

# Charmaine Chua, Ph.D.

[charmainechua@ucsb.edu](mailto:charmainechua@ucsb.edu)

Tel: +1.917.754.1911

University of California, Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA

---

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

International Relations, Global Political Economy, Technology and Infrastructure Studies, Critical Logistics, Critical Carceral Studies

## AREAS OF COMPETENCY

Transpacific studies, Southeast Asian Studies, Critical Security Studies, Political Theory, Surveillance Studies, Global Politics of Race and Ethnicity,

---

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**University of California-Santa Barbara**  
Department of Global Studies  
Santa Barbara, California

Assistant Professor, 2019 – present

*Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*

Reviews and Open Site Editor, Jan 2019 – Jan 2022

---

**Oberlin College**  
Department of Politics  
Oberlin, Ohio

Assistant Professor, 2017–2019

**Macalester College**  
Department of Political Science  
St Paul, MN

Visiting Instructor, 2016 – 2017

---

## EDUCATION

**University of Minnesota**  
Department of Political Science  
College of Liberal Arts  
Twin Cities, MN

### Doctor of Philosophy, 2018

Dissertation: "Containing the Ship of State: Managing Mobility in an Age of Logistics" *Committee: Raymond Duvall (chair), Joan Tronto, Robert Nichols, David Blaney, and Vinay Gidwani*

Qualifying exams passed in **International Relations** and **Political Theory** (with distinction).

**Vassar College**  
Poughkeepsie, NY

---

### Bachelor of Arts with General and Departmental Honors, 2008

Major in English, Correlate in Political Science.

---

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book Manuscripts in progress

*Logistics Leviathan: Counter-revolutionary Logistics and the Transpacific politics of distribution*  
Invitations to submit book proposal to University of Minnesota Press, Duke University Press, West Virginia University Press, and Verso Press

Chua, C, and Spencer Cox, *Unfulfilled: The New Working Class and the Fight Against Amazon*.  
Book proposal submitted to Verso Press

---

### Editorial Projects and Special Issues

Eds. Chua C and Kai Bosworth. (forthcoming) "On the Blockade: Geographies of Circulation and Struggle." *Antipode* Special Issue

---

---

Eds. Chua, C., Martin Danyluk, Deborah Cowen, and Laleh Khalili, 2018. "Turbulent Circulation: Building a Critical Engagement with Logistics." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 36, no. 4 (2018).

---

### Journal Articles

Chua C and Cox S. Forthcoming. "Battling the Behemoth: Amazon and the Rise of the New US Working Class" *The Socialist Register* 2023.

Chua C. 2022. "Disruption from above, the middle, and below." *Review of International Studies* (online first) 10.1017/S0260210522000432

Bosworth K and Chua C. 2021. "The counter-sovereignty of Infrastructure Security: Settler-state anxiety versus the pipeline blockade" *Antipode 0:0* (Online first)  
<http://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12794>

Chua, C. 2020. "Abolition is a Constant Struggle: Five Lessons from Minneapolis" *Theory and Event* Vol 23, No. 4 supplement: 127-147

Chua, C. 2020. "Circulation revisited: A Forum on the Timeliness of the Concept." *German Journal for Media Studies*, Vol 23, Issue 2.

Chua, C., Martin Danyluk, Deborah Cowen, and Laleh Khalili. 2018. "Introduction: Turbulent Circulation: Building a Critical Engagement with Logistics." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 36, no. 4 (2018)

Chua, C. 2018. "Logistical Violence, Logistical Vulnerabilities." *Historical Materialism* 24, no. 4: 167-182.

Chua, C. 2014. "Coming Home Again." *Journal of Narrative Politics* 1, no. 1 (2014): 41-43.

### Under Review

Brian Jefferson, Charmaine Chua, and Daniel Gonzales "The Other Digital Spaces: Digital Geographies and their Material Underbellies."

### In preparation

Chua, C.. "Geo-Engineering the Future: Reclaiming Land as Colonial Infrastructure"

Chua, C.. "Slow Life, Fast Circulation: The Racial Fix of Logistics and Seafaring Containment"

### Book Chapters

---

Chua, C. In Press. "Docking." In Steinberg, P., and Peters, K., & Davies, A. (eds). *The Handbook of Ocean Space*. London: Routledge

Chua, C. 2021. "Logistics." In Beverly Skeggs, Sarah Farris, and Alberto Toscano (eds.), *Handbook of Marxism*, London: Sage Publications

Chua, C. 2021. "Lineages of Infrastructural Power: The Logistical Nightmare of Los Angeles." In Daniel Monk and Michael Sorkin (eds.) *Between Catastrophe and Revolution: Essays in Honor of Mike Davis*. New York: OR Books.

