

# ALEXANDER CHO

Digital Media and Learning Hub - University of California Humanities Research Institute  
acho@hri.uci.edu - 4022 Humanities Gateway, UC Irvine, 92697

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Media Studies      The University of Texas at Austin, 2015.  
Dissertation title: "Sensuous Participation: Queer Youth of Color, Affect, and Social Media." Advisor: Dr. Shanti Kumar.  
*Recipient, Inaugural "Outstanding Dissertation" Award, Department of Radio-TV-Film, The University of Texas at Austin.*
- M.A., Media Studies      The University of Texas at Austin, 2009.
- B.A., Media Studies (Film)      Pomona College, 2001.

## RESEARCH KEYWORDS

Digital/social media and cultural studies. Media and cultural anthropology. Digital design-based research. Ethnography. Tumblr. Queer of color critique. Gender and sexuality studies. Critical race theory. Asian American Studies. Latinx Studies. Internet cultures.

## RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

- Jan 2016-present      Postdoctoral Scholar. Digital Media and Learning Hub, University of California Humanities Research Institute. Supervising PI: Dr. Mimi Ito.
- Aug 2011-Dec 2015      Graduate Research Assistant. Department of Radio-TV-Film, The University of Texas at Austin. Supervising PI: Dr. S. Craig Watkins.

## PUBLICATIONS

- In Preparation      Books  
**Alexander Cho**. *The Passionate Terrain: Queer Youth of Color and Social Media*. Manuscript in preparation, Spring 2018 submission. Target presses include: Duke, NYU, MIT, Oxford, Minnesota.
- Forthcoming 2019      Allison McCracken, **Alexander Cho**, Louisa Stein, and Indira Neill Hoch, Eds. *a tumblr book: platform and culture*. Under contract with The University of Iowa Press.

- 2017 Peer-Reviewed Journal Article  
**Alexander Cho.** "Default Publicness: Queer Youth of Color, Social Media, and Being Outed by the Machine." *New Media & Society*. OnlineFirst, Dec 12.
- Forthcoming 2018 Book Chapters  
**Alexander Cho.** "Disruptive Joy: #BlackOutDay's Affirmative Resonances." In *A Networked Self: Love*. Ed. Papacharissi, Zizi. New York: Routledge.
- Forthcoming 2018  
**Alexander Cho,** Vivian Shaw and S. Craig Watkins. "Dissonant Futures." In *The Digital Edge: The Evolving World of Social, Educational, and Digital Inequality*. Ed. Watkins, S. Craig. New York: NYU Press.
- 2015  
**Alexander Cho.** "Queer Reverb: Tumblr, Affect, Time." In *Networked Affect*, Eds. Hillis, Ken, Susanna Paasonen, and Michael Petit. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 43-57.
- 2013  
**Alexander Cho.** "Social Media," "Hapa," and "Eurasian" encyclopedia entries. In *Multicultural America: A Multimedia Encyclopedia*. Ed. Cortes, Carlos E. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- 2012  
 Spence, J.; Straubhaar, J.; **Cho, A.**; and Graber, D. "Structuring Race in the Cultural Geography of Austin." In *The Persistence of Inequity in the Technopolis: Race, Class, and the Digital Divide in Austin, Texas*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press. 33-62.
- 2017 Book Review  
**Alexander Cho.** Book Review: *Muslim Cool: Race, Religion, and Hip Hop in the United States*. *Cinema Journal*, vol. 57, no. 1, November.
- 2013 Invited Articles  
**Alexander Cho.** "Ethnography and the Geography of Learning." *Ethnography Matters*, July 25.
- 2012  
**Alexander Cho.** "Dissonant Futures: The Importance of Aligning Digital Media and Learning Environments with Future Orientation in Schools." *Connected Learning Research Network Blog*, November 26.

- 2009 Alexander Cho. "Lady Gaga, Balls Out: Recuperating Queer Performativity." *FlowTV.org*, 10.5.
- 2009 Alexander Cho. "The Big Sell." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*. 15(4), 2009: 618-619.

## TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

- 2018 Lecturer. Department of Informatics, University of California, Irvine.
- "Project Management." Winter 2018. Enrollment: 50
- 2012-2015 Teaching Affiliate / Instructor of Record ("AI"). Center for Asian American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin.
- "Intro to Asian American Studies." Fall 2014, Fall 2015. Average enrollment: 50
  - "Mixed-Race and the Media." Spring 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2015. Writing intensive, average enrollment: 20
  - "Critical Approaches to Asian American Gender and Sexuality." Fall 2015. Writing intensive, enrollment: 15
- 2010-2011 Instructor of Record ("AI"). Department of Radio-TV-Film, The University of Texas at Austin.
- "Race, Ethnicity, and the Media." Fall 2010, Spring 2011. Large lecture, average enrollment: 145
- 2008-2010 Teaching Assistant. Department of Radio-TV-Film, The University of Texas at Austin. Classes: "Communication, Technology, and Society"; "Race, Ethnicity and the Media"; "Convergent Hollywood"; "Narrative Strategies."

