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SCHOLARS — IN THE SQUARE —



Simi Kang

University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign

Wednesday 20 May 2026
12:00pm-1:00pm
CLE B017



River, Field, Swamp, & Sea: Food as Practice

Food is an essential part of how we relate to the world. For many living in diaspora, food becomes a tether to practices and ways of knowing that might otherwise be lost—whether by force or forgetting. Simi Kang traces stories of reconnecting to religious and communal practices in diaspora through the material and reproductive labour of setting the table. In these daily rituals we see the overlap of speculation, tradition, belief, and environmental justice.

Simi Kang is a mixed white and Sikh settler educator, scholar, and artist born on the unceded Dakota lands of Mni Sota Mokoce. They work with Southeast Asian fishers to build environmentally just futures in Bvlbancha (coastal Louisiana) and interrogate the role of resilience in climate and immigration policy. Kang is an Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



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