

Zach Anderson

Personal Statement

History and literary scholar with an Asian American Studies MA from UCLA advocating for higher education access and empowerment for Pasifika, Indigenous, and Southeast Asian transfer students. Passionate about using Indigenous epistemologies and multimodal resources to teach Ethnic Studies and writing at the undergraduate level. Experienced journalist turned scholar, community organizer. Committed to social justice, education access, student empowerment, storytelling, and Indigenous sovereignty.

Education

M.F.A Creative Writing— Fiction (in progress) | University of Michigan | Ann Arbor, MI
M.A. Asian American Studies (2024) | University of California, Los Angeles | Los Angeles, CA
B.A. Writing & Literature (2020) | California College of the Arts | San Francisco, CA
Transferred from Sacramento City College (2017) | Sacramento, CA

Teaching Experience

Lecturer Responsibilities: Developed syllabus for introductory course on Ethnic Studies and Asian American Studies; designed online portal using CANVAS to distribute and grade assignments for lecture class of 100 students; gave lectures on wide range of topics within Asian American studies; facilitated office hours to guide and mentor students outside of the classroom.

- Fall 2026 | ENG 125: Writing & Academic Inquiry | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor | Ann Arbor, MI
- Spring 2025 | ASAM 353: Filipino American Contemporary Issues | CSU, Long Beach | Long Beach, CA
- Spring 2025 | ASAM 119: Introduction to Race & Ethnicity | CSU, Long Beach | Long Beach, CA
- Fall 2024 | ASAM 119: Introduction to Race & Ethnicity | CSU, Long Beach | Long Beach, CA

Teaching Assistant (TA) Responsibilities: Facilitated discussion and grade assignments for a section of 20 undergraduate students; designed online portal using CANVAS to distribute course materials; created course section syllabus to enrich knowledge learned in lecture; developed rubric for grading students' assignments including the final exam; facilitated office hours to guide and mentor students outside of the classroom; guided students to produce a zine concerning technology and environmental activism in the Pacific; organized guest speaker events with Pasifika organizers to enhance and enrich understanding of Pasifika communities; proctored final exams at conclusion of course.

- Spring 2024 | AAS 30W (1D): Asian Pacific American Literature and Culture | UCLA | Los Angeles, CA

- Winter 2024 | AAS 20W (1F): Asian Pacific American Communities | UCLA | Los Angeles, CA
- Fall 2023 | AAS 10W (1B): Asian Pacific American History | UCLA | Los Angeles, CA
- Spring 2023 | AAS 20W (1E): Contemporary Asian Pacific Communities | UCLA | Los Angeles, CA

Reader Responsibilities: Designed online portal using CANVAS to distribute course materials and grade assignments such as essays and weekly reading journals.

- Fall 2023 | AAS 30: Asian Pacific American Literature and Culture | UCLA | Los Angeles, CA
- Fall 2023 | AAS 112A Historical Survey of Asian American Literature | UCLA | Los Angeles, CA

Research

2024 | MA Capstone | *Tasi: Stories of the Ocean from Turtle Island* | UCLA | Los Angeles, CA

- A collection of short stories about Pasifika youth living in the diaspora as they navigate ecological violence, US empire, indigenous identity, and diasporic melancholy.
- Committee: Dr. Keith Camacho (chair), Dr. Elizabeth DeLoughrey, Dr. Victor Bascara, Dr. Jolie Chea

2020 | Undergraduate Senior Project | *They Call it the Good Life* | CCA | San Francisco, CA

- A collection of short stories about the non-white working class living during different periods of California's history
 - Committee: Prof. Faith Adiele (chair), Dr. Jazmin Darznik
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Conference Presentations

2025 | Association of Asian American Studies Conference | Boston, MA

- Chair: Unsettling Settler Colonialism
- Reorientations of Desire: Cultural Narratives of Asian North America, Asia, SWANA and the Pacific
 - o Paper: *Orientalizing the Beat: Imposed Exoticism of Western News Media's Coverage of SWANA and the Pacific*

2024 | University of Technology Sydney Asian Australian Studies x UCLA Asian American Studies Research Symposium | Los Angeles, CA

