

INTERSECTIONS: ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICA

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM





ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT IUB

Asian American Studies is a multidisciplinary field of study that grapples with pressing questions of identity, belonging, and power from the perspectives of Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Asian/Pacific diasporic histories, communities, and cultures. Since its emergence out of the 1960s-1970s US social movements, Asian American Studies has aimed to create knowledge that is relevant and useful for solving big problems of inequity and injustice. Scholars, practitioners, and students approach these puzzles from a variety of disciplinary perspectives spanning the arts, humanities, and social and behavioral sciences. Indiana University Bloomington's Asian American Studies program (AAS), established in 2007, maintains this vision through our research, creative activity, teaching, and programming with the goal of generating novel possibilities for the globalizing world of the 21st century.



AAS@IU.EDU



[@IUBASIANAM](https://twitter.com/IUBASIANAM)

Indiana University Land Acknowledgement Statement

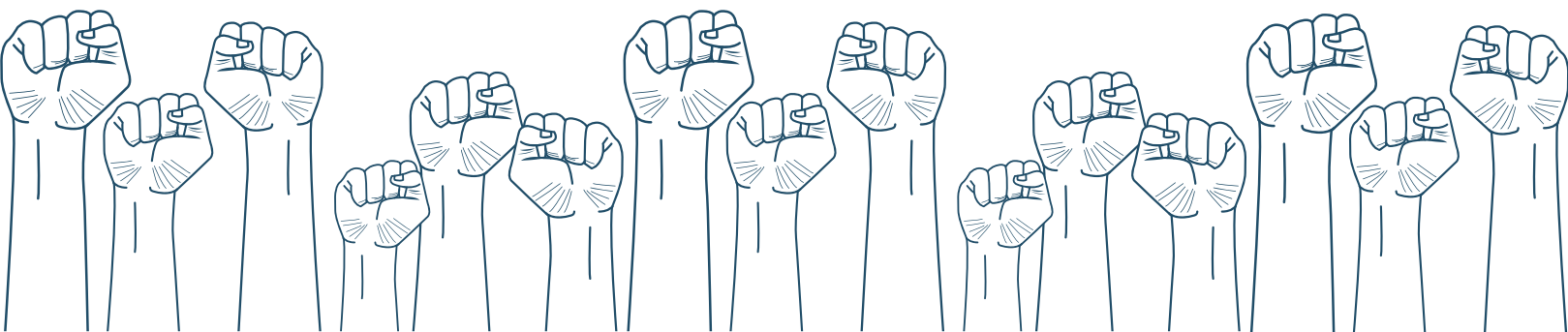
**INDIANA
UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON**



**LAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
STATEMENT**

“Indiana University wishes to acknowledge and honor the indigenous communities native to this region, and recognize that Indiana University – Bloomington was built on indigenous homelands and resources. We recognize the Miami, Delaware, Potawatomi, and Shawnee people as past, present, and future caretakers of this land.”

 **FIRST NATIONS EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL CENTER**
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS



AAST Black Lives Matter Solidarity Statement

Black Lives Matter. Unequivocally.

The Indiana University's Asian American Studies Program calls for the urgent undoing of our country's deeply entrenched habits of criminalizing, incarcerating, and murdering Black people. We grieve with the families and communities of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon Reed, McHale Rose, David McAtee, Tony McDade, Chris Beaty, Ahmaud Arbery, Sandra Bland, Philando Castile, Trayvon Martin, Akai Gurley, and countless other Black individuals who have died as the result of the United States' violent, foundational machinery of white supremacy.

Rightful change demands long-term commitments to studying, thinking, and acting ethically. The good news is that so many of our Black sisters and brothers have already done the hard work of analyzing the causes and outcomes of police violence as well as workable solutions. As students, teachers, and researchers, we must learn from them and support their ongoing efforts to fashion social, cultural, political, and economic systems that nourish rather destroy Black life. This includes sharing our money, time, and talent to causes that actively address state violence against Black people. It means overhauling policing apparatuses at local, state, and federal levels. And it begs a rigorous understanding of the complicity of Asian Americans in reproducing the anti-black racism that fuels white supremacy.

Black Lives Matter. Unequivocally.

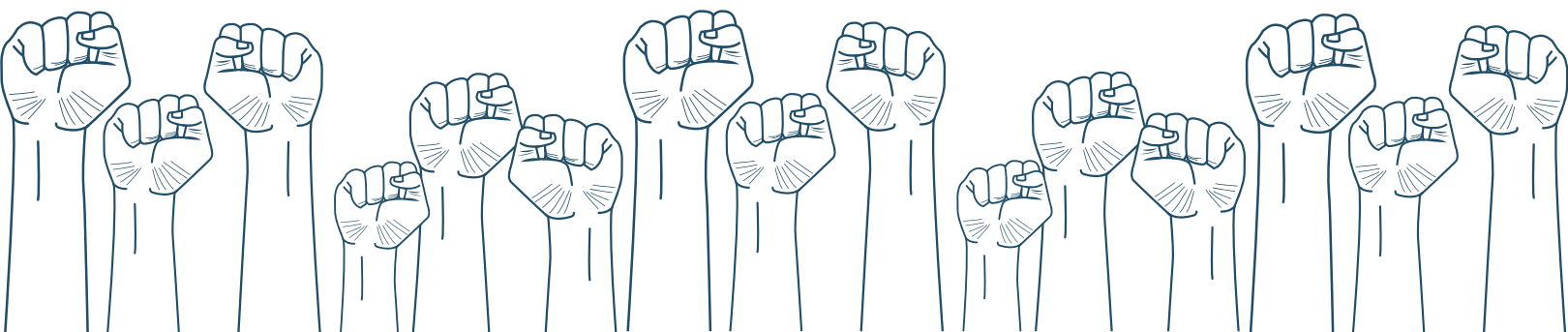


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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

DR. JENNIFER LEE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
SOCIOLOGY
ACTING DIRECTOR, ASIAN
AMERICAN STUDIES
PROGRAM

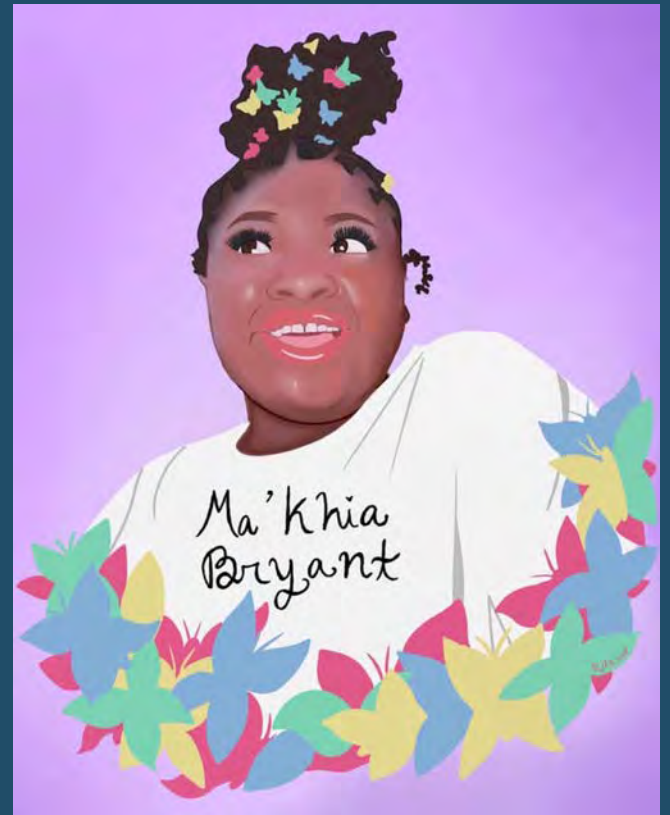


On March 13th, 2020, we left for spring break thinking we would return in three weeks. The three weeks came and went, and instead of returning to campus, we set up spots in our homes wherever we could—offices, bedrooms, corners, closets—to continue our teaching and learning for the rest of the year. Much of our daily interactions were moved online. We built and created community over Zoom, WhatsApp, and TikTok. (And for those of us less social media savvy, we at least tried.) Often with little support, we had to unlearn and learn new ways of thinking, working, studying, and communicating, all while caring for our parents, children, and other family members. In the scrambling we had to do because of the pandemic, and then with my transition into the position of AAST acting director, during a pandemic, we were not able to send out last year's newsletter as initially planned. So, we are now pleased to present the **AAST Newsletter, "Pandemic Edition."** This newsletter is a double-issue of sorts: the first part is last year's newsletter with its original content (including our statement that face-to-face classes were suspended until April 6th); the second part is this year's newsletter. Together, this collection of events, accomplishments, and achievements underscores the incredible amount of individual and collective strength within our community during an unprecedented time.

DIRECTORS LETTER CONT.

