Towards Trans-Pacific Social Justice:  
Women and Protest in Filipino American History

Although Filipino women have garnered media and scholarly attention as overseas workers in countries throughout the world, they have remained largely invisible in Asian American history. In this talk, Catherine Ceniza Choy argues that both Philippine and U.S. national historiographies obscure Filipino American women’s lives. Focusing on the transnational activism of Filipino American women who protested martial law in the Philippines and racial discrimination in the United States in the 1970s, Ceniza Choy reconceptualizes our understanding of the ant-martial law movement and the Asian American Movement by foregrounding Filipino American women’s commitment to social justice on both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

Catherine Ceniza Choy is an associate professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of the award-winning book, Empire of Care: Nursing and Migration in Filipino American History (co-published by Duke University Press and Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2003), which explored how and why the Philippines became the world’s leading exporter of nurses in the late twentieth century. She is beginning a second book project that will focus on the history of the international adoption of Asian children in the United States.

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