Chua, C. 2020. "'Sunny Island Set in the Sea': Singapore's Land Reclamation as Colonial Project." In Deborah Cowen, Alexis Mitchell, Emily Paradis, and Brett Story (eds.), *Digital Lives in the Global City: Contesting Infrastructures*, Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.

Chua, C. 2017. "Against Localization: Rethinking Compliance and Antagonism in Norm Dynamics." In Epstein, C. (ed.), *Norming the World: Postcolonial Critiques of the Concept of 'Norms' in International Relations*, New York: Routledge, 2016

Chua, C. 2016. "The Smell of Wood: Recuperating Loss in a Country of Forgetting." In Dauphinee, E. and Inayatullah, N. (eds.), *Narrative Global Politics: Theory, History and the Personal in International Relations*. New York: Routledge.

---

**Public Writing, News  
Articles, and other  
online publications**

- 
- Chua C. Jake Alimahomed Wilson, and Spencer Potiker. 2021. "Amazon's Investments in Israel Reveal Complicity in Settlement and Military Operations." *The Nation*. June 22. <https://www.thenation.com/article/economy/amazon-prime-day-israel/>
- Chua C. 2022. Introduction to book review forum for *Resource Radicals: From Petro-Nationalism to Post-Extractivism in Ecuador*, by Thea Riofrancos. *Society and Space Magazine* <https://www.societyandspace.org/book-review-forums/resource-radicals-from-petro-nationalism-to-post-extractivism-in-ecuador>
- Chua C. 2021. "The Ever Given and the Monstrosity of Maritime Capitalism." *The Boston Review*. <https://bostonreview.net/class-inequality-politics/charmaine-chua-ever-given-and-monstrosity-maritime-capitalism> May 4.
- Chua C. 2021. "Organizing against Amazon requires Strategizing across Global Supply Chains," *Jacobin Magazine*. <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/04/amazon-global-supply-chains-organizing-unionize-logistics>. April 13.
- Chua C. 2021. Introduction to book review forum for *Our History is the Future*, by Nick Estes. *Society and Space Magazine* <https://www.societyandspace.org/book-review-forums/our-history-is-the-future>
- Chua C. 2021. Introduction to the "Anti-Asian Violence" Forum. *Society and Space Magazine* <https://www.societyandspace.org/forums/anti-asian-violence>
- Chua C. 2021. Introduction to book review forum for *Captured at Sea: Piracy and Protection in the Indian Ocean*, by Jatin Dua. *Society and Space Magazine* <https://www.societyandspace.org/book-review-forums/captured-at-sea-review>
- Chua C. 2020. Introduction, "Global Uprisings" forum. *Society and Space Magazine* <https://www.societyandspace.org/forums/global-uprisings-forum>
- Chua C. 2019. "State, Capital, Logistics – A reading guide" *Revue Période* (translated to and published in French) Available online: <http://revueperiode.net/llogistique/>
- Chua, C. 2016. "The Container: Stacking, Packing, and Moving the World." In Lambert, L. (ed.), *The Funambulist*. Issue 6 (July-August 2016): Object Politics.  
- Reprinted on Race Space Architecture, LSE online resource, and I-PEEL online resource
- Chua, C. and Khalili, L. 2015. "Shipboard Travels: A Conversation between Charmaine Chua and Laleh Khalilli." *The Disorder of Things*. <http://thedisorderofthings.com/2015/04/29/shipboard-travels-a-conversation-between-charmaine-chua-and-laleh-khalilli-part-i/>
- Chua, C. 2015. "The Slow Boat to China." *The Disorder of Things*. <http://thedisorderofthings.com/2015/01/05/the-slow-boat-to-china/>
- Chua, C. 2015. "The Quiet Port is Logistics' Nightmare." *The Disorder of Things*. <http://thedisorderofthings.com/2015/01/19/the-quiet-port-is-logistics-nightmare/>
- Chua, C. "Landlessness and the Life of Seamen." *The Disorder of Things*. <http://thedisorderofthings.com/2015/01/27/landlessness-and-the-life-of-seamen/>
- Chua, C. 2015. "In Non-Places No One Can Hear You Cry." *The Disorder of Things*. January 2015. <http://thedisorderofthings.com/2015/01/31/in-non-places-no-one-can-hear-you-cry/>
- Chua, C. 2015. "The Chinese Logistical Sublime and Its Wasted Remains." *The Disorder of Things*. <http://thedisorderofthings.com/2015/02/07/the-chinese-logistical-sublime-and-its-wasted-remains/>
-