In the beginning of the pandemic, we knew very little about the coronavirus, but what everyone seemed to be saying was that it originated in China. Quickly the virus became racialized—the China Virus, the Kung Flu, the Wuhan Flu—leading to a sharp **rise in Anti-Asian violence** and hate crimes. Asian Americans, already isolated because of state lockdowns, felt increased fear and marginalization in our own communities. At the same time, the pandemic highlighted other racial inequalities as well—African Americans, Latinx, and Native American and Indigenous communities were, and continue to be, disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Sadly, the pandemic continues to shine light on the systemic racism, white supremacy, and xenophobia that plagues our country. There have been too many lives lost in the past year and a half: the more than 600,000 lives in the U.S.—and the 3.4 million globally—that were taken by COVID-19, as well as **George Floyd, Ashton Pinke, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon Reed, McHale Rose, David McAtee, Tony McDade, Chris Beaty, Ahmaud Arbery, Soon Chung Park, Suncha Kim, Yong Ae Yue, Paul Andre Michels, Hyun Jung Park Grant, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Delaina Ashley Yaun, Amarjeet Johal, Jaswinder Kaur, Jaswinder Singh, Amarjit Sekhon, Adam Toledo, Ma'Khia Bryant, Shane Nguyen, and the many, many others whose lives were ended too soon.**

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MA'KHIA BRYANT BY JULIA BARRETT



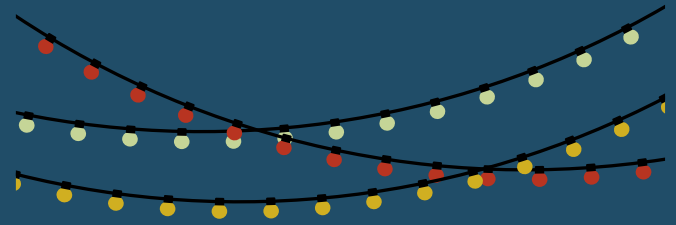
JULIA KESTNER DESIGNS

PANDEMIC EDITION 2019-2021

DIRECTORS LETTER CONT.

Amidst the sadness and anger, there have been some “bright” spots that have kept me going, and many of them involve AAST. As the acting director for AAST this past year, I am appreciative of the opportunities to work with the Asian American Studies Program, the Asian Culture Center, and the Asian American student groups at IU. As Dr. Wu wrote in her letter, at the beginning of the pandemic, **we hosted a virtual Community Conversation Hour and Physical Distancing Creativity Showcase.** At this inspiring event, students, staff, and faculty, as well as some colleagues from other institutions, came together to discuss the current anti-Asian sentiment and how Asian Americans could both support each other and other BIPoC groups. We also showcased the amazing creative works of our talented students and colleagues, which are shown in the first half of this newsletter.

Last fall, we also launched the **AAST Timeline Digital Exhibit.** In December, we brought together over 70 IU faculty, staff, alumni, and students from across the country to celebrate and recognize the hard work that graduate student affiliates Stephanie Nguyen and Zackary Hegarty put in to creating the interactive website and historical timeline of the Asian American Studies Program at IU. Many of those who attended played instrumental roles in the establishment of the Asian Culture Center and the Asian American Studies Program at IU. As moderators and “MCs” of the event, Stephanie and I highlighted key moments from the timeline, and for each moment, those involved shared their stories and experiences at IU during that time. The event was a huge success, and it was amazing to hear from those who worked and fought to build the Asian Culture Center and the Asian American Studies Program here at IU. And there was a lot of fun reminiscing too!



THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM AND THE OFFICE OF THE BICENTENNIAL PRESENT

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE: ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DIGITAL EXHIBIT LAUNCH AND VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

Grab a celebratory drink and please join the Asian American Studies Program and the Office of the Bicentennial for the official launch of, “Past, Present, and Future: Asian American Studies at Indiana University.” This public-facing digital exhibit honors the significant contributions of IU community members who began advocating for an Asian American Studies Program in the late 1980s and supporting its present-day teaching and research activities. Our virtual celebration will showcase several alumni, faculty, and staff advocates who played key roles in the evolution of IU’s AAST program. The exhibit creators—Stephanie T.X. Nguyen, Doctoral Student, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; Zackary Hegarty, Doctoral Student, School of Informatics, Virtual Heritage—will discuss why they created the exhibit to mark IU’s Bicentennial.

THURS, DECEMBER 3, 2020 | 7-8:30 PM (EST)

Check out the digital exhibit here: <https://aast200.sitehost.iu.edu/index.html>

Please register in advance for the exhibit launch and virtual celebration:
<https://iu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqdu2ggTsjEtMmHEP-7C2Qml3WABcJAyqQ>

DIRECTORS LETTER CONT.

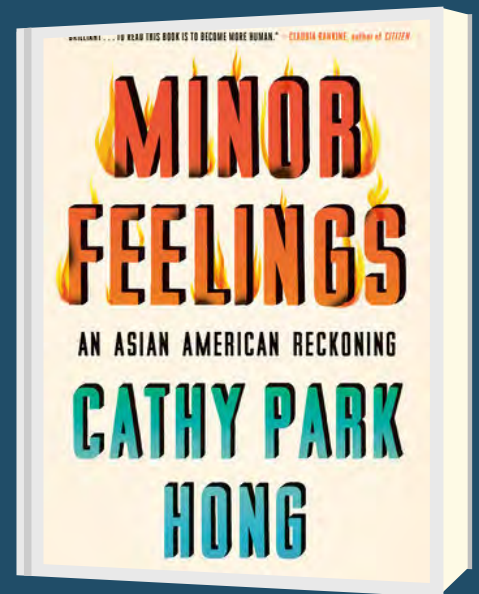
We also co-sponsored several events with the Asian Culture Center. In September, the IU Cinema, the Asian Culture Center, and **AAST hosted virtual events and film premiers for New York-based Filipina filmmaker Isabel Sandoval**. The first event was a screening of her film *Aparisyon* (Apparition). Isabel Sandoval was present for a virtual conversation and an interaction Q&A moderated by Indiana University Visiting Assistant Professor Christine Peralta and Purdue University Assistant Professor and filmmaker Dada Docot. The second event was the Jorgensen Lecture, which included a virtual conversation and interactive Q&A with Isabel Sandoval, moderated by Dr. Ellen Wu.

AAST also co-sponsored and participated in the **Cathy Park Hong's "Minor Feelings" Book Discussion** Series hosted by the IU Asian Culture Center, Purdue University, and University of Illinois. AAST graduate student affiliate, Huixin Tian, moderated one of the book discussion meetings. The last event of the series featured a discussion and interactive Q&A with author Cathy Park Hong. Professor and AAST affiliate, Dina Okamoto, moderated this event.

This past spring, **AAST once again partnered with the ACC and IU Cinema to screen the Donut King** as part of the Movement: Asian/Pacific America film series. (You can check out the blog post written by Michaela Owens here.) Not only was this an entertaining documentary, but to see the resilience and the success of the Cambodian refugee-owned donut shops gives hope as we question the effects of the pandemic on minority-owned small businesses.



APARISYON (APPARITION)



DIRECTORS LETTER CONT.

This year was also the first year of the Asian American Thematic Community in Teter Hall, and in the Spring, I had the fantastic opportunity to lead conversation hours with the undergraduate students about different AA/PI issues. In doing so, I got to meet the next generation of AA/PI leaders, and I have to say, I'm very hopeful for the future. I am excited to continue these conversations with them next year--and in person!

Unfortunately, given the circumstances, we decided not to hold our annual graduate student symposium this year, but we certainly look forward to hosting it again next year. In addition, our planned event with Asian American activist and author **Alice Wong**, co-hosted with the City of Bloomington, was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, but I am happy to report that AAST has invited Alice Wong back for a virtual presentation this coming Fall. So stay tuned!

Student interest in Asian American Studies courses continues to remain strong. **Asian American Studies offered three courses in 2020-2021.** As always, we are grateful for lecturer Lisa Kwong for teaching A101: Introduction to Asian American Studies in both Fall and Spring semesters and A201: Asian Diaspora Experience. Be sure to read Lisa's thoughtful teaching reflection in this newsletter! Graduate student affiliate Shelley Rao also offered S101: Sociology of Asian America in the Spring. Given the events of this past year and a half, the need for a robust offering of courses is ever more important. We are thrilled that Lisa Kwong will be teaching for AAST again next year, and thanks to our affiliated faculty, we will be offering more 300-level AAST courses than ever before.



DIRECTORS LETTER CONT.

I've been amazed by the work that our AAST affiliates, especially our students, have been doing. Check out the work of the winners of the 2nd Physical Distancing Creativity Showcase and the long list of accomplishments of our graduate students. We also highlight Mihee Kim-Kort's #HonorAsianWomen syllabus, which is a compilation of books and resources written by Asian women about Asian women's experiences in America. As Mihee notes, this syllabus is "a demonstration of the blood and sweat poured out by Asian women in a variety of spheres across the world." And, the fabulous artwork was done by Monica Heilman!



I am pleased to announce that we will have a **new Director** starting July 1. Ruth N. Halls Associate Professor and Chair of American Studies, **Dr. Karen Inouye**, will be taking over the reins. Welcome, Dr. Inouye! A leader in the field, Karen's research interests are in Asian American and Asian Canadian Studies, transnational American Studies, and wartime incarceration, and she is the author of the award-winning book, *The Long Afterlife of Nikkei Wartime Incarceration*. She has been an affiliate faculty member of AAST since 2007 and was instrumental in formally establishing our program. As Chair of American Studies at IU, Karen has worked hard with the faculty, staff, and students to substantially grow, strengthen, and increase the national visibility and reputation of the department. We look forward to doing the same under her expertise and strong leadership.



DIRECTORS LETTER CONT.

