
**Reviewed by** Gabriel Valle (California State University, San Marcos)

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Teow Lim Goh's *Western Journeys* brings to life the many ways Asian immigrants experienced the American West through poetry, art, narrative, history, and personal reflection. Goh takes apart the nostalgic notions of the West to uncover the various exclusions Chinese immigrants faced and continue to face by weaving in the author's history and experiences as an immigrant from Singapore. Goh points out that nostalgia is powerful because it "erases what is inconvenient for us to see" (p. 6). This book contrasts the mythic cowboy and his ideals of individualism and adventure against a more complex and nuanced immigrant experience.

Goh argues that US history is an account of different exclusions, and those exclusions change over time as our ideas of difference, acceptance, and fear change. Throughout the text, Goh highlights how different exclusionary acts, like the Chinese Exclusion and Geary Acts, stripped away human dignity at different times and for different people. The common narrative of US history explains the movement of White European people from east to west seeking freedom, opportunity, and wealth, all while displacing Native Americans from their homelands in the name of progress, bringing industry and civilization to untamed lands, and expanding markets and connecting railroads across the continent. Nevertheless, the narrative articulated by Goh presents a history of Asian immigrants moving west to east, confronting racist and exclusionary laws, challenging exploitative working conditions, and preserving culture. To address the gaps in western history, Goh "move[s] beyond the popular narrative for a more complex truth" (p. 94). Goh wanted a more comprehensive view of the American West, so *Western Journeys* looks beyond the captivating landscapes of the American West by synthesizing journalistic and academic articles, art and literary criticism, and monographs from Chinese and other Asian immigrant histories with the experiences and histories of the author. Rather than starting the journey at Ellis Island in the New York Harbor, which is marked in European American history as a place of acceptance and inclusion, Goh begins at
Angel Island in the San Francisco Bay, which is remembered through poetry on the walls, cells, and nearby rocks of the immigration station as a site designed to keep people out, to remind Chinese immigrants that "America has not been the land of the free for everyone" (p. 17).

Goh’s book is organized around a series of essays grounded in the central themes of western landscapes and human exclusions. Each chapter is arranged into one of five sections. Goh insists that "stories shape our worlds," and with this in mind, the author subsequently takes apart dominant narratives about the West and reassembles them with new insight and information (p. 143). Goh casts new light on the importance of landscapes in the Chinese American experience as the author finds value and inspiration in the poetry of Chinese immigrants at Angel Island. The first chapter is titled "Hollywood Pilgrims" due to America’s nostalgia for open spaces and the values of the rugged individual. However, Goh complicates these narratives by focusing on how and why landscapes depicted in Hollywood are stripped of meaning and histories of violence and exclusion are erased. Interestingly, Goh also explains that those nostalgic narratives are not the entire truth but are more appealing and seductive.

Through Western Journeys, Goh references the critical work of scholars, activists, and artists who have influenced the author’s perceptions of place and placemaking. Goh engages with works by Edward Abbey, Rebecca Solnit, Henry David Thoreau, Junot Diaz, and many more to articulate the author’s journey as a writer, artist, activist, and immigrant. At the heart of Goh’s book is the argument that the intention of exclusionary acts like the Chinese Exclusion Act is to strip away human dignity to justify their dehumanization. Goh asks us to consider what lies beneath our dreams of paradise as a means to encourage new insights into how the American West came to be. Goh builds on a rich history of social and environmental thinkers who have explored how marginalized people, despite their exclusions, are active agents in transforming places. In doing so, Goh creates a complex and sometimes contradictory narrative of how Chinese immigrants inhabit and imagine places in the American West.

In recent years, there has been a great need for scholarship that disrupts the environmental canon and brings to light the diverse ways people come to know their environments. While Goh provides novel insight into Chinese immigrants’ untold and erased stories, she does not fully develop the analytical tools or theoretical frameworks needed for such an investigation. Because of this, this book might not be well suited for students and scholars who want to gain a better understanding of the social, political, and environmental implications of exclusionary acts. Nevertheless, that is not Goh’s point. The author makes an essential contribution to the field by bravely asking questions that challenge the reader. By documenting her journey and bringing attention to narratives that have been silenced and erased, Goh is rewriting history to create a way forward. Western Journeys does more than force a collective rethinking of the West; it also challenges the reader to look inward and to consider "whom do we include and whom do we exclude?" (p. 22). The modern reality is that "likeability hinges on respectability" (p. 168). When we fail to see the humanity in people who are "unlike us," we are at risk of repeating it (p. 169). Western Journeys is essential for anyone wanting to learn more about the many voices, experiences, and people who have shaped the western landscapes.