---

Chua, C. 2015. "Logistics, Capitalist Circulation, Chokeypoints." *The Disorder of Things*. September 2014; Translated into Chinese, *Po Tu* journal, November 2015.  
<http://thedisorderofthings.com/2014/09/09/logistics-capitalist-circulation-chokeypoints>

---

## Book Reviews

Chua, C. 2020. Review of Natalie Oswin, *Global City Futures: Desire and Development in Singapore*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2019. Antipode Book Review Symposium, 1-27, 3rd September 2020

Chua, C. 2017. "Who is the 'we' that the supply chain brings into relation?: Questions on solidarity and disruption after the logistics revolution." In Review Forum, Deborah Cowen (2014), *The Deadly Life of Logistics: Mapping Violence in Global Trade*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. *Political Geography* 61, (November 2017): 263-271.

---

## SELECTED INVITED LECTURES & TALKS

---

- 2021
- "Covid-19 and its AfterLives, or "Chinese Virus, World Market" revisited." Invited plenary, NYU, Verso Books, and N+1 speaker series. (Dec 2021)
  - "How to Haunt the System: Can Ghosted Labour Be Collectivized?" Invited Lecture, Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary Art, in Gothenburg, Sweden (Oct 2)
  - "Abolition is a constant struggle: five lessons from the Minneapolis uprising", Invited Lecture, Social Justice Speaker Series, Diablo Valley Community College
  - "Police brutality" or business as usual?" Invited plenary, CSU Bernadino (Sep 7)
  - "Counterrevolutionary Logistics and the Third World Project", Closing Plenary, University of British Columbia, Oceans as Archives conference (May 1)
  - "Disruption and the counterrevolutionary promise of logistics," Closing Plenary, Ohio State University, Worlds in Contention Conference (April 23)
  - "The Counterrevolution in Logistics" Invited Lecture, University of British Columbia Geography Colloquium (April 12)
  - "The Counterrevolution in Logistics" Invited Lecture, UCLA Geography Colloquium (April 6)
  - "Fast Circulation, Slow Life: The Racial Fix of Logistics." Invited Lecture, University of Glasgow Geography Colloquium (Feb 10)
  - "Circulation Struggles and the US-China Supply Chain" Invited Lecture, University of Rotterdam (Jan 12)
- 
- 2020
- "The Counter-revolution in Logistics." Invited lecture, Acadia University, Canada (Dec 12)
  - "Distribution, Logistics, and the Decolonial Project." Invited talk, Post-Imperial Oceans workshop, UC Berkeley (Nov 5)
  - "Disruption from Above, Below, and from the Middle." *Review of International Studies* forum invited plenary session, British International Studies Association (Oct 29)
  - "The Sanctuary Movement and the MN Uprising." Invited panelist, University of Minnesota (Nov 20)
  - "Containerization and the Architecture of Empire." Invited Lecture, Rhode Island School of Design (May 20)
- 
- 2019
- "Abolishing Carceral Society." Invited panel, Loyola Marymount University, CA (Dec 5)
  - "Lineages of Power: Postindustrial cities as logistical nightmares." Keynote talk, Geography Week, Colgate University (Nov 14)
  - "Supply Chain Imperialism and Counterinsurgent Logistics." Opening Plenary talk, Stockholm University Anthropology Roundtable (Oct 19)
  - "Racial Capitalism in a Trans-Pacific Context" Invited Lecture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute (September 25)
  - "Slow life, Fast Capitalism: Raced Markets in the Transnational Seafaring Industry." Invited Lecture, John Hopkins University, Arrighi Center for Global Studies (March 19)
- 
- 2018
- Closing plenary speaker, "Revolution and Resistance World Politics," Millennium International Conference, London School of Economics, London, UK. October 27, 2018
-