I'd like to take a moment to recognize and **thank Dr. Ellen Wu** for her tireless work and dedication to Asian American Studies at IU. With limited resources, Ellen turned the Asian American Studies program into the exciting unit it is today. And I don't just mean when she started as AAST Director in 2015. As some of you may know, Ellen was an undergraduate student here at IU and was very involved in the student activism, organizing, and community building on campus that eventually led to the creation of the Asian Culture Center and the Asian American Studies Program. As director of AAST, Ellen was the visionary behind most of our major programs and events, including the biennial Politics, Promises, and Possibilities symposium and the annual IU Cinema Series, Movement: Asian/Pacific America. Ellen increased the engagement of graduate students through the graduate student advisory board and the creation of the annual graduate student research symposium. She also established partnerships with other units and organizations and increased our visibility and impact, not just at IU, but nationally. Most importantly, Ellen expanded the public-facing work and community outreach of our program. Through programming, curriculum development, and community engagement, Ellen progressed AAST toward its critical mission of social justice. These are just a few reasons why we are grateful for her many years of leadership and service to AAST.



I end my letter on a note of gratitude. Our program could not run without the hard work and dedication of our staff: Fiscal Officer Julia Mobley, Financial Manager Paula Cotner, Office Administrators Whitney Olibo, and Kathy Teige; Scheduling Officer Micaela Richter, Graduate Assistant Sydney-Paige Patterson, Academic Advisors: Kristen Murphy and Stacy Weida, and Instructor Lisa Kwong. I recently spoke to the graduating AA/PI seniors and reminded them (and myself) that in this year characterized by much pain and loss, it is even more important to hang on to the moments of joy that often seem quickly fleeting. For me, many of those moments include our Asian American Studies colleagues and students, and for that, I thank you.

AAST DIGITAL TIMELINE LAUNCH

THIS PUBLIC-FACING DIGITAL EXHIBIT HONORS THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF IU COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO BEGAN ADVOCATING FOR AN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM IN THE LATE 1980S AND SUPPORTING ITS PRESENT-DAY TEACHING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.



The virtual celebration showcased several alumni, faculty, and staff advocates who played key roles in the evolution of IU's AAST program. The exhibit creators—Dr. Ellen Wu, Associate Professor, Department of History and Director of Asian American Studies; Stephanie T.X. Nguyen, Doctoral Student, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; Zackary Hegarty, Doctoral Student, School of Informatics, Virtual Heritage—discussed why they created the exhibit to mark IU's Bicentennial.

Check out the digital exhibit here: <https://aast200.sitehost.iu.edu/index.html>

#HONORASIANWOMEN SYLLABUS

ORGANIZED AND COMPILED BY AAST GRADUATE STUDENT MIHEE KIM-KORT.

ARTWORK BY MONICA HEILMAN

#HONORASIANWOMENSYLLABUS

#HONORASIANWOMENSYLLABUS



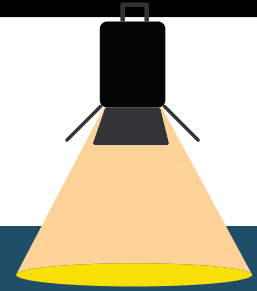
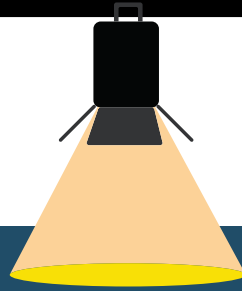
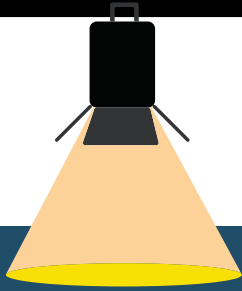
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GENEALOGIES
CRITICAL THEORY
GENDER, SEXUALITY, QUEER STUDIES
CULTURAL STUDIES
EDUCATION
HISTORY
LITERATURE & POETRY
RELIGION
ARTISTS

On the cover, clockwise: Patsy Mink, Youn Yuh Jung, Helen Zia, Kristina Wong, Anna May Wong, Sister Mary John Mananzan, Patricia "Tati" Licuanan, Teresita "Ging" Quintos Deles, Karina Constantino-David, Vandana Shiva, Sylvia "Guy" Claudio, Kalpana Chawla, Valerie Kaur, Lynn Nanticha Ocharoenchal, Linda Sarsour, Mia Mingus, Sandra Oh, Reanne Estrada, Grace Lee Boggs, Yuri Kochiyama. Artwork by Monica Heilman.

Anti-Asian racism has long been a part of U.S. American history. From immigration exclusion acts targeting Chinese women to displays of Filipinos at world fairs to the persecution of the Japanese during WWII. The model minority myth and perpetual foreigner syndrome emerges in a particular way as they are projected onto Asian women in America creating a violence of its own genre rooted in hypersexualization, exoticization, and objectification. It is impossible to stay silent. Our tears, our grief have long been hidden and erased from this world. To that end we are providing a syllabus. It's not simply a list of books and resources but a demonstration of the blood and sweat poured out by Asian women in a variety of spheres across the world on topics that address Asian women's experiences in America.

AAST Student Spotlight: Monica Heilman



Monica's artwork was published in the **Journal of Asian American Studies October 2020 Issue**. Her piece is entitled "Halmoni" and "Paternal Grandmother."

ARTIST STATEMENT. In this set of portraits, I depict my grandmothers, both living, one residing in South Korea, the other in small town USA. During the pandemic, my mind is frequently on elder family members. These portraits honor and memorialize, while capturing our current reality, when one's likeness is most likely obscured by a mask. Yet the mask is contentious. I am confident that my halmoni must wear one, and almost as confident that my conservative white grandmother does not. In recreating the image of a woman who does not want to see me, I contend with the tensions of a multiracial Asian American identity for which long-standing racism is inseparable from ancestry.

Faculty Teaching Reflection

LISA KWONG, AAST LECTURER

This school year almost looked like any other: enrolled students from different backgrounds and majors, including the usual international Asian contingent; students returning for their second AAST class with me; learning about historical and current events; consuming the best literature and media by Asian American creators. However, students Zoomed in or logged onto Canvas from China, India, South Korea, and other countries; we contextualized COVID-19 and anti-Asian hate, we processed the significance of electing Kamala Harris as Vice President and the traumas of the Atlanta spa shootings and the Indianapolis FedEx shooting, and we celebrated when Asians and Asian Americans had a banner year at the 2021 Oscars. Despite personal, national, and global challenges, my students and I virtually explored the astonishing breadth and possibilities of what Asian Americans have experienced and achieved and what is still yet to come.



During my in-person classes, I usually like to screen media (e.g. films and TV shows) and then analyze the material with my students. With not everyone able to join the synchronous Zoom sessions, I turned to YouTube videos, which I could embed into my Canvas pages. Therefore, students were able to supplement their academic and creative readings with videos on Chinese Americans in the Mississippi Delta, Japanese American incarceration animations, interviews with Southeast Asian American refugees settled all across the US, yellowface, and the career of Anna May Wong, among other subjects. Another new feature I added was a Canvas module specifically dedicated to current news articles about Asian Americans. This helped students to directly connect course topics to current events, giving even greater urgency to what they were learning. After each shooting tragedy, I curated a list of articles and resources, so that students could be accurately informed and could take action if they felt comfortable. Social media posts by revered authors, scholars, and/or activists like Viet Thanh Nguyen, Paisley Rekdal, and Helen Zia both instructed and offered comfort.

I also continued my invitation of in-class guest authors and speakers, who joined us on Zoom instead of Skype. In AAST-A101, Introduction to Asian American Studies, we read *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*, a memoir by 'Beth' Bich Minh Nguyen, and were treated to a visit by Professor Nguyen who graciously read excerpts and answered student questions. We also had the opportunity to read her newer essays online, forthcoming in Professor Nguyen's next book, *Owner of a Lonely Heart*. A101 also saw the return of Kim Gantt, a local transracial adoptee of Korean descent who reunited with her Korean parents after 50 years in 2019. While that part of Ms. Gantt's narrative has been a constant (I still cry every time she shows the reunion video), she presents new perspectives and milestones in her adoptee journey every time she visits. For example, during Spring 2021, her father John Gantt accompanied her. Finally, my newest guest speaker this year was Crystal Meisaan Chan who self-identifies as a mixed-race Asian American novelist and activist. She engaged in a candid and lively dialogue with my students about her experiences as a mixed-race person and writer. Being a refugee, an adoptee, or a mixed-race or multiracial person may not be identities that immediately come to mind when people think of Asian Americans. For some students, hearing from these speakers was eye-opening; for a few, there were moments of recognition if the speaker's experiences were similar to their own.

Students in AAST-A200, Asian American Literature and Media, had an equally dynamic line-up of guest authors and their own epiphanies. First was Stephanie Han, author of the short story collection *Swimming in Hong Kong*. Dr. Han's stories introduced students to unexpected narratives such as writing about American-born Asian Americans living overseas and writing outside of one's own racial and ethnic identities. The diverse range of her stories provoked a lot of questions, and during her visit, Dr. Han fielded over 20 from the students who were present and those who had submitted questions on Canvas. Second, we read *World of Wonders*, a book of personal and nature essays by Aimee Nezhukumatathil. Reading this collection helped students to expand their notions of what Asian Americans can write about and also who can be considered a nature writer, a label often automatically bestowed upon white authors. Professor Nezhukumatathil generously joined our class twice after her initial visit was cut short by an unexpected phone call informing her of a New York Times (NYT) feature for the book. Finally, we read *Girl in Translation* by NYT best-selling author Jean Kwok. As with past classes, Ms. Kwok's book was a favorite among students with some even saying it was among one of the best novels they've ever read. Ms. Kwok's visits always consist of a visual presentation detailing her life, which often provides the inspiration behind her novels. After engaging with these powerful narratives, some students chose to explore their own experiences creatively in the final project, whether it was a memoir about being a transracial adoptee in Indiana, a cookbook of family recipes, or a drawing of the pressures of being a model minority. Students who chose the analytical research option explored topics such as the lack of Asian American literature in K-12 curriculums and the overlooked Central Asian American diaspora.



