Australia and the Pacific Northwest." Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Conference, University of Idaho, 2015.

### INVITED TALKS & PANELS

- 2022 **Roundtable.** "Exiled to Motown." ASLE Grad Student Workshop on Public Humanities, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, May 2022.
- Guest Lecture.** "From Sea to Motor City: Japanese Americans in Detroit." Liberal Arts 312: Asian American Literature & Film (Dr. Anthony Lioi), The Juilliard School, January 2022.
- 2021 **K-14 Educator Workshop.** "Addressing Discrimination in the Asian Diaspora," University of Michigan, December 2021.
- Public Dialogue.** "[Exiled to Motown](#)." *Many Voices, One Story*, MotorCities National Heritage Area, October 2021.
- Private Dialogue.** "Exiled to Motown: Resettlement and Japanese Americans in Detroit," with Celeste Shimoura Goedert. University of Michigan Asian/Asian American & Pacific Islander Alumni Group, September 2021.
- Public Dialogue.** "[Exiled to Motown: Resettlement and Japanese Americans in Detroit](#)," with Celeste Shimoura Goedert. *Tadaima! a virtual community pilgrimage*, Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages, September 2021.
- Public Dialogue.** "Exiled to Motown," with Celeste Shimoura Goedert. *Virtual Third Thursday Speaker Series*. Detroit Historical Museum, July 2021.
- Webinar.** "[Pedagogy for Solidarity: Teaching Japanese American Incarceration and Social Justice](#)." Japanese Studies and Antiracist Pedagogy Workshop, University of Michigan, June 2021.
- Public Talk.** "Exiled to Motown: Japanese Americans of Detroit." Birmingham Next, April 2021.
- Public Talk.** "The Cranbrook Japanese Garden and the Japanese Experience in World

War II and its Aftermath," with Dr. Bonnie Clark (University of Denver). [\*The Bauder Lecture Series: Unsettling Landscapes at Cranbrook: Histories of Indigenous Communities, the Japanese Experience, and Suburban Segregation\*](#). Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research, April 2021.

**Public Talk.** "Letters Lost: Preserving the History of Japanese Americans in the Motor City." *Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference*, Historical Society of Michigan, March 2021.

**Guest Lecture.** "From Sea to Motor City: Japanese Americans in Detroit." Asian American Studies 372: Japanese American Incarceration - Remembering an Unfinished History (Dr. Vince Schleitwiler), University of Washington, February 2021.

**Guest Lecture.** "From Sea to Motor City: Japanese Americans in Detroit." Sociology 276: Contemporary Issues in Asian American Communities (Dr. Jenny Kwak), University of Southern California, February 2021.

**Keynote Address.** "Turn to Earth: Looking for a Man Named Komako." Keynote for the Michigan University-wide Sustainability and Environment (MUSE) Conference, University of Michigan, February 2021.

2020 **Public Talk.** [\*Book Talk: Farewell to Manzanar\*](#). *Tadaima! a virtual community pilgrimage*. Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages, August 2020.

**Public Dialogue.** [\*Resettlement in Chicago and Detroit: A Conversation with Lisa Doi and Mika Kennedy\*](#). *Tadaima! a virtual community pilgrimage*. Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages, July 2020.

2019 **Guest Lecture.** "Letters to Memory." American Culture 214: Introduction to Asian American Studies (Dr. Ian Shin), University of Michigan, September 2019.

**Public Talk.** "Letters to Memory." *Exiled to Motown* Exhibit Opening, Novi Public Library, June 2019.

**Roundtable.** "Dissertating Across Disciplines: The Weird Archive." Critical Conversations Series, Department of English, University of Michigan, March 2019.

2018 **Public Talk.** "Immigrants, Settlers, and Prisoners: Japanese America in Context." Asian/Pacific Islander American History Month Educational Program, University of Michigan, April 2018.

### **Additional Speaking Invitations**

2021 [\*For Detroit's Japanese Americans, oral histories key to preservation of history, future solidarity\*](#)," with Celeste Shimoura Goedert. Interviewed by Frances Kai-Hwa Wang for



*PBS NewsHour*, November 2021.

"[No-No Boy and the Japanese-American Migration to Detroit](#)," with Celeste Shimoura Goedert and Frank Abe. Interview by Dr. Tim Kiska for *The Detroit History Podcast*, Season 4, Episode 6, November 2021.

"[Exiled to Motown Exhibit Tells History of Japanese Americans in Metro Detroit](#)," interviewed by Bill Kubota for *One Detroit*, Detroit Public Television, October 2021.

