

Curriculum Vitae

Brenda Wang

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Education

- In Progress Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Department of English.

Dissertation: *Blindfold, Bandage: Beauty Projects in 20th Century Visions of Asiatic Racial Form*

Committee: Louise Hornby (chair), Summer Kim Lee, Jenny Sharpe, Michael North

Expected Filing Date: May 2027
- 2026 Graduate Certificate in Writing Pedagogy, University of California, Los Angeles, Writing Programs
- 2017 M.Phil., Modern & Contemporary Literature, University of Cambridge

Dissertation with distinction
- 2016 B.A. in English Literature, minor in Creative Writing, University of Pennsylvania, Summa cum laude

Grants, Awards and Fellowships

- University of California Office of the President (UCOP) Dissertation Year Award 2024-25
- Barbra Streisand Center for the Study of Women 2024 Winter Travel Grant
- English Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2023-2024
- Lit/Film Association Travel Award, 2023
- Lit/Film Association Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Prize (Finalist), 2023
- Eugene V. Cota-Robles Scholar, UCLA, 2018-present

Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA, 2021-22

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA, 2019

Benjamin Franklin Scholar, University of Pennsylvania, 2012-16

Publications

Peer Reviewed Articles

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| Forthcoming 2026 | “Aerial Alternatives: Black visibility and the unsettling of the ground,” <i>ASAP/Journal</i> |
| Forthcoming 2026 | “Unspeakable Bodies: On Crippling Photographic Theory,” <i>Media Fields Journal</i> Special Issue: Witnessing |

Book Reviews & Public Facing Writing

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| November 2026 | “Lazy Teachers, Ungrateful Students: Reimagining Pedagogy Through Asian American Studies,” Review of Mimi Khúc’s <i>dear Elia: Letters from the Asian American Abyss</i> in <i>UCLA Teaching and Learning</i> |
| February 2018 | “Writing for Peace,” Review of Charles Andrews’ <i>Writing Against War: Literary Activism and the British Peace Movement</i> in <i>Women: A Cultural Review</i> . |

Teaching

Teaching Fields

Asian/American literature and culture; cinema and media studies; feminist and queer theory; critical race and ethnic studies; 20th century Anglophone literature and culture; disability studies; aesthetics; colonialism and empire.

Courses Designed as Primary Instructor

- Fall 2026 English 4W: Critical Reading and Writing. "My Quarter of Rest and Relaxation: Queer/Crip Exhaustion," UCLA.
- Summer 2026 English Composition 100W: Interdisciplinary Academic Writing, "Werewolves and She-Wolves," UCLA
- Spring 2026 Cluster 60CW: America in the Sixties, "Angry Asians," UCLA
- Winter 2026 English 4W: Critical Reading and Writing. "Monstrosities," UCLA
- Fall 2025 English 4W: Critical Reading and Writing. "Disturbing Bodies," UCLA
- Summer 2025 English 118C: Studies in Visual Culture, "Face Card: Beauty and Contemporary Media," UCLA. Online course.
- Summer 2025 English Composition 100W: Interdisciplinary Academic Writing, "Beautiful Anarchies," Academic Advancement Program Freshman/Transfer Summer Bridge Program, UCLA.
- Summer 2024 English Composition 100W: Interdisciplinary Academic Writing, "Sense(s) of Beauty," Academic Advancement Program Freshman/Transfer Summer Bridge Program, UCLA
- Summer 2023 English Composition 100W: Interdisciplinary Academic Writing, "Diasporas," Academic Advancement Program Freshman/Transfer Summer Bridge Program, UCLA
- Summer 2022 English Composition 100W: Interdisciplinary Academic Writing, "Homegoing," Academic Advancement Program Freshman/Transfer Summer Bridge Program, UCLA
- Winter 2021 English 4w: Critical Reading and Writing. "The Folded Clock," UCLA

Courses Taught as Teaching Assistant

- Spring 2021 English 91C, "Introduction to Fiction," UCLA
- Fall 2020 English 10B, "Literatures in English, 1700 to 1850," UCLA

Spring 2020 English 10C, “Literatures in English, 1850 to Present,” UCLA

Winter 2019 English/ Film M50, “Introduction to Visual Culture,” UCLA

Fall 2019 English/Film M50, “Introduction to Visual Culture,” UCLA

Pedagogical Training

Spring 2025 Designing Your Online Course, UCLA

Spring 2023 Accessible Research Assignments Workshop, UCLA

Spring 2023 Supporting Trans & Nonbinary Students Training, UCLA

Winter 2022 Empowering Culturally Diverse Student Writers Course, UCLA

Winter 2022 Writing Pedagogy across Disciplines: Genre and Discourse Course, UCLA

Spring 2020 Second Language Learners Course, UCLA

Talks and Presentations

Panels Organized

“‘Pointing at the Moon’: Returning to the Scene of Recognition in Sedgwick.” Co-organized panel presented at Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention: “Emancipatory Narratives.” Los Angeles, January 7-10, 2027.

