

5-1-2020

## Featured Bookshelf: 2020 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Megan M. Haught

Univeristy of Central Florida, [megan.haught@ucf.edu](mailto:megan.haught@ucf.edu)

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/featured-bookshelf>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Featured Bookshelf by an authorized administrator of STARS. For more information, please contact [STARS@ucf.edu](mailto:STARS@ucf.edu).

---

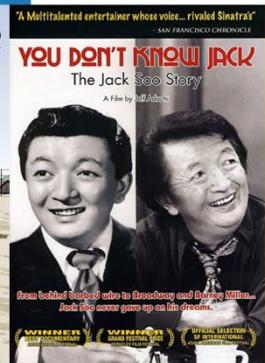
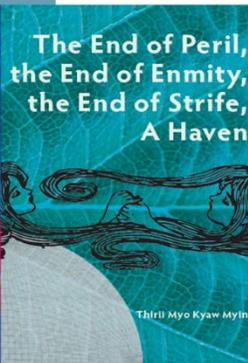
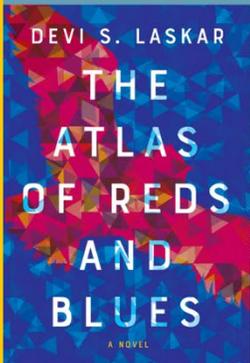
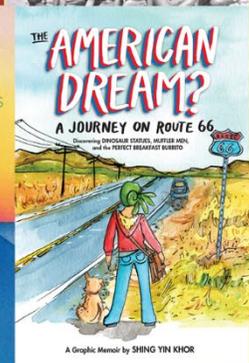
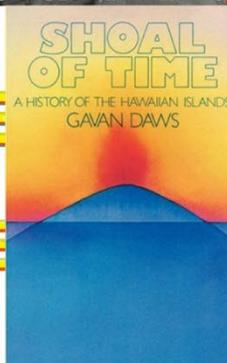
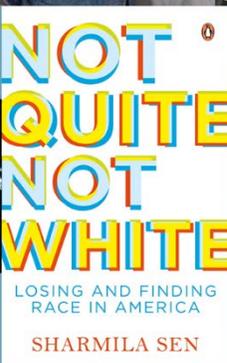
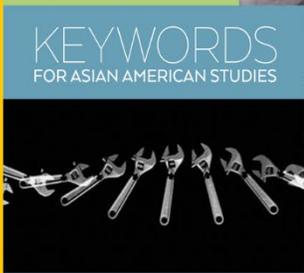
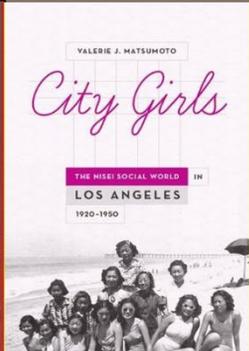
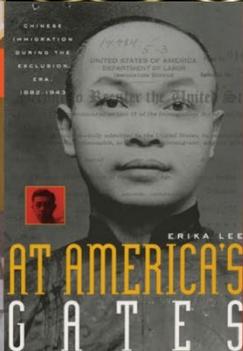
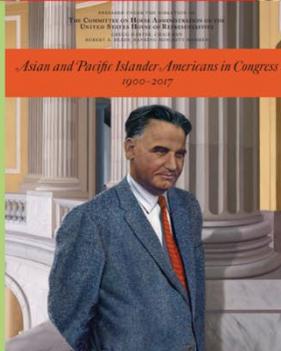
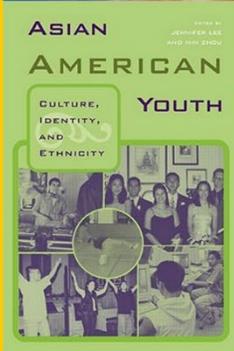
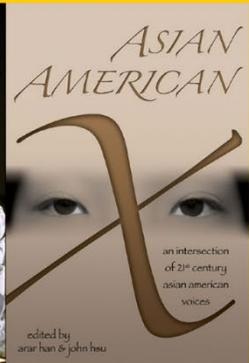
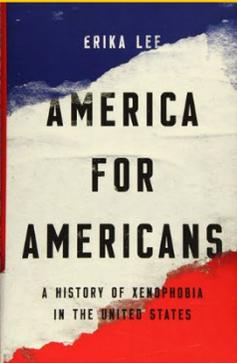
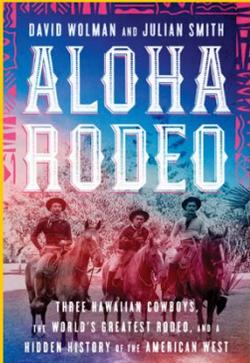
### STARS Citation

Haught, Megan M., "Featured Bookshelf: 2020 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month" (2020). *Featured Bookshelf*. 41.

