# Department of Asian American Studies College of Ethnic Studies

**San Francisco State University**

**Position title:** Assistant Professor in Asian American Studies

**Specialization**: Japanese American/Nikkei Studies

**Start date:** August 2025

# Position Summary:

The position is in the Department of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University. SF State is a member of the California State University system and serves a diverse student body of approximately 25,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The University seeks to promote appreciation of scholarship, freedom and human diversity through excellence in instruction and intellectual accomplishment.

The Department of Asian American Studies offers an exciting opportunity for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position specializing in Japanese American/Nikkei Studies, as the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Distinguished Endowed Chair in Nikkei Studies. This position was made possible by a generous donation by the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Foundation to support the advancement of Nikkei Studies in the nation's first Department of Asian American Studies located in the historic College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University. (Nikkei refers to people of Japanese ancestry outside of Japan or descendant of emigrants of the Japanese archipelago.)

We seek an innovative teacher/scholar/researcher/activist with training in the humanities, social sciences, or arts with a focus on Japanese American/Nikkei Studies. We are especially interested in qualified candidates who can, through their research, student-centered teaching, and service to campus and community, 1) meet the expectations of the Takahashi Foundation which includes teaching interdisciplinary courses in Japanese American/Nikkei Studies with the aim of increasing awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the historical and contemporary experiences of Japanese Americans, the Nikkei diaspora, and ethnic minorities in Japan as well as studying the intersectionality and evolution of the diasporas, and 2) contribute and bolster the founding principles of Asian American Studies: self-determination and community empowerment.

The position includes a full-time faculty workload per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the California State University and the California Faculty Association. The workload primarily includes teaching assigned undergraduate and graduate courses in Asian American Studies and conducting an active ongoing scholarship program which advances knowledge in the field of one’s specialty.

# About the Department:

Born out of the historic 1968-69 Third World Strike, the Asian American Studies Department is both the oldest and largest in the nation. Asian American Studies at SF State has the nation’s most comprehensive program of study on the Asian American experience, with a commitment to serving our students, the academy, and most important, Asian American communities. It houses a minor, a major, and an MA program. Asian American Studies Department resides within the only College of Ethnic Studies in the nation and was founded on principles of community-based research and teaching, student leadership and activism, and the

self-determination of communities of color.<http://aas.sfsu.edu/>

# About the University:

# The mission of San Francisco State University is to create and maintain an environment for learning that promotes respect for and appreciation of scholarship, freedom, human diversity, and the cultural mosaic of the City of San Francisco and the Bay Area; to promote excellence in instruction and intellectual accomplishment; and to provide broadly accessible higher education for residents of the region and state, as well as the nation and world.

# About the Henri and Tomoye Foundation:

# The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation continues to be

# dedicated to supporting the Japanese American community and fostering friendly

# relations with Japan with values of:

# • Cultural Preservation: Preserving and celebrating the rich cultural heritage

# of the Japanese American community, with an emphasis on the arts and

# education.

# • Telling Japanese American Stories: Encouraging the telling of Japanese

# American history as told by Japanese Americans including survivors and

# descendants of WWII incarceration to expand the understanding of the

# Japanese American experience without censure.

# • Broad Accessibility: Reaching a wide audience to have the most

# meaningful impact into the future

# The position includes a full-time faculty workload per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the California State University and the California Faculty Association.

# Responsibilities:

# The position requires undergraduate teaching in Asian American Studies, mentoring and advising graduate and/or undergraduate students, developing an active ongoing research program in Japanese American/Nikkei Studies, and ongoing committee and service assignments. Detailed position description is available at: <http://ethnicstudies.sfsu.edu/content/faculty-openings>].

# The scholarship may address a range of topics in the areas of Japanese American/Nikkei Studies. Preference is for applicants with a focus in literature, performance arts, and/or critical cultural studies.

# Additional responsibilities include, but are not limited to, productive participation on departmental, college, and university-wide committees; mentoring and advising graduate and undergraduate students; holding regular office hours; curriculum development and improvement, particularly with regard to student learning outcomes; and remaining current in both subject area and teaching methodologies.

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# Required Qualifications:

# Ph.D. or M.F.A., or terminal degree in the humanities or social sciences. Terminal degree must be completed by the first day of employment.

# Record of working and communicating effectively with colleagues and students

# Focus in Japanese American/Nikkei Studies

# Extensive teaching experience as an instructor at the university level.

# Experience in teaching, advising, mentoring, research, community service and/or social justice that has prepared them to contribute to our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

# Can teach courses in lower-division Asian American Studies and upper-division courses such as Japanese American/Nikkei Studies such as AAS 330 (Nikkei in the U.S.), AAS 332 (Japanese American Art and Literature), AAS 333 (Japanese American Identities), and/or AAS 338 (Okinawan American Heritage and Culture).

# Experience in building partnerships related to teaching, research, or creative works with Nikkei communities.

# Contribution to the field of Japanese American/Nikkei Studies by conducting research in one's field of interest and presenting findings in peer-reviewed journals, books, or professional conferences.

# Preferred:

# Focus in literature, performance arts, and/or critical cultural studies.

# Demonstrated, through research, teaching, and service to campus and/or community, contribution and advancement of the founding principles of the Asian American Studies: self-determination and community empowerment.

# Demonstrated development of course materials for teaching Japanese American/Nikkei Studies with Asian American Studies focus and linked to student learning outcomes at the university level and at other levels of education such as high school, middle school, and elementary school.

# Undergraduate teaching experience with a large, diverse student body or in a multicultural setting.

# Experience with multiple teaching and learning modalities, including remote.

# Knowledge of principles and methods for curriculum design, instruction of individuals and groups, and assessment of learning.

# Demonstrated a student-centered approach in their pedagogy.

# Engaged with critical concerns in the discipline and a publication record that demonstrates a sustained research focus on Japanese American Studies/Nikkei Studies­­­­.

# Demonstrated a record of community involvement related to Nikkei communities.

# Rank and Salary:

# Assistant Professor. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. The California State University (CSU) provides generous health, retirement, and other benefits.

# Application:

Submit (1) Cover letter (relating your experience to the required qualifications), (2) a current CV, (3) diversity statement\*, (4)teaching evaluations, (5) a statement on how your teaching and scholarship align with the mission of Asian American Studies and with the expectations for the Distinguished Endowed Chair in Nikkei Studies, (6) a sample of scholarly papers, (7) teaching philosophy regarding pedagogical approaches with a focus in Asian American Studies, (8) description of research interests, and (9) names and contact information of three references at [https://careers.pageuppeople.com/873/sf/en-us/listing/](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcareers.pageuppeople.com%2F873%2Fsf%2Fen-us%2Flisting%2F&data=04%7C01%7Croehrman%40sfsu.edu%7C926332064d124447f0d208d94d3f5a91%7Cd8fbe335822c41a987747f16709aac9f%7C0%7C0%7C637625756754419668%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Pjc2U7R1tl%2F8Kxybnay%2BNZ8CRKtC1Bk95%2F6uJquOPAg%3D&reserved=0). Letters of recommendation upon request at a later date.

\*No more than 500 words that provides an understanding of your capabilities to address diversity in support of SFSU’s diverse student and community populations. Please provide specific examples of how you have addressed diversity in your teaching, research, and service.

# Review of applications will continue until the position is filled. Priority will be given to applications filled by January 3, 2025.

# San Francisco State is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against persons on the basis of race, religion, color, ancestry, age, disability, genetic information, gender, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, medical condition, National origin, sex, sexual orientation, covered veteran status, or any other protected status. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified applicants with disabilities who self-disclose by contacting the Senior Human Resources Manager.