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2016 Fully-Funded Participant, Inside/Outside: Queer Networks in Transnational Perspective Summer School. Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany.
- 2015 Inaugural recipient, Outstanding Dissertation Award. Department of Radio-TV-Film, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2015 Jesse H. Jones Fellowship in Communication. Moody College of Communication, The University of Texas at Austin. (*declined*)

2012 Summer Fellow, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Digital Media and Learning Summer Institute. Convened at Microsoft Research New England, Cambridge, MA.

2010 Invited Fully-Funded Participant, International School for Digital Transformation. Universidade do Porto, Portugal.

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS / SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

2017 Invited Guest Speaker. "Staying Afloat: What It's Like to Be a Queer of Color Student on Social Media." NAFSA: Association of International Educators Annual Conference and Expo. Los Angeles, CA. May.

2016 Invited Speaker. "Passionate Networks: Queer Youth of Color and Tumblr." Visual Studies Colloquium. University of California, Irvine. May.

2014 Invited Speaker. "Who is Asian American? Multiracial Identity and the Changing Face of Asian America." The Strake Foundation / Asian Pacific American Heritage Association Distinguished Speakers' Series. Houston, TX. September.

2013 Invited Instructor. "Race Relations and the Media." Anti-Defamation League Austin Summer Educators' Institute, St. Edward's University Professional Education Center. June.

2012 Invited Lead Discussant: "Cheese and Other Oddities: A Night of Asian American Theater and Film." Lucky Chaos Theater Project. Austin, TX. April.

2011 Invited Speaker: "Asian and Asian American Images in US Media." Asian American Leadership Institute, UT-Austin. November.

2008 Invited Poet. PEN Center USA: "The Many Faces of the Korean-American Storyteller." The New L.A. Theater Center. August.

### **REFERREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS**

"Prurient Participatory Politics: Tumblr's CTRL+W33D and Vivian Fu." Accepted, Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Toronto. March 2018.

"Tumblr and its Pedagogies of Dissent." Roundtable. Accepted, American Studies Association Annual Meeting. November 2017.

“‘Tumblr is a Place to Express Myself’: Digital Design Considerations for Queer Youth of Color Activism.” Digital Media and Learning Conference, Irvine. October 2016.

“Forum: What’s in a Platform? Tumblr’s Feminist and Queer Spaces as New Sites of Scholarly Inquiry.” Roundtable. Console-ing Passions, Notre Dame, Indiana. June 2016.

“Selfie Politics: #BlackOutDay’s Affirmative Resonances.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Atlanta. March 2016.

Panel Chair, “Queer Media Affect: Locations and Mobilities of Feeling.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Montreal. March 2015.

“*Liberté, Égalité, Beyoncé*”: Queer Youth of Color and Territories of Insurgence.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Montreal. March 2015.

“Digital Vocations: Race, Capital, and Creativity in the Information Economy.” Co-Author with Vivian Shaw. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Media Sociology Preconference. August 2014. (*In absentia*)

Panel Originator and Chair, “The Remediation of Race: New Media, Selective Memory, and the Politics of Resistance.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago. March 2013.

“On the Intimate Refrain: Mixed-Race Asian Americans and Tumblr.com.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago. March 2013.

“Teaching Digital Media Production in a High School: Exploring Porous Classroom Boundaries, Blurring Formal/Informal Learning, and Examining Entrepreneurship.” Co-Author with Jennifer Noble and Andres Lombana-Bermudez. American Educational Research Association, San Francisco. April 2013. (*In absentia*)

“Touching for Longing: Gay Male Affective Networks on Tumblr.com.” Association of Internet Researchers Conference. Seattle, Washington. October 2011.

“Queer Tumblrs, Networked Counterpublics.” International Communications Association. Boston, Massachusetts. May 2011.

“Mixed-race mimic meme: Magibon’s impossible referent.” Critical Ethnic Studies Conference. University of California, Riverside. March 2011.

“Negotiated Revelations: Asian-Descent Multiracial Identities, MySpace.com, and the Politics of Online Embodiment.” Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference. De Paul University, Chicago. November 2010.

