

**SanSan Kwan**  
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### Education

- Ph.D. Department of Performance Studies, New York University, 2003  
Dissertation: *Choreographing Chineseness: Global Cities and the Performance of Ethnicity*
- M.A. Academic Excellence, Department of Performance Studies, New York University, 1996
- B.A. High Honors, Department of English, UC Berkeley, 1992

### Academic Employment

- Professor and Chair. Dept of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies, UC Berkeley. 2022-present
- Associate Professor. Dept of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies, UC Berkeley. 2013-2022
- Assistant Professor. Dept of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies, UC Berkeley. 2011-2013
- Assistant Professor. Dept of Theatre Arts and Dance, Cal State LA. 2004-2011
- Visiting Assistant Professor. Dept of Dance, UC Riverside. 2008-2010.
- Postdoctoral Fellow. Dept of Theater and Dance, Macalester College. Spring 2004
- Adjunct Professor. Dept of Performance Studies, New York University. Summer 2003
- Lecturer. Dept of Undergraduate Drama, New York University. Spring 2003
- Lecturer. Asian Studies Program, Lehigh University. Spring 1999
- Lecturer. Asian American Studies Program, Hunter College. Fall 1998
- Instructor. Expository Writing Program, New York University. 1996 - 1998

### Publications

#### Books

- Love Dances: Loss and Mourning in Intercultural Collaboration*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.  
(winner: de la Torre Bueno© Book Prize, Isadora Duncan Dance Award)
- Kinesthetic City: Dance and Movement in Chinese Urban Spaces*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Mixing It Up: Multiracial Subjects*. Co-edited with Kenneth Speirs. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2004.

#### Articles and book chapters

- "An Aesthetics of Passivity: Gifting, Deference, and Indecipherability in Asian American Performance." *ASAP/ Journal*. Forthcoming.
- "Dancing in the Aftermath of Anti-Asian Violence: An Introduction in Three Parts." (co-authored with Yutian Wong). *Dancing in the Aftermath of Anti-Asian Violence*, a special issue in *Conversations Across the Field of Dance Studies*. Vol 42 (2023).
- "Remote proximity: Making immersive dance under COVID-19 lockdown." *Choreographic Practices* 13:2 (Dec 2022).
- "LA Dreaming in Taipei." *California Dreaming: Movement and Place in the Asian American Imaginary*. Eds. Christine Balance and Lucy Mae San Pablo Burns. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 2020. 155-165.
- "Acts of Loving: Emmanuelle Huynh, Akira Kasai, and Eiko Otake in Intercultural Collaboration." *The Methuen Drama Handbook of Interculturalism and Performance*. Eds. Daphne Lei and Charlotte McIvor. New York: Methuen Drama, 2020. 133-152.
- "When is Contemporary Dance?" *Dance Research Journal* 49.3 (Dec 2017).
- "Even as We Keep Trying: An Ethics of Interculturalism in Jérôme Bel's *Pichet Klunchun and Myself*." *Theatre Survey* 55.02 (May 2014): 185-201.
- "Performing a Geography of Asian America: The Chop Suey Circuit." *TDR* 55.1 (T209 Spring 2011): 120-136.

- "Jagged Presence in the Liquid City: Choreographing Hong Kong's Handover." *Planes of Composition: Dance, Theory, and the Global*. Eds. André Lepecki and Jenn Joy. Seagull Books, 2010. 15-39.
- "Vibrating with Taipei: Cloud Gate Dance Theater and National Kinesthesia." *Intersections: Dance, Place, and Identity*. Ed. Ann Dils, et. al. Kendall Hunt Publishers, 2009. 291-300.
- "Introduction." (co-authored with Kenneth Speirs) *Mixing It Up: Multiracial Subjects*. Eds. SanSan Kwan and Kenneth Speirs. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2004. 1-10.
- "Hong Kong Incorporated: Falun Gong and the Choreography of Stillness." *Performance Research* 8.4(2003): 11-20.
- "Scratching the Lotus Blossom Itch." *Tessera* 31 (Winter 2002): 41-48.
- "Made by Chinese: Shanghai Tang and the Development of Contemporary Chinese Couture." *Thresholds* 17 (Dec 1998): 31-35.
- "The Diaoyu Islands: A Hong Kong Heterotopia." *Arena Journal* 8 (1997): 29-37.