While there is some personal connection lost in the world of Zoom, my students and I made the best of our situation. It's always been important to me that every class becomes a community, and this still happened with those who regularly attended the live sessions, comments in the Zoom chat, posts on Canvas discussion boards, working together in breakout rooms, and my providing reminders and resources for self-care. When it was time for each Wellness Day during Spring 2021, I emphasized that the students needed to rest, that their assignments could wait. Students appreciated that I cared about their mental health and understood the myriad of responsibilities they were juggling. In turn, students expressed concern and grace when I experienced a major health scare and underwent a stressful apartment renovation accompanied by constant construction noise. Through it all, my students and I managed to survive and thrive on Zoom.

One day shortly after the spring semester ended, I was masked and ordering a smoothie downtown when I suddenly heard, "Professor Kwong?" I turned around, and the voice belonged to a student who had taken classes with me the entire last year. After a year in isolation and teaching to a screen of mostly black boxes, it was wonderful to meet one of my pandemic students in person. Although it was convenient to have names on the Zoom screen, I look forward to seeing my students back in physical classrooms and calling roll again.

Congratulations

TO OUR ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
CREATIVITY SHOWCASE WINNERS

MIHEE KIM-KORT #STOPASIANHATE

I'm a ghost, of your sins,
of your wars,
your crimes,
until you put me to work
on the streets or in the pews
or in the classroom
or in the fields

#STOPASIANHATE

doesn't matter because nothing
levels the playing field
even when I become a mirror
still, you ask
why are you
here?

so I'm a
a peril until you decide
I'm a pearl
an invasion,
a contagion,
a massage therapist then a sex worker
then temptation, the cause of your stumbling
of your shooting spree
Am I
powerless,
voiceless,
wordless, or maybe there aren't enough words

When you see me you say
you don't see an Asian
But the problem is that you don't see

mkk

Congratulations

TO OUR ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
CREATIVITY SHOWCASE WINNERS

KELLY FAN "BIG AND SMALL IN ASIAN AMERICA"



Big and Small in Asian America

Link to **Article**:

<https://littlerefresh.wordpress.com/2020/10/06/big-and-small-in-asian-america/>

Link to **Spotify Playlist**: [big and small in asian america](#)

AAST Statement on the Killing of Asian Women in Atlanta

Indiana University's Asian American Studies program is devastated and outraged at the horrific killings of eight people in Atlanta this week. Our hearts go out to the loved ones, families, and communities of the victims.

Anti-Asian violence has increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is fueled by enduring, misguided assumptions that Asian peoples pose a threat to this country. Six of the people who lost their lives were Asian women. Indeed, Asian women have shouldered the brunt of anti-Asian hate incidents over the past year. This is the terrible result of intersecting racism, class inequalities, sexism, and entrenched violence. Asian women live in world that hypersexualizes and fetishizes them, denying them the dignity and safety that everyone deserves.

It is in grief, fear, and anger that we will continue to fight against white supremacy in its many forms, including xenophobia, misogyny, and domestic terrorism.

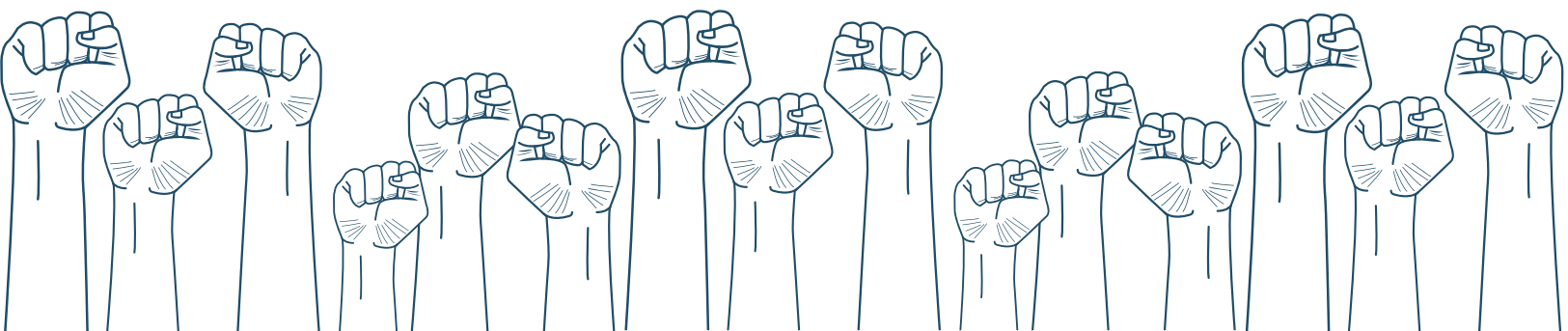


AAST Statement on the Killing of Sikh Workers in Indianapolis

Indiana University's Asian American Studies Program once again grieves the loss of eight lives in a mass shooting, this time at the Indianapolis FedEx facility. We offer our sincerest condolences to the victims' families and loved ones. We recognize the devastating toll on the Sikh community as it mourns the deaths of Amarjeet Johal, Jaswinder Kaur, Jaswinder Singh, and Amarjit Sekhon. We stand in solidarity with them.

This tragedy occurred exactly one month after the Atlanta massacre that left six Asian women dead, and is part of this country's history of violence against Sikhs and other Asian Americans. And it is a continuation of the systemic violence that overwhelmingly burdens the working class, immigrants, refugees, and all communities of color.

Indiana is home to more than 10,000 Sikh persons. They are an integral part of our state. We urge our university and all Hoosiers to work together to ensure their safety and well-being through robust, consequential actions.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

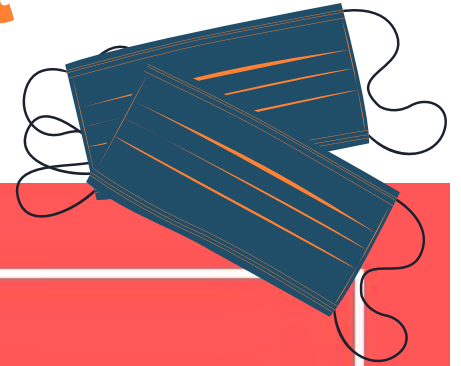
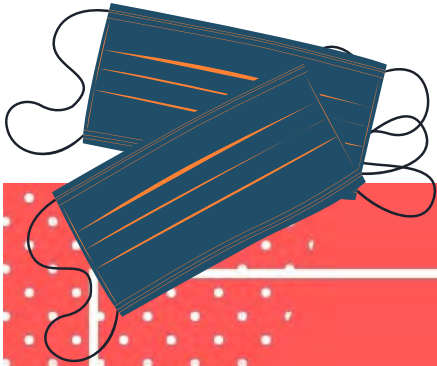
INTERSECTIONS: ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICA



**ASIAN AMERICAN
STUDIES PROGRAM**

2019-2020 NEWSLETTER

AAST COVID-19 Statement



INDIANA UNIVERSITY + COVID-19

The Asian American Studies Program hopes that everyone will stay safe and healthy during this time. Face to face classes are suspended until April 6. Instructors will be teaching remotely (online). Please check coronavirus.iu.edu for the latest updates on Indiana University's response to COVID-19.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

DR. ELLEN WU
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY
DIRECTOR, ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Dear Friends of IU Bloomington Asian American Studies Program,

Black Lives Matter. Unequivocally.

Indiana University's Asian American Studies Program calls for the urgent undoing of our country's deeply entrenched habits of criminalizing, incarcerating, and murdering Black people. We grieve with the families and communities of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon Reed, McHale Rose, Tony McDade, Chris Beaty, Ahmaud Arbery, Sandra Bland, Philando Castile, Trayvon Martin, Akai Gurley, and countless other Black individuals who have died as the result of the United States' violent, foundational machinery of white supremacy.

Rightful change demands long-term commitments to studying, thinking, and acting ethically. The good news is that so many of our Black sisters and brothers have already done the hard work of analyzing the causes and outcomes of police violence as well as workable solutions. As students, teachers, and researchers, we must learn from them and support their ongoing efforts to fashion social, cultural, political, and economic systems that nourish rather than destroy Black life. This includes sharing our money, time, and talent to causes that actively address state violence against Black people. It means overhauling policing apparatuses at local, state, and federal levels. And it begs a rigorous understanding of the complicity of Asian Americans in reproducing the anti-black racism that fuels white supremacy.

Black Lives Matter. Unequivocally.

DIRECTORS LETTER CONT.

I lead off this year's Director's message with the Asian American Studies Program's Solidarity Statement to underscore our continuing commitment to work spiritedly towards achieving racial justice in our county. The spectacular convergence of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter has made it unavoidably clear that racial justice research, teaching, and service is essential. The massive uprising in the United States and worldwide could only happen because it built on decades of research, teaching, and service by Black thinkers and organizers who have not shied away from spotlighting the uncomfortable truths about the distribution of power, resources, and violence in our society, even when it came at great personal risk.

