

Curriculum Vitae

**NARI RHEE**

April 2012

**EDUCATION**

---

- Ph.D., 2007**      **University of California, Berkeley- Geography**  
Dissertation Title: *Searching for Working Class Politics: Labor, Community and Urban Power in Silicon Valley*  
Dissertation Committee: Richard Walker (chair), Ruth Gilmore and Margaret Weir  
Areas of Specialization: Urban Political Economy, Labor Studies and Economic Geography
- M.A., 1998**      **University of California, Los Angeles - Urban Planning**  
Area of Specialization: Regional and International Development
- B.A., 1996**      **University of California, Santa Cruz - Anthropology**

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

---

- 09/2010 – present**      **Associate Academic Specialist (50% appt since October 2011)**  
**UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment/Center for Labor Research and Education**
- Policy research and education on public and private pensions and retirement security, especially among low- and middle-wage workers.
  - Development of a feasible state policy model to increase retirement savings outcomes among private sector workers, in partnership with policymakers and stakeholders.
- 01/2010 – 09/2010**      **Research Consultant**  
**Oakland, CA**
- Analysis of California state and local government budget and revenue issues.
- 01/2010 – 09/ 2010**      **Visiting Scholar**  
**UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment/Center for Labor Research and Education**
- Policy research on public sector workforce issues.
  - Academic research on Silicon Valley culture and politics.
- 09/2007 – 09/2009**      **Postdoctoral Researcher**  
**UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment/Center for Labor Research and Education**
- Applied policy research on workforce development in human services, incl. qualitative evaluation of HR practices in a developmental disabilities services organization.
  - Academic research on low wage worker organizing in the care industries.

**07/1998 – 06/2006**      **Graduate Student Researcher** (multiple appointments)  
**UC Berkeley Department of Geography; Institute for Research on Labor & Employment**

- Quantitative and qualitative analysis of historical and contemporary patterns of development California and the San Francisco Bay Area.
- Policy-relevant research on housing, jobs, and poverty in the Bay Area.

**01/1997 – 04/1998**      **Research Associate**  
**Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy** (formerly TIDC)

- Media coordinator for a labor-community campaign to enact a Living Wage Ordinance in the City of Los Angeles.
- Applied research on local government contracting and leasing practices.

#### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

**Winter 2011**      **Lecturer**  
**UC Davis Department of Human & Community Development, Community & Regional Development Program**

- Graduate seminar, “The Political Economy of Urban & Regional Development”

**1999 - 2007**      **Graduate Student Instructor**  
**UC Berkeley**

- “American Architecture in Depression and War,” Andrew Shanken, Department of American Studies, Spring 2007
- “Economic Geography of the Industrial World,” Richard Walker, Department of Geography, Fall 1999 and Fall 2002
- “California and the Pacific Rim,” Julie Guthman, Department of Geography, Spring 2002
- “History and Theory of Development,” Gillian Hart, International and Area Studies Teaching Program, Spring 2001

#### **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

---

2008              UC Labor & Employment Research Fund Research Grant (Co-PI)

2005-2006        UC Dissertation-Year Fellowship (Declined)

2005-2006        UC Chancellor’s Dissertation-Year Fellowship

2003-2004        National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant

2003-2004        UC Institute for Labor and Employment Graduate Fellowship

1998-2001        UC Chancellor’s Opportunity Fellowship

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Refereed Publications

- Rhee, Nari and Carol Zabin. 2009. "Aggregating Dispersed Workers: Union Organizing in the "Care" Industries," *Geoforum* 40(2), 969–979.

### Non-refereed Academic Publications

- Rhee, Nari (Ed.). 2011. *Meeting California's Retirement Security Challenge*. Berkeley: UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education. October.
- Allegretto, Sylvia, Nari Rhee, Joelle Saad-Lessler and Lauren Schmitz. 2011. "California Workers' Retirement Prospects." Pp. 21-41 in Nari Rhee (ed.), *Meeting California's Retirement Security Challenge*. Berkeley: UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education.
- Rhee, Nari and Carol Zabin. 2009. "The Social Benefits of Unionization in the Long-Term Care Sector." Pp. 83-95 in John Logan (ed.), *Academics on Employee Free Choice: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Labor Law Reform*. Berkeley: UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education.
- Rhee, Nari and Julie Sadler. 2007. "Building an Inclusive City: Labor-Community Coalitions and the Struggle for Urban Power in San Jose." Pp. 178-192 in Lowell Turner and Daniel B. Cornfield (eds.), *Labor in the New Urban Battlegrounds: Local Solidarity in a Global Economy*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University/ILR Press.
- Byrd, Barbara and Nari Rhee. 2004. "Building Regional Power: The South Bay Labor Council in Silicon Valley." *WorkingUSA: The Journal of Labor and Society* 8(2), 131-154.