<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/featured-bookshelf/41>



# Asian Pacific American Heritage Featured Bookshelf



Welcome to May which is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month!

As you can imagine, Asian Pacific American as a topic covers vast oceans of identity and information. In fact, an Asian Pacific American is an American (whether born, naturalized, or other) who was born on or has heritage from anywhere on the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island). These areas cover a wide array of languages, cultures, religions, and ethnicities that have brought countless skills, hopes and dreams to the United States.

UCF Libraries faculty and staff have suggested these books and movies within the library's collection by or about Asian Pacific Americans. Click the link below to see the full list, descriptions, and catalog links. With the Libraries still on remote access, we do not have our usual extended physical display, but have created a reading list full of additional ebooks and streaming videos for you to enjoy: [Asian Pacific American Heritage ereading](#).

~

**[Aloha Rodeo: three Hawaiian cowboys, the world's greatest rodeo, and a hidden history of the American West](#) by David Wolman and Julian Smith**

In August 1908, three unknown riders arrived in Cheyenne, Wyoming, their hats adorned with wildflowers, to compete in the world's greatest rodeo. Steer-roping virtuoso Ikuia Purdy and his cousins Jack Low and Archie Ka'au'a had travelled 4,200 miles from Hawaii to test themselves against the toughest riders in the West. Dismissed by whites, who considered themselves the only true cowboys, the native Hawaiians would astonish the country, returning home champions—and American legends.

*Suggested by Megan Haught, Student Learning & Engagement/Research & Information Services*

**[America for Americans: a history of xenophobia in the United States](#) by Erika Lee**

The United States is known as a nation of immigrants. But it is also a nation of xenophobia. Acclaimed historian Erika Lee shows that an irrational fear, hatred, and hostility toward immigrants has been a defining feature of our nation from the colonial era to the Trump era. Americans have been wary of almost every group of foreigners that has come to the United States. Xenophobia has not been an exception to America's immigration tradition, an episodic aberration on an inevitable march toward inclusion. It is, in fact, Lee argues, an American tradition in its own right, deeply embedded in our society, economy, and politics. Forcing us to confront this history, Lee

explains how xenophobia works, why it has endured, and how it threatens us all. It is a necessary corrective and spur to action for any concerned citizen.

*Suggested by Peter Spyers-Duran, Cataloging*

**[Anatomy of a Springroll](#) written and directed by Paul Kwan and Arnold Iger**

This dazzling film is a gigantic stirfry of savory images - Paul and his mother cooking in his San Francisco kitchen, street vendors simmering their soups, bustling markets piled with peppers, cilantro, and chilis. In America, cooking is often a solitary experience, but in Vietnam it is a family affair, with everyone cutting, chopping, and stirring while chattering.

*Suggested by Missy Murphey, Research & Information Services*

**[Asian American X: an intersection of twenty-first-century Asian American voices](#) edited by Arar Han and John Hsu**

This refreshing and timely collection of coming-of-age essays, edited and written by young Asian Americans, powerfully captures the joys and struggles of their evolving identities as one of the fastest-growing groups in the nation and poignantly depicts the many oft-conflicting ties they feel to both American and Asian cultures. The essays also highlight the vast cultural diversity within the category of Asian American, yet ultimately reveal how these young people are truly American in their ideals and dreams.

*Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services*

**[Asian American Youth: culture, identity and ethnicity](#) edited by Jennifer Lee and Min Zhou**

Lee and Zhou cover topics such as Asian immigration, acculturation, assimilation, intermarriage, socialization, sexuality, and ethnic identification. The distinguished contributors show how Asian American youth have created an identity and space for themselves historically and in contemporary multicultural America.

*Suggested by Missy Murphey, Research & Information Services*

**[Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Congress, 1900-2017](#) edited by Albin J. Kowalewski**

The most comprehensive history available on the Asian and Pacific Islander Americans who have served in Congress.

*Suggested by Megan Haught, Student Learning & Engagement/Research & Information Services*

**[At America's Gates: Chinese immigration during the exclusion era, 1882-1943](#) by Erika Lee**

Drawing on a rich trove of historical sources—including recently released immigration records, oral histories, interviews, and letters—Lee brings alive the forgotten journeys,

secrets, hardships, and triumphs of Chinese immigrants. Her timely book exposes the legacy of Chinese exclusion in current American immigration control and race relations. *Suggested by Peter Spyers-Duran, Cataloging*

**[City Girls: the Nisei social world in Los Angeles, 1920-1950](#) by Valerie J. Matsumoto**

Matsumoto recovers and explores the forgotten world of urban Nisei girls' ethnocultural networks in California. By the 1920s Nisei girls' clubs had taken root in Los Angeles and provided a key venue in which young urban women could claim modern femininity, an American identity, and public space. These groups served as a bulwark against racial discrimination, offering a bridge between the immigrant community's expectations of young women and the lure of popular culture.