Asian American Studies is a multidisciplinary field of study that grapples with pressing questions of identity, belonging, and power from the perspectives of Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Asian/Pacific diasporic histories, communities, and cultures. Since its emergence out of the 1960s-1970s US social movements, Asian American Studies has aimed to create knowledge that is relevant and useful for solving big problems of inequity and injustice. Scholars, practitioners, and students approach these puzzles from a variety of disciplinary perspectives spanning the arts, humanities, and social and behavioral sciences.

Right now, there is no bigger, more urgent problem that needs solving than anti-Black racism. IU Bloomington's Asian American Studies program remains small, but I'm hopeful that we'll keep growing by attracting more students eager to take on the grand challenges of unraveling white supremacy.



"Right now,
there is no
bigger,
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PROGRAM IN
RACE, MIGRATION, & INDIGENEITY
College of Arts & Sciences

**POLITICS, PROMISES, & POSSIBILITIES:
IMMIGRANT & INDIGENOUS INTERSECTIONS, REVISITED**

SPEAKERS

Brian Joseph Gilley, Ph.D.
Professor, Anthropology
Indiana University

Hi'ilei Julia Hobart, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Indigenous Studies
Columbia University

Manu Karuka, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, American Studies
Barnard College

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2019
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
(LUNCH TO FOLLOW)

GLOBAL & INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES BUILDING, GA 0001

CO-SPONSORS
ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES &
NATIVE AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES

Contact Cynthia Wu (cynw@iu.edu) at least seven days in advance to request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any accommodation to participate in this event.



DR. CHRISTINE PERALTA

**REMEMBERING
= FORGETTING**
the meso-far

**COMMEMORATION AND FORGETTING
IN THE GATEWAY TO THE PACIFIC:**
Japanese and African Americans in San
Francisco's Foreign Relations and Neighborhoods

Dr. Meredith Oda

Thursday, November 14 // 4pm
Indiana Memorial Union Walnut Room

Co-sponsors: Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society (CRRES) and the College of Arts and Sciences, Thelma F. Swan American Studies Program, East Asian Languages and Cultures, U.S. History Workshop

Dr. Meredith Oda will discuss the ways in which US-Japan relations were commemorated in San Francisco after WWII, despite the mass internment of Japanese Americans.

Throughout 2019-2020, we addressed this question through our programming. In September 2019, AAST co-sponsored the **"Politics, Promises, and Possibilities: Immigrant and Indigenous Intersections, Revisited"** symposium with the Program on Race, Migration, and Indigeneity and Native American and Indigenous Studies. Featured speakers Manu Karuka (American Studies, Barnard College), Hi'ilei Hobart, Indigenous Studies (Columbia University), and Brian Gilley (NAIS/Anthropology, Indiana University) provided insight on the relationship between does indigenous sovereignty immigrant rights. They discussed indigenous nations and immigrant communities have interacted with one another within the analytical framework of settler-colonial governments. They addressed how forces of capitalism, which motivate land removal and labor exploitation, have tied these two populations together, past and present.

In October 2019, the AAST Graduate Advisory Board hosted a meet-and-greet for students with Visiting Assistant Professor of History and **IU Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society (CRRES) Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Christine Peralta**. Dr. Peralta spoke informally about her research on empire, comparative ethnic studies, migration, and medicine. She also addressed professional concerns common to graduate students. Welcome Dr. Peralta!

In November 2019, AAST and CRRES co-hosted **Dr. Meredith Oda (History, University of Nevada Reno)** for the CRRES speaker series. Dr. Oda spoke about her new book Gateway to the Pacific: Japanese Americans and the Remaking of Transpacific San Francisco (Chicago, 2018). Dr. Oda also had lunch with students from the US History Workshop and gave an informal talk on Hawai'i's foodways at the Asian Culture Center. She also recorded an interview for the Asian Culture Center's WFHB radio show HEARABOUTS.

The **2020 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**, which honors the World War II era removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans every February 19, was exceptional. Asian Culture Center hosted a gathering to discuss alumnus Eric Langowski's petition to the IU Board of Trustees to issue an apology and make amends for denying admission to Japanese American student applicants during the war. Langowski discussed his petition and his research uncovering this episode of the university's history. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs faculty member Dr. Ashlyn Nelson gave a testimony sharing how the wartime trauma impacted her family. The petition inspired a separate event put together by the PACE (Political and Civic Engagement) program for students to discuss the petition and its wider implications.



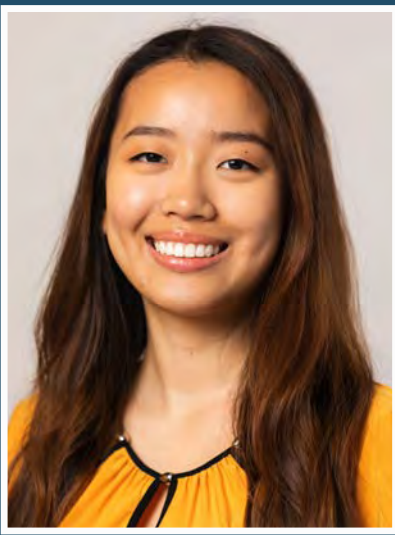
The **2020 IUB AAST Research Symposium—our big yearly research event**—took place on February 28. This year's theme was **"Resistance and Resilience: Envisioning Radical Futures in Challenging Times."** Our own Asian American Studies Graduate Advisory Board coordinated the event. Their description: "This symposium reflects on Asian American struggles for racial justice and equality then and now. The collective discussion analyzes how creative leadership in various forms fosters imaginative thinking during times of uncertainty and proposes paths for progression based on lessons learned from past triumphs." Dr. Mimi Thi Nguyen, Associate Prof, Gender/Women's Studies and Asian American Studies, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, delivered the keynote address. She offered a sharp critical appraisal of the concept of "resilience." Featured IUB presenters were PhD students Mihee Kim-Kort (Religious Studies), Stephanie Nguyen (Higher Education), Natasha Saelua (Higher Education), and CRRES Postdoc /Visiting Asst Prof (HIST) Dr. Christine Peralta.



Disappointingly—but understandably—COVID-19 threw a wrench into our programming plans for March and April. For Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we had an exciting line up queued for our annual **MOVEMENT: ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICA film series** jointly curated with IU Cinema and Asian Culture Center. At IU Cinema, we were going screen three films (CHINATOWN RISING; LINGUA FRANCA) WHEN WE WALK) and host transgender filmmaker Isabel Sandoval. This year we were also planning to debut an evening of short films at Buskirk-Chumley theater with filmmaker guests Drama del Rosario, Shelley Yo, and Haley Semian. For now we are working with IU Cinema and Asian Culture Center to reschedule LINGUA FRANCA and Isabel Sandoval’s visit.

Our second major event canceled because of COVID was a visit by **Scot Nakagawa**, Soros Equality Fellow and longtime progressive service provider, community organizer, political campaign strategist, philanthropic advisor, foundation executive, and public policy advocate. Nakagawa was scheduled to keynote the CRRES Research Symposium on **“How to Think Politically About Race.”** He was going to speak about current project, the ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN PLAYBOOK, drawing upon the work of anti-right wing researchers, scholars, and activists to create a set of training modules and educational curricula. Scot was also slated to offer at least one other workshop for students, staff, and faculty interested in connecting their research and teaching to racial justice action. Hopefully we can bring him to IU at a later date.

But, as the old adage goes, **when life hands you coronavirus lemons, make Zoom lemonade.** Working as a liaison for the College’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion and AAST, faculty affiliate Professor Jennifer Lee (SOC) coordinated a meaningful effort to address the anti-Asian xenophobia and racism that has spiked with COVID-19.



KAREN CHENG



MIHEE KIM-KORT

IUB ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM
Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders + COVID-19

Physical Distancing Creativity Showcase

To mark the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Asian American Studies Program invites undergraduate and graduate student submissions for our Physical Distancing Creativity Showcase. Send us your smart, interesting, weird creations that address the theme "Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, + COVID-19."

Winners will receive \$100 awards. Awards will be distributed to students' bursar accounts. All submissions will have the opportunity to be preserved at the IU University Archives.

Submit your entries to aast@iu.edu. Please include your name, year, major/minor/degree/program (whichever is relevant to you).

*Submission Deadline:
April 15, 2020, 11:59 PM*

AAST put out a call for a **"Physical Distancing Creativity Showcase"**: To mark the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Asian American Studies Program invites undergraduate and graduate student submissions for our Physical Distancing Creativity Showcase. / Send us your smart, interesting, weird creations that address the theme "Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, + COVID-19."

