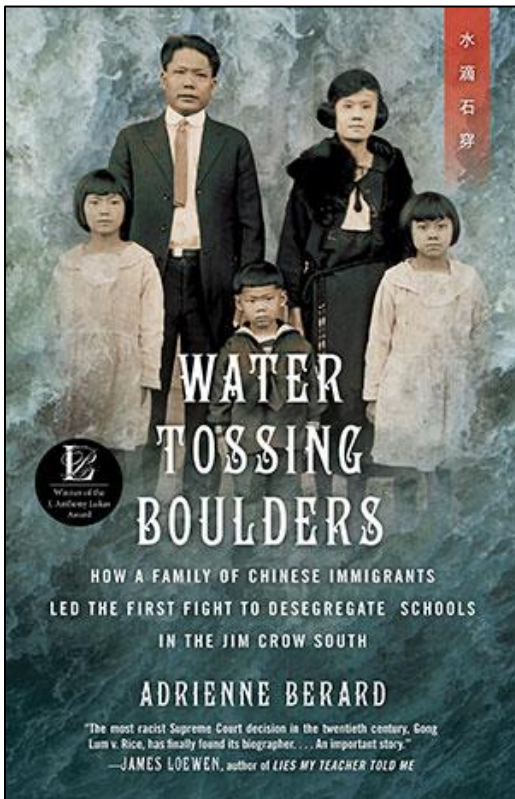


Adrienne Berard

Adrienne Berard is a graduate of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. She has been the Writer-in-Residence at Delta State University in Mississippi and now resides in Williamsburg, Virginia. Follow her on Twitter at @AdrienneBerard and visit her website www.adrienneberard.com.



Book Synopsis: *Water Tossing Boulders*



In 1924, in the Mississippi Delta, thirty years before *Brown v. Board of Education*, a Chinese immigrant and father of three filed what would become the first U.S. Supreme Court case to challenge the constitutionality of segregation in Southern public schools. The case of *Gong Lum v. Rice* was lost to history until journalist Adrienne Berard, who was visiting the Delta State University archives to research her own family's connection to the region, stumbled upon this ground-breaking case, the implications of which can still be felt today.

In *Water Tossing Boulders: How a Family of Chinese Immigrants Led the First Fight to Desegregate Schools in the Jim Crow South*, Berard uncovers the story of the Lum family whose daughters, Martha and Berda, were forced out of the school they had attended through fourth grade, when it was suddenly decided that, as Chinese-Americans, the girls were “colored” and therefore no longer welcome at the newly accredited, all white school. Through meticulous research, Berard reconstructs the experience of day-to-day life for the Lum family living as outsiders in their small Mississippi town, and explores how the racial and economic climate of the time compelled further segregation in Southern schools.