“‘As still / As solemn’: Statuary, Photography, and Asian Masculinity.” Presented in co-organized panel “Photo Transparencies: Modernist Vision as Material and Metaphor,” Modernist Studies Association Conference: “Infrastructure.” Boston, October 9-12, 2025

“‘Mouth to Mouth’: Theresa Hak Kyung Cha’s Oral Experiments.” Presented in co-organized panel “Cinematic Experiments in Asian Embodiment,” Asian Cinema Studies Society (ACSS) Conference: “What is Asian Cinema?” Hong Kong, May 22-24, 2025

“On Fetal Cinema.” Presented in co-organized panel “In Motion: Spectacles of liveliness in modernist cinema,” Modernist Studies Association (MSA) Conference: “Migration.” Chicago, November 7-10, 2024.

“Red: On Coloring in Asian Masculinity.” Presented in co-organized panel “Skin Deep: Beauty Cultures and Minoritarian Subjectivities,” ASAP/15: “Not a Luxury.” Brooklyn, October 17-19, 2024.

Selected Conference Presentations

“Islander Aesthetics and Palm Tree Form.” Presented in “Asian/American Modernisms and the Politics of Space,” 2026 Association for Asian American Studies Annual (AAAS) Conference. Kālia, Waikīkī, April 2-4, 2026.

“Choking, Coughing: Obstructions of the throat in the work of Theresa Hak Kyung Cha.” Selected for Graduate Paper Workshop, ASAP/16: Association for the Study of Arts of the Present. Houston, October 23-25, 2025.

“Unspeaking Bodies: Photography and Disability Justice.” UC Santa Barbara Media Fields Conference: “Witnessing” Santa Barbara, March 7-8, 2025.

“‘Deform me to your likeness’: Toxic Longings in *Hiroshima Mon Amour* (1959).” Presented in “Asiatic Bodies, Transpacific Images,” 2024 Association for Asian American Studies Annual (AAAS) Conference. Seattle, April 25-27, 2024.

“Anna May Wong and the Buddha: Close-Up as Racial Interpretation in *The Thief of Baghdad* (1924).” Presented in “Asian American Hollywood: Race, Gender, and Cinematic Representations,” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention 2024. Philadelphia, January 4-7, 2024.

“Love and Language in *Late Autumn* (2010) and *Decision to Leave* (2023).” Presented in “Screen Media Translations,” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention 2024. Philadelphia, January 4-7, 2024.

“Down to earth: Body and Ground in Lorraine O’Grady’s *Landscape (Western Hemisphere)* (2010-2012).” Literature/Film Association (LFA) Conference 2023: “Ecologies of/and Adaptation.” Missoula, September 21-23, 2023.

“The L.A. Neo-Noir as Postmemory.” The Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) Conference: “Geographies of the Fantastic and the Quotidian,” November 10-13, 2022.

“Antiracist Assessment.” Creating Connections Symposium, UCLA. Los Angeles, May 19-20, 2022.

Invited Talks

“Deform me to your likeness.” Winter Athenaeum, Department of English, UCLA. Los Angeles, March 4, 2024.

“Carmen Maria Machado: ‘Eight Bites’.” Literatures in English, 1850 to Present, Department of English, UCLA. Los Angeles, June 2, 2020.

Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association (MLA), Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP), Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS), Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), Modernist Studies Association (MSA)

Service

Mentorship and Advising

Master’s Thesis Mentoring Program, Graduate Writing Center
University of California, Los Angeles, 2025-present

Grad2Grad Mentor for Grad STRIVE (Supporting Transition and Retention and Inspiring the Value of Education) program, UCLA Graduate Division Retention Initiative
University of California, Los Angeles, 2022-23

English Department New Graduate Student Mentor
University of California, Los Angeles, 2021-24

Peer Mentor, Graduate Diversity Fellowships, Graduate Division
University of California, Los Angeles, 2019

Conference & Event Organization

Program Assistant, The Modernist Studies Association (MSA) Annual Conference:
“Migrations”
Chicago, October 2024

Co-organizer, Asian-American Reading Group

University of California, Los Angeles, 2023-present

Co-President, English Graduate Union

University of California, Los Angeles, 2020-21

Co-organizer and Committee Member, Southland Conference: “Insights/Oversights”

University of California, Los Angeles, August 2020

Co-organizer and Committee Member, Modern and Contemporary Literature Conference:

“The Unspoken and the Unspeakable: 1750-Present”

University of Cambridge, English Faculty, April 2017

Languages

English (reading, writing, speaking), Chinese (reading, writing, speaking), French (reading),
Spanish (reading)