



The Asian/American Studies Collective Winter Speakers Series

JAN
12
TUE

4:00 – 6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/82289262845>

SIMI KANG

UC Santa Barbara

Every year, multiple times a year, Southeast Louisiana’s coast-dependent communities must make the impossible decision to remain in an environmental sacrifice zone or leave home with no resources. In light of worsening storm seasons and rampant land loss, Kang’s collaborators are called “disaster refugees” or “climate migrants” even before they are forced from home. Although the terms identify ‘natural’ processes as the problem, the Vietnamese American fisherfolk Kang works with know better: the oil leases, the refineries, the dead zones make the land slide into the ocean and the storms rage, not the ‘environment’. This talk considers how the term “climate migrant” functions in environmental policy and politics, ultimately asking how we can more clearly articulate undesirable movements from home as the result of environmental sacrifice.

Dr. Kang is a queer, mixed Sikh American community advocate, educator, artist, and scholar. Kang’s work centers Southeast Asian American collaborative resistance to imagine environmentally and economically just futures in Louisiana. Kang is a Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow in UCSB’s Department of Asian American Studies.



Cosponsored by the IHC’s Asian/American Studies Collective Research Focus Group and the Department of Asian American Studies