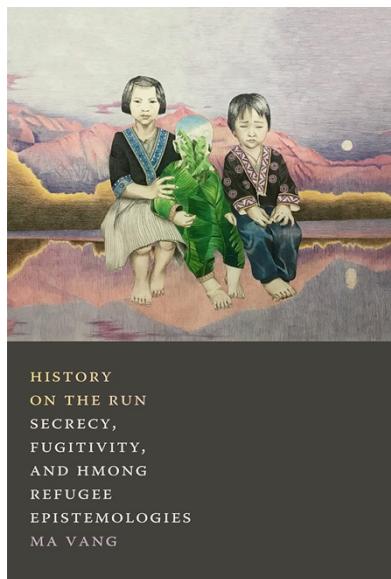


University of California, Merced
Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Present
2021 Virtual Dialogue Series: Lunch and Learn
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
Time: Noon – 1:00pm

Topic: History On The Run - Secrecy, Fugitivity, and Hmong Refugee Epistemologies



Description:

Ma Vang is an Assistant Professor and founding chair of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Merced. Her book, *History on the Run: Secrecy, Fugitivity, and Hmong Refugee Epistemologies* (Duke University Press, 2021), examines how secrecy structures both official knowledge and refugee epistemologies about militarism and forced migration.

She is the co-editor of *Claiming Place: On the Agency of Hmong Women* (University of Minnesota Press, 2016), and her writings have been published in positions: *asia critique* MELUS, and *Critical Ethnic Studies Journal*. Vang has received several awards to support her research, most recently, the UC Multicampus Research collaborative grant and the Whiting Foundation Public Engagement grant. She serves as co-editor of the Critical Refugee Studies Collective website which hosts the refugee archive and story map platforms for refugees to share stories. She is organizing the Refugee Teaching Institute in summer 2021 to engage with students and community members as teachers for K-12 ethnic studies curriculum training.

During its secret war in Laos (1961–1975), the United States recruited proxy soldiers among the Hmong people. Following the war, many of these Hmong soldiers migrated to the United States with refugee status. In *History on the Run* Ma Vang examines the experiences of Hmong refugees in the United States to theorize refugee histories and secrecy, in particular those of

the Hmong. Vang conceptualizes these histories as fugitive histories, as they move and are carried by people who move. Charting the incomplete archives of the war made secret through redacted US state documents, ethnography, film, and literature, Vang shows how Hmong refugees tell their stories in ways that exist separately from narratives of U.S. empire and that cannot be traditionally archived. In so doing, Vang outlines a methodology for writing histories that foreground refugee epistemologies despite systematic attempts to silence those histories.

To attend, please register at:
diversity.ucmerced.edu/lunch-and-learns

If you have any questions, please email Onar Primitivo, oprimitivo@ucmerced.edu