

Vietnamese Revolutionary Women, Misrecognition, and Global Solidarity

Thy Phu

Whitney Bicentennial Visiting Associate Professor of Canadian Studies, Yale University

During the war in Vietnam, the figure of the revolutionary Vietnamese woman emerged as a potent symbol for different groups within the divided nation and abroad. This talk explores the contexts for the emergence of this figure in photography and the construction of its cultural meanings, by focusing on its deployment by three groups: the Vietnam Women's Union, the Women's Solidarity Movement of Viet Nam, and women's movements in Canada and the US. By tracing the photographic circulation of this figure, this talk explores the ways that these groups, in molding this figure to suit their own ideological aspirations, misrecognized the revolutionary Vietnamese woman, and considers how misrecognition serves not as obstacle to, but as the basis of, establishing solidarity.

Thy Phu completed her PhD at UC Berkeley and is Associate Professor in the Department of English and Writing Studies at Western University, where she is also a core faculty member of the American Studies program. She is presently Whitney Bicentennial Visiting Associate Professor of Canadian Studies at the MacMillan Center. Her research explores race, gender, visual culture, and transpacific critique, and has been funded by fellowships from the Mellon Foundation and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. She is the author of *Picturing Model Citizens: Civility in Asian American Visual Culture* and co-editor of *Feeling Photography*. She is currently working on three projects: "Warring Visions," a study of Vietnamese photography and the American war; "Cold War Camera," a comparative analysis of the visual mediation of the global Cold War; and "The Family Camera Network," a collaboration that collects and preserve domestic images and oral histories about them as a resource for shaping new narratives about migration.

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12:00 Noon

Room 203, Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue