

Lao Stories: Laotian American Oral History Project

Laos Stories: Laotian American Oral History Project consists of audio and video interviews of Laotian Americans across the United States about their life experiences. Interviews were conducted by Prinston Pan, a second generation Laotian American high school student in Southern California. The interviews range from 30 minutes to over an hour in duration and were primarily conducted remotely during the 2020-2021 COVID-19 pandemic. The narrators discuss their experiences in Laos and the U.S. including the hardships they had to overcome, as well as what they hope for future generations. This project provides an in-depth, primary source on the Lao diaspora community's culture and history.

Prinston Pan

Project Director, Interviewer

Prinston is a Laotian American born in Kansas and began conducting oral history interviews with Laotian Americans during his spare time in high school in Southern California. While growing up, he spent most of his summers in Kansas at his grandparents' Lao grocery store where he was able to interact with many customers and learn about their lives in Laos. This was a major source of inspiration for his Lao Oral History Project. In his spare time, he enjoys swimming, golfing, and spending time with his family.



Prinston.pan@gmail.com

Dara Sengchanthavong

Project Coordinator, Transcriber

Dara considers herself to be a big sister, creative, and proud Lao American woman in education and science. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2020 with a B.S. in Environmental Sciences; having spent her four years as a student organizer and Lao representative on campus. Her roots spread from Texas, Tennessee, to Southern California, and she is currently residing in the Bay Area, California. Much of her art touches upon her Lao American identity, refugee resettlement, intergenerational trauma, and healing. In her free time, her hobbies and loves range from music, art, animation, video games, social justice, environmentalism, and culture.



darasengchanthavong@gmail.com

Mary Nguyen

Consultant

Mary was born and raised in Southern California. As a Vietnamese-American woman, her interest in Southeast Asian Culture blossomed throughout her years in college, and she aimed to contribute her time to learning about the stories of those within the Southeast Asian community.



tnguyenmary@gmail.com

Kaisy Saengpeng

Translator

Kaisy Saengpeng is a translator for the Lao Oral History Project. She received her MBA from the University of Missouri. She currently resides in Irvine, California with her husband and two children.

Kaisyp@gmail.com

Thuy Vo Dang, Ph.D.

Advisor/Consultant

Dr. Thuy Vo Dang is the Curator for the UCI Libraries Southeast Asian Archive, a repository for the histories of populations from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. A trained oral historian and ethnographer, she works to build community-centered archives in partnership with individuals and organizations, particularly in the SEA diaspora and Orange County Asian American Pacific Islander communities.

tvodang@uci.edu

Lao Oral History Project Subject Headings and Keywords

Alphabetized list:

1.5 generation; 1st generation; 2nd Generation; Adoptee; Adoption; Advocacy; Agriculture; Air America; Aircraft Mechanic; Alaska; Alexandria, Virginia; American Airlines; American Legend; Art; Artist; Atlanta Georgia; Baeksang, Laos; Ban Kalong; Ban Kalong, Savannakhet, Laos; Ban Thabok, Bolikhamxay, Laos; Bangkok, Thailand; Banhimphenh, Laos; Bill AB1393; Biology; **Blue-collar work, labor**; Books; Buddhism; Buddhist; Buddhist School; Business; Business owner; Cal State Fullerton; California; Chairwoman; Chiang Mai, Thailand; Chinese Lao; Christianity; Civil War; College; Columbus, Ohio; Communism; Company Commander; Computer Security; Dalhousie University; Deportation; Education; **Vientiane, Laos**; Eldest daughter; Elgin, Illinois; English Language; Executive director; Finance; Florida; Food; Fort Worth, Texas; French Military Academy; Gender roles; Graphics; **Grocery store, market**; Hawaii; Healthcare; Highschool; Honolulu, Hawaii; Identity; Illustrator; Immigration and Refugee policy; Independent Artist; Information Technology; Intergenerational; International finance; Kalihi, Hawaii; Kansas; Kansas City, Missouri; Kingsport, Tennessee; Labor; Lancaster county, Pennsylvania; Lao Advocacy; Lao Airforce; Lao American; Lao Army; Lao Art and Cultural Foundation; Lao Association; Lao Civil War; Lao Community Cultural Center of San Diego; Lao Culture; **Lao culture, customs, tradition**; Lao Language; Lao Resistance Movement; Lao Schools; Laos; Legacies Library; Legacies of War; Linda Vista, California; Literature; Los Angeles, California; Luang Prabang, Laos; Major; **Manufacturing, retail industry**; Marketing; Master Sergeant; Medical; Michigan; Microaggression; Military; Military General; Military Training; Modesto, California; Mois Des, California; Montana; Mueang Mukdahan, Thailand; Music; Non-profit; Non-religious; **Nong Kai, Thailand**; Nong Khai, Thailand; Officer; Oulong Thailand Refugee Camp; Pakse, Laos; Phon Sai, Thailand; Poetry; Political Science; Preservation; Printing industry; Prison Camp; Prisoner of War; Public Administration; Racial Equality; Racism; Real estate; Refugee; Refugee camp; Refugee resettlement; Royal Lao Army; San Francisco, California; Sano, Laos; Savannakhet, Laos; Savannakhet, Laos; Savnnakhet, Laos; Scholar; Secret War; Spanish; Spirituality; Sponsorship; Springfield, Virginia; St.Petersburg, Florida; Student; Surgeon; Suwandakith, Laos; Takkack, Kengkhammoune, Laos; teacher; Thailand; Thaksam, Borikhamsai, Laos; Theater; Tradition; Translator; Travis, California; U.S. Special Forces; Unexploded Ordnance; UXO; Veteran; Viangjang, Laos; **Vientiane, Laos**; War; Washington D.C.; Western State University; Wichita, Kansas; Winfield, Kansas; Winfield, Kansas; Working class; Writer;

