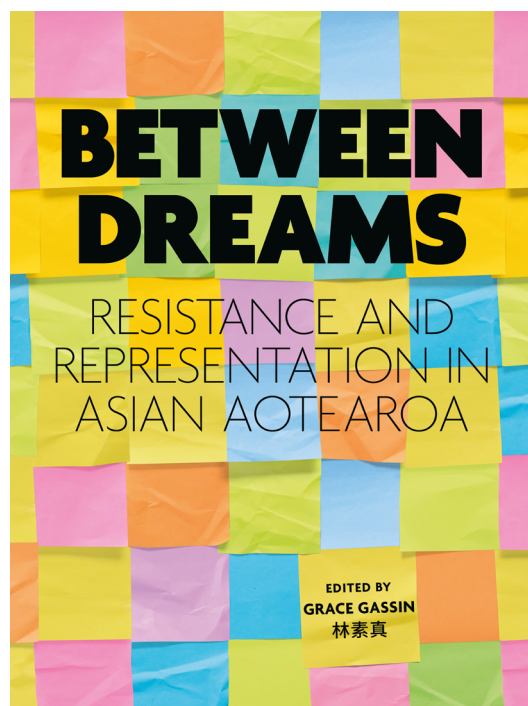


Between Dreams

Resistance and Representation in Asian Aotearoa

EDITED BY GRACE GASSIN



This landmark collection presents fresh, progressive perspectives on what it means to be 'Asian' in Aotearoa.

Editor and Curator Asian New Zealand Histories at Te Papa Grace Gassin draws together journalists, researchers, activists, filmmakers and political commentators to relate experiences of living between cultures and to explore the legacies of New Zealand's diverse Asian diaspora histories.

Featuring a broad range of taonga from the museum's collections, this timely book brings these social histories into focus, revealing shared themes of resistance and representation that offer ways to reckon with the past and imagine new futures.

In 2021, the release of the Aotearoa New Zealand Histories draft curriculum to be taught in secondary schools generated a storm of debate. This book is a response to that.

Contributions are by: Umi Asaka, Mohan Dutta, Christopher Fung, Rebekah Jaung, Tze Ming Mok, Keith Ng, Sun-Min Elle Park, Sapna Samant, Balamohan Shingade, Isaac Te Awa (Ngāpuhi, Kāti Māmoe, Kāi Tahu, Waitaha) and Sidney Wong.

Between Dreams aims to offer a new history of Asian Aotearoa by breaking away from colonial framings of ethnic histories and 'model minority' narratives. Grace Gassin explains: "Histories connecting us with Asia and relating to people with whakapapa linking them to the region are still engaged with in very colonial ways. These include uncritically partnering with problematic institutions and groups focused on Asia that pay lip service to diversity and equality while actively promoting the spread of oppressive discourses, and developing 'multicultural' collections that encourage colonial understandings of concepts like 'Chinese' or 'Indian' as singular and unchanging." Museums are only relevant when serving our communities in ways that matter and are beneficial to them. Therefore, on the theme of 'resistance' Grace believes, "we need to do a much better job of identifying where we are upholding and perpetuating colonial ways of working and thinking, and actively resist that ... I hope *Between Dreams* will help to encourage and inspire readers to take a generous and expansive view of what Asian New Zealand histories and contemporary stories can look like – to seek out histories that go beyond the now well-worn narratives of the 'grateful migrant' or 'successful entrepreneur'."

In terms of 'representation', Grace explains that working on the project she learnt that although multiculturalism can sound progressive in theory and celebrating many cultures is better than just one or two, "in practice though, multiculturalism often allows one or two powerful cultural 'leaders' to lay claim to being the 'real' and 'authentic' representative of a particular community ... sometimes at the deliberate expense of more marginalised members of that population."

The variety of contributors are key to this book. Grace says she and her colleagues reached out to "individuals we knew would have something powerful to say, who could write, held valuable knowledge, and who were passionate about the overall vision proposed for the book."

Individual essays will be well suited for potential serialisation.

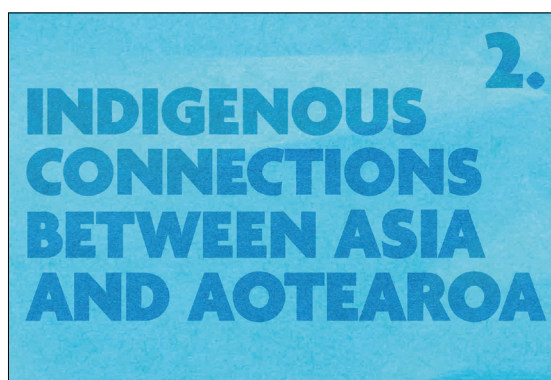
Media Preview from Te Papa Press

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Dr Grace Gassin (林素真) is Curator Asian New Zealand Histories at Te Papa. Raised in her mother's Malaysian Chinese family, Grace proudly identifies as a second-generation Chinese (Hokkien) New Zealander of mixed heritage. Grace's overarching focus is on highlighting the diverse historical and contemporary experiences of New Zealand's many Asian diaspora communities. Her wide-ranging interests also encompass the politics of inclusion and interpretation that frame our understandings of Asian diaspora histories, and transnational dimensions of Asian Australasian diaspora experiences. She is also a committed delegate for E tū union.

PUBLISHED BY TE PAPA PRESS | ON SALE 14 MAY 2026 | RRP \$50

Contents	
Preface	4
Introduction: Stuck in the middle with you	10
1. OLD STORIES, NEW PERSPECTIVES	18
Chinese New Zealand history and the Western narrative	18
2. INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ASIA & AOTEAROA	31
A Taiwanese and Maori whānau's journey into the past	31
3. NEW ZEALAND'S ASIAN PACIFIC IMMIGRANCES	58
Big trouble in little Saigon: Vietnamese with international connections	58
4. ASIAN & WORKERS' RIGHTS IN AOTEAROA	129
5. ASIAN NEW ZEALANDERS IN GLOBAL MOVEMENTS	206
6. ASIAN & WORKERS' RIGHTS IN AOTEAROA	129
7. AT THE INTERSECTIONS	168
Queer Asians: Beyond identity	168
8. ASIAN NEW ZEALANDERS IN GLOBAL MOVEMENTS	206
A call from the farthest transport	206
9. ASIAN NEW ZEALANDERS IN GLOBAL MOVEMENTS	206
10. ASIAN NEW ZEALANDERS IN GLOBAL MOVEMENTS	206



THE EDITOR IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW / EXTRACTS & IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Look inside *Between Dreams: Resistance and Representation in Asian Aotearoa*.

<https://tinyurl.com/mvuujmub>