

**Lau, Linda,** Tufts University, United States

**Embodied Suffering: Iris Chang, the Patron Saint of Nanking**

Iris Chang's *The Rape of Nanking* publicized the Nanking Massacre to the international public with its publication in 1997. While Chang's work about the massacre is important, the phenomenon extends beyond the book itself. Following her suicide in 2004, Chang has become for many, a martyr by which they can create meaning for their own purposes. Chang signifies the transformations in Chinese American politics, identity formation, and cultural memory through her embodied suffering. As a figure that connects a diasporic population with its "native" culture, Iris Chang becomes "Chinese America" and is the entity that bears the burden of the massacre for the whole community. This will be examined by investigating the representation of Chang in the arts and media with particular emphasis to the premiere of Ted Leonsis' *Nanking* in Boston, Massachusetts and Christopher Chen's *Into the Numbers: A Play about Iris Chang*.