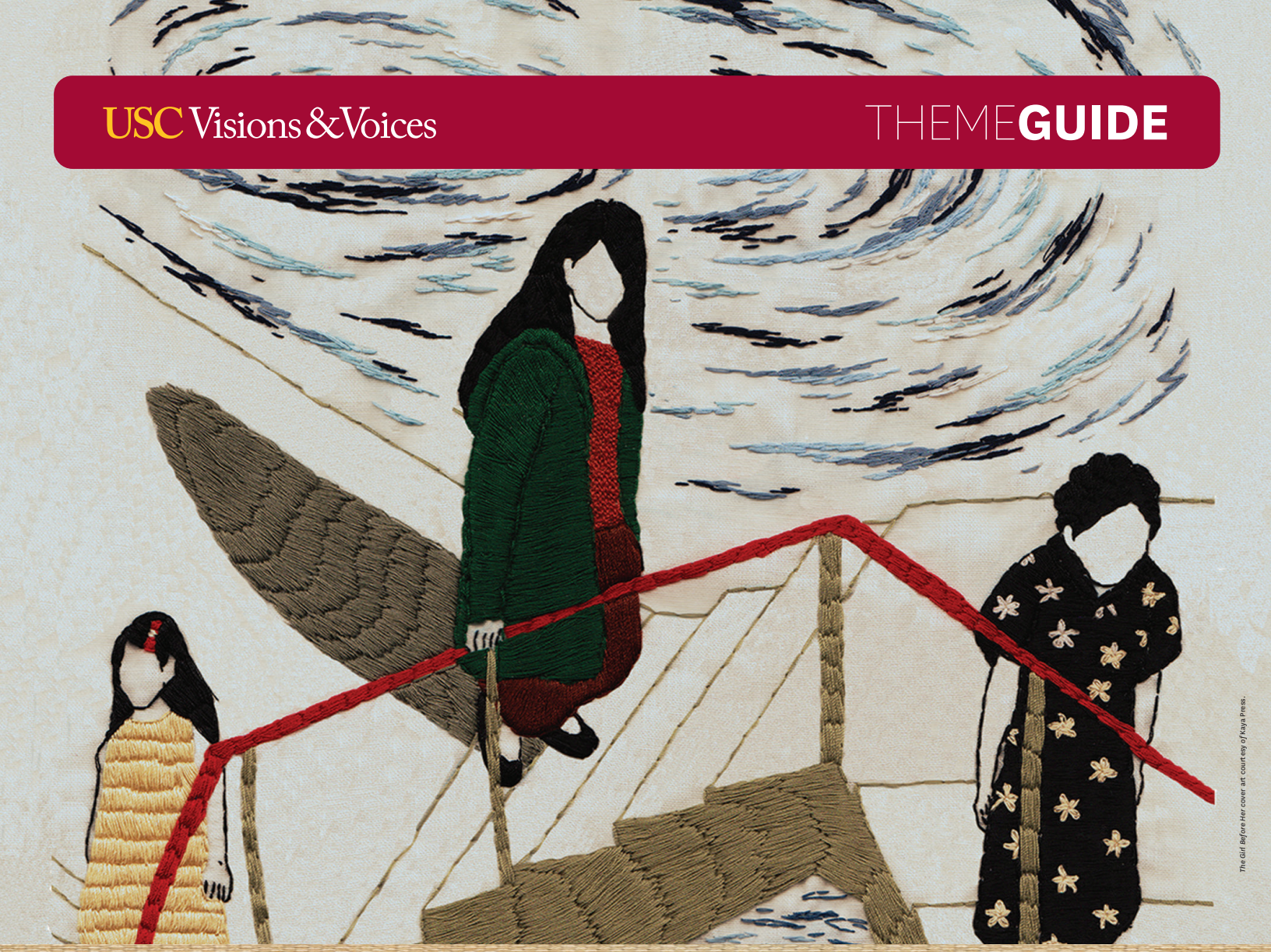
USC Visions & Voices

THEME**GUIDE**



The Girl Before Her cover art courtesy of Kaya Press.

REWRITING WAR

A Conversation with Refugee Writers

THUR | 3•23•23 | 7 PM

JOYCE J. CAMMILLERI HALL

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Line Papin is the author of five novels. She was born in Vietnam and is based in France.
- Nayomi Munaweera is a Sri Lankan American author based in Oakland.
- Viet Thanh Nguyen (moderator) is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and the Aerol Arnold Chair of English and a professor of English and American Studies at USC Dornsife.

LINE PAPIN

Line Papin was born in Hanoi and moved to France at the age of ten. She currently lives in Paris. She is the author of five critically acclaimed novels in French; *The Girl Before Her* (Kaya Press, 2023) is the first to be translated into English.

