



DATE: September 5, 2009

TO: David Schrader, Executive Director, APA
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The American Philosophical Association
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FROM: Gary Mar (gary.mar@stonybrook.edu), Department of Philosophy, Stony Brook University,
Founding Director Asian American Center, Stony Brook University, Chair of the Committee
on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies

RE: APA Grant for "A Shorter Rethinking of Philosophy Through Asian/American Philosophy"

Disbursement of Grant Money:

APA Grant	\$3,420.00
Total expenditures	\$413.53
Remaining	\$3,006.47

\$172.12	Airline ticket Professor Erika Lee, Fesler-Lampert Professor U. Minnesota, to Chicago APA
\$39.00	taxis for Erika Lee from airport
\$42.00	taxis for Erika Lee to airport
\$160.41	Room 1 night, shared by filmmaker Loni Ding, U. C. Berkeley, and Professor Li-Hsian Rosenlee, U. of Hawaii

The remainder of the funds have already been committed to pay for the design, distribution and printing of the DVDs (which will cost about over \$5,000).

Summary of Grant Activities:

1. A special session of the Central Division of the APA featured the recent research of **Erika Lee** (Chair, Asian American Studies, U. Minnesota) who has been commissioned, along with **Judy Yung**, Professor emerita of American Studies, U. C. Santa Cruz, to publish a book commemorating the centennial of the Angel Island Immigration Station, the West Coast site of international immigration sometimes (misleadingly) called the "Ellis Island of the West Coast."
2. A documentary "*We See Ourselves: International Immigration Stories from Angel Island*" was completed in the Spring semester of 2008 and it premiered on May 7, 2008 in the Charles B. Wang Asian American Center. This documentary features an interview with Professor Erika Lee and philosophy students giving first-person voice to the international stories of immigration through Angel Island

3. In the summer of 2009, this documentary along with four other works were shown to **Eddie Wong**, Executive Director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and plans are being made to distribute a DVD at the Angel Island Immigration Station centennial in July 2010. This work can be viewed as podcasts at: https://podcast.ic.sunysb.edu/weblog/gary_mar/

4. Plans are being made for creating the first anthology of Asian American Philosophy. Some of this work was featured as a special panel "Three Critiques: Philosophy and Asian American Studies in Dialogue" at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian American Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii on April 24, 2009. The panelists were **Gary Mar** (Stony Brook University), "The Critique of Orientalism", **David H. Kim** (University of San Francisco), "The Critique of Empire", and **Ronald Sundstrom** (University of San Francisco), "The Critique of the Black-White Binary". The session was chaired by **Gary Okihiro** (Columbia University), a founding father of Asian American Studies, and with discussant **Viranjini Munasinghe** (Cornell University).

5. To promote dialogue between this Committee and the Committees on Hispanics and Blacks, we have proposed a panel sponsored by all three committees for the upcoming Eastern Division Meeting in 2009 dealing with "**Migrant Laborers Building the Master's House: Enslaved Africans, Indentured Coolies, and Latino Contract Workers**". The panel will feature two prominent Asian Americanists and two philosophers. The Asian Americanists are **Lisa Yun**, Associate Professor of English and Asian/Asian American Studies at Binghamton University, author of *The Coolie Speaks: Chinese Indentured Laborers and African Slaves in Cuba* (Temple, 2008) and **Gary Okihiro**, Professor of International and Public Affairs and Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Columbia University (see keynote address below). The distinguished philosophers on this panel are **Linda Martín-Alcoff**, Hunter College/CUNY Graduate Center, and **Lewis Gordon**, Laura H. Carnell University Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Institute for the Study of Race and Social Thought and the Center for Afro-Jewish Studies.

A future initiative will expand Asian and Asian-American Philosophy beyond the usually focus on East and Southeast Asia to South Asian. **Kyoo Lee**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, was the recipient of a Mellon Resident Fellowship in Humanities at the Graduate Center, CUNY, for Fall 2009-Spring 2010, based on discussing issue of "the family." Kyoo is organizing a special session of the Central Division "**Toward a Political Philosophy of Race**" which will critically examine some of the key themes from **Falguni Sheth's** (Hampshire College) ground-breaking book by the same name (SUNY Press, 2008). Informed by a concrete and systematic analysis of the racialized experiences of South Asian Americans and Muslims, Sheth's themes include an explanation of the multifaceted "technologies of exclusion" as well as a critique of the "color blind" history and discourse of liberalism. Commentators **Charles Mills** (Northwestern) and **Namita Goswami** (DePaul University) will offer their critical reflections on what light a political philosophy of race can shed on such contemporary issues as immigration, national security, and what it means to be an American.