- **Seminar talk**, Political Ethnography Seminar, National University of Singapore, Singapore, October 23, 2018.
  - Workshop, "Teaching and Thinking with Oral Histories." National Heritage Board of Singapore, Singapore, October 25, 2018.
  - **Plenary speaker**, "How can Shipping and Logistics combat Climate Change?" The Architectural League of New York, Brooklyn Public Library, June 15, 2018.
  - **Lecture**, "The Monstrosity of Logistical Infrastructure" Sonic Acts Festival, Amsterdam, Netherlands. February 23, 2018.
  - **Plenary speaker**, "Dispossession, Domination, and Struggle in the Making of Infrastructure and Logistics." Panel with Deborah Cowen (University of Toronto), Rafeef Ziadah (SOAS) and Laleh Khalili (SOAS). School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK. February 20, 2018.
- 
- 2017
- Lecture, "Logistical Monstrosities: Megaships and Infrastructures of circulatory violence on the Trans-Pacific supply chain." *Asian American Studies Symposium*, Princeton University. Princeton, NJ. December 7, 2017
  - Workshop leader, "Counter-Logistical Struggles." *Marxist Education Project*, December 10, 2017.
- 
- 2016
- Lecture, "Logistics, Circulation, Chokeypoints." At *Marxist Education Project summer school intensive*. New York, NY. July 17, 2016.
- 
- 2015
- Plenary speaker, "Mapping the Cybernetic Supernode." Panel presentation organized by Empire Logistics, David Brower Center. Berkeley, CA. November 22, 2015.
  - Workshop talk, "Megaships, Megaports, Logistical Monstrosities: Infrastructural experiments in challenging the material limits of sovereignty," at *Turbulent Circulation: Towards a Critical Logistics Studies*. University of Toronto, Canada. October 16 2015.
- 
- 2012
- Plenary speaker, "The Occupy Movement, Bodies of Work, and the International Division of Labor." Marxist and Materialist Feminisms Panel, Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society Colloquium, University of Minnesota, November 5, 2012.

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

---

- Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship Award, 2021
- Intersectional Justice Grant, UCSB, 2020
- Faculty Research Assistant Program, UCSB, 2020
- Benton Grant, Oberlin College, 2018
- The Robert T. Holt Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Minnesota (UMN), 2015-2016.
- Efimenco Fellowship, Department of Political Science, UMN, 2014-2015.
- Andrew Dickenson Memorial Fellowship, Department of Political Science, UMN, 2014.
- Graduate Research Partnership Program (competitive research grant), 2014.
- Nominated, Teaching Excellence award, National University of Singapore, 2011-2012.
- Ueland and Wolfsberg Fellowships, Department of Political Science, UMN, 2009-2010.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

### University of California, Santa Barbara

#### Courses Taught:

- Logics of Inquiry (PhD seminar)
  - Global Infrastructure and Technology (PhD Seminar)
  - Masters Practicum (MA seminar)
  - Global social and political economic processes (undergraduate)
  - Global political economy (undergraduate)
  - Global Technology and Inequality (undergraduate)
-

---

**Oberlin College**

Assistant Professor

- Ethnographies of Globalization (undergraduate)
- 

**Macalester College**

Visiting Instructor

- Introduction to International Relations
  - International Security
  - Global Political Economy
  - Imperialism and Global War
  - Carceral Geographies
  - From Black Panthers to Bandung: The Past, Present, and Future of Third World Internationalism
- 

**University of Minnesota**

Department of Political Science,  
Instructor

- Democracy and Citizenship, Summer 2015.
- 

**CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)**

---

- (18) Roundtable participant for "Author-Meets-Critics: Natalie Oswin's 'Global City Futures: Desire and Development in Singapore'," Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Washington DC, 2019
  - (17) Roundtable participant for "Science and technologies of racial capitalism," Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Washington DC, 2019
  - (16) "Logistical Monstrosities: Rethinking the Spatial Fix through Infrastructural Expansion," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, August 2018.
  - (15) Roundtable participant for Theory Section's Distinguished Scholar Roundtable, in honor of Timothy Mitchell. Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association. San Francisco, April 2018.
  - (14) Roundtable participant for "Gentrification in Global Politics," Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association. San Francisco, April 2018.
- 
- (13) "Liquid Borders: Securing Mobility in an Age of Logistics," Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association. Baltimore, February 2017.
  - (12) Roundtable participant for "Subaltern agency in critical IR: Beyond the silence / resistance paradigm?" Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association. Baltimore, February 2017.
  - (11) "Megaships and Megaports: How really, really big ships transform the global supply chain and challenge the material limits of sovereignty." Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association. Atlanta, March 2016.
  - (10) "Logistics Leviathan: Non-places of circulation in the maritime supply chain." Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, April 2015.
  - (9) Roundtable Participant for "Political Scientists for Justice in Palestine," Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, April 2015..
  - (8) Roundtable Participant for "Planetary Politics: Theorizing Post-Global Political Geographies." Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Chicago, April 2015.
  - (7) Roundtable Participant for "Author meets critics book panel for The Deadly Life of Logistics, Deborah Cowen, University of Minnesota Press 2014." Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Chicago, April 2015. (Subsequently published in *Political Geography*, November 2017.)

