

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

Nadia Y. Kim, Ph.D.
Jennifer Park, Ph.D.

1

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

2

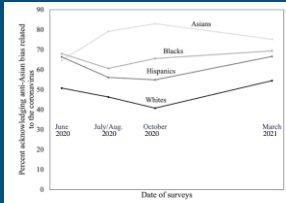
Understanding Implicit Bias

- 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



3

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

The government reporting biases in the United States has experienced spikes or intensifications related to the coronavirus at four time points, but researchers have not established if these spikes are connected to the coronavirus. Photo by iStock.com/Robert S. Gendron
Americans aren't learning about anti-Asian bias. We have the data. Washington Post with NORC at the University of Chicago, April 23, 2021

4

Impact of Anti-Asian American Bias

Early Childhood Professional's Roles

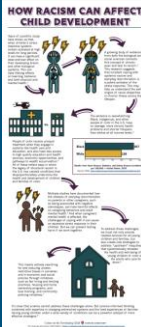
- Fostering health and safety
- Family partnerships
- Collaborations with colleagues

Stress and Trauma

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

Equity in Early Childhood

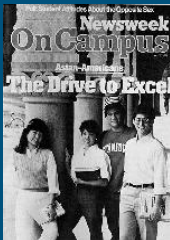
- Efforts in multilingualism or dual language learner supports - Spanish
- Anti-Black Racism



5

Deconstructing the Model Minority Myth

through history of racial characterization of Asian Americans



6

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.

7

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”)

8

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 Americanness” (also Latinx, MidEastern Amers)
- Part of larger “nativist racism:”
 - Personal example: “Go back to your country!”
 - Covid-19 (Kung Flu) racism: virus threat

9

(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

10



11

WWII mass incarceration of Japanese Americans into camps – "Yellow Peril"



12

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

When “model” does too well, becomes a COMPETITIVE THREAT:

- Stanford, Harvard, Princeton, Brown discriminated against Asian Americans in admissions in '80s (TIME, 1987; Takagi 1993).
- 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...)



13

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



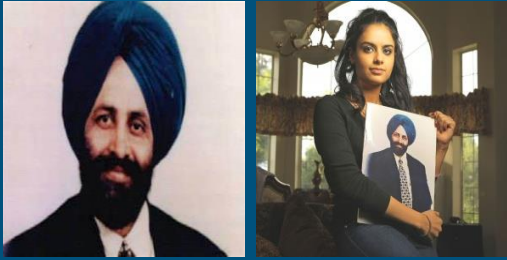
14

Pillaging & Massacres

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

15

Murder of Balbir Singh Sodhi Post-9/11



16

Hate Groups Oft-Form Online

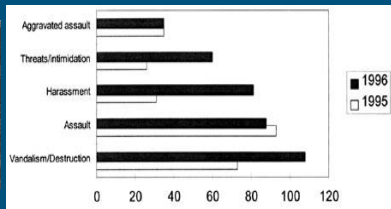
Achan, 8chan, The Daily Stormer: Sikh Temple Massacre (2012) & Charleston Massacre (2015)



17

Anti-Asian American Violence

(these are underreports)



18

"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)

19

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 is this societal oppression and violence that becomes internalized into self-hatred, self-harm and ultimately the self-directed violence that is suicide.

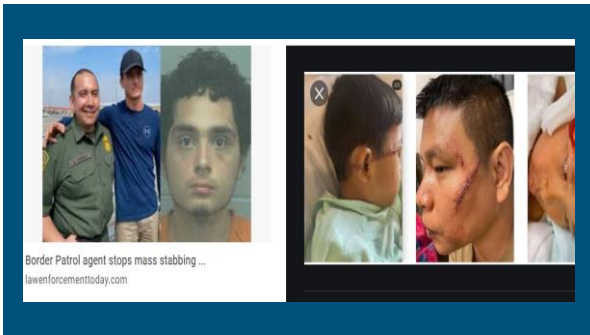
20

On Monday, an Asian woman was attacked by a man on her porch in Brooklyn. HE THREW ACID ON HER. She suffered severe second degree burns across her face and body.

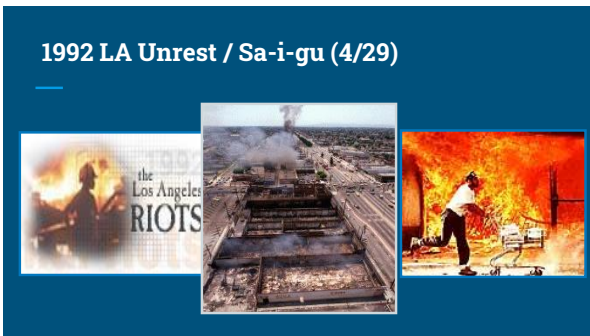
0:06 | 372.6K views

From -
12:22 AM - Apr 8, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

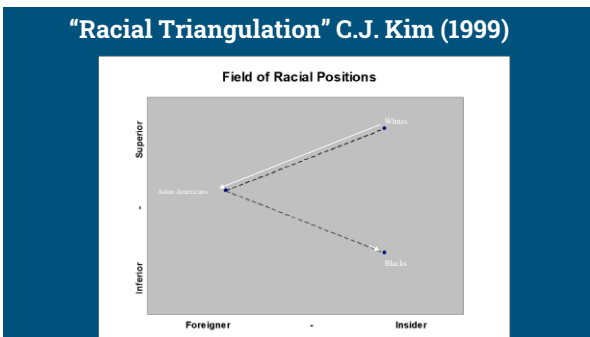
21



22



23



24

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, debunk, enlighten others

25

Asian American Allyship in Early Learning

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

26

Asian Allyship in Early Learning

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](#)

27

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 [Coming together: Talking to 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 [film trailer](#)
- Embrace Race [Resources](#)

Asian American Specific Resources

- Boston U's [CEED](#) children's book [recommendations](#)
- Children's Books [Lee & Low Books](#)

28

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



Find Nadia Kim
@profnadiakim
on Twitter

Find Jennifer Park
@jenniferparkdc
on LinkedIn

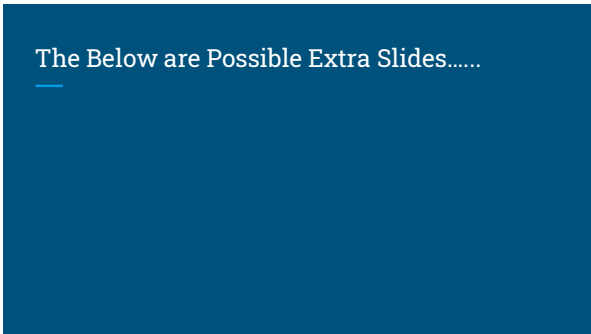
29



30



31



The Below are Possible Extra Slides.....

32

Foreigner:

“American Beats Out Kwan” –MSNBC

- “Michelle Kwan has Japanese ancestry”
- “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



33

Background: Anti-Asian American Nativist Racism (legal to sociocultural)

- Foreign (Economic) Threat/Politically Expediable: 1875 Page Law, 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, 1980s Japan-bashing (Ted 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, Chinz Amer "paper sons," So. Asian/Asian Muslim Amers
- Spy: Wen Ho Lee (gov't nuclear physicist)
- "Don't Represent Us Americans": L. Ho Gudge, K. Yamaguchi (Olympian), M. Kwan (Olympian)
- Wealthy Insiders: rich neighbors, students
- Academic Threat: rise in hate crimes at schools/univ. (CAAAV - NYC)
- Refugee Threat: Vietnamese & Cambodian gangs, deportations



34

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)

35