#### Edited Work

*Dancing in the Aftermath of Anti-Asian Violence*, a special issue in *Conversations Across the Field of Dance Studies*. Vol 42 (2023). Co-edited with Yutian Wong.

#### Reviews and shorter publications

- Wilcox, Emily. *Revolutionary Bodies: Chinese Dance and the Socialist Legacy*. Book review. *Theatre Survey* 62.2 (May 2021): 14-16.
- "What is the Time of Contemporary Dance?" *Representations* 136 (Fall 2016): 147-153.
- Wong, Yutian. *Choreographing Asian America*. Book review. *Dance Research Journal*. 44.1 (Summer 2012): 119-122.
- Fraleigh, Sondra and Tamah Nakamura. *Hijikata Tatsumi and Ohno Kazuo and Hahn, Tomie. Sensational Knowledge: Embodying Culture through Japanese Dance*. Book review. *Dance Research Journal* 41.2 (Winter 2009): 107-110.
- "Maura Nguyen Donohue." Entry for *Asian American Playwrights: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook*. Ed. Miles X. Liu. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002. 49-56.
- "Dan Kwong." Entry for *Asian American Playwrights: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook*. Ed Miles X. Liu. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002. 162-169.
- Chang, Leslie. *Beyond the Narrow Gate*. Book review. *Journal of Asian American Studies* 3.1 (Feb 2000): 110-113.
- "In Their Shoes: An Interview with Kristin Jackson." *Asian American Arts Dialogue*. (Oct 1998): 34-36.
- "Art of the Internment." Brooklyn Art Museum. May 1995. Exhibit review. *Asian American Arts Dialogue* (Summer 1995): 3-6.

#### Invited talks (selected)

- Love Dances* book talk. LaSalle College of the Arts, Singapore. Apr 2024.
- Love Dances* book talk. Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore. Apr 2024.
- Love Dances* book talk. Washington University, St. Louis, MO. Oct 2023.
- Love Dances* book talk. Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY. Oct 2022.
- Panelist. *Habitus in the Performing Arts in Higher Education*. Mandel Leadership Institute and Jerusalem Academy of Dance. Sep 2022.
- Love Dances* book talk. New Books in Asian and Asian Diaspora Dance Studies. Dance Studies Association. Jun 2022.
- Panelist. "Bodies of Empathy." The Helen Diller Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies, UC Berkeley. Apr 2022.
- Love Dances* book chat. Townsend Center for the Humanities. UC Berkeley. Feb 2022.
- Guest lecture. Department of Theater and Performance Studies. Stanford University. Feb 2022.
- "Acting Out: Performance and Community in the Post-Community." Townsend Center for the Humanities Panel. UC Berkeley. Sept 2020.
- "Understanding Akram Khan Under the Framework of the 'Contemporary.'" Cal Performances Pre-show Panel. UC Berkeley. Mar 2019.

