

# MA in Liberal Studies *News*

Spring 2018

## Flair and Imagination: Hyewon Yi



**Dr. Hyewon Yi** earned a BFA in painting in her home country of South Korea, before coming to the US, where she pursued graduate studies, and received her PhD from the CUNY Graduate Center in Art History. Dr. Yi's doctoral dissertation addressed photographers as participant observers; she was drawn by an interest in human subcultures. She says, "Whereas I lack the extraordinary courage required to penetrate the boundaries of those subcultures, I admire the lives of those photographers, journalists, anthropologists, and filmmakers who explored the truth to reveal the secrets of their respective communities. There are complexities in defining these kinds of works, depending on the inherent position (insider vs. outsider) and mode of photography. Larry Clark, Nan Goldin, Richard Billingham, and Nobuyoshi Araki are transgressive: they deploy shock as an element that challenges norms. But their work must be understood as part of the post-1960s cultural phenomena amid which they lived, one that was increasingly confessional and autobiographical."

Dr. Yi came to SUNY Old Westbury as an adjunct lecturer in the Visual Arts Department in Fall 2005, and in 2013 she became a full time lecturer. Dr. Yi has served as the director of the Amelie A. Wallace Gallery since 2006. For Yi, "Becoming a curator was a natural evolution, I enjoy seeking out artists and working with them, helping to interpret their work in a context that allows viewers the best chance to understand what the artists are striving to convey." She

[Cont. on page 2.](#)

## *News**worthy*

Jessica Osorio was accepted into the MALS program in the Fall of 2017. She graduated from Old Westbury in 2013, and studied Spanish Language and Culture in the Modern Languages and Education Departments. She had come to the U.S. from Columbia, which she says, "was a big challenge. I had to learn a new language and adapt to a new culture but this helped me grow as a person and a professional. Thanks to that experience, I decided to become a Spanish teacher and teach others my language and my culture."

After graduation she became a teacher in the New York City schools, for the New Hope Academy Charter School and then the Challenge Preparatory Charter School, in Brooklyn and Queens respectively. This fall she took a new position teaching Spanish in the Garden City public schools, at the Stewart School. Ms. Osorio "was attracted to the MALS program because it gave me the opportunity to create a curriculum focusing in my concentration area, modern languages, which will help me obtain a professional Spanish Teacher certification."

Ms. Osorio was selected as a candidate by the MALS program, for the college's Diversity Fellowship. She believes that "As an immigrant, I was very happy to have the chance to apply to the Diversity Fellowship program. It would be very meaningful to me to win this scholarship in order to support my studies."



came to curating in an unlikely way. A friend, who was interning in medicine at Elmhurst Hospital, asked if she would help liven up the geriatric unit's blank walls. They collected works from local artists, art students, and artist friends; they even constructed the art works' frames. The hospital administration was so pleased with the exhibition and its attention from the mayor's office and the press, that Dr. Yi was invited to curate rotating art shows in the hospital's lobby, which she did for three years. She was also fortunate to participate in an internship at New York City's Drawing Center, where she learned some of the more formal aspects of curating.

For Yi, curating offers her "the opportunity to exercise my imagination and turn ideas into the reality. I enjoy working with living artists and discussing ideas with them, so contemporary art is a real plus for me." She points to a quote by Nicholas Serota, former director of the Tate London, who said, "Curating is 20% flair and imagination and 80% administration, collaboration, and management. You need to be able to think ahead and see around corners. You cannot make a successful exhibition without the 20%, but you can ruin a great idea if you cannot bring an exhibition together." Yi might divide the percentages differently: in her work, it's more like 30/70 or even 40/60. For her *Curating* course for the MALS program, she will teach students developing ideas for shows (the imagination part) and the practical elements.

Curating pushes Dr. Yi to visit many exhibitions where she studies the art and also the forms of display and the curator's underlying themes. Last summer, she visited Kassel Documenta, a citywide exhibition held at five-year intervals in Kassel, Germany, and Skulptur Projekte Münster, which takes place every ten years in Münster, Germany. These large exhibitions, much of them outdoors, are integrated into the urban environment, so the curators must think through how to connect the art to the everyday spaces of their city. She finds that, "So many art exhibitions are confined to a white cubical space that tends also to confine the viewer's experience, but these large-scale exhibitions sprawled throughout the streets and parks are conducive not only to personal contemplation but also to social interaction.

