

GRACE M. CHO

"Cho takes a hard and questioning look at mental health practices and diagnoses and the way women of color are ignored, misdiagnosed and mistreated; and she investigates the way systemic racism, war and social and cultural trauma can cause severe mental health disorders."—Michelle Malonzo

Grace M. Cho grew up as the daughter of a white American merchant marine and the Korean bar hostess he met abroad. Her writing mixes scholarship and personal history to create intensely personal and political studies that explore the stories of the Korean women whose experiences in the war and its aftermath continue to haunt their families in the present.

Grace writes at the crossroads of creative nonfiction and interdisciplinary scholarship, exploring the ways in which residues of state violence and historical trauma permeate the intimate spaces of the here and now. As a sociologist, Grace approaches storytelling as an opportunity to broaden the lens through which readers see personal experience. She teaches full time as a professor of sociology, food studies, gender studies, critical criminology, and disability studies at the City University of New York.

Grace is the author of Tastes Like War, a finalist for the 2021 National Book Award for nonfiction and the winner of the 2022 Asian Pacific American Literature Award for adult nonfiction. Time and NPR named it as one of the best books of 2021. Her first book, Haunting the Korean Diaspora: Shame, Secrecy, and the Forgotten War, received a 2010 book award from the American Sociological Association. Her writing has appeared in journals and magazines such as The Nation, The New Inquiry, PoemMemoirStory, Contexts, Catapult, Artform, Gastronomica, Feminist Studies, Women's Studies Quarterly, and Qualitative Inquiry. She has been featured in Vogue Korea, People Magazine and on NPR's Fresh Air, KCRW's Good Food, Milk Street Radio, and BBC World Outlook. She is co-editor of The Children of the People: Writings by and about CUNY Students on Race and Social Justice (DIO Press, 2022).