Celebration of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month

Annotated Bibliography of Peer Reviewed Articles

Theme: Stop AAPI Hate

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In this introductory essay, the authors have sought to provide an overview of the struggle for social justice in the United States by Asian and Pacific Islanders. The articles in this volume explore the factors shaping oppositional consciousness and the possibility for collective action in efforts to achieve social justice from 1960s to 2000s.

This essay argues, examining anti-Asian racism and anti-Blackness in the context of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter movement, allow a deeper understanding of how white supremacy operates in institutions of higher education and in US society. While universities have a critical role and responsibility to spearhead transformative justice and change, racial capitalism is still at work, whereby profits are prioritized over delivering equitable educational experiences for students and the health of all its constituents.

Two experiments using Asian American university student participants examined the distinctive characteristics of responses to racist hate speech relative to responses to other forms of offense. The studies varied the target of insulting speech (Asian, African, and Overweight person) or the nature of offence (petty theft vs. insulting speech). Participant variables included collective self-esteem and social identification. Results indicate that
hate speech directed at ethnic targets deserves more severe punishment than other forms of offensive speech and petty theft. Hate speech also results in more extreme emotional responses and, in the case of an Asian target, has a depressing influence on collective self-esteem. Ethnic identification moderated punishment responses in study 1 only. The theoretical and practical implications of the results are discussed.


This article concludes as the Pacific Northwest became part of a global pattern of anti-Asian racism and riotous working-class politics, the transnational processes of circulation and exchange that underpinned that pattern were ultimately integrated into efforts to consolidate the national-state sovereignty of Canada and the United States.


The authors examined the associations between specific types and sources of discrimination and mental health outcomes among US racial/ethnic minority men who have sex with men (MSM) and how these associations varied by race/ethnicity. A chain-referral sample of 403 African American, 393 Asian and Pacific Islander (API), and 400 Latino MSM recruited in Los Angeles County, California completed a standardized questionnaire. Data were obtained from the Ethnic Minority Men's Health Study from May 2008 to October 2009. Past-year experiences of racism within the general community and perceived homophobia among heterosexual friends were positively associated with depression and anxiety. Past-year homophobia experienced within the general community was also positively associated with anxiety. These statistically significant associations did not vary across racial/ethnic groups. The positive association of perceived racism within the gay community with anxiety differed by race/ethnicity and was statistically significant only for APIs. Perceived homophobia within the family was
not associated with either depression or anxiety. Higher levels of experiences of discrimination were associated with psychological distress among MSM of color. However, specific types and sources of discrimination were differentially linked to negative mental health outcomes among African American, API, and Latino MSM.


This paper empirically examines whether and how COVID-19 may be activating bias and discrimination toward individuals of Asian descent. The authors used a national online survey to collect data from 1141 US residents. Using descriptive statistics and multivariate regression, they estimated the prevalence and COVID-19-related predictors of bias toward people of Asian descent. They found over 40% of our sample reported they would engage in at least one discriminatory behavior toward people of Asian descent. Respondents who were fearful of COVID-19 (b = .09, p < 0.001) and had less accurate knowledge about the virus (b = −.07, p < 0.001) reported more negative attitudes toward Asians as did respondents with less trust in science (b = −.06, p < 0.001) and more trust in President Trump (b = .04, p < 0.001). Public health leaders must confront fear of the virus, improve knowledge, and bolster trust in science as these factors may evoke negative attitudes toward Asians and increase prejudice and discrimination.