Dr Yi's research interests lie mainly in the History of Photography, Contemporary Art, and Curatorial Studies, though she states she has "recently expanded my research to include anthropologists who used photography to enter into the lives of Native American communities. I have examined hundreds of photographs and archival materials by James Mooney and Matilda Coxe Stevenson. These pioneers of ethnography were participant observers who used photographic practices as ways to build relationships with indigenous peoples, each one in a unique approach. I have also been looking at W. Eugene Smith, whose photography projects involved careful and exhaustive research beforehand and deep respect toward his subjects." Dr. Yi's interests are diverse, another area of research and curatorial work is Contemporary Asian art, as she has worked with many Asian artists in New York and Seoul. Recently, she co-curated a group exhibition at University of South Florida, *Beyond Tradition: Contemporary Reflections in East Asia* that examined the convergence of traditional East Asian techniques with contemporary ideas and sensibilities. She is also

fascinated with BioArt, which uses live tissues, living organisms, and life processes to comment—sometimes in earnest, sometimes satirically—on human impact on the environment. A few years ago, she curated a group show in the genre at the Wallace Gallery, *Biotech Art: Signs of Existence*.

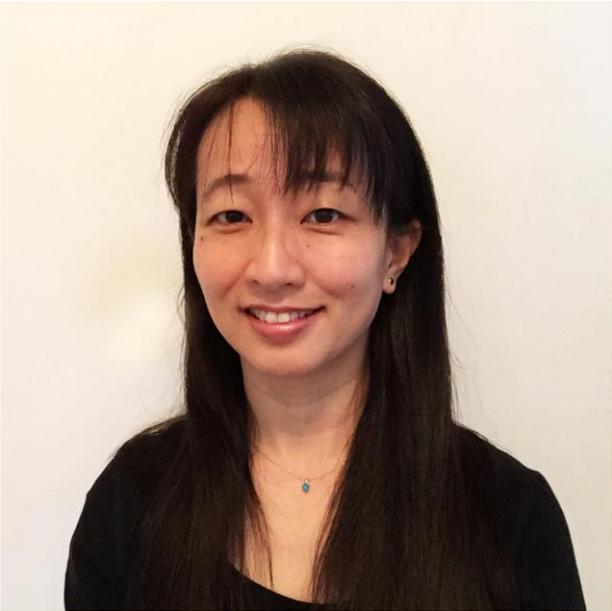
At present, she is developing several curatorial projects. This coming fall, she will be curating a solo show by Brandon Ballengée, an environmental activist and biologist, for the art gallery at Rhode Island College. And she is developing a project with Gilda Zwerman, professor of sociology at Old Westbury, on the history of and current issues in the Brooklyn community of Brownsville.

## Summer 2018

No summer courses are offered in 2018. Another option is an internship or an independent study course. These options require advance planning. Email Dr. Quirke at [quirkec@oldwestbury.edu](mailto:quirkec@oldwestbury.edu).

## Unsettling the Nation— Ryoko Yamamoto

A primary research interest of [Dr. Ryoko Yamamoto](#), has been international migration. For Yamamoto, "A nation is one of the most salient institutions in a modern configuration of the world. I have been interested in studying the making, maintaining, and changing of social boundaries and the role of nation in it. International migration, by definition, unsettles a sense of nation and national boundary, and thus offers unique opportunity to examine tacit assumptions associated with them."



#### Yamamoto, cont. from p.2

Dr. Yamamoto, who began teaching at Old Westbury in 2008, and is an Associate Professor in the Sociology Department, began her studies at the Sophia University in Tokyo, where she received her undergraduate degree in journalism. She shifted her focus to sociology, and was awarded a masters degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and her PhD at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Dr. Yamamoto's dissertation focused on the criminalization of migrants, and related publications can be found in *Crime, Media and Culture* and *Sociology Compass*.

Dr. Yamamoto's perspective is broad, informed by her own migration path. She states "I think looking at more than one country saves me from falling into an easy cultural explanation. Racism is not an American disease; it is everywhere. Racial stereotyping and the criminalization of a particular racial group exist both in the US and Japan (and beyond), but how race is understood and categorized, and what expressions are socially

acceptable vary depending on social, political and historical contexts." She believes a comparative perspective identifies how "racism is about power, not about a characteristic of any particular group."

Recently awarded a coveted Abe Fellowship for a new direction in her scholarship, Dr. Yamamoto's empirical focus has shifted, as she is "currently studying a link between education migration and high-skilled migration." The Abe Fellowship is sponsored by the Social Science Research Council and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership "to encourage international multidisciplinary research on topics of pressing global concern. The program seeks to foster the development of a new generation of researchers who are interested in policy-relevant topics of long-range importance and who are willing to become key members of a bilateral and global research network built around such topics." Dr. Yamamoto's work advances such objectives. She is "studying post-graduation trajectories of international students in English-medium degree programs in Japan." She has almost completed a ten-month stint in Tokyo to interview international students about their life histories and post-graduation plans, and attend career seminars and job fairs for international job seekers. She will conduct follow-up interviews with these international students next year.