Books by Line Papin

L'éveil (2016)
Toni (2018)
Les os des filles (2019) – English trans. *The Girl Before Her* (2023)
Le couer en laisse (2021)
Une vie possible (2022)

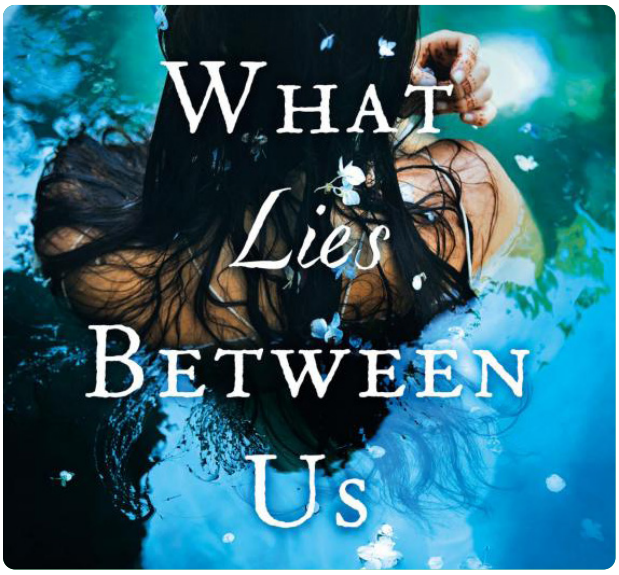
Line Papin portrait (2021)

NAYOMI MUNAWEERA

Nayomi Munaweera was born in Sri Lanka, grew up in Nigeria, and immigrated to Los Angeles with her family in the 1980s. She now lives in Oakland and holds writing workshops in Sri Lanka through a program called Write to Reconcile, as well as teaching at the Ashland University low-residency MFA program.

Books by Nayomi Munaweera

Island of a Thousand Mirrors (2012)
What Lies Between Us (2016)



Nayomi Munaweera: *What Lies Between Us* (2016)

VIET THANH NGUYEN

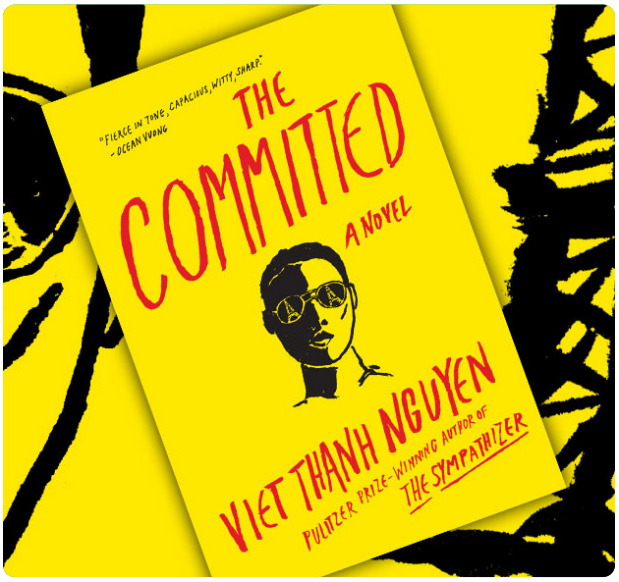
Viet Thanh Nguyen was born in Ban Mê Thuôt (now spelled Buôn Mê Thuôt), Vietnam, and came to the United States as a refugee in 1975. His novel *The Sympathizer* won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. He is a University Professor, the Aerol Arnold Chair of English, and a professor of English, American studies and ethnicity, and comparative literature at USC. *The Sympathizer* is being adapted as a TV series by HBO.

Books by Viet Thanh Nguyen

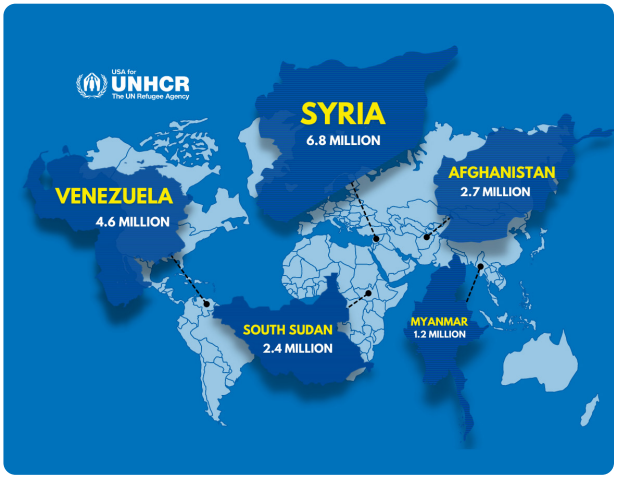
Fiction:
The Sympathizer (2015)
The Refugees (2017)
The Committed (2021)

Non-Fiction:
Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America (2002)
Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War (2016)

Children's Book:
Chicken of the Sea (2019)



Viet Thanh Nguyen: *The Committed* (2021)



UN Refugee Agency Report

Kaya Press

Ink & Blood is a joint imprint from Kaya Press and the Diasporic Vietnamese Artist Network (DVAN)

WARS ARE DISPLACING MILLIONS

According to the UN Refugee Agency, the world is currently experiencing the highest levels of displacement on record. As of May 2022, 100 million people were forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations. This includes more than 10 million people displaced in just the prior year, as a result of the war in Ukraine and other conflicts.

