

Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences

Student Proposal Cover Page

Applicant Information

Applicant Name: Jeannie N. Shinozuka Date: 2/11/07
Project Title: "A 'Contagious and Poisonous Yellow Peril'?: Japanese and Japanese Americans in Public Health and Agriculture, ~1890s – 1950"
Department: History College: Liberal Arts
Home address: 614 Social Sciences City & State: Minneapolis, MN Zip: 55455
Faculty advisor name: Donna Gabaccia and Ann Waltner Email: drj@umn.edu and waltn001@umn.edu Not applicable
Dept. Head's name: Eric Weitz, Chair Dept. Head's email: weitz004@umn.edu
Dean's name: Steven Rosenstone Dean's email: rosen060@umn.edu

How did you hear about this funding opportunity? From my advisor, Ann Waltner.

Funding

Amount of funding requested: \$7,000

Funding justification: [a clear statement of what you will use the funds for without going into budget details]
The two main expenses are 1) traveling expenses and 2) my salary. First, since the cost of living is very high in the Washington D. C. area, I am requesting funds to cover the cost of an apartment or a hotel room. In southern California, I will be driving to the Huntington Library, as well as conducting oral interviews. Finally, by awarding me the full amount of the grant, you will permit me to dissertate and translate Japanese language materials so that I may have three polished drafts by the end of the summer.

Approvals

Check all appropriate approvals required for your proposal. Approvals must be obtained prior to receipt of funding. If you have applied for approval but have not yet received it, indicate that below.

X IRB Date submitted: 7/14/05 Number: 0506P71086
 IACUC Date submitted: _____ Number: _____
 Other Explain: _____

For Use by the Consortium Office

- The proposal is 1000 words or less excluding budget, biographies, references and citations.
The proposal includes a work plan with a specific timeline using months or quarters to identify work to be done and completion dates.
- The proposal includes a 1-2 paragraph biography of the applicant and all co-investigators.
The budget form is complete including the funds sought for this project, other pending applications for this project, and the amount/source of matching or other funds.
- The applicant's faculty advisor is copied on the application email. Professional students w/o advisors check NA.
- All necessary approvals are pending or received.

**“A ‘Contagious and Poisonous Yellow Peril’?:
Japanese and Japanese Americans in Public Health and Agriculture, ~1890s – 1950”
Jeannie N. Shinozuka**

Nature of Project

This dissertation challenges the nation-bound paradigm within the history of American public health and agriculture by examining how the “contagious and poisonous yellow peril” image applied first to Chinese immigrants was also imposed on plants, insects, bodies, and pathogens from Japan in the late nineteenth century. As Japanese and Japanese Americans in California resisted their stigmatization, early views of Japanese and Japanese American agricultural products, fishermen, and farmers as a “contagious yellow peril” evolved into a virulently “poisonous yellow peril” that needed to be “quarantined” in the form of incarceration during World War II.

In addition to examining diseased bodies along with dangerous insects and fatal plant diseases which threatened the “native biota,” this dissertation recenters the experiences of Japanese and Japanese Americans who lived in California until they were forcibly “quarantined” during the Second World War. The contemporary significance of this research lies in its historical elucidation of “biological nativism” for environmental studies scholars and public health policy makers, as well as its reliance on the voices of Japanese Americans themselves.

Importance and Innovative Contribution

The importance of this dissertation is fourfold: First, by situating Japanese immigrants as central, this project moves beyond nation-bound historical narratives of American medicine. This dissertation seeks to shed light on how initial fears of Japanese agricultural imports were intimately intertwined with later policing of Japanese fishermen and farmers. This dissertation begins in the 1890s in order to examine how and why agricultural scientists who worked for the United States Department of Agriculture began to regulate the nation’s ecological borders. Many American entomologists viewed plants from Japan and the insects and diseases they carried as a threat to the “native biota” in the American empire. Some of these agricultural scientists even traveled to Asia and many were highly aware of potentially dangerous insects and plant diseases in places such as Japan. During the 1930s, the increasing “biological menace” of bodies, plants, and pathogens from Japan transformed Japanese immigrants from a “contagious yellow peril” to a maliciously “poisonous” one.

Second, in highlighting the “contagious and poisonous yellow peril,” this dissertation advances “biological nativism” as a way to understand elite officials’ attempts to regulate “foreign” bodies, plants, and pathogens at the nation’s borders. Very little research has been conducted that situates Asian migration as central in American medical and environmental history. The history of Japanese and Japanese Americans in public health and agriculture reveals how public health and ecological measures shaped race, labor, the economy, and citizenship. The regulation of borders, empire building, and control over the agricultural industry therefore forms the heart of this narrative.

Third, examining a history of Japanese and Japanese Americans in California shifts the paradigm from East-coast centered narratives in histories of medicine, science, and technology to that of the west coast. A west-coast centered narrative illustrates the complexities of racial and ethnic dynamics because of the high concentration of Asian immigrants. In moving beyond a black-white paradigm and focusing on Japanese and Japanese Americans, this dissertation illuminates how the treatment of Japanese immigrants differed from that of their Chinese

counterparts. Health officials expressed ambivalence towards Japanese immigrants, which they had not expressed towards Chinese immigrants at the turn of the century. These officials engaged in a larger transpacific intellectual exchange with prominent Japanese scientists—notably, Shibasaburo Kitasato, whom they believed was only one of two discoverers of the plague bacillus in 1894. Yet it was precisely because of the persistence and success of Japanese immigrants in establishing their own health care system and in carving out an economic niche in labor-intensive agriculture that health officials and entomologists increasingly feared them.