- "Contemporary Asian Dance and Intercorporeality." Invited Keynote. International Federation for Theater Research Regional Conference. University of the Philippines Diliman. Manila, Philippines. Feb 2018.
- "On Love and Mourning in Intercultural Collaboration." Invited lecture. Dance Studies Colloquium. Temple University. Philadelphia. Jan 2018.
- "Current Issues in Dance Studies." Invited lecture. Beijing Dance Academy. Beijing, China. Dec 2017.
- "Playbacking: The Score for *Spiel*." Performance and Its Materials. Clark Colloquium. Williamstown, MA. Apr 2015.
- "When is Dance Contemporary?" Questioning Aesthetics Symposium. Arts Research Center. UC Berkeley. Mar 2015.
- "Love Dances: Collaboration in East-West Intercultural Choreography." The Stanford Colloquium on Dance Studies. Stanford University. Feb 2015.
- "Reflections on the 'Contemporary' in Asian Dance." Intermedia Perspectives in Asian and Asian American Art. Arts Research Center, UC Berkeley. Sep 2013.
- "Spiral Time and Lateral Time in Chinese American Choreography." *Temporal Shifts: Time Across Contemporary Chinese and Taiwanese Art Practices*. Arts Research Center, UC Berkeley. Feb 2013.
- "Ethics and Interculturalism in Contemporary Dance: Jérôme Bel's *Pichet Klunchun and Myself*." Center for Race and Gender, UC Berkeley. Jan 2012.
- "Jagged Presence in the Liquid City: Choreographing Hong Kong's Handover." Corporeal Nationalisms: Dance and the State in East Asia. UC Berkeley. Sept 2010.
- "Performing a Geography of Asian America: The Chop Suey Circuit." SUNY Binghamton. Binghamton, NY. Apr 2010.
- "A Survey of Contemporary Critical Theory." Beijing Language and Culture University. Beijing, China. May 2009.
- "On Performativity and Being Chinese American: Research as Me-search." Xi'an International Studies University. Xi'an, China. Apr 2009.
- "Walking in Chinatown." S12 Performance Exchange Project. Shanghai, China. May 2009.
- "National Kinesthesia and Cloud Gate Dance Theater." 2005 International Lin Hwai-min Conference. Taiwan National University of the Arts, Taipei, Taiwan, Aug 2005.
- "Moving with Intention." Master Class. Theatre Department, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, Nov 2000.
- "Debunking the Model Minority Myth." Guest Lecture. English Department, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, Dec 1999.
- "Where Are You From?: Divorcing Ethnicity from Nationality in the Search for Chinese American-ness." Guest Lecture. English Department, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, Nov 1999.
- "Art or Artifact: Reclaiming Tradition vs. Self-Orientalization." Moderator. Free at Three Series. The Joseph Papp Public Theater, New York City, Nov 1997.

### Media Features (selected)

- Interviewed for "How Ballroom Dance Became a Refuge for Asian Immigrants." NBC News. Jan 27, 2023.
- Interviewed for "Dance in American Cultures." UC Berkeley Pedagogy Podcast. Nov 2021
- Interviewed for "150 Years of Women at Berkeley: Asian American Women." Jun 2021.
- Interviewed for "East Meets West, Over Cocktails." *The New York Times*. Apr 11, 2014.

### Conference Presentations (selected)

- "How to Make a Passive Dance." Dance Studies Association annual conference. Rutgers University. July 2024.
- "The Politics of Passivity: Deference, Invisibility, and Inscrutability in Asian American Performance." Dance Studies Association annual conference. Rutgers University. Oct 2021.
- "Immersive Dance and the Question of Transformation: Lenora Lee Dance on Angel Island." Dance Studies Association annual conference. Northwestern University. Aug 2019.

