



GRUNIN
FOUNDATION

**EDIB Working
Groups Convening**

February 15, 2023

Our Land, Our Stories: Excavating Subterranean Histories of the Ringwood Mines and the Ramapough Lunaape Nation

Meet the Panel



Anita Bakshi is the author of *Topographies of Memories: A New Poetics of Commemoration* (2017, Palgrave Macmillan). Following several years in architectural practice she received her PhD from Cambridge University with the Conflict in Cities Research Programme. She now teaches at Rutgers University, Department of Landscape Architecture. Her research focuses on contested landscapes and histories, environmental justice, and the relationship between architecture and inequality.



Wayne Mann is a Ramapough Lunaape community leader. His life's mission is to repair the damage done to his community through legal action and environmental advocacy. He was the main protagonist in the documentary *Mann vs. Ford*, which follows his community's fight for justice over the course of five years.

Jack (John Kuo Wei) Tchen is a historian, curator, dumpster-diver, and teacher surfacing the disappeared stories othered by systems of power and wealth. Dr. Tchen is the Clement A. Price Professor of Public History & Humanities and Director of the Price Institute on Ethnicity, Cultures, and the Modern Experience Rutgers-Newark. He is the founding director of the A/P/A (Asian/Pacific/American) Studies Program and Institute at New York University, NYU. He co-founded the Museum of Chinese in America. His ten-years of work on anti-Asian xenophobia, a two-hour PBS documentary on the “Chinese Exclusion Act,” and exhibition at the New-York Historical Society led him to focus on intersectional history of American eugenics. Via a series of exhibits, conferences, and performances, he has been retelling NYC-US history from the largely disappeared and unperceived frames of the “rights of nature,” settler extractive colonialisms, and “Nordic” eugenics hierarchies of “fit” elite, white Protestants versus the world’s “unfit” others. He currently serves on the NYC Panel on Climate Change (NPCC) and is building teams of faculty, staff, and graduate/undergrad students to be collaborating with communities and community organization is grappling with the immediate impacts of climate change on water, soil, and food. One team is working on a National Science Foundation funded planning process to increase low income and BIPOC research collaboration in the Passaic Watershed Basin, with upstream and downstream communities. He has been working with the Munsee Lunaape Elders for years and honoring enslaved in the region by documenting, sharing, and decolonizing the history of Newark and the larger region.

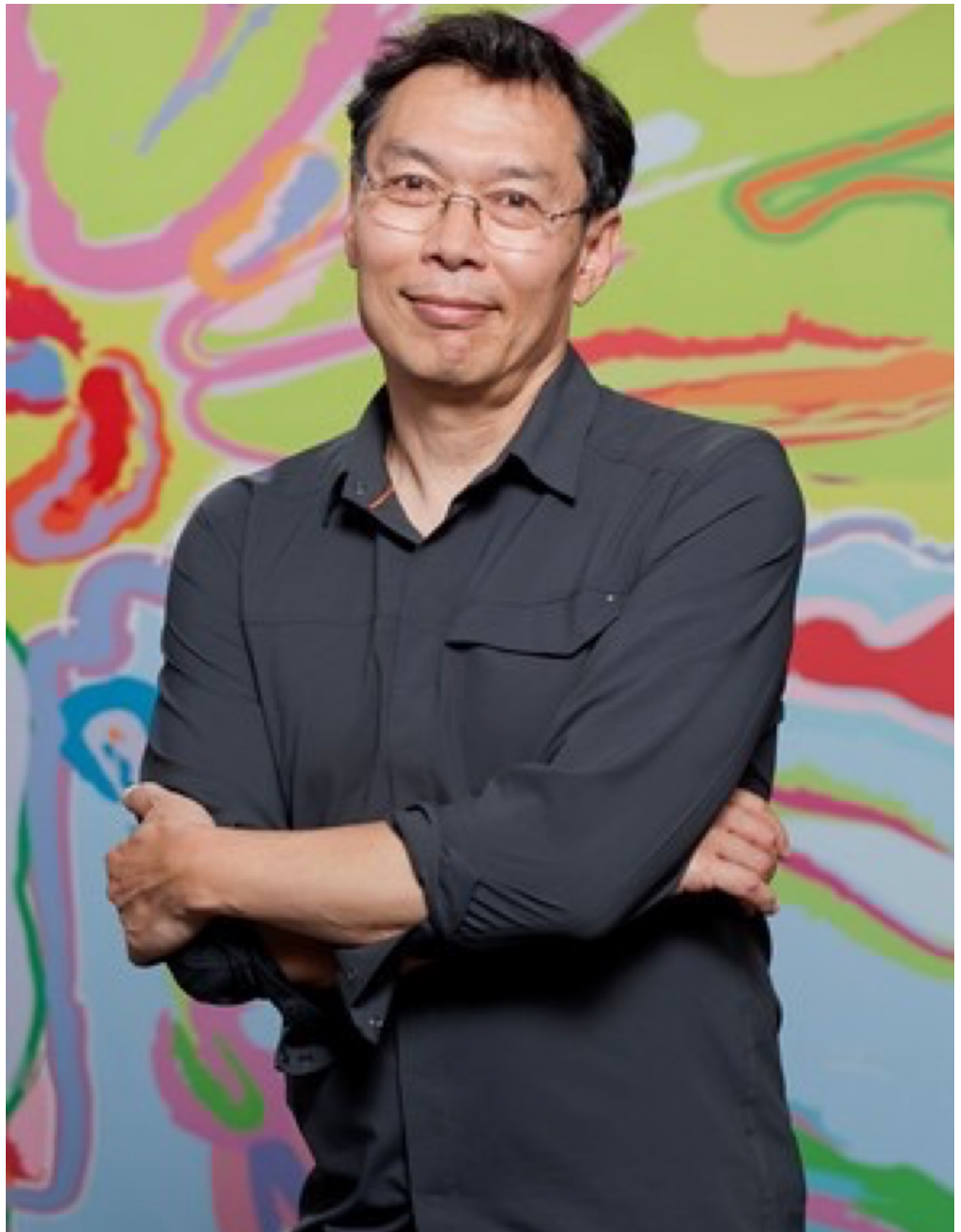


Image description: A waist up photo of Jack wearing a dark green shirt w/ arms folded, head tilted smiling against a colorful swirling background. "I am of East Asian heritage w/ short-medium length black hair wearing clear frame glasses and have a medium build."