Numbers

1.5 Generation

1st Generation

2nd Generation

General Terms

Adoptee
Adoption
Advocacy
Agriculture
Air America
Aircraft Mechanic
American Airlines
American Legend
Art
Artist
Bill AB1393
Biology
Blue-collar work
Books
Buddhism
Buddhist
Buddhist School
Business
Business owner
Cal State Fullerton
Chairwoman
Chinese Lao
Christianity
Civil War
College
Communism
Company Commander
Computer Security
Dalhousie University
Deportation
Education
Eldest daughter
English Language
Executive director
Finance
Food
French Military Academy
Gender roles
Graphics
Grocery store
Healthcare
Highschool
Identity
Illustrator

Immigration and Refugee policy
Independent Artist
Information Technology
Intergenerational
International finance
Labor
Lao Advocacy
Lao Airforce
Lao American
Lao Army
Lao Art and Cultural Foundation
Lao Association
Lao Civil War
Lao Community Cultural Center of San Diego
Lao Culture
Lao culture, customs, tradition
Lao Language
Lao Resistance Movement
Lao Schools
Legacies Library
Legacies of War
Literature
Major
Manufacturing
Market
Marketing
Master Sergeant
Medical
Microaggression
Military
Military General
Military Training
Music
Non-profit
Non-religious
Officer
Oulong Thailand Refugee Camp
Poetry
Political Science
Preservation
Printing industry
Prison Camp
Prisoner of War
Public Administration
Racial Equality

Racism
Real estate
Refugee
Refugee Camp
Refugee resettlement
Retail industry
Royal Lao Army
Scholar
Secret War
Spanish
Spirituality
Sponsorship
Student
Surgeon
Teacher
Theater
Tradition
Translator
U.S. Special Forces
Unexploded Ordnance
UXO
Veteran
War
Western State University
Working class
Writer

Place Names

Alaska
Alexandria, Virginia
Atlanta Georgia
Baeksang, Laos
Ban Khlong, Laos
Ban Thabok, Bolikhamxay, Laos
Bangkok, Thailand
Banhimphenh, Laos
Borikhamsai, Laos
California
Chiang Mai, Thailand
Columbus, Ohio
Vientiane, Laos
Elgin, Illinois
Florida
Fort Worth, Texas
Hawaii

Honolulu, Hawaii
Kalihi, Hawaii
Kansas
Kansas City, Missouri
Kingsport, Tennessee
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
Laos
Linda Vista, California
Los Angeles, California
Luang Prabang, Laos
Michigan
Modesto, California
Mois Des, California
Montana
Mueang Mukdahan, Thailand
Nong Khai, Thailand
Pakse, Laos
Phon Sai, Thailand
San Francisco, California
Seno, Laos
Savannakhet, Laos
Springfield, Virginia
St.Petersburg, Florida
*(Takkack, Keng)*Khammouane, Laos
Thailand
Travis, California
Viangjang, Laos
Vientiane, Laos
Washington DC
Wichita, Kansas
Winfield, Kansas