Dr. Margo Okazawa-Rey currently is on the faculty of the School of Human and Organizational Development at the Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, California, and Professor Emerita at San Francisco State University. She has also held the Barbara Lee Distinguished Chair in Women’s Leadership at Mills College, Jane Watson Irwin Chair in Women’s Studies at Hamilton College, and has been visiting professor at other universities and colleges.

Okazawa-Rey’s primary areas of interest and research are gender, militarism, and feminist activist research. Her work focuses specifically on militarism, armed conflict, and violence against women. In her research, she examines the connections between militarism, economic globalization, and impacts on local and migrant women in South Korea who live and work around US military bases. Most recently, she has been working with co-principal investigators Amina Mama and Rose Mensah-Kutin and women activists in militarized and post-conflict areas of Sierra Leon, Liberia, Ghana, and Nigeria, where they are exploring the role of feminist research in activism, policy change, and women’s empowerment.


Dr. Okazawa-Rey also worked for three years as the Feminist Research Consultant at the Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling in Ramallah, Palestine, and sits on the international board of the NGOs, PeaceWomen across the Globe, based in Bern Switzerland, and Du Re Bang (My Sister’s Place) in Uijongbu, South Korea. She was a founding member of the Combahee River Collective, who articulated a theory of intersectionality in “A Black Feminist Statement” in the 1970s.

She received her doctorate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1987.