*Suggested by Missy Murphey, Research & Information Services*

**[Keywords for Asian American Studies](#) edited by Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, Linda Trinh Võ, and K. Scott Wong**

Born out of the Civil Rights and Third World Liberation movements of the 1960s and 1970s, Asian American Studies has grown significantly over the past four decades, both as a distinct field of inquiry and as a potent site of critique. Characterized by transnational, trans-Pacific, and trans-hemispheric considerations of race, ethnicity, migration, immigration, gender, sexuality, and class, this multidisciplinary field engages with a set of concepts profoundly shaped by past and present histories of racialization and social formation. Spanning multiple histories, numerous migrations, and diverse populations, this work reconsiders and recalibrates the ever-shifting borders of Asian American studies as a distinctly interdisciplinary field

*Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services*

**[Not Quite Not White: losing and finding race in America](#) by Sharmila Sen**

At the age of 12, Sharmila Sen emigrated from India to the U.S. and everywhere she turned, she was asked to self-report her race: on INS forms, at the doctor's office, in middle school. Never identifying with a race in the India of her childhood, she rejects her new "not quite" designation: not quite white, not quite black, not quite Asian, and spends much of her life attempting to blend into American whiteness. But after her teen years trying to assimilate, she is forced to reckon with the hard questions: What does it mean to be white, why does whiteness retain the magic cloak of invisibility while other colors are made hypervisible, and how much does whiteness figure into Americanness?

*Suggested by Ven Basco, Research & Information Services*

**[Shoal of Time: the history of the Hawaiian islands](#) by Gavan Daws**

Gavan Daws' remarkable achievement is to free Hawaiian history from the dust of antiquity. Based on years of work in the documentary sources, Shoal of Time emerges

as the most readable of all Hawaiian histories.

*Suggested by Tim Ryan, Administration*

**[The End of Peril, the End of Enmity, the End of Strife, a Haven](#) by Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint**

An unnamed narrator returns to her ancestral home in an environmentally depleted harbor city with a baby in her care. She has escaped from what she calls “the breach”—the collapse of the climate-controlled domed city where she grew up. The narrator’s mother disappears, and the baby falls ill. The narrator then journeys to city’s river to perform the funeral rites for her mother and cure the baby. At the river, the three narrative threads come together.

*Suggested by Ven Basco, Research & Information Services*

**[The American dream?: a journey on Route 66, discovering dinosaur statues, muffler men, and the perfect breakfast burrito](#) by Shing Yin Khor**

An illustrated comic travelogue about an American immigrant driving alone through all that’s left of “The Mother Road,” Route 66.

*Suggested by Jacqui Johnson, Cataloging*

**[The Atlas of Reds and Blues: a novel](#) by Devi S. Laskar**

When a woman known only as Mother moves her family from Atlanta to its wealthy suburbs, she discovers that neither the times nor the people have changed since her childhood in a small Southern town. She is met with the same questions: Where are you from? No, where are you really from? The American-born daughter of Bengali immigrants, she finds that her answer is never enough. One morning, during a violent and unfounded police raid on her home, Mother finally refuses to be complacent. As she lies bleeding from a gunshot wound, her thoughts race through her life, and what it means to be a woman of color in today’s America.

*Suggested by Peter Spyers-Duran, Cataloging*

**[They Called Us Enemy](#) written by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott ; art by Harmony Becker**

A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei’s childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon – and America itself – in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.

*Suggested by Ven Basco, Research & Information Services*

**[You Don’t Know Jack: the Jack Soo story](#) directed by Jeff Adachi**

This film tells the fascinating story of a pioneering American entertainer Jack Soo, an Oakland native who became the first Asian American to be cast in the lead role in a

regular television series *Valentine's Day* (1963), and later starred in the popular comedy show *Barney Miller* (1975-1978). Featuring rare footage and interviews with Soo's co-stars and friends, the film traces Jack's early beginnings as a nightclub singer and comedian, to his breakthrough role as Sammy Fong in Rogers and Hammerstein's Broadway play and film version of *The Flower Drum Song*. The film also explores why Soo, a former internee who was actually born Goro Suzuki, was forced to change his name in the post WWII era, in order to perform in clubs in the mid-west. Because of his experiences, throughout his career in films and television, Soo refused to play roles that were demeaning to Asian Americans and often spoke out against negative ethnic portrayals.

*Suggested by Peggy Nuhn, Connect Libraries*

Tumblr post: <https://ucflibrary.tumblr.com/post/616913499793276928/welcome-to-may-which-is-asian-pacific-american>

Blog post: <https://library.ucf.edu/news/featured-bookshelf-asian-pacific-american-heritage-2020/>