This essay reviews the prevalence and consequences of anti-Asian racial discrimination during COVID-19 and calls for actions in practice, policy, and research to stand against it. Racial discrimination against people of Chinese and other Asian ethnicities has risen sharply in number and severity globally amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This rise has been especially rapid and severe in the United States, fueled by xenophobic political rhetoric and racist language on social media. It has endangered the lives of many Asian Americans and is likely to have long-term negative impacts on the economic, social, physical, and psychological well-being of Asian Americans.
This report examined the relationship of racial/ethnic discrimination and internalized racial oppression with mental distress in a sample of Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs) in Alaska, where APIs compose the third largest racial group after Whites and Native Americans/Alaska Natives. Methods involved a cross-sectional, self-administered survey of 225 adult APIs in three Alaskan communities with large API populations. A subsample of the respondents who experienced racial/ethnic discrimination (n = 123) was then selected to assess associations among mental distress, racial/ethnic discrimination, various manifestations of internalized racial oppression, and social support. The potential interaction between racial/ethnic discrimination and internalized inferiority (one manifestation of internalized oppression) in predicting mental distress was also tested. Results show that both racial/ethnic discrimination, r = .32, p < .01, and internalized inferiority, r = .22, p < .05, had a significant positive correlation with mental distress. Regression analysis indicates a significant interaction between racial/ethnic discrimination and internalized inferiority when predicting mental distress (β = 0.83, p < .001). This interaction suggests that with increasing levels of internalized inferiority, the link between racial/ethnic discrimination and mental distress was amplified. Future research implications are discussed.


The authors examine how the legislative acts exclude, neglect, and punish survivors who deviate from the parameters of the "model minority victim." Next, they examine the impact of these different legal remedies-how they expand state criminalization of immigrant communities and perpetuate negative stereotypes of people of color, and how they rely on the criminal-legal infrastructure in the United States for "safety" and
"punishment" and serve to build the perpetually expanding prison system. Finally, they examine the potential for transformative justice strategies as a response to individualized violence that do not rely on the state. They look at the ways in which state-based responses to violence contribute to race-based discrimination and fail to encourage solidarity among people of color. Instead, they propose a shift away from state-based responses to community-based responses that identify all forms of violence whether personal, political, state, or systemic.


COVID-19 has enabled the spread of racism and created national insecurity, fear of foreigners, and general xenophobia, which may be related to the increase in anti-Asian hate crimes during the pandemic. The authors examine how these crimes -- situated in historically entrenched and intersecting individual-level and institutional-level racism and xenophobia -- have operated to "other" Asian Americans and reproduce inequality.


This essay charts the professional and personal reflections of Professor Jennifer Ho, president of the Association for Asian American studies and critical race scholar about the rise of anti-Asian racism with the advent of COVID-19. Professor Ho also discusses the intersections between anti-Asian and anti-Black racism, providing historical context for how both are in service to white supremacy and how understanding these shared roots can create a common cause for anti-racism work for all.


To examine the extent to which the phrases, "COVID-19" and "Chinese virus" were associated with anti-Asian sentiments. Data were collected from Twitter's Application
Programming Interface, which included the hashtags "#covid19" or "#chinesevirus." The authors analyzed tweets from March 9 to 23, 2020, corresponding to the week before and the week after President Donald J. Trump's tweet with the phrase, "Chinese Virus." Their analysis focused on 1,273,141 hashtags. Results. One fifth (19.7%) of the 495,289 hashtags with #covid19 showed anti-Asian sentiment, compared with half (50.4%) of the 777,852 hashtags with #chinesevirus. When comparing the week before March 16, 2020, to the week after, there was a significantly greater increase in anti-Asian hashtags associated with #chinesevirus compared with #covid19 (P < .001). Their data provide new empirical evidence supporting recommendations to use the less-stigmatizing term "COVID-19," instead of "Chinese virus."

The author presented the hate model that identifies the stages of the hate process. In doing so, haters who have not yet transitioned from hate rhetoric to hate violence can be identified and targeted with intervention programs, which have a higher probability of success. Likewise, hard-core haters can be identified and targeted with appropriate interdiction strategies. Additionally, knowing how the hate process works allows interviewers to penetrate the hate mask and address the hater's underlying personal insecurities. If these personal insecurities can be attenuated, haters will be more receptive to rehabilitation. Identifying and understanding the stages of the hate process is the first step in controlling hate violence.