“Queer Temporality, Sexy Machines, and the Closet: Public Anonymity and Self-Exposure on GuysWithiPhones.com and ChatRoulette.com.” Future/NO Future: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference on the Future of Gender and Sexuality Studies. University of Pennsylvania. September 2010.

“Whiteness, Masculinity, and Hyperlinked Scopophilia: SeanCody.com’s Straight Boys Gone Wild.” Association of Internet Researchers Conference. Milwaukee, WI. October 2009.

“‘Is There Anyone Else Like Me???’ The Hapa Project on MySpace: Social Networking and Multiracial Identity.” Mongrel America: American Studies Graduate Student Conference. Austin, TX. October 2008.

## **SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSION**

Recording Secretary; Campus Steward, UAW 5810 Postdoc Union, UC Irvine. 2016-2017.

Invited Workshop Leader, “Breakthrough” Asian Desi Pacific Islander American Collective Student Conference. The University of Texas at Austin. 2015.

Graduate Student Representative, Chair Search Committee, Center for Asian American Studies. (Successful hire.) The University of Texas at Austin. 2013.

Elected Representative, Department of Radio-TV-Film Graduate Student Organization. The University of Texas at Austin. 2012.

Invited Extra-Departmental Graduate Student Participant, English Department Senior Faculty Hire in Queer Studies, Department of English. The University of Texas at Austin. 2012.

Graduate Student Representative. TV Studies Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee. (Successful hire.) Department of Radio-TV-Film. The University of Texas at Austin. 2010.

Association for Asian American Studies Queer Caucus organizer. Annual meeting, Austin, TX. 2010.

Co-Coordinating Editor, FlowTV.org. (Graduate student online journal, Department of Radio-TV-Film, The University of Texas at Austin.) 2009.

Senior Editor, Special Features, FlowTV.org. 2008.

Editorial Shepherd, The Velvet Light Trap. (Graduate student print journal, Department of Radio-TV-Film, The University of Texas at Austin.) 2008.

Member, Organizing Committee, Flow Conference 2008.

Column Editor, FlowTV.org. 2007.

## SELECTED POPULAR PRESS PUBLICATIONS

“Change in the Lone Star State.” *The Advocate*. September, 2009.

“Sidestepping the SXSW Scene: Corporate sponsors? Big buzz? These homegrown Texas queers say “No thanks” to the South by Southwest hype machine.” *Advocate.com*. March 24, 2009.

“Our Own Private Auteur: Vanguard Filmmaker Gus Van Sant Tackles Harvey Milk’s Story.” Interview with filmmaker Gus Van Sant. *Frontiers*, October 8, 2008.

“(S)he Bop!: An unlikely Texas queer rock fest draws hipster gender-benders of all persuasions.” *Advocate.com*, April 11, 2008.

“More Human than Truman: Infamous Reassembles the Gay Love Story Between the Lines of In Cold Blood.” *The Advocate*, October 24, 2006.

“Passion Play: Star Trek’s George Takei Comes Out in an Exclusive Interview.” *Frontiers*, October 18, 2005.

## PROFESSIONAL MEDIA EXPERIENCE

- 2004-2007 **Editor**, *Frontiers Newsmagazine*, Los Angeles, CA  
Broke worldwide exclusive coming out interview with actor George Takei. Crafted all editorial direction, managed a staff of five editors, secured celebrity cover stories including Margaret Cho, Beth Ditto, Tori Spelling.
- 2003-2004 **Managing Editor**, *Instinct Magazine*, Los Angeles, CA  
Guided magazine to win “Best Alternative Lifestyle Publication” from the Western Publications Association two years in a row. Managed all editorial schedules and planning. Celebrity interviews secured: Parker Posey, Dido, Imogen Heap, Tiffani Thiessen, Augusten Burroughs.
- 2002-2003 **Associate Editor**, *Instinct Magazine*, Los Angeles, CA  
Assigned and wrote front-of-book, special features, grooming.
- 2001 **Editorial Intern**, *The Advocate*, Los Angeles, CA

## REFERENCES

Dr. Mizuko (Mimi) Ito. Professor in Residence, Department of Informatics, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine. [mito@hri.uci.edu](mailto:mito@hri.uci.edu)

Dr. Shanti Kumar. Associate Professor, Department of Radio-TV-Film, The University of Texas at Austin. [shanti.kumar@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:shanti.kumar@austin.utexas.edu)

Dr. S. Craig Watkins. Professor, Department of Radio-TV-Film, The University of Texas at Austin. [craig.waktins@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:craig.waktins@austin.utexas.edu)

Dr. Kathleen Stewart. Professor, Department of Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin. [kstewart@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:kstewart@austin.utexas.edu)