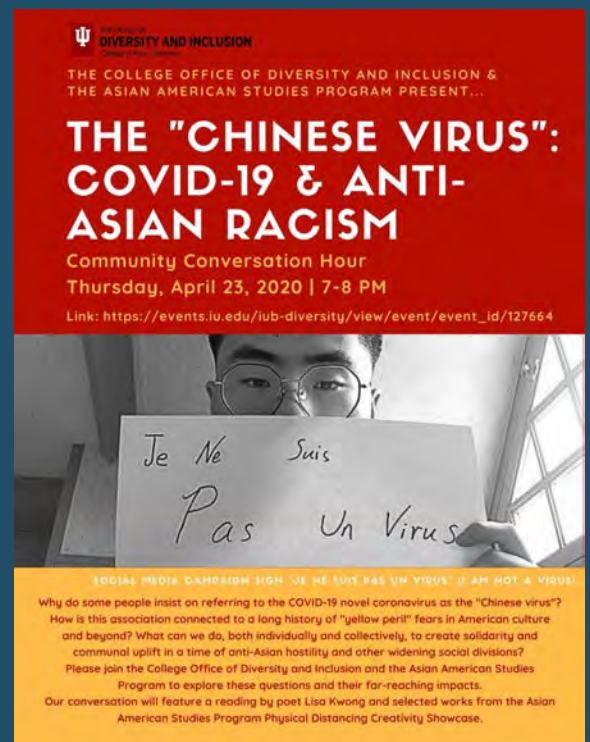
We received impressive entries from undergraduate and graduate students spanning the gamut of creative expression: poetry, experimental art video, a blog pots on the impact of COVID-19 on graduate students; a light-hearted video diary, graphic design, and even an Easter sermon delivered as a tweet thread. **Congratulations to our winners Karen Cheng, Bianca Desai, Monica Heilman, Mihee Kim-Kort, Kevin Phan, Tiffany Xie!**

The culmination of our joint COVID-19 efforts with the College Office of Diversity and Inclusion was the Zoom event **"The 'Chinese Virus': COVID-19 + Anti-Asian Racism."** This event was a "virtual" version of ODI's Community Conversation Hour. It took place on Thursday, April 23 from 7-8 PM. We had about 50-60 attendees, several of whom joined us from Ivy Tech.

The event addressed the following queries: Why do some people insist on referring to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus as the "Chinese virus"? How is this association connected to a long history of "yellow peril" fears in American culture and beyond? What can we do to create and strengthen social connections in a time of anti-Asian hostility and other widening social divisions?

The goal of the community conversation hour event was to provide a safe space to discuss how experiences of xenophobia and racism during the COVID-19 emergency. Professor Jennifer Lee moderated. I gave a quick tutorial about the history of the "Yellow Peril" in American life. We featured the work of the six student creativity showcase winners. Poet and AAST instructor Lisa Kwong read her poetry, some of which she composed specifically for this event. We also included a breakout session where participants broke out into small groups to discuss two prompts that we provided. Members of the AAST Graduate Advisory Board kindly volunteered to moderate.

Overall it was most timely and powerful. Special thanks to Lindsay Brewer-Brown and Carmen Henne-Ochoa at ODI for setting up the infrastructure and technology to make the event happen.



"What can we do to create and strengthen social connections in a time of anti-Asian hostility and other widening social divisions?"

Student Activism

As early as 1988, Asian American students voice the need for campus resources to support and celebrate the growing Asian American student population at Indiana University. Due to Asian American students' persistence, ingenuity, and activism, Indiana University launches the IU Asian Culture Center in 1998 and the Asian American Studies Program in 2008.

Enter - Student Activism



"STUDENT ACTIVISM" FROM THE DIGITAL TIMELINE EXHIBIT

I'm proud to report two other **significant accomplishments** AY 2019-2020. First, we launched the **reboot of our program website**. Special thanks go to Amanda Hemmerich and Joanna Davis at the College's Office of Communications and Marketing for shepherding the reboot. It took many months of planning and attention to detail to happen. Second, we received a \$5000 grant from the **Office of the Bicentennial** to support the building of a **Digital Timeline Exhibit** that documents the **history of Asian American Studies at Indiana University**. PhD candidate Stephanie Nguyen (Higher Education) and graduate student Zack Hegarty (Informatics) did the heavy lifting for this project. Stephanie wrote the timeline content based on her dissertation research. Zack applied his expertise in digital humanities to build the website. Check out the timeline [here!](#)

On the teaching side, AAST presented four courses in 2019-2020. Lecturer Lisa Kwong taught **A101 Introduction to Asian American Studies** in both Fall and Spring semesters. It's always popular and fills up quickly. Professor Kwong also taught **A201 Asian Diaspora Experience**, another staple of our curriculum. Professor Cynthia Wu debuted **AAST A320 Advanced Topics in Asian American Literature: Cross-Racial Encounters**. The class filled to capacity (29 students). These courses are all extremely timely and speak directly to the need to understand with nuance and care the workings of race and racism.

As I write this, AAST staff members are working closely to reconfigure our courses to make teaching and learning as safe as possible by taking precautions to minimize the potential for spreading COVID-19. Currently we have three courses scheduled for 2020-2021. In Fall 2020, we'll run A101 Introduction to Asian American Studies (instructor: Lisa Kwong). Circumstances are going to be different, but hopefully this course will still attract undergraduates students keen on deep-diving into this topic.



thank
you!

I'll **close out this message with gratitude**. Thanks to our students who enroll in our courses and undertake independent study projects with curious minds. Thanks to the energetic members of our Asian American Studies Graduate Advisory Board for making this work worthwhile. Thanks to our faculty affiliates for their ongoing research and impacting their fields. Thanks to our dedicated staff: Fiscal Officer Julia Mobley, Office Administrators Paula Cotner, Whitney Olibo, and Kathy Teige; Scheduling Officer Micaela Richter, Graduate Assistant Sydney-Paige Patterson, Academic Advisors: Kristen Murphy and Stacy Weida, and Instructors Lisa Kwong and Cynthia Wu. Thanks to our 2019-2020 program partners Asian Culture Center, Program on Race, Migration, and Indigeneity, and Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society, College Arts and Humanities Institute, and College Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Thanks to our donors whose generosity continue to support our work. Special thanks to Dr. Jennifer Lee who will be taking over the reins as Interim Director for 2020-2021, and who generously shared some of her sabbatical time to help AAST navigate the COVID-19 situation.

Be well everyone—let's keep looking out for one another.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen Wu

Director, Asian American Studies Program

Education Denied: Indiana University's Japanese American Ban

BY ERIC LANGOWSKI

On May 9, 1942, the Indiana University (IU) Board of Trustees ruled that “no Jap. be admitted to Indiana University.” 78 years later, the dozen students denied admission under this policy have yet to receive an apology. When I found out about this chapter of IU history, it was January 2018 and my then-boss Asian Culture Center Director Melanie Castillo-Cullather had just forwarded me an article sent to her from the IU Office of the Bicentennial. I was floored. Not only had IU banned Japanese Americans, but the President of the Trustees Ora L. Wildermuth made the following statement justifying the decision:



"As I see it, there is a difference in Japanese and Germans or Italians—they are Aryans and can be assimilated but the Japanese can't—they are different racially. I can't believe that any Japanese, no matter where he was born, is anything but a Japanese."

The next day, walking past the IMU, I realized the Wildermuth Intramural Center (now the Intramural Center) was named after the architect of the Japanese American ban. My mind flew back to 1943.

In 1943, my grandmother, Hana Tani, had just left her forcible incarceration in the high desert of Colorado to attend Baker University in Kansas. It was the last time she would see her father, Yasujiro Tani, who would not survive his incarceration. For my grandmother, attending college was freedom from her forcible incarceration and restored a dim possibility of a future in America.



Indiana University was not this opportunity for the young Japanese Americans who sought to attend. Wildermuth and storied IU President Herman B Wells oversaw a bureaucracy which stamped deny on every Japanese name---an action which was unjustifiable both then and now. By 1945, Big Ten schools enrolled over 200 Japanese Americans alongside about four dozen enrolled at schools in Indiana. Indiana University continued to ban them until after the end of WWII.

With this in my mind, I organized a Day of Remembrance event at the ACC in February 2018, part of a nationwide series of events organized by Japanese Americans every year on the anniversary of Executive Order 9066. I launched a petition calling on IU to apologize and presented it to IU's leadership as I prepared to graduate. In response, I was hired by IU's Office of the Bicentennial and University Historian Dr. James Capshew to produce a contextualized historical account of IU's Japanese American ban.

In October 2018, IU's Board of Trustees decided to "de-name" the Wildermuth Intramural Center due to Wildermuth's "harmful attitudes regarding African-Americans" and anti-Japanese sentiment. My research was published in the Indiana Magazine of History in June 2019, but by 2020 IU had yet to act.

Partnering with IUB Asian American Studies Director Professor Ellen Wu, O'Neill Professor Ashlyn Aiko Nelson, and ACC Director Melanie Castillo-Cullather, I organized another Day of Remembrance event at the ACC which included a petition drive calling on the Trustees to redress this history. This petition generated wide attention receiving over 500 signatures and coverage in Angry Asian Man, the IDS, Asian American News, and the Herald Times. As of April 2020, IU's Trustees have yet to act, but I remain optimistic that they will soon.

Asian American Studies Annual Symposium

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MONICA HEILMAN

This year's Asian American Studies Symposium reflected on Asian American struggles for racial justice and equality then and now. The collective discussion analyzed how creative leadership in various forms fostered imaginative thinking during times of uncertainty and proposed paths for progression based on lessons learned from past triumphs. The keynote speaker was Dr. Mimi Thi Nguyen, who gave a talk "On Resilience."



AAST Physical Distancing Creativity Showcase

This Spring, to mark the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Asian American Studies Program invited undergraduate and graduate student submissions for our Physical Distancing Creativity Showcase. Several students sent in creations that addressed the theme "Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, + COVID-19."

The finalists for the showcase were Karen Cheng, Bianca Desai, Monica Heilman, Mihee Kim-Kort, Kevin Phan, Tiffany Xie! Here is some of their amazing work.

