

# Natalya D. Rodriguez

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## EDUCATION

- Expected 2028 Ph.D. Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies,  
University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2021 M.A. Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures,  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2013 B.A. Department of Modern and Classical Languages  
Wheaton College, IL

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 Fulbright Grant Extension, Japan-United States Educational Exchange Promotion  
Foundation (Fulbright Foundation) (\$7,000 awarded)
- 2024 Fulbright IIE Fellowship (\$32,450 awarded)
- 2024 Ogawa Summer Internship Program Grant, Department of East Asian Languages and  
Cultural Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara (Declined)
- 2023 Summer Research Grant, Graduate Student Association, University of California,  
Santa Barbara (\$1,250 awarded)
- 2021 Doctoral Scholars Fellowship, The Graduate Division, University of California,  
Santa Barbara (\$96,000 awarded)
- 2021 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Center for East Asian and Pacific  
Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Declined)
- 2020 Graduate Research Fellowship, Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures,  
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (\$2,000 awarded)
- 2019 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Center for East Asian and Pacific  
Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (\$15,000 awarded)
- 2019 Graduate College Fellowship, The Graduate College, University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign (\$75,000 awarded)
- 2009 Presidential Scholarship, Wheaton College, IL (\$4,000 awarded)
- 2009 Robert Byrd Scholarship, Wheaton College, IL (\$3,000 awarded)

## AWARDS & HONORS

- 2020 Ralph Tyler Award: Best Japanese Language Student, Department of East Asian  
Languages and Cultures, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (\$500  
awarded)

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Papers

- 2026 “Embracing the Land: Interweaving Legacies of ‘Resistance by Remaining’ in the  
Miyako Islands, Okinawa, Japan.” Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies 28<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Graduate Student Conference, UCLA, May 18-19.
- 2025 “Seizing the Surplus: Creating Infrastructures of Care through Intangible Cultural  
Heritage Conservation in the Miyako Islands, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan.” The Society  
for East Asian Anthropology and Seoul National University Department of Anthropology  
2025 Conference, Seoul, Korea, July 14-16.

## **INVITED TALKS**

- 2026 “Put the World to Rights: Visions of Change in Handmade Textile Production in the Miyako Islands, Okinawa, Japan.” *Arts Revolt Forum!* University of California, Santa Barbara, March 10.
- 2025 “Following the Threads of Miyako Textiles” [In Japanese]. Public talk at the 2025 Miyakojima Textile Exhibit *Connect to the Future*, Miyako Textile Business Cooperative, Miyakojima, Japan, November 1.
- 2022 “Kimono on the Global Stage.” Guest lecture in “Anthropology of Japan,” Westmont College, CA, October 4.
- 2022 “Kimono on the Global Stage.” Guest lecture in “East Asian Traditions: Modern,” University of California, Santa Barbara, September 7.
- 2022 “Kimono’s Global Influence.” Guest lecture in “Popular Culture of Japan,” University of California, Santa Barbara, July 14.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of California, Santa Barbara**

- TA, First-Year Japanese Language (Fall 2022, Winter 2023, Spring 2023)  
TA, East Asian Traditions: Modern (Summer 2022)  
TA, Asian American Gender and Sexuality (Spring 2022)

### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

- TA, Pop Cultures of East Asia (Fall 2020)

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

- 2021 Research Assistant, Community-Engaged Ethnography Initiative, Department of Anthropology
- 2020 Research Assistant, Digital & Public Humanities Project *Yellow Peril Redux: From Coolies to Cars, Trade Wars, and Coronavirus*, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Consulate-General of Japan, Chicago, IL**

- 2018-2019 Second Assistant to the Consul-General  
2016-2019 Coordinator in General Affairs

### **Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, Imabari City, Ehime Prefecture, Japan**

- 2013-2016 Assistant Language Teacher

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

### **University of California, Santa Barbara**

May 2024

Panel Moderator, “Transnational Entanglements of Nationalism and Colonialism,” UCSB Graduate Student Conference: Research on East Asia

September 2022-August 2023

Convener, Graduate East Asian Research Society, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

## **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

August 2020-May 2021

Graduate Student Representative, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

March 2020-May 2021

Board Member, Society of East Asian Studies—Urbana-Champaign

October 2019-May 2020

Founding Member, UIUC Japanese Film Club

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

2022 “Kimono’s Global Influence.” Talk at Casa Con Digital Conference, December 16.

2021 “Yellow Peril Redux: Reflections and Actions.” Panelist at the Society of Heart’s Delight (Yuyanshe) Fireside Talk, CA, May 2.

## **LANGUAGES**

English: Native

Japanese: Advanced Professional Proficiency (JLPT N1 Certificate, July 2016)

Spanish: General Professional Proficiency (reading, writing, listening)  
Limited Working Proficiency (speaking)

Korean: Limited Working Proficiency

Chinese: Elementary Proficiency