Understand The Roots of Anti-Asian Racism to Build Asian Allyship in Early Learning Programs

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Agenda
- Background: Why is this important?
- History to Present of Racial Stereotyping of Asian Americans
  - Deconstructing the Model Minority
  - How the "Model Minority" & "Forever Foreigner" are Symbiotic
  - Gendered Racism; Youth & Mental Health
- Practical approaches to supporting young learners, families, and colleagues who are Asian American

Understanding Implicit Bias
- Woman, Korean, Black
- Implicit Biases
  - White men with positive
  - Black men with negative
  - Women with home
  - Men with workplace
- Explicit Bias
  - Does not consciously subscribe to those beliefs
- Conscious racist ≠ having unconscious racial bias
Awareness of Anti-Asian Bias

More than 4,000 adults were asked if they thought Asians in the US “experienced any bias or mistreatment related to the coronavirus”

March survey occurred after Atlanta murders

Impact of Anti-Asian American Bias

Early Childhood Professional’s Roles
- Fostering health and safety
- Family partnerships
- Collaborations with colleagues

Stress and Trauma
- Incidental and prolonged direct
- Incidental and prolonged indirect
- Intergenerational effects

Equity in Early Childhood
- Efforts in multilingualism or dual language learner supports - Spanish
- Anti-Black Racism

Deconstructing the Model Minority Myth

through history of racial characterization of Asian Americans
Deconstructing the “Model Minority”

- **Who are they?** typically, Japanese, Chinese/Taiwanese, Korean, South Asian; (some) Vietnamese & Filipino Americans

- **Who are they not?** typically, (some) Vietnamese & Filipino; Cambodian, Laotian, Hmong, Thai, Burmese, (& Pacific Islander Americans), etc.

Deconstructing “Model Minority”

- VARIOUS EXPLANATIONS for why performing so well...
  - Biologically/genetically more intelligent
  - Culturally more family-/duty-oriented, harder working
  - Social-economically from educated, professional families (US visa preferences, “brain drain”)

Defining "Forever Foreigner"

- Racial characterization & positioning of a group as unfit for legal citizenship and/or social-cultural citizenship because of fundamental unassimilability, i.e., “inauthentic Americaness” (also Latinx, MidEastern Amers)
- Part of larger “nativist racism:”
  - Personal example: “Go back to your country!”
  - Covid-19 (Kung Flu) racism: virus threat
(East) Asian Americans as Virus Threat

- 1875: exclude Chinese women (bc "prostitutes") - gendered/sexual racism
- 1882: exclude Chinese male laborers (& wives) - gendered/sexual racism
- 1860s+: torching whole Chinatowns per view Chinese Amers brought smallpox & syphilis to White Amer: Orange County, CA; Honolulu
- Early 2000s: Attacked for SARS
- 2009: Attacked for H1N1 (despite 1st case in US)
- 2020+: Attacked for covid-19

WWII mass incarceration of Japanese Americans into camps - "Yellow Peril"
"Model Minority’s" Connection to the Other Stereotype: "Forever Foreigner"

When "model" does too well, becomes a COMPETITIVE THREAT:

- Federal imprisonment of physicist Wen Ho Lee – 1999
- Trumpian Covid-19 (Kung Flu) Racism
- Anti-Asian/Am hate crimes (US Civil Rights Commission in 1980s & on...)

1982 Murder of Vincent Chin by Two Autoworkers Who Never Spent Night in Jail

Pillaging & Massacres

1) 1871 Chinatown Massacre in LA: shot/lynched 19 Chinese Amers
2) 1930 Watsonville, CA Riot: 1 Filipino Amer murdered
3) 1989 Stockton, CA Cleveland Elem. Shooting: 5 SE Asian Amer kids murdered
4) 2012 Sikh Temple Shooting, WI: 7 Sikh Amers murdered
5) 2021 Atlanta Spa Massacre: 6 Asian Am women murdered
6) 2021 Fed Ex Massacre, IA: 4 Sikh Amers murdered
7) Countless hate murders of < 4 casualties...
Murder of Balbir Singh Sodhi Post-9/11

Hate Groups Oft-Form Online

Anti-Asian American Violence
(these are underreports)
"Audit of Violence against Asian Pacific Americans" (2002)

- Assault & Battery 29%
- Vandalism 27%
- Harassment 21%
- Threats 16%

+ 2 murders, 1 hate rape
(most crimes occurred in schools; post 9/11)