Fourth, this dissertation's importance lies in its contemporary relevance. It seeks to complicate current debates on "biological nativism" within environmental studies and public health. Within public health, for example, many public health policymakers still continue to use a black/white paradigm when designing policies for their communities. Finally, as a community-centered project, this dissertation seeks to add oral histories by Japanese Americans to the more usual sources consulted for studies of California public health issues. This dissertation relies on the oral histories of Japanese and Japanese Americans whenever possible. Their voices have the power to challenge government documents and to provide new perspectives on health officials' reports and claims made by elite entomologists.

Timeline

In 2005, I collected materials at several archives, including the Japanese American National Museum, National Archives in Laguna Niguel, and University of California, Los Angeles Special Collections. In summer 2006, I conducted archival research at the National Archives in San Bruno, the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. I have begun drafting chapters one and two. Using funds from the Consortium Grant, I plan to visit the following archives this summer 2007:

June 1-29, 2007, National Archives in Washington D. C. and College Park, MD: View collections in the United States Department of Agriculture, War Relocation Authority collections, and United States Public Health materials; finish drafting chapter 1.

June 30-August 26, 2007, The Huntington Library, CA: View recently acquired Los Angeles County Medical Association collection and conduct oral interviews with Japanese Americans in southern California who can recall the Great Depression and World War II eras; finish drafting chapters 2 and 3.

I plan to submit a complete draft of my dissertation to my committee in early spring 2008 with dissertation defense in April 2008. The Consortium Grant will enable me to complete the dissertation by spring 2008.

Biography

I am a doctoral candidate in the department of history. I studied under an historian of medicine, science, and religion, Rennie B. Schoepflin, during my undergraduate training at La Sierra University in Riverside, California.¹ Under the guidance of Dr. Schoepflin, I filed my senior honors thesis on Asian American women in medicine. This senior thesis subsequently became my master's thesis at the Asian American Studies Center at the University of California, Los Angeles. I worked with Dr. Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, professor of public health at UCLA, for my master's thesis. Now, at the University of Minnesota, I am currently working with Susan Craddock (Women's Studies/Global Studies), Donna Gabaccia (History) and Ann Waltner (History).

I am a former DOVE (Diversity of Views and Experiences) Fellow and my dissertation is a study of my own ethnic and racial community. My dissertation symbolizes the struggle of my own specific Japanese American community. Many Japanese Americans in my religious community have been and still are disproportionately health professionals. Many Japanese immigrant and Japanese American medical practitioners in my community were able to practice medicine before the 1960s because of their religious affiliation. Those Japanese Americans from my religious community who suffered internment still rarely speak about it; I later learned about how they were incarcerated in interment camps in college. Through this dissertation, I hope to remove the "barbed wire" that has silenced them, as well as the struggles of Japanese farmers and fishermen. By situating myself in this project, I link my dissertation to the community that I have come from. I am currently a FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) Fellow, studying Japanese so that I may eventually access and use Japanese-language materials for my dissertation and future manuscript.

¹ Formerly a part of Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, California.

Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment the Life Sciences
Budget for Student Proposals

Project Title: “A ‘Contagious and Poisonous Yellow Peril’?: Japanese and Japanese Americans in Public Health and Agriculture,

Instructions: add rows for multiple personnel.

Category	Description & justification	Requested funding	Matching
		Amount	Amount
Personnel <i>Explain what hourly wage & fringe are based on-- departmental, community or other rate?</i>	Salary = <u> 27.5 </u> hrs x <u> \$15.15 </u> hrly wage x 12 weeks (from 6/1/07 - 8/26/07; this figure based on estimated wages paid to history department research assistants)	\$5,000	
	Fringe rate		
	What work will this person do?: Archival research, dissertation writing, oral interviews, and translation of Japanese language materials.		
	Subtotal	\$5,000	
Speaker Honoraria	<u> </u> speakers x \$ <u> </u> honorarium		
Supplies & Services	List items and explain use	\$0.00	
Equipment <i>Equipment costs are allowable only if the justification clearly shows that the equipment is necessary for the project. Include explanation of what will happen to equipment at completion of project.</i>	Identify and explain use		
		\$0.00	
Travel <i>Travel costs must include a description of the purpose of the travel, start and stop dates of travel, transportation costs, housing costs, and allowable per diem (use University rates found at http://travel/umn.edu).</i>	Explain: 1) National Archives, Washington D.C. and College Park, MD, 6/1/07 - 6/29/07: Roundtrip Airfare (\$425), shuttle/ taxi (\$50), housing (\$1,000), and subway (\$50; from http://www.washington.org/WCTCoffsite.cfm?http://www.metroopensdoors.com/) and 2) The Huntington Library, CA, 6/30/07 - 8/26/07: Roundtrip airfare (\$300), and gas (\$175).	\$2,000	
TOTAL BUDGET		7,000	

Pending Applications:

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| 1. Ford Dissertation Diversity Fellowship |
| 2. American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship |
| 3. Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship |
| 4. * Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship |
| 5. CREST (Center for Citizenship, Race, and Ethnicity Studies) Diversity Fellowship |

I have only been nominat