In this interview, Dr. Sunny Tsai of the University of Miami talks with Bill Imada, Chief Connectivity Officer of IW Group, a minority owned and operated advertising, marketing, and communications agency focusing on growing multicultural and multigenerational markets. Many topics were covered during their conversation: Imada's career path to advertising, the role of advertising in society, the ability of the advertising industry to adapt more quickly than other sources of mediated content, historic bias and
discrimination against Asian Americans in the United States, the genesis of the Wash The Hate campaign, responses to Wash The Hate campaign, the strategy behind Wash The Hate campaign, the campaign's broader impact and actions taken by other companies, how to fight the "model minority" and "perpetual foreigner" stereotypes, encouraging Asian Americans to vote, the difference between equality and equity, affirmative action, how to bridge cultural differences, and the need for older generations to create a path for younger generations to start to lead in finding solutions to society's many problems.

This article experiments with performative and dialogic techniques to trace the contours of anti-Asian American sentiments in sport. It suggests that jokes and joking behaviors are one the key things that binds Asian Americans to sport in the popular imaginary. Moreover, it outlines the ways that sporting humor works to efface and deface Asians and Asian Americans. Well-known utterances by Fuzzy Zoeller, directed at Tiger Woods, and Shaquille O'Neal, directed toward Yao Ming, center much of the discussion.

The purpose of this study was to examine to what extent both racial identity anti color-blind racial attitudes help explain anti-Asian prejudice across different socioracial groups. Participants of color from a culturally diverse West Coast university were surveyed (N = 260). Hierarchical regression analyses showed that resistance racial identity and color-blind attitudes predicted anti-Asian prejudice. Results further validated racial identity theory as a viable tool for understanding interracial relations among Asians and other socioracial minority groups.

This article explores the relationship between patterned forms of anti-Asian violence and
legitimized social movements in the United States, influence of the structures of racism and white supremacy on Asian Americans, approaches to confront the systemic sources of violence, and account on the future of Asian Americans in relation to race and class in a multinational community.


The article explores xenophobic acts against Asian Americans in the U.S., noting their uptick since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past, Asian Americans have been unfairly targeted by public health officials as sources of disease, leading to a Chinese American man being blamed for a 1900 to 1904 bubonic plague outbreak. Racism is a known social determinant of health and undocumented, low-income, elderly or limited-English-proficient Asian Americans are most at risk for healthcare disparity.


Stereotypes and hate crimes are complex issues. Stereotypes usually have three dimensions-Evaluation or valence, Potency, and Accuracy (EPA). According to the EPA model of stereotypes and stereotyping, negative and inaccurate stereotypes are more prone to bias and prejudice. This article uses the EPA model to test two assumptions. First, stereotypes would produce a differential impact on Asian Americans, which is contingent on the accuracy and valence of stereotypes to Asian Americans. Inaccurate negative stereotypes may offend Asian Americans more than accurate negative stereotypes. Second, Asian Americans may be more sensitive or responsive to a hate crime situation in which Asian Americans are racially targeted as the only victims than to one in which both Asian Americans and other minority Americans are racially targeted as victims together. The results from the two studies strongly corroborate these two assumptions, which provide more support for the EPA model of stereotypes and stereotyping.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, reports of discrimination and violence against Asians and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) have increased substantially. The present article offers a timely conceptualization of how public and societal fears related to COVID-19 may contribute to unique mental health disparities and the presence of race-based trauma among AAPIs residing in the United States. The relationships between media, increasing rates of xenophobia and sinophobia, and racial discrimination are provided. Next, the deleterious effects of race-based discrimination on the emotional and physical well-being of people of color and Indigenous groups (POCI) and AAPIs are described. Finally, the article identifies the clinical implications of counseling AAPI clients, encourages a decolonization of current trauma-focused interventions, and presents specific strategies to heal race-based trauma in AAPI client populations.


