

# The Institute of American Cultures

American Indian Studies Center \* Asian American Studies Center

Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies \* Chicano Studies Research Center

## **“Navigating (In)visibility in the Cham American Diaspora”**

**Asiroh Cham, IAC Pre-Doctoral Fellow**

**Thursday, March 8, 2012**

**12:30PM-2:00PM**

**Charles E. Young Research Library, Presentation Room**

please RSVP at [www.aasc.ucla.edu/archives/eventrsvp.asp](http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/archives/eventrsvp.asp) or  
[aascrsvp@aasc.ucla.edu](mailto:aascrsvp@aasc.ucla.edu)

The Cham’s complex heritage is often overlooked in both Southeast Asian and Asian American Studies despite a documented presence in Southeast Asia for over a millennium and over thirty years of Cham war refugees living in the United States. The Cham have historical ties to the Champa Kingdom which occupied what is now central and South Vietnam. While most of the Cham population is concentrated in the ancestral territories of Vietnam and neighboring Cambodia; the United States is home to the largest Cham community outside of Asia. This research project focuses on the Cham American diaspora in California, by exploring the ways that they negotiate (in)visibility and recognition in their everyday lives. By collecting oral history narratives from the Cham community, this research project engages with the politics of recognition and issues of (dis)empowerment, indigeneity, ‘statelessness,’ identity, and historical memory.