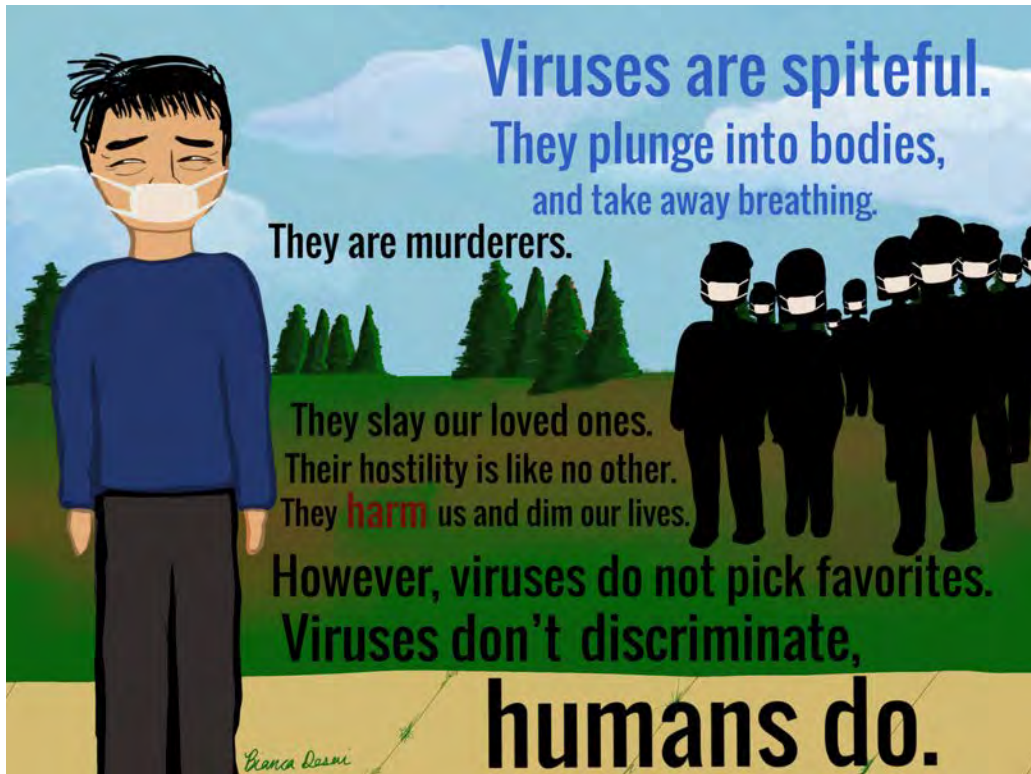
KAREN CHENG, IU SOPHOMORE

"A Week in my Life: Quarantine Edition" via [YouTube](#)



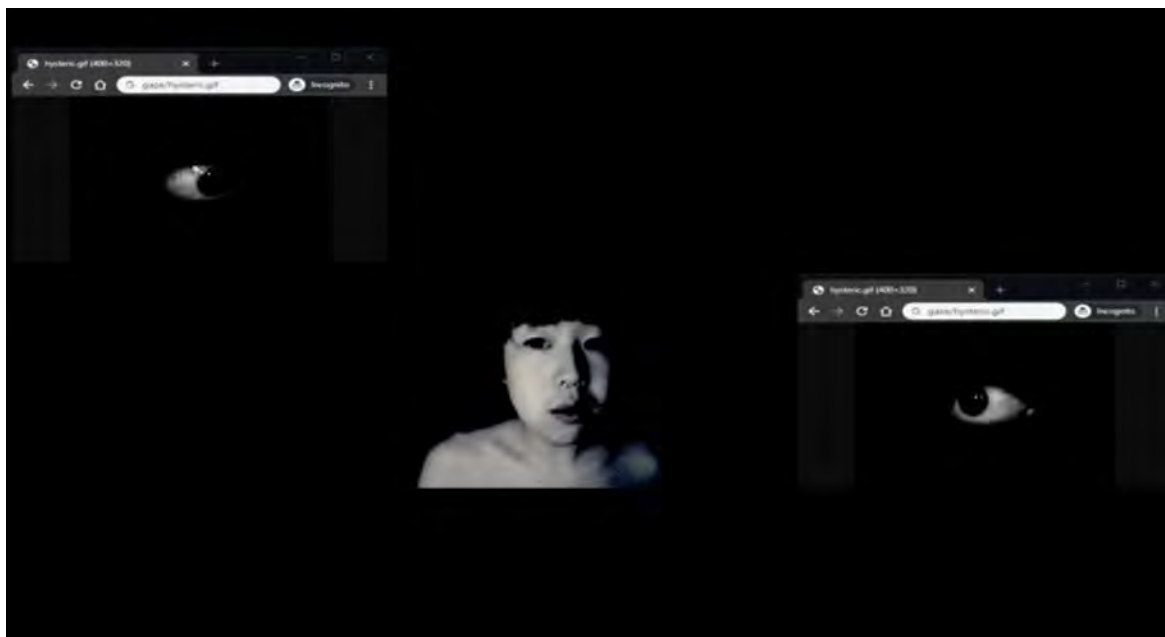
BIANCA DESAI, IU SOPHOMORE

"Viruses are Spiteful" Graphic



KEVIN PHAN, IU SENIOR

"Surveillance" Short Film



TIFFANY XIE, IU SENIOR

"Fish and Basketball" Poem

"Illness is the night-side of life, a more onerous citizenship. Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick."— Susan Sontag

"Roger Chiang, who works in San Francisco, recalled a white woman glaring at him on the train to work, covering her nose and mouth. When he told her in a joking tone that he didn't have the coronavirus, she replied that she 'wasn't racist — she just didn't want to get sick.'"—from NPR's "When Xenophobia Spreads Like a Virus"

My father loves fish and basketball
Fish and basketball

Fish, my father taught me to pick at fishbones
to reach around a waving fin.

Basketball, my father taught me to swish deflated basketballs
off the cloudy backboard of our driveway.

Fish, his southern Chinese childhood
Basketball, his American adopted adulthood

Fish, the market in Wuhan
Basketball, the NBA season cut short
"Unbelievable," my father said.
He never thought that fish could cancel basketball.

On a subway train in San Francisco,
a woman turns away from an Asian man,
Says, "I'm not racist,"
Says, "I just don't want to get sick."

Her fingers, so delicate,
a net to catch her nose, her mouth.



TIFFANY XIE, IU SENIOR

"Fish and Basketball" Poem cont.

Unbelievable.

My father is a doctor
He works night shifts
He tends to hearts

The thing that stopped
fish and basketball
followed my father home
pulled his voice into
the "night-side" of his throat.

His cough, metronomic,
dry as a mouthful of saltine crackers,
so severe that I could not call him
for more than five minutes.

To the lady on the train:

When a man becomes contagion
he will tell you the distance
between sickness and health.
Meaning, I cannot say that you are not already ill.

To the lady on the train:

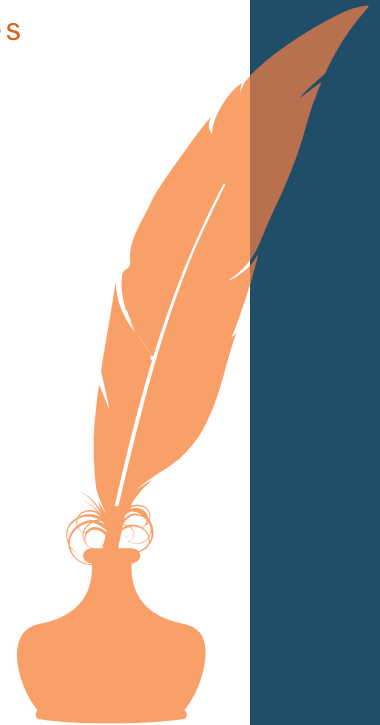
If you find yourself in the "kingdom of the sick"
and you find my father tending to you,
or someone like him,
will you turn away?

Ask him about fish.
Ask him about basketball.



**MONICA HEILMAN, SOCIOLOGY PHD
CANDIDATE**

"An Open Letter to Faculty Teaching Graduate Courses During COVID-19" via her [Blog](#). An excerpt below:



Dear Faculty Member,

We are not okay.

