

**“Home Is Little Tokyo”: Race, Community,
and Memory in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles**

Hillary Jenks

Abstract

This research project will enable the development of an additional chapter, “New Homes and Old Enclaves: Social Mobility and Suburban Japanese America,” for inclusion in the book manuscript *“Home Is Little Tokyo”: Race, Community, and Memory in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles*. The book examines the spatial and memorial practices through which the state and racialized communities have together, though with unequal access to power and resources, produced ethnoracially-inscribed spaces in the twentieth-century American city with significant material and symbolic consequences for domestic racial formations, global flows of capital, the use and organization of urban space, and the reproduction of ethnic identity and community.

The new chapter addresses unanswered questions about the relationship between the large and growing suburban population of Japanese Americans in the post-World War II decades and the historic urban enclave of Little Tokyo in downtown Los Angeles, providing the necessary spatial and sociocultural context for the book’s larger analysis of Japanese American community activism in Little Tokyo. The research funded by this Faculty Enhancement Grant will allow me to evaluate the enclave’s unique role in tying together and sustaining a geographically dispersed and increasingly integrated ethnoracial community.