The answer lies in understanding stigma. People who are stigmatized are unwanted by society, negatively stereotyped, rejected, and excluded, and ultimately othered. Asian Americans have experienced this kind of stigmatization institutionally since the early years of modern America. As America continues to racialize Asian Americans, it continues a legacy of structural violence and historical trauma. This means that anti-Asian violence exists within the very fabric of American society. It's this societal oppression and violence that becomes internalized into self-hate, self-harm, and ultimately the self-directed violence that is suicide.
1992 LA Unrest / Sa-i-gu (4/29)

"Racial Triangulation" C.J. Kim (1999)
Asian American Allyship in Early Learning

Basics
- Continue to strengthen your anti-racism muscles
  - Anti-racism is anti-racism
  - Learn about race, ethnicity, and become culturally competent
- Self-reflect (mirror work)
  - Be honest with yourself
  - Set personal goals
- Develop your anti-racist tribe
  - Find peer learning communities or develop a community of practice
  - Seek opportunities to discuss, debate, enlighten others

Six Ways to Build More Equitable Learning Environments (Nancy Duchesneau, Ph.D., Greater Good Magazine)
1. Engage children [students], families, and communities as full partners
2. Diversify the educator workforce
3. Provide meaningful professional development and supports
4. Develop inclusive discipline and [dress code] policies
5. Ensure equitable access to rigorous, culturally sustaining curricula
6. Provide access to integrated services and supports

General Resources
- Nadia’s Washington Post perspective (Black-Korean Solidarity)
- Nadia’s Garrett-Northwestern Lecture (Black-Korean Expanded)
- Nadia’s Public Seminar op-ed on sexualized racism against Asian American women
- Nadia’s Public Seminar op-ed on Trumpian nativist racism against Asian Americans
- Adult Books recommended from Electric Lit
- Anti-Asian Violence Resources
- Harvard’s Implicit Bias Test
Asian Allyship in Early Learning

Early Childhood Resources
- NHSA Policy Agenda highlights
- NAEYC Anti Bias Resources
- ASU's Children's Equity Project Start with Equity
- Sesame Street Strategies for helping children about race and identity
- PBS Kids Talking to Young Children About Race and Racism
- Anti-bias leaders in Early Childhood Education Reflecting on anti-bias education in action. The early years. And Always For
- Embrace Race Discussion

Asian American Specific Resources
- Boston U. RAND children's book recommendations
- Children's Books Just Like Me Books

Nadia Kim’s Daughters Taybi (10) & Kitani (6) at Koreatown LA Protest, March, 2021

Find Nadia Kim @profnadiakim on Twitter
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The Below are Possible Extra Slides......

Other Dimensions of Forever

Foreigner: “American Beats Out Kwan” – MSNBC

“‘You know, I’m tired of the Kristi Yamaguchis and the Michelle Kwans! They’re not American... when I look at a box of Wheaties, I don’t want to see eyes that are slanted .... I want to see American eyes looking at me.”

Bill Handel, popular morning DJ for KFI-AM, one of the nation’s most
**Background:** Anti-Asian American Nativist Racism (legal to sociocultural)

- Foreign (Discriminatory) economic, political, cultural, etc.
  - Foreign (Economic) Threat/Politically Expendable: 1875 Page Law, 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, 1980s Japan-bashing (led to V. Chin murder), middleman merchants ('92 LA “Riots”), Clinton donor scandal
- Colonial/Imperial Outsider: Filipinx Amers, Sammy Lee (Korean Amer Olympian)
- War-time enemy: Jpnz Amers, Chnz Amer “paper sons,” So. Asian/Asian Muslim Amers
- Spy: Wen Ho Lee (gov’t nuclear physicist)
- “Model Minority”- as Americanized T. Soong (Korean Amer)
  - (Korean Amer, B. Asian American)
  - Model minority’s color, culture, background [GAAS – VSO]
  - Upwardly mobile, entrepreneurial, pacifist, affluent, etc.

**Model Minority’s “Connection to the Other Stereotype: “Forever Foreigner”**

**WHAT HISTORY TEACHES US: RACIAL EXCLUSION**

- 1875 exclude Chinese women (bc “prostitutes”) - gendered/sexual racism
- 1882 exclude Chinese male laborers (& wives) - gendered/sexual racism
- 1917 exclude - India
- 1924 exclude - Korea, Japan
- 1934/5 exclude - Philippines (post-colonization)