The early months of 2020 witnessed a spike in anti-Asian violence in the United States, which many commentators attributed to President Donald Trump's racist remarks calling the coronavirus the 'Chinese virus'. This essay offers a historical lens through which to understand anti-Asian racism within the current conjuncture of the COVID-19 pandemic and US racist state violence. It argues that anti-Asian violence should be seen not merely as episodic or as individual acts of violence targeting Asian peoples but as a structure of US settler colonialism and racial capitalism. The first half of the essay examines this history; the second half focuses on Asian American activist organisations that emerged in the 1980s and 1990s, including the Coalition Against Anti-Asian Violence: Organizing Asian Communities and Nodutdol, to illustrate their abolitionist visions of justice and how they are finding space to enact these visions in the current moment. The essay ultimately argues for the need to approach the struggle against anti-Asian racism expansively so as to encompass the struggle for decolonisation and Black liberation.

The COVID-19 pandemic is linked to a rise in stigma and discrimination against Chinese and other Asians, which is likely to have a negative impact on mental health, especially when combined with additional outbreak-related stressors. The authors discuss the need to consider the potential harms of these anti-Asian sentiments during both the height of the pandemic and longer-term recovery through (a) research—examining how it affects mental health and recovery; (b) practice—implementing evidence-based stigma reduction initiatives; and (c) policy—coordinating federal response to anti-Asian racism including investment in mental health services and community-based efforts.


This article is about analysing two issues of pornography and hate speech in the context of political theory and Malaysian politics. This article examines both issues from liberals arguments and it shows that although liberalism supports the right for free speech, since the 1970s many liberals feel that pornography and hate speech should not be part of free speech doctrine because both are not contributing for the public good in democratic system and they are also detrimental to the society. By using the cultural arguments of Asian values, Malaysia totally rejects these practices because they are not suitable in a cultural and religious conscious Malaysian multiracial society. Although many are sceptic about the use of Asian values for the rejection and the uses of hate speech by people including the government, opposition and NGOs for political gain, in principle, Malaysians are in consensus of rejecting both issues for the good of society.

The authors utilized Twitter's Streaming Application Programming Interface (API) to collect 3,377,295 U.S. race-related tweets from November 2019-June 2020. Sentiment analysis was performed using support vector machine (SVM), a supervised machine learning model. Accuracy for identifying negative sentiments, comparing the machine learning model to manually labeled tweets was 91%. They investigated changes in racial sentiment before and following the emergence of COVID-19. They concluded that social media data could be used to provide timely information to investigate shifts in area-level racial sentiment.


This study examined the mediational role of a color-blind racial attitude in the relations between endorsement of the model minority myth (i.e., comparative success attributed to achievement orientation and unrestricted mobility) and anti-Asian sentiments (i.e., endorsing perpetual foreigner stereotype and unfavorable attitudes toward Asian Americans) among a sample of 173 White American college students. Results suggested Whites who endorsed the model minority myth attributed to unrestricted mobility (though not achievement orientation) were more likely to treat Asian Americans as perpetual foreigners and hold unfavorable racial attitudes toward Asian Americans. Furthermore, a color-blind racial attitude mediated these relationships explaining why endorsement of the model minority myth attributed to unrestricted mobility may be related to increased anti-Asian sentiments. In particular, endorsement of the model minority myth attributed to unrestricted mobility by White college students positively correlated with their color-blind racial attitude, which in turn, positively correlated with both anti-Asian sentiment outcome variables. Implications of results for counseling and further research are discussed.

This study used the differential-outcomes hypothesis as a theoretical guide to examine the association of Guam's same-sex- and both-sex-oriented Asian-Pacific Islander adolescents and their participation in defensive aggression. Using ordinary least squares multiple regression analysis we tested the hypothesis with a probability sample of Guam's Asian-Pacific high school students. The results of the study demonstrated that same-sex-oriented males were less likely to participate in physical aggression and that same-sex-oriented adolescent females were significantly more likely to report that they had participated in defensive aggression. Same-sex-oriented females are more likely than same-sex-oriented males to participate in defensive aggression, primarily because they may be more likely to experience threatening situations on Guam's high school campuses.