"[Episode 4](#)," interviewed by Dr. Dylan Mori for *Speaking Nikkei*, Japanese American Citizens League Young Professionals Caucus, July 2021.

Interviewed by Sophie Hasuo, Rachel Willis, and Dr. Reginald Jackson for *Origin Stories*, University of Michigan Antiracist Pedagogy and Japan Studies Workshop, June 2021.

### **ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2015-2018 Research Assistant to Dr. Joseph Gone, Native American Studies, University of Michigan. Digitization and documentary editing of Fred P. Gone's WPA Archives of Gros Ventre Legends and History in *Gros Ventre Narrative Tradition* (University of Nebraska Press, forthcoming).
- 2014-2017 Editorial Assistant to Dr. Scott Richard Lyons, English Language & Literature/Native American Studies, University of Michigan. Manuscript preparation of *The World, the Text, and the Indian: Global Dimensions of Native American Literature* (SUNY University Press, 2017).
- 2014 Research Assistant to Dr. Susan Najita, English Language & Literature/American Culture, University of Michigan. Bibliography and literature review for undergraduate course, "Green Indigenities."
- 2013 Research Assistant to Dr. Nicole Tonkovich, Literature, University of California, San Diego. Footnotes for scholarly edition of *Elder Northfield's Cabin* (2014). Transcribed Alice C. Fletcher's letters and documents concerning the allotment of Native lands under the Dawes Act.
- 2010-2013 Research Assistant to Dr. Gerald Doppelt, Philosophy, University of California, San Diego. Literature reviews regarding developments in philosophy of science, biomedical ethics, and multiculturalism and contemporary legal issues.

### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HUMANITIES EXPERIENCE**

- 2018-present Co-Curator and Project Manager, *Exiled to Motown: Japanese Americans in Detroit* Exhibits with the Japanese American Citizens League Detroit Chapter. Centers oral histories and archival materials to illuminate the history of Japanese Americans in Detroit and their relationship to Detroit's social, economic, and political

life--as well as how this history is fundamentally shaped by the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans and its assimilationist resettlement project.

<https://exiledtomotown.org/>

2017 Research Fellow, Arab American National Museum. Archival research regarding the effects of post-9/11 hate rhetoric/violence on the Arab and Muslim American community, placing 9/11 in broader context of Arab and Muslim American life. Drafted initial NEA grant proposal. Recommended framings for 2021 exhibit on 9/11.

2011-14 Co-Founder & Web Designer/Manager, *Alchemy*, Journal of Translation, UC San Diego. <http://alchemy.ucsd.edu/>.

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

2021 Presentation on Virtual Learning to the Kalamazoo College Board of Trustees  
2020, 2021 Judge, O. M. Allen Prize in English, Kalamazoo College  
2020 Co-Coordinator, "Academic Publishing for Graduate Students" Summer Speaker Series, University of Michigan and Kalamazoo College  
2019-20 Graduate Student Liaison, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment  
2014-2019 Organizing Member, Critical A/PIA Studies Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop, University of Michigan  
2018-19 Speakers Committee, Program in Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies, University of Michigan  
2014-19 Coordinator, The Border Collective Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop, University of Michigan  
2017 Volunteer Coordinator, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Biennial Conference, Detroit, MI  
2017 Program Assistant, Asian/Pacific Islander Summit, University of Michigan  
2015-17 Judging Committee, Feinberg Family Prize for Excellence in First-Year Writing, English Department Writing Program, University of Michigan  
2013-14 Organizing Member, Integrating Equality and Diversity in the Academy, University of Michigan

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

2021- present President, Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Detroit Chapter  
2021-present Member, Asian American Advisory Committee, Detroit Public Television  
2021-present Co-Chair, National Education Committee, Tsuru for Solidarity  
2020-present Member, National Scholars Committee, Tsuru for Solidarity  
2019-present Midwest District Council Representative, Japanese American Citizens League Legacy Fund Grant Committee  
2016-present Voting Delegate, Detroit Chapter, JACL National Conventions 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021  
2016-2021 Board Member, JACL Detroit Chapter  
2017-2020 Kakehashi Project Selection Committee and Trip Supervisor, JACL National & Japan

- 2012 International Cooperation Center [program presently suspended due to COVID-19]  
Nikkei Community Intern, San Jose, Japanese Cultural & Community Center of  
Northern California
- 2011 Coordinator for Day of Remembrance for WWII Japanese American Incarceration,  
UC San Diego

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment  
Association for Asian American Studies  
Western Literature Association  
American Studies Association