

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book has two beginnings. I first wrote about Vietnamese refugee resettlement in Israel-Palestine as a Rhetoric PhD student in Daniel Boyarin's "Rhetoric and History: Comparative Diasporas" class at University of California, Berkeley, during fall 2013. This paper became the kernel of my dissertation. The deadly airstrikes on Gaza during summer 2014 further clarified the stakes of this research. Writing became a way to situate my support for the contemporary Palestinian liberation struggle as a second-generation Vietnamese-Filipina.

The second beginning of this book is rooted in family history. In April 1975, my mother and grandmother left Vietnam as refugees and were processed on the Chamorro island of Guam during Operation New Life. After moving around Southern California, they eventually resettled in Oceanside, California, near Camp Pendleton on Luiseño, Juaneño, and Kumeyaay lands, where I grew up. I am forever indebted to my Bà Ngoại, Hồ Ngọc Hoa, who helped raise me and who loves me unconditionally, and my mother, Yến Lê Espiritu, who initiated the field of critical refugee studies and who inspires me every day, both personally and professionally. Their courage and refugee resilience have profoundly shaped who I am today.

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This book is for all the activists, academics, cultural producers, and movement makers fighting for decolonization, liberation, and refuge for all peoples. As I write this in spring 2021, the numbers of refugees seeking asylum is at an all-time high. Guam is yet again being considered as a processing center for refugees displaced by US military intervention, this time from Afghanistan, and people around the world are raising their voices in solidarity with Palestine. It is my hope that this book can offer guidance for thinking through refugee-Indigenous solidarities during this time of ongoing struggle.

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