- (6) "From sites of production to spheres of circulation: Labor afloat in the world ocean." Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Chicago, April 2015.
- (5) "Liquid Modernities, Oceanic Flows: Rethinking Maritime Empire and the Mapping of the Sea." Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Seattle, April 2014.
- (4) Roundtable participant for "Global Systemic Crises & Paradigm Shifts: What Does History & Experience Really Say about System Transformation?" Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Toronto, March 2014.
- (3) "Coming Home Again." in "Telling Stories: Space, Place, Personhood." Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Toronto, March 2014. (Subsequently published in Journal of Narrative Politics, September 2014.)
- (2) "Slow Matter, Fast Capital: Materialist Circulation and Global Commodity Flows." Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, April 2013.
- (1) "Third World Cosmopolitanism: 'Global' Subjectivities And The Subaltern Other In Postcolonial Singapore," International Studies Association – Northeast, Baltimore, November 2010.

### CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PANELS ORGANIZED OR DISCUSSED

---

Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Panel Organizer "On the blockade: geographies of circulation and struggle," Washington DC, 2019</li> </ul>
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chair for "White Genocide is Gonna Get Your Mama!" San Francisco, CA, 2017.</li> </ul>
International Studies Association Annual Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Panel Organizer / Chair for "Circulation, Sovereignty, Sabotage: Critical Approaches to the Global Supply Chain." Atlanta, March 2016.</li> <li>● Panel Organizer for "Understanding Change: Global Circulation", Sapphire Series, Baltimore, February 2017.</li> </ul>

### Selected Professional Activities and University Service

---

Reviews and Online Magazine Editor	<i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i> (Jan 2019 – present)
Editorial Board and Organizing Collective	<i>Abolition: A Journal of Insurgent Politics</i> (2014 – present)
Editorial Board	<i>Global Political Economy</i> (2016 – present) <i>Journal of Narrative Politics</i> (2016 – present)

### Disciplinary Service

- Abolition Journal Inaugural Conference, Organizing Committee, 2016-2017.

### Departmental and University Service University of California, Santa Barbara

- Intersectional Justice Facilitation Certificate Program, Advisory and Planning Board, 2019-present
- Multicultural Center Director, Search committee, 2021-present
- Consultative Council, Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies, UCSB
- Migration and Global Inequality tenure-track job search committee, 2020
- Graduate Program Committee, Global Studies, 2020-present
- Admissions and Job Market Professionalization committee, 2020-present
- Undergraduate Program Committee, Global Studies, 2019-2020

**Departmental Service  
Oberlin College**

- Association of American University of Professors Executive Committee, 2018-19
  - Community and Ethics Board, 2018-2019
  - Equity and Diversity Committee, 2018-2019
  - Honors advisor, 2018-2019
  - Major advisor, 2018-2019
  - International Studies Committee, 2017-2019
- 

**Reviewer/Referee**

- *Review of International Studies*
  - *Focaal*
  - *Historical Materialism*
  - *Ethnos: A Journal of Anthropology*
  - *Security Dialogue*
  - *Antipode*
  - *Capital, Nature, Socialism*
  - *International Political Sociology*
  - Pluto Press
  - *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*
  - *Globalizations*
  - *Journal of Narrative Politics*
  - *Abolition: A Journal of Insurgent Politics*
- 

**Professional Memberships**

- American Political Science Association
- Western Political Science Association
- International Studies Association
- Association of American Geographers

**LANGUAGES & RESEARCH SKILLS**

---

**Languages**

- Native Speaker of English
- Reading/Research Knowledge of Mandarin Chinese

**REFERENCES**

---

**Raymond Duvall**

Professor of Political Science  
University of Minnesota  
1414 Social Science Building  
267 19th Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
rduvall@umn.edu

**David Blaney**

Professor of Political Science  
Macalester College  
Carnegie Hall 203  
1600 Grand Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55105  
blaney@macalester.edu



**Deborah Cowen**

Professor of Geography  
Trudeau Fellow  
Department of Geography & Planning  
University of Toronto  
Sidney Smith Hall  
100 St. George Street, Room 5047  
Toronto, ON M5S 3G3  
deb.cowen@utoronto.ca

**Laleh Khalili**

Professor of Political Science  
SOAS University of London  
Thornhaugh Street  
Russell Square, Room 210  
London WC1H 0XG  
lk4@soas.ac.uk