- Panel on Language & Literature
 - o Paper: *Words Remain: Navigating Settler and Indigenous Literatures of the Pacific*

2024 | Association of Asian American Studies Conference | Seattle, WA

- Asian America Breaks the Internet: Complicating Authenticity, Consumption, and Digital Communities
 - o Paper: #ThirstTrap: How Himbos, Kevin Nguyen, and Swagapinos Are Redefining Asian Masculinity on The Internet
 - Chair: Mana to the Transfer: Expanding Access to Higher Education for Pasifika Community College Students
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Service

2024 | Curriculum Consultant, CSU Long Beach ANNAPISI Grant Development | Long Beach, CA
 2024 | Curriculum Consultant, Sacramento State University AANAPISI Grant Development | Sacramento, CA
 2024 | Participant, FONO: National Policy Listening Tour | Empower Pacific Islander Communities | Long Beach, CA
 2023-24 | Graduate Student Representative | UCLA Asian American Students Department | Los Angeles, CA
 2023 | Panel Organizer for IMUA (Islanders Maintaining Unity & Access) Youth Conference | UCLA Pacific Islander Student Association | Los Angeles, CA
 2017 | Student Representative on Vice Chancellor of Education & Technology Hiring | Los Rios Community College District | Sacramento, CA
 2016-17 | Sacramento City College 100th Anniversary Social Media Coordinator | Sacramento City College | Sacramento, CA

Organizing

2022-2024 | Native & Pasifika Peer Advisor | California Community College Partnership | Los Angeles, CA

- Advised Native & Pasifika community college students on transferring to four-year colleges and universities
- Coordinated outreach to Native & Pasifika community college students throughout California
- Organized alongside other peer advisors an event for Native & Pasifika students to make community and learn about transfer resources
- Moderated panels on the transfer student experience for Pasifika students and other under-served communities

2022 | Communications Coordinator | Kylie Taitano for Congress Campaign | San Diego, CA

- Organized community outreach at local community events in California's 50th Congressional District
 - Wrote speeches for candidate to give at political rallies and community events
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Journalism & Publishing

2021-2023 | Reporter | AsAmNews | Sacramento, CA

- Reported on Pasifika and Asian American communities in the continental United States for an AAPI news outlet
- Covered the Red Hill Water Crisis in Hawaii as well as the Hawaii sovereignty movement

2015-16 | Managing Editor | Sac City Express (Sacramento City College) | Sacramento, CA

- Facilitated budget meetings for printer version of a community college newspaper
- Assigned and edited stories for both news and features

2015-16 | Features Editor | Sac City Express (Sacramento City College) | Sacramento CA

Publications

Anderson, Zachary. "An Interview with Craig Santos Perez." *Michigan Quarterly Review*, January 17, 2026. <https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/mqr/2026/04/an-interview-with-craig-santos-perez/>.

Anderson, Zachary FR. "Fifteen Forty-Two." In *New CHamoru Literature*, edited by Craig Santos Perez, 54–57. Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2023.

Anderson, Zachary FR "SF Supervisors Creates First Pacific Islander Cultural District in U.S." *AsAmNews*, November 15, 2022. <https://asamnews.com/2022/11/15/pacific-islanders-recognized-with-own-neighborhood-in-san-francisco/>.

Anderson, Zachary. "Oofty Goofty." *Eclectica Magazine*, May 2022.

Anderson, Zachary FR. "Tongan Americans Prepare to Provide Homeland with Long-Term Relief." *AsAmNews*, February 2, 2022. <https://asamnews.com/2022/02/02/tongan-americans-prepare-to-provide-homeland-with-long-term-relief/>.

Anderson, Zachary FR. "Fuel Spill in Hawaii Contaminates Water of 1,700 Families." *AsAmNews*, December 16, 2021. <https://asamnews.com/2021/12/16/families-began-smelling-an-odor-coming-from-the-water-they-were-drinking/>.

Awards

- Finalist of the Hopwood Graduate Award in Fiction for *Tasi: Stories of the Ocean from Turtle Island*
- Recipient of the Chamberlain Award for Creative Writing for *Tasi: Stories of the Ocean from Turtle Island*