- "The Problem with Intimacy: Intercultural Collaboration in *Talking Duet*." Asian Studies Association annual conference. New Delhi, Jul 2018.
- "Healing a World in Crisis: Intercorporeality in Rennie Harris and Michael Sakamoto's *Flash*." Dance Studies Association annual conference. Ohio State University. Oct 2017.
- "When is Contemporary Dance?" Society of Dance History Scholars/Congress on Research in Dance joint conference. Pomona College. Nov 2016.
- "Intercultural Love: Exploring Modes of Choreographic Collaboration Across Culture." Society of Dance History Scholars/Congress on Research in Dance joint conference. UC Riverside. Nov 2013.
- "Playback: The Time-Lag of Intercultural Encounter in Emmanuelle Huynh and Akira Kasai's *Spiel*." PSi#19. Jun 2013.
- "Chinese Dance: Establishing a Field." Association for Asian Performance conference. Washington, DC, Aug 2012.
- "The Performance Before the Performance: Framing an Asian American Avant-Garde." Association for Asian American Studies annual conference. Washington, DC, Apr 2012.
- "Legacies of Orientalism in East-West Intercultural Collaboration: Jérôme Bel's *Pichet Klunchun and Myself*, or Is it Still Orientalist if I Don't Dance?" Association for Asian American Studies annual conference. New Orleans, LA, May 2011.
- "LA Dreaming (in Taipei)." California American Studies Association meeting. Fullerton, CA, May 2011.
- "LA Dreaming in Taipei." California Dreaming symposium. UC Irvine. Jun 2010.
- "Feminist Ethnography and Dance Ethnography as Mutual Analytics." Congress on Research in Dance annual conference. Roanoke, VA, Nov 2008.
- "Feeling Each Other Move: The Dance Ethnographer as Virtual Double in a Study of the City." Congress on Research in Dance annual conference. New York, NY, Nov 2007.
- "Choreographing Hong Kong's Handover: City Contemporary Dance Company's *Revolutionary Pekinese Opera*." Society of Dance History Scholars/Congress on Research in Dance joint conference. Paris, France, Jun 2007.
- "Downtown Dance in Chinatown: The Choreography of H.T. Chen." Association for Asian American Studies annual conference. New York, NY, Mar 2007.
- "What is a Chinese Body?: (Un)Representations of Chineseness in the Choreography of H.T. Chen." Bodies and Spectacles: A Conference on Asian American Performance. Urbana, IL, Oct 2006.
- "Shanghai Tang in New York City: Tracing Global Chineseness-es." American Studies Association annual meeting. Oakland, CA, Oct 2006.
- "A Geography of Asian America: Internment, Segregation, and the Chop Suey Circuit." American Studies Association annual meeting. Washington DC, Nov 2005.
- "Chinese Los Angeles: A Kinesthetic Methodology for Reading the City." Society of Dance History Scholars 2005 conference. Evanston, IL, Jun 2005.
- "Globalizing the Field?: An Asian Americanist Teaches Asian Theater." Association for Asian American Studies annual conference. Los Angeles, Apr 2005.
- "Shanghai Refracted: Chinese Postmodernity." Studies in Politics and Poiesis: Powerful Visions. California State University Los Angeles, Feb 2005.
- "Asian/Asian American Bodies in Performance." Panelist. University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN, Nov 2004.
- "The Chop Suey Circuit: Performing Chineseness, Performing American-ness in World War II Era Nightclubs." Association for Asian American Studies annual conference. San Francisco, California, May 2003.
- "Performing Across Cultures and Histories." Panelist. Radical Longings: Politics, Performance and Spirit, panel series. New York University, Oct 2002.
- "Dance, National Identity and Urban Motion in Taipei." Dance and the City: Urban and Urbane, Society of Dance History Scholars annual conference. Philadelphia, Jun 2002.
- "Walking in Chinatown." Association for Asian American Studies annual conference. Salt Lake City, Apr 2002.

- “Choreo-diplomacy: Uncertain Nationhood and Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan.”  
Dancing Diasporas: Performing Cultural Identities. University of Minnesota, Mar 2002.
- “Flowers in a Mirror and Moon on the Water: Choreographing a New Dance Form in Taiwan.” Transmigratory Moves: Dance in Global Circulation, CORD 2001. New York, Oct 2001.
- “Dancing Hong Kong: Movement as Theory for a City of Flux.” Here Be Dragons: The Fifth Performance Studies Conference. Aberystwyth, Wales, Apr 1999.
- “Means of Resistance: Asian American Activism through the Arts.” Panelist. Asian Americans Artists and Activism Conference. Hampshire College, Northampton, Massachusetts, Nov 1998.
- “Choreographing Hong Kong: Movement, Space, and the Production of Cultural Identity.” Representing Place: A Conference on Literature, Language, and the Arts. Flagstaff, Arizona, Nov 1998.
- “Crossing Cultures / Defining Identities.” Panelist. Dance On '97 International Dance Conference. Hong Kong, Aug 1997.
- “Big Dicks, Small Gains: Parody as Resistance and Reaffirmation.” Asians in America Conference. New York University, New York City, Mar 1997.