KAYA PRESS

Kaya Press publishes literature created throughout the Asian and Pacific Island diasporas. The press was founded in 1994 and publishes poetry, fiction, memoir, art, and more. Originally based in New York, Kaya Press is now housed in the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity at USC.

Kaya was the name of a tribal confederation of six Korean city-states that existed from the middle of the first until the sixth century CE. It is remembered as a utopia of learning, music, and the arts due to its trade and communication with China, Japan, and India.

INK & BLOOD

Ink & Blood is a joint imprint from Kaya Press and the Diasporic Vietnamese Artist Network (DVAN) that aims to bring Vietnamese literary voices from across the globe to English readers. *The Girl Before Her* by Line Papin is the first book on the Ink & Blood imprint.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- How have the writers' lives and work been shaped by war? By displacement? By living in multiple nations?
- How do the writers approach war in literature
- What books have affected your understanding of war? Of migration or diasporic experiences?

Vietnamese boat people, Phil Eggman, May 1984

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- Upcoming Visions and Voices events, including

  3/31/23: Dismantling Orientalism: This Is Not a True Story
  4/12/23: *Cynossema*
  4/30/23: *Tales of Clamor*

- Kaya Press
  kaya.com
- Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network
  dvan.org
- Classes in the USC Department of Comparative Literature
  dornsife.usc.edu/colt

DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

ADAM SEXTON of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

BOOKS

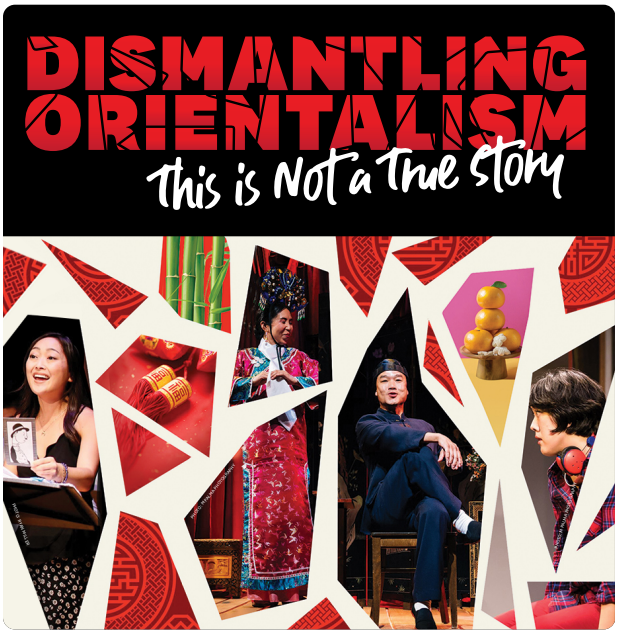
- Leora Auslander and Tara Zahra, *Objects of War: The Material Culture of Conflict and Displacement* (Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 2018)
- Sandra Barkhof and Angela K. Smith, *War and Displacement in the Twentieth Century: Global Conflicts* (London: Routledge, 2014)
- Caroline Moorehead, *Human Cargo: A Journey Among Refugees* (New York: H. Holt, 2005)
- Nayomi Munaweera, *What Lies Between Us: A Novel* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2016)
- Celeste Ng, *Everything I Never Told You* (New York: Penguin, 2014)

DATABASES

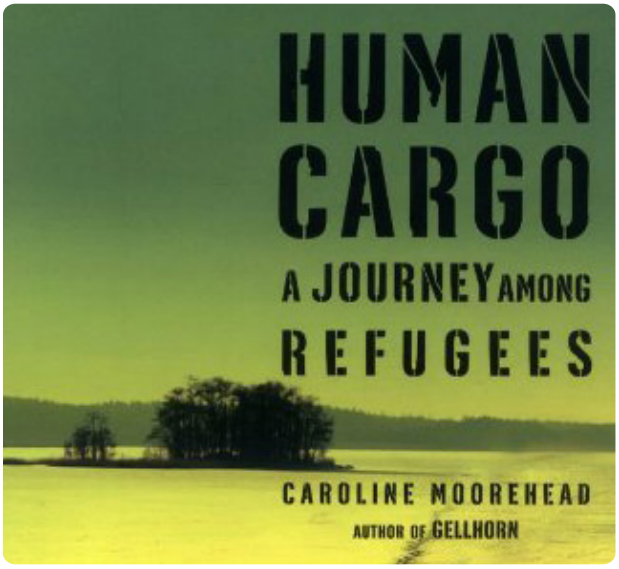
- Immigrations, Migrations and Refugees; Global Perspectives, 1941–1996
- In the First Person: Index to Letters, Diaries, Oral Histories, and Other Personal Narratives

JOURNALS

- *AmeriQuests*
- *Conflict and Health*



Dismantling Orientalism: This Is Not a True Story



Human Cargo: A Journey Among Refugees

Celeste Ng, *Everything I Never Told You*