This article examines the intersectional locations of Asian Americans facing hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic by assessing the racial, gender, and related symbolism involved in many attacks on those wearing face masks. The authors demonstrate that a one-dimensional assessment of xenophobia is necessary but insufficient, as it elides the broader power of the societal majority in numerous contexts within US structural domains shaped by the dominant white racial framing. Considering solutions, they propose identification and formation of a broader coalition of Asian Americans with those who share comparable social intersectional locations and identities. Active promotion of a collective ethic and shared humanness is required to counter discrimination, cultural individualism, and socio-racial inequality.


The article focuses on Psychocultural profiles of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. The article highlights the acculturation and assimilation experiences of Asian and Pacific
Islander Americans in the context of their cultural backgrounds. Immediately after their immigration process is completed, their cultural transformation is launched. Because culture and ecology are interrelated and complementary, a new culture is generally instantiated in local settings that shape new interactions and thoughts. The demographic profile of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans includes an array of more than 40 disparate cultural groups. These cultural groups come to the United States from world's largest continent, Asia, that stretches some 6,000 miles. Because each Asian national group has its own distinctive cultural background, unique historical experiences, and reasons for immigration, it is difficult if not impossible to generalize anything about Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. If anything is consistent about this group, it is its inconsistencies. Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are a diverse group of many cultural subgroups with sharp contrasts and contradictions.


In this essay, the authors review how the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic that began in the United States in early 2020 has elevated the risks of Asian Americans to hate crimes and Asian American businesses to vandalism. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the incidents of negative bias and microaggressions against Asian Americans have also increased. COVID-19 is directly linked to China, not just in terms of the origins of the disease, but also in the coverage of it. Because Asian Americans have historically been viewed as perpetually foreign no matter how long they have lived in the United States, the authors posit that it has been relatively easy for people to treat Chinese or Asian Americans as the physical embodiment of foreignness and disease. They examine the historical antecedents that link Asian Americans to infectious diseases. Finally, they contemplate the possibility that these experiences will lead to a reinvigoration of a panethnic Asian American identity and social movement.

This article examines the predominately Asian American "Anti-Phandom" community on GuruGossiper.com to explore how anti-fans of YouTube star Michelle Phan engage with ideologies of beauty cultures within Asian diasporic contexts. For many, Anti-Phandom provides an online space where personal concerns about female Asian beauty standards can be negotiated through Michelle Phan. Within these conversations, the author argue Anti-Phans display forms of resistance to Phan's postfeminist forms of female empowerment on racial and ethnic terms. However, these counters to Phan's notions of beauty also produce a rubric of the beautiful Asian woman which renders difference as ugly, creating idealized definitions of racial beauty and Asian/American cultures based on essentialized categories that police diasporic women.


In this article, the authors consider how, due to a spike in anti-Asian hate crimes, Asians might face a disproportionate mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Analyzing data from the University of Southern California's Center for Economic and Social Research Understanding Coronavirus in America survey, they report several findings. First, since the onset of the pandemic, Asians (Asian Americans in particular) have experienced higher levels of mental disorders than whites. Second, Asian Americans and Asian immigrants are about twice as likely as whites to report having encountered instances of COVID-19-related acute discrimination. Third, experiences of COVID-19-related discrimination increase mental disorders for all Americans. Finally, COVID-19-related discrimination partially explains the disproportionate mental health impact of the pandemic on Asians. In conclusion, they highlight the importance of tackling hate, violence, and discrimination so as to address the disproportionate mental health impacts of COVID-19 on minority populations.

Using 1992–2014 data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), the present study examines the nature and characteristics of hate crimes against Asian Americans by comparing them with those of hate crimes against African Americans and Hispanics. Minority-general and minority-specific models are proposed to guide the analysis. The findings are mixed. The analyses of all victim-related and most offender-related variables show similarities of hate crimes against Asian Americans to those against African Americans and Hispanics. These findings provide support for the minority-general model. Offenders’ race and all incident-related variables of hate crimes against Asian Americans, however, differ significantly from those of hate crimes against African Americans and Hispanics. These significant differences provide support for the minority-specific model.