## **Capstones**

If you've completed 15 credits of your MALS degree and submitted a draft Degree Plan, it's time to start planning your Capstone Project. An internship or a thesis are options. Internships are available with many of Old Westbury's many community and non-profit partners, local and national organizations, and government offices. Many are competitive. This year students have completed internships at the Old Westbury Women's Center, at an upstate Community Mental Health Center, and at the North Hempstead County Department of Public Safety.

Advanced Planning is the key to a successful internship placement. The two course Thesis Option also requires advance planning, beginning with the selection of a faculty mentor. For more information, speak to Prof. Carol Quirke, [quirkec@oldwestbury.edu](mailto:quirkec@oldwestbury.edu), or after June 15<sup>th</sup>, to Prof. Amanda Frisken, [friskena@oldwestbury.edu](mailto:friskena@oldwestbury.edu)

# Dr. Amanda Frisken returns to MALS Directorship in Fall 2018

Dr. Amanda Frisken returns to lead the Masters of Liberal Studies program in the fall of 2018. Author, cultural historian, and former chair of the American Studies Department, Dr. Frisken founded the MALS program in conjunction with faculty from other departments in the School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Frisken is the author of *Victoria Woodhull's Sexual Revolution* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004), and has been featured on NPR's *All Things Considered* for her revelatory study of America's first female candidate for the U.S. presidency. This summer she, along with Prof. Jermaine Archer, will serve as Institute Faculty to the National Endowment for the Humanities funded, American Social History Project's "The Visual Culture of the Civil War and Its Aftermath." Dr. Frisken has devoted her sabbatical to her current book project, tentatively titled, "Sensationalism and the Rise of Visual Journalism." As she describes it, "Sensational news reporting, with its distortion of facts for effect, took hold of U.S. media on the cusp of the modern period, and images became the form's defining characteristic. Between 1870 and 1900, publishers built on decades of innovation in visual communication to translate current events into emotion-laden pictures. Newspaper producers exploited the power of sensational imagery to increase circulation, expand revenues, attract constituencies, and influence political culture." Dr. Frisken's intersectional study closely analyzes "illustrated news images during episodes of social and political controversy, to explore the evolution of the sensational style. As they refined the art of visual journalism, producers communicated—and manipulated—racial, class, and gender anxieties in a complex dialogue with audiences." Dr. Frisken believes "the visual foundation for modern journalism" can be found in their efforts.



## Fall 2018 MALS courses

Course #	CRN #	Course Title	Professor's Name	Days/Time
<b>LI 6000</b>		<b>Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies*</b> <b>*required for incoming MALS students</b>	<b>Dr. Amanda Frisken</b>	<b>Th 4:45-7</b>
EL6510	5590	Foundations of US Literature	Dr. Christopher Hobson	T 4:45-7 pm
EL6520	5591	Foundations of English Literature	Dr. Linda Camarasana	Th 4:45-7 pm
EL6550	5662	Rhetoric and Composition* This course requires instructors and director's approval, and is relevant to teachers.	Dr. Jody Cardinal	M 4:45-7 pm
EL7500	5663	Literature in the Classroom	Dr. Nicole Sieben	M 4:45-7 pm
HI6510	5518	Topics in US History/Struggles for Justice	Dr. Jermaine Archer	W 4:45-7 pm
HI6530	5605	Economics: Theories, Tools and Debates	Dr. Thomas DelGuidice	M 4:45-7 pm
HI6565	5519	Topics in the History of India	Dr. Judith Walsh	M 4:45-7 pm
HI 7500	5604	Questioning Global History	Dr. Xavier Marechaux	W 4:45-7 pm
MH 6120	5611	Psychopathology	Instructor TBA	M 1-3:15 pm
ML6510	5502	Structure of Spanish (in Spanish)	Dr. Kathleen O'Connor-Bater	M 4:45-7 pm
ML6520	5503	Masterpieces of Hispanic Literature (in Spanish)	Dr. Ruben Gonzalez	Online course
ML6810	5539	Peninsula and Latin American Art (in Spanish)	Dr. Fernando Guerrero	T 4:45-7 pm
ML 7500	5540	Culture and Literature for Classroom Instruction (in Spanish)	Dr. Maria Carolina Bustamente	Online course
<b>SY6320</b>	<b>6131</b>	<b>International Migration (MALS Course)</b>	<b>Dr. Ryoko Yamamoto</b>	<b>T 7:15-9:30</b>
<b>VA6330</b>	<b>6361</b>	<b>Curating (MALS Course)</b>	<b>Dr. Hyewon Yi</b>	<b>M 4:45-7</b>