### Book Reviews

- Rhee, Nari. 2005. REVIEW: Robert Gottlieb, Mark Vallianatos, Regina M. Freer and Peter Dreier. *The Next Los Angeles: Struggle for a Livable City*. Los Angeles: University of California Press. *Labor Studies Journal* 30(3), 112-113.
- Rhee, Nari. 2000. REVIEW: A. E. G. Jonas and D. Wilson, Editors, *The Urban Growth Machine: Critical Perspectives Two Decades Later*. Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press, 1999. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 25 (3), 398-400.

### Research and Policy Reports

- Rhee, Nari. 2012. "Black and Latino Retirement (In)Security." Research Brief. UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education. February.
- Rhee, Nari. 2012. "Meeting California's Retirement Security Challenge through a State Sponsored Retirement Plan: Policy Design Challenges and Options." White paper. UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education. February.
- Rhee, Nari. 2012. "Potential Impact of Governor Brown's Pension Reform Plan on Low Wage Workers." White paper. UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education. January.
- Rhee, Nari. 2010. "Analysis of Proposed Ballot Initiatives for City of Redding Retirement Benefit Reductions." Briefing Paper. UC Davis Center for Regional Change. February.
- Rhee, Nari and Dan Acland. 2005. *The Limits of Prosperity: Growth, Inequality and Poverty in the North Bay*. Santa Rosa, CA: New Economy Working Solutions. March.

- Rhee, Nari. 2003. *Affordable Housing for Everyone: Solutions to the Sonoma County Housing Crisis*. Santa Rosa, CA: SEIU Local 707 and New Economy, Working Solutions.

### Brief Articles

- Nari Rhee. 2012 (in proof). "The Retirement Crisis Facing Blacks and Latinos: Why So Many People of Color Retire Poor, and What Can Be Done About It." *Next Avenue*, [www.nextavenue.org](http://www.nextavenue.org).
- Ken Jacobs and Nari Rhee. 2011. "Raising the Retirement Age Increases Inequality." Op-Ed. *Sacramento Bee*, December 1. URL: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/12/01/4091356/raising-the-retirement-age-increases.html>.
- Rhee, Nari. 2004. "Living Wage Jobs and Quality of Life: The Community Benefits Initiative in San Jose." *Perspectives on Work, the Magazine of the Labor and Employment Research Association (LERA)/Online Companion*, Fall. URL: <http://www.lera.uiuc.edu/Pubs/Perspectives/onlinecompanion/fall04-rhee.html>.
- Rhee, Nari. 2003. "Action plan for county housing crisis." Op-Ed. *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, March 20, P. B7.

### CONFERENCES

---

#### Selected Conference Presentations

- "Filling the Private Sector Pension Gap." Invited presentation at LA Trustees Round Up 2012, Los Angeles, CA, February 28, 2012.
- "California Retirement Security." Invited presentation at the 2012 California State Democratic Caucus Policy Conference, Sacramento, CA, February 8, 2012.
- "What Does Labor Bring to the Politics of Place? Unions and the Right to the City Movement in Silicon Valley." Invited talk at *Whose City? Labor and the Right to the City Movements*, UC Santa Cruz, CA, February 26, 2011.
- "Organizing Privatized Labor: Public Services Unionism in the 'Care' Industries." Presented at the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Las Vegas, NV, March 23, 2009.
- "Organizing Community in Silicon Valley." Presented at the 18th Annual California Studies Conference, *Changing Climates: Class, Culture and Politics in an Era of Global Warming*. Berkeley, CA, April 11-13, 2008.
- "Social Unionism Redux: SEIU Local 715 and Human Service Organizing in Silicon Valley." Conference presentation. Presented at the 103rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, San Francisco, CA, April 21, 2007.
- Panel - "Labor & Community Organizing in the Bay Area." Presented at the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, San Francisco, CA, April 20, 2007.
- "Downtown Redevelopment and the Urbanization of Economic Justice Politics in the 'Capital of Silicon Valley'." Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, December 3, 2005