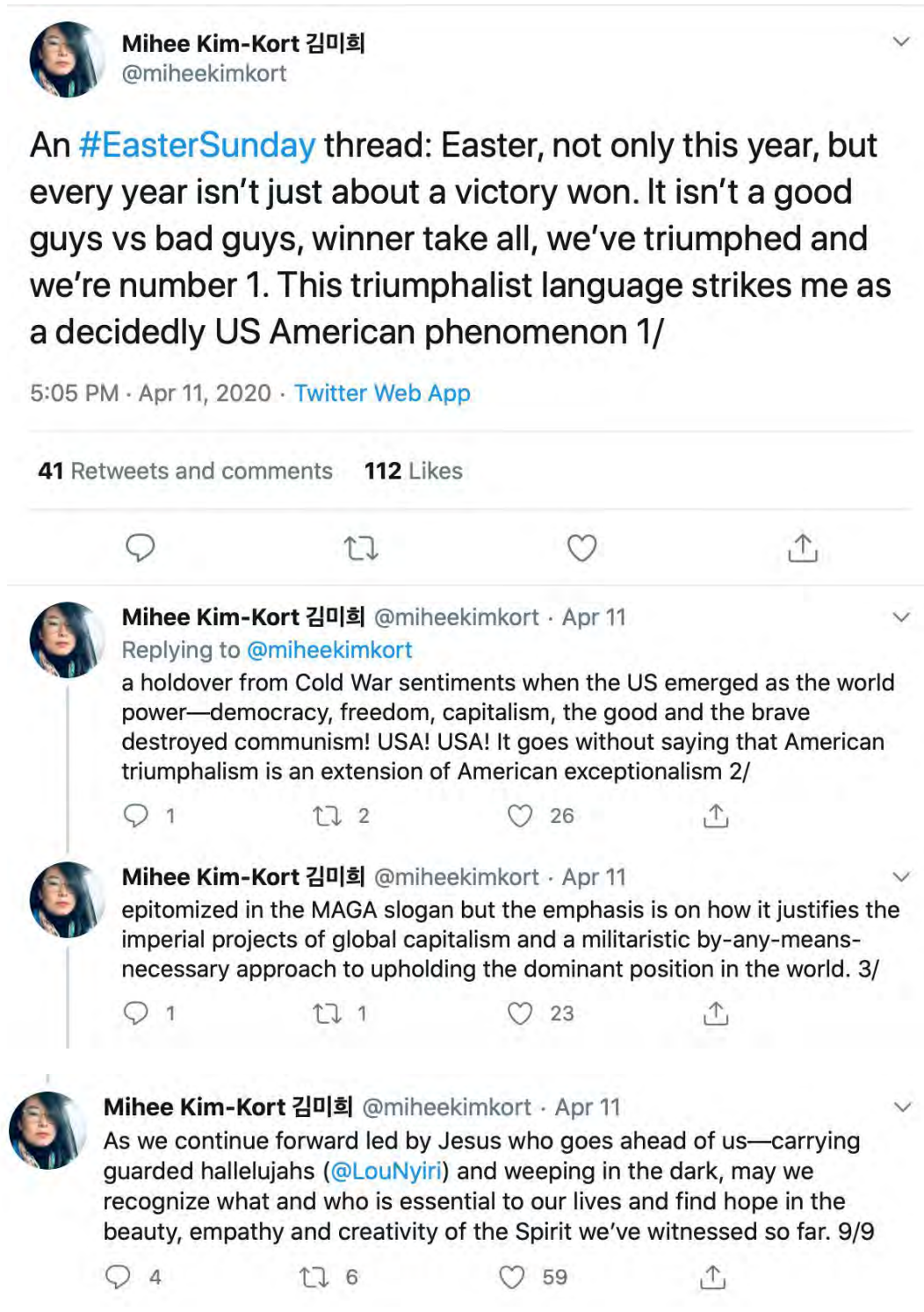
We are the graduate students who don't seem to have it too bad, who have places to stay, food on the table, and are still able to pay rent. Our basic needs are met, and we are quick to acknowledge this privilege. But we are not doing well.

We'd hoped that the phrase "this is a pandemic" would be self-explanatory. This doesn't seem to be the case. We have been told to take advantage of this time, to aspire to be modern-day Shakespeares and Isaac Newtons - never mind that these historical figures never had to contend with emails or Zoom meetings. Professors have assigned us extra work for our "extra time" at home, continued with business as usual, and in some cases, barely acknowledged the pandemic at all.

But isolated in our homes, the pandemic stares us down. We are forced to acknowledge, if not its severity and direct impact, then at least its immediate consequences.

MIHEE KIM-KORT, RELIGIOUS STUDIES PHD STUDENT

"An Easter Sunday" [Twitter](#) Thread. An excerpt below.



The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter thread. The main tweet is by Mihee Kim-Kort (@miheekimkort) from April 11, 2020, at 5:05 PM. It discusses the triumphalist language of Easter in the US. Below it are two replies, also by Mihee Kim-Kort, continuing the thread. The interface includes icons for replies, retweets, likes, and shares.

Mihee Kim-Kort 김미희 @miheekimkort

An [#EasterSunday](#) thread: Easter, not only this year, but every year isn't just about a victory won. It isn't a good guys vs bad guys, winner take all, we've triumphed and we're number 1. This triumphalist language strikes me as a decidedly US American phenomenon 1/

5:05 PM · Apr 11, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

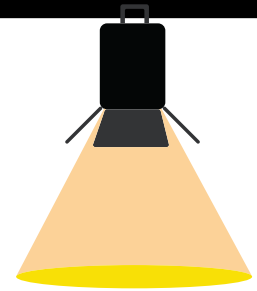
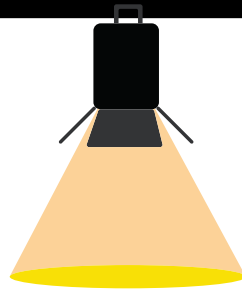
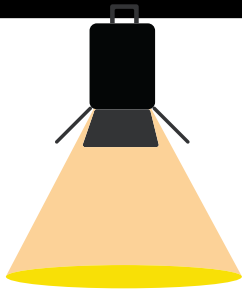
41 Retweets and comments 112 Likes

Mihee Kim-Kort 김미희 @miheekimkort · Apr 11
Replying to [@miheekimkort](#)
a holdover from Cold War sentiments when the US emerged as the world power—democracy, freedom, capitalism, the good and the brave destroyed communism! USA! USA! It goes without saying that American triumphalism is an extension of American exceptionalism 2/

Mihee Kim-Kort 김미희 @miheekimkort · Apr 11
epitomized in the MAGA slogan but the emphasis is on how it justifies the imperial projects of global capitalism and a militaristic by-any-means-necessary approach to upholding the dominant position in the world. 3/

Mihee Kim-Kort 김미희 @miheekimkort · Apr 11
As we continue forward led by Jesus who goes ahead of us—carrying guarded hallelujahs ([@LouNyiri](#)) and weeping in the dark, may we recognize what and who is essential to our lives and find hope in the beauty, empathy and creativity of the Spirit we've witnessed so far. 9/9

AAST Faculty Spotlight: Lisa Kwong



2019-2020 Creative Activity

Lisa Kwong's poem "Searching for Wonton Soup" is the winner of the 2019 Sundress Publications' Poetry Broadside Contest. Her poems have also been recently published in *A Literary Field Guide to Southern Appalachia* (University of Georgia Press) and *Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel, Vol. 22: Appalachia (Un)Broken* (Dos Madres Press). Her recent interviews on Asian American careers and cultural appropriation aired on the podcast *Chief Executive Auntie* and the radio show *Hearabouts* on WFHB. Ms. Kwong was also scheduled to appear on the panel "Readings from the Understories of Identity and Place" at the 2020 Appalachian Studies Association Conference in Lexington, Kentucky (canceled due to COVID-19).

Asian American Hope in the Time of Pandemic

BY: LISA KWONG



My father did not swim shark-infested waters for this. My Ngin Ngin didn't leave Tai Shan to be homesick every day in the US raising her ABC grandchildren for this.

Slanted eyes have always been lies, sharp illusions of make-up to highlight faces on Chinese opera stages. Yellow peril lives, its footprints planted since early immigrants came in search of Gold Mountain, America the Beautiful Myth.

If we're not a joke, we're a threat.

How long will America lie and blame every Asian face it sees for a lethal disease no one can see?

Let no virus deem us less.
Let no racists render us ghosts.

To be Asian American is to hope for a better life, a better dream. This is why my parents worked almost 24/7 in a boiling kitchen to feed five children. They sacrificed, so we could become first generation college students, community builders.

**ASIAN AMERICAN HOPE IN THE TIME OF
PANDEMIC CONT.**

We are American.
We are Asian American.
We are the hope of our ancestors.

We did not work hard to have
our hopes spray-painted with slurs
or our skulls cracked by baseball bats.

We don't have to prove how American
we are. We simply are. This is our home
where we learned to conquer the
mysteries
of English, where we learned to speak up,
where we learned to care for our
communities.

We are the voices of an America
who could be beautiful
if it stopped hating
everything and everyone
who makes it beautiful.

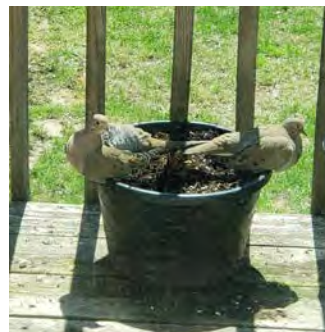
We are the hope of our ancestors.
We are Asian American.
We are American.

Congratulations

TO OUR ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
GRADUATE STUDENTS & FACULTY!

GRADUATE STUDENTS

- **Morgane Flahault** (American Studies and Comparative Literature) published "Milton Murayama" in *Asian American Literature: An Encyclopedia for Students*.
- **Monica Heilman** (Sociology) gave two presentations for a new recurring qualitative research conference at IU called "Researching the Margins Qualitative Research Symposium." The presentations were "Linguistic Shortcuts and Self-Preservation: How Multiracial Individuals Use "Racial Elevator Speeches" and "Reminders and References: How Others' Racial Appraisals Shape Multiracial Identities." She also wrote about this experience on her [blog](#). Monica also contributed "We Know About the Racists, Now What?" to the IU Sociology Quarantine Project 2020. Her art was also published in the *Journal for Asian American Studies*. She also developed a bird-watching hobby (see below)!



Congratulations

GRADUATE STUDENTS CONT.

- **Jacqueline Mac** (Higher Education) defended her dissertation May 29 (titled "Becoming minority serving: Understanding how institutional agents transform their institutions to better serve target student populations", co-chaired by Drs. Sam Museus and Lucy LePeau). She will be starting