

# LiLi Johnson

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## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Assistant Professor, Department of Gender & Women's Studies and the Program in Asian American Studies,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, July 2020 - present

Anna Julia Cooper Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 2019 - July 2020

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. in American Studies, Yale University, 2019  
Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Dissertation Committee: Mary Lui (Chair), Laura Wexler, Kathryn Dudley, and Vanessa Agard-Jones

M.Phil. in American Studies, Yale University, 2016

M.A. in American Studies, Yale University, 2016

B.A. in Social and Cultural Analysis with Highest Honors, New York University, 2012  
Minor in Chemistry

## **BOOK MANUSCRIPT**

*Family Conceptions: Technologies of Asian American Family Formation*

This book project combines archival and ethnographic methods to examine Asian American family formation in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries as a site in which the borders of racial difference are articulated. Building on scholarship in Asian American Studies and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, *Family Conceptions* theorizes what I term “technologies of family” – technical systems that inform racialized and gendered definitions of kinship – that have played an active role in the way family is narrated and lived in American culture. The central claim of the project is that in the United States, as discourses of multiculturalism have gained popularity in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, family serves as a site of social production in which the limits of inclusion within the nation rely on racialized and gendered technologies such as government bureaucracy or photography.

## **PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

Johnson, LiLi. “Transnational Family Photographs and Adoption From Asia.” Forthcoming in *Trans-Asia Photography Review*

Johnson, LiLi. 2018. “Searching in Photographs: Photography and the Chinese Birth Parent Search.” *Adoption & Culture* 6.1: 116-134

Johnson, LiLi. 2017. “Paper Family Photography: Photography and the State in the Era of Paper Families and Chinese Exclusion (1882-1943).” *Photography and Culture*, 10.2: 105-119

## **TEACHING**

University of Wisconsin-Madison

- Research in Asian American Studies, Asian American Studies, Spring 2021
- Race and Gender in Digital Worlds, Gender & Women's Studies, Spring 2021
- Asian American Family and Kinship, Asian American Studies, Fall 2020
- Feminist Science and Technology Studies, Gender & Women's Studies, Fall 2020

Invited Class Lecture, "Transnational Adoption from China," Course Title: Beyond Motherhood, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, January 7, 2021

Invited Class Lecture, "Transnational Adoption," Course Title: Transnational Mobilities, Harvard University, October 22, 2020

Yale University

- Senior Essay Coordinator, American Studies, Yale University, Fall 2018 – Spring 2019
  - Organized and led year-long seminar for senior American Studies majors completing capstone project
- Teaching Assistant, American Studies, Yale University, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
  - Introduction to Third World Studies, Fall 2016
  - Asian American History 1800-Present, Spring 2017

## **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

Accepted Panel Presentation, "Gilding Care: Anticipatory Grief in Family Caregiving: A Conversation with Brianna L. Hernandez and LiLi Johnson," Relations of Care Across and After Worlds Conference, UW-Madison, May 2021

Invited Workshop Facilitator, "Technologies of Kinship and Care," UW-Madison Ethics of Care Workshop, Zoom Session, February 2021

Accepted Panel Presentation, "Lucky Girls": Gender and Orientalism in U.S. Narratives of Adoption from China," Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Washington D.C., April 2020, cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

Invited Panel Curator and Moderator, "Adoption in the Wake of War," A/P/A Institute at NYU, New York University, March 2020

Panel Presentation, "Fighting Categorization, Building Kinship: Genetic Ancestry Testing and Asian/American Racialization," American Studies Association Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI, November 2019

Panel Presentation, "Emergent Kinship: Transnational Adoption From China and the Racialization of Family," American Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2018

Panel Presentation, "Family Conceptions: Referral Photography and the Family Album in Chinese Transnational Adoption," Reframing Family Photography Conference, University of Toronto, September 2017

Invited Panel Presentation, "Paper Family Photography: Photography and the State in the Era of Paper Families and Chinese Exclusion (1882-1943)," Beinecke Library, Yale University, April 2017

Panel Presentation, “Crafting a Representation of Self: Birth Parent Searches and Photography Online,” Sixth Biennial Conference of the Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture, Minneapolis, MN, October 2016

Invited Roundtable Participant, “Roundtable on Kay Johnson’s *China’s Hidden Children* (2016),” Sixth Biennial Conference of the Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture, Minneapolis, MN, October 2016

Panel Presentation, “#interracial: Race, Topic Modeling, and the Big Data of Social Media,” Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory (HASTAC) Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ, May 2016

Panel Presentation, “The Family Portal: Images of Angelina Jolie and the Multicultural Family,” Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Miami, FL, April 2016

Panel Presentation, “Selfie Photography, Birth Parent Searches, and an Epistemology of the Self,” After Post Photography 2 Conference, St. Petersburg, Russia, April 2016

Panel Presentation, “Mobile Identities: Using the Internet to Negotiate Power, Privilege, and the Articulation of a ‘Chinese Adoptee’ Identity,” Sleeping Giants in Adoption: Power, Privilege, Politics, and Class Conference, St. John’s University, New York, May 2014

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Prize Teaching Fellowship, Yale University, May 2019

American Studies Summer Research Fellowship, American Studies, Yale University, Summer 2016

Mellon Graduate Fellowship in Digital Humanities, “(En)Visualizing Knowledge: Text Mining, Mapping, Network Analysis and Big Data,” Graduate Seminar and Full Year of Funding, Yale University, Fall 2015 – Summer 2016

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

*Leadership Team Member*, Care: Politics, Performances, Publics, Practices Mellon-Borghesi Workshop, University of Wisconsin-Madison, February 2021 – present

*Faculty Advisor*, Sex Out Loud: Peer to Peer Sexual Health Education Organization, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, September 2020 – present

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Student Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI,

- *Committee Member*, APIDA Student Center Advisory Board, September 2019 – December 2020
- *Faculty Advisor*, September 2019 – May 2020

Yale College Dean’s Office, Yale University, New Haven, CT

- *Graduate Student Representative Committee Member*, Asian American Cultural Center Director/Assistant Dean of Yale College Search, October 2016 – May 2017
- *Committee Member*, Nakanishi Prize Selection Committee, April 2017
- *Graduate Student Representative Committee Member*, Asian American Cultural Center Assistant Director Search, October 2015 - June 2016

*Graduate Student Advisory Board Member*, Student Advisory Board, Center for Race Indigeneity and Transnational Migration (RITM), Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 2016 – December 2016

(one full term)

*Graduate Coordinator*, Ethnography and Oral History Working Group, American Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT, September 2015 – May 2016

### **UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION AND STUDENT LIFE**

Asian American Cultural Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT

- *Interim Co-Director*, May 2017 – October 2017
  - *Committee Member*, Asian American Cultural Center Director/Assistant Dean of Yale College Search, May 2017 - August 2017
  - *Committee Member*, Asian American Cultural Center Assistant Director Search, May 2017 - June 2017
- *Senior Graduate Assistant Program Coordinator*, October 2016 – May 2017
- *Graduate Assistant Program Coordinator*, September 2014 – October 2016

*Graduate Coordinator*, Asian American Studies Working Group, American Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT, November 2014 – May 2017

*Operations Administrator*, Department of Applied Psychology, New York University, New York, NY, September 2012 – July 2013

*Office Assistant*, Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, New York University, New York, NY, May 2012 – August 2012

*Program Assistant*, NYU PreCollege Program, New York University, New York, NY, May 2012 – August 2012

*Resident Assistant*, Residential Life and Housing Services, New York University, New York, NY, August 2010 – May 2012