- “The Political Imaginary of Working Families.” Presented at the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Denver, CO, April, 2005.
- Panel - “Building Regional Power: Case studies from the Building Regional Power research project.” AFL-CIO and United Association for Labor Education Annual Joint Education Conference, Chicago, April 13-15, 2004.
- “Local Policy Reforms and Labor's Electoral Clout: Toward a Working-Class Politics in Silicon Valley?” Conference paper. How Class Works – 2004 Conference, Stony Brook, New York, June 10-12, 2004.
- “Green-Labor-Community Alliances and Local Housing Initiatives in the San Francisco Bay Area.” Conference Paper. Presented at the 99th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, March 6, 2003

### Selected Conference Organizing Activities

- Conference Organizer, *Meeting California's Retirement Security Challenge*, co-sponsored by IRLE and CLRE, University of California, Berkeley, September 30, 2011.
- Conference Steering Committee (Co-Chair), *Food Fights: Popular Struggles Beyond California Cuisine*, 21<sup>st</sup> Annual California Studies Conference, Oakland, CA, April 2, 2011.
- Conference Steering Committee (Program Co-Chair), *Debugging the Silicon Dream: Real Life in a Virtual World*, 20<sup>th</sup> Annual California Studies Conference, Cupertino, CA, April 24, 2009.
- Panel Organizer, "Civil Rights in California: Education, Incarceration, Political Representation." At *Failed State? Crisis and Renewal in California Politics and Culture*, co-sponsored by Boom: A Journal of California, the California Studies Association, and the New America Foundation, Davis, CA, April 16, 2010.
- Conference Organizer, *Building the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce for Long Term Care: National Reform Opportunities*. Convened by the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, Washington, DC, April 14-15, 2009.
- Session Organizer (with Chris Niedt), “Home-place, Work-place: The Political Economy of Labor-Community Alliances.” 99th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, March 6, 2003.

### MEDIA INTERVIEWS

---

#### Recent News Interviews and Citations

- “Minority seniors struggle to retire,” *The Pioneer Online*, California State University- East Bay, March 8, 2012. URL: <http://thepioneeronline.com/news/2012/03/minority-seniors-struggle-to-retire/>.
- Stephanie Stek, “Report: Golden years of Blacks, Latinos more likely to be tarnished by poverty,” *CNN InAmerica Blogs*, February 23, 2012. URL: <http://inamerica.blogs.cnn.com/2012/02/23/report-golden-years-of-blacks-latinos-more-likely-to-be-tarnished-by-poverty/>.
- “Black, Latino Seniors Twice as Likely to Be in Poverty in Retirement,” *The Huffington Post*, February 21, 2012. URL: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/21/black-latino-seniors-poverty-in-retirement\\_n\\_1290767.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/21/black-latino-seniors-poverty-in-retirement_n_1290767.html)

- Callie Shanafelt, "Women most vulnerable to poverty in retirement," *HealthyCal.Org*, February 8, 2012. URL: <http://www.healthycal.org/archives/7216>.
- Callie Shanafelt, "Fewer employer retirement benefits lead to high retirement insecurity in California," *HealthyCal.Org*, February 7, 2012. URL: <http://www.healthycal.org/archives/7044>.
- Kathleen Pender, "California workers to face hardships in retirement," *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 9, 2011. URL: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/10/08/BUOK1LERLG.DTL>.
- "Californians face dismal retirement" (radio segment), *The California Report*, October 5, 2011.
- Tim Herdt, "The Age of Retirement Insecurity," *Ventura County Star*, October 4, 2011. URL: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2011/oct/04/the-age-of-retirement-insecurity/>.
- Christopher Yee, "Young people more likely to retire in poverty, according to study," *The Daily Californian*, October 3, 2011. URL: <http://www.dailycal.org/2011/10/03/young-people-more-likely-to-retire-in-poverty-according-to-study/>.

### Radio Features

- February 16, 2010. Radio interview feature on City of Redding ballot initiatives on city retiree benefits, hosted by Carl Bott on *Free Fire Live*, KNCR 1460 AM, Redding, CA, 8-8:40am PST.
- April 20, 2009. Radio interview feature, "Political-Economic Development of the South Bay," hosted by C.S. Soong on *Against the Grain*, KPFA 94.1FM, Berkeley, 12-1pm PST
- March 29, 2005. Radio interview feature, "Poverty and Labor in the North Bay," hosted by C.S. Soong on *Against the Grain*, KPFA Berkeley, 12-1pm PST.
- March 2, 2005. Radio interview feature on income inequality in the North Bay on *The Morning Show* hosted by Philip Moldari, KPFA Berkeley, 8-8:30am PST.

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

---

- Co-chair, Silicon Valley Research Network (2009-2011)
- Steering Committee Member, California Studies Association (2009-2012)