
LECTURES & PANEL TALK MODERATED BY JULIA CHANG BLOCH

11:45-13:00 Thursday, Nov 1st

Auditorium

1st Talk: 11:45-12:10

Who am I? Navigating the Hopes and Challenges of Immigration

Speaker: Shirley Geok-lin Lim, Research Professor, Emerita, English, winner of Commonwealth Poetry Prize, Multiethnic Literatures of the United States Lifetime Achievement Award.

Abstract:

Lim's memoir recounts her childhood characterized by poverty and violence in war-torn Malaysia. After her father's business fails and her mother leaves the family, she is left alone to find her way in the world. In 1968, she leaves man she loves for a Fulbright Scholarship at Brandeis University. Grappling to secure a place for herself in the United States, Lim is often caught between the stifling traditions of the old world and the harsh challenges of the new. But throughout her journey, she is sustained by her "warrior" spirit.

Bio:

Shirley Geok-lin Lim (Research Professor, Emerita, English) served as University of California-Santa Barbara Chair of Women's Studies and Chair Professor at University of Hong Kong. She

received the Commonwealth Poetry Prize, the first for a woman and Asian, won the 2nd Prize for the Asiaweek Short Competition, and has published ten poetry and three short story collections, three novels, *The Shirley Lim Collection*, two critical studies, and edited/co-edited numerous literary and critical anthologies. Her memoir, *Among the White Moon Faces*, received the American Book Award. Her memoir and her children's novel, *Princess Shawl* have been translated into Chinese. She was awarded the Multiethnic Literatures of the United States Lifetime Achievement Award and University of California Santa Barbara Faculty Research Lecture Award.

2nd Talk: 12:10-12:30

Roots and Routes

Speaker: Karen Tei Yamashita, winner of American Book Award, Janet Heidinger Kafka Award.

Abstract:

Yamashita's lecture is a discussion of immigrant roots (homelands) and routes (destinations and homes). She speaks personally about her family, which originally immigrated from Japan, and her book *Circle K Cycles*. Full of humor and imagination, this collection of essays and short stories highlights the challenges of cultural adaptation faced by the dekasegi – second-generation Japanese Brazilians who migrate to Japan to assume the manual work its citizens no longer want.

Bio:

Karen Tei Yamashita teaches at the University of California-Santa Cruz, where she received the Chancellor's Award for Diversity in 2009. She is a native of California and has also lived in Brazil and Japan. Yamashita has been extolled by the *New York Times* for her "mordant wit," and praised by *Newsday* for "wrestl[ing] with profound philosophical and social issues" while delivering an "immensely entertaining story." She is one of the foremost writers of her generation. *I Hotel*, which took over a decade to write and research, is her magnum opus. The

author of four previous novels, Yamashita is the recipient of an American Book Award and the Janet Heidinger Kafka Award.

Panel Session: 12:30-13:00

Moderator: Julia Chang Bloch, Founder and President, US-China Education Trust.

Panellists: Shirley Geok-lin Lim, and Karen Tei Yamashita

Julia Chang Bloch Bio:

Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch is the first Asian American to hold such rank in US history. She has had an extensive career in international affairs and government service, beginning in 1964 as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Sabah, Malaysia and culminating as U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Nepal in 1989. She also was the Chief Minority Counsel to a Senate Select Committee; the Deputy Director of the Office of African Affairs at the U.S. Information Agency; a Fellow of the Institute of Politics at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and an Associate of the U.S.-Japan Relations Program of the Center for International Affairs at Harvard.

After 25 years in government service, Ambassador Bloch moved to the corporate sector in 1993, becoming Group Executive Vice President at the Bank of America. Beginning in 1998, Ambassador Bloch shifted her focus to China, first becoming Visiting Professor at the Institute for International Relations and Executive Vice Chairman of the American Studies Center at Peking University, and subsequently affiliating with Fudan University in Shanghai, as well as the University of Maryland as Ambassador-in-Residence at the Institute for Global Chinese Affairs.

A native of China who came to the U.S. at age nine, Ambassador Bloch grew up in San Francisco and earned a bachelor's degree in Communications and Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1964, and a master's degree in Government and East Asia

Regional Studies from Harvard University in 1967. She was awarded an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from Northeastern University in 1986.

She has received numerous awards, and her publications include: *Women and Diplomacy, Bonds Across Borders*, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2007; *Nepal: End of Shangri-la*, Liberal Democracy Nepal Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2005, *Japanese Foreign Aid and the Politics of Burden Sharing*, Yen for Development, New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 1991.

This event is open to all. For any queries email yg73@duke.edu or call 3665 7149.