ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

THE HIGH STAKES OF MOTHERING FOR ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN

RACE, REPRESENTATION AND REPRODUCTIVE POLITICS

MILI ANN KANG

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30
@ 4:30PM
CRANE ROOM
(PAIGE HALL, UPPER CAMPUS)

MILI ANN KANG IS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF WOMEN, GENDER, SEXUALITY STUDIES AND AFFILIATED FACULTY IN SOCIOLOGY AND ASIAN/ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST. HER CURRENT RESEARCH IS ON THE RACIAL POLITICS OF MOTHERING. SHE IS AN AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR, WHOSE POPULAR WORK HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN NEWSWEEK, WOMEN’S REVIEW OF BOOKS, HUFFINGTON POST AND MERIDIANS.

The publication of Amy Chua’s 2011 bestseller, Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother served as a lightning rod for anxieties and animosities toward Asian American mothers as producers of high-achieving children who threaten to nudge others out of elite schools, musical competitions, and ultimately, the American dream. While these issues have received much attention in popular discourse, this presentation focuses on the actual mothering practices, beliefs and experiences of Asian American mothers and how these women negotiate contradictory pressures and aspirations for themselves and their families.