### **Choreographic Work**

- Two Doors*, Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis, Oct 2024
- In the Shape of Their Presence*, Joe Goode Annex, San Francisco, May 2021, co-choreographed with Lenora Lee
- Define/Defile*, Center for New Music, SF, April 2017, collaboration with composer Scott Rubin
- Naked to the Sky*, UC Berkeley, Dec 2016, collaboration with composer Scott Rubin
- Keiko's Dream*, Palos Verdes Ballet, Torrance, CA, Oct 2006

### **Performing Experience (selected)**

- Lenora Lee. 2012-present (producing one full-length work per year)
- Chingchi Yu, 2022-present
- Jen Liu, 2023
- Scott Rubin. 2016-2018
- Maura Nguyen Donohue/In Mixed Company, 1995-2000
- Joanna Mendl Shaw, 1995, 1997-98
- Chen and Dancers, 1994-96
- Company Appels, 1993-94

### **Honors and Awards (selected)**

- Dance Studies Association Mid-Career Award, 2024
- Beatriz Manz Faculty Award, College of Letters & Science, UC Berkeley, 2023
- Isadora Duncan Dance Award, 2023
- De la Torre Bueno Book Award, 2022
- American Cultures Excellence in Teaching Award, 2021
- Terry Helbing Memorial Award for Academic Excellence, New York University, 1996

### **Grants and Fellowships (selected)**

- Townsend Fellow, UC Berkeley, 2024-25
- Asian American Research Center Grant, UC Berkeley 2024-25
- Center for Chinese Studies Faculty Research Grant, UC Berkeley 2024-25
- Presidential Chair Fellows Resilience Grant, UC Berkeley, 2020-21
- ACES Chancellor's Public Scholar Faculty Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2020-21
- Center for Chinese Studies Faculty Research Grant, UC Berkeley 2020-21
- Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley, Manuscript Grant, 2019-2020
- Humanities Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2017-18
- Mellon Project Grant for Associate Professors in the Humanities, UC Berkeley, 2015-16
- Humanities Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley, spring 2014
- Institute for East Asian Studies Faculty Research Grant, UC Berkeley, 2013-14
- Center for Chinese Studies Faculty Research Grant, UC Berkeley, 2012-13

Institute of International Studies Junior Faculty Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2011-12  
 Center for the Study of Genders & Sexualities Research Grant, Cal State Los Angeles, 2008  
 American Communities Program Fellowship, Cal State Los Angeles, 2005  
 Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Grant, Cal State Los Angeles, 2005  
 CSMP Postdoctoral Fellowship, Macalester College, 2004  
 Social Sciences Research Council, Program on the Arts Fellowship, 2001-2002  
 Visiting Scholar, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, 2001  
 Fulbright Fellowship, Taipei, Taiwan, 2000-2001

#### **Artistic Commissions**

Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis, Oct 2024  
 Anti-Asian Violence: Origins and Trajectories Research Initiative, Oct 2024

#### **Professional Service (selected)**

Editor, Studies in Dance History Book Series, Dance Studies Assn (DSA), 2024-2027  
 Asian American Pacific Islander Standing Committee, UC Berkeley, 2021-2024  
 Associate Editor, Studies in Dance History Book Series, DSA, 2020-2024  
 Mellon/DSA Pre-conference Seminar Faculty Mentor  
 DSA Editorial Board, 2017-present  
 CORD/SDHS Task Force on Publications and Research, Fall 2016  
 SDHS Editorial Board, 2015-2017  
 Congress on Research in Dance, Board of Directors and Elections Chair, 2007-2011.  
 ASTR annual conference, program committee, 2012.  
 CORD/ASTR annual conference, program committee, 2010.

#### **Professional Development (selected)**

Faculty Leadership Academy, UC Berkeley, 2022-23  
 UC Women's Initiative Professional Development Program, 2021-22

#### **Volunteer Work (selected)**

Berkeley Food Network  
 Chinatown Community Development Center  
 Berkeley Unified School District  
 Albany Armada Swim Team  
 Albany-Berkeley Soccer Club  
 Albany Little League