Jason Oliver Chang

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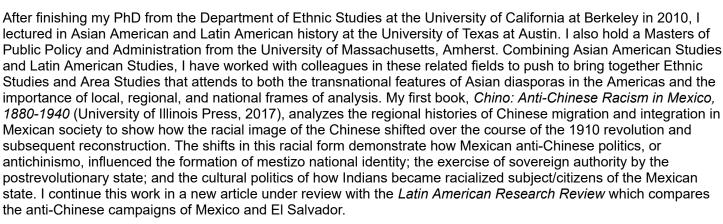
Areas of Specialty

Asian American History, U.S. Immigration History, Mexico, Maritime History

Current Research Interests

Indo-Pacific-American Maritime History

Biography



My second project expands my interests in transnational Asian American history in several ways. First, my research focuses on the maritime traditions of the Indo-Pacific and their relationship to different and competing merchant and naval fleets of imperial powers. My recent article in the *Pacific Historical Review*, "Four Centuries of Imperial Succession in the Comprador Pacific ," which won the annual 2018 Koontz Prize from the journal for the most deserving contribution, traces the role of Chinese merchants across successive imperial regimes in the Pacific. The larger manuscript traces South Asian, Chinese, and Filipino seafarers in the economy, culture, and labor of inter-Asian and trans-Pacific oceanic passages. I'm particularly interested in the historical development of oceanic occupations for Asian and Pacific Islanders as an abject source of maritime labor tracing its origins in medieval and early modern maritime cultures, to the British commercial fleets and the U.S. Navy and merchant mariners. My approach positions these seamen in the context of ocean-going Asian, European, and U.S. imperialisms as well as their environmental and cultural ocean worlds. This project aims to highlight how the political contact zones of the sea are intensified by deforestation, fisheries, and climate change. I aim to build an understanding of the particular features of human maritime life as being environmentally structured and socially signified amidst a multi-ethnic/multi-racial contact zone.

Selected Publications Books

Chino: Racial Transformation of the Chinese in Mexico, 1880-1940.

Asian America: A Primary Source Reader.

Personal Interests



When I'm not working at UConn I'm usually spending time with my three kids and partner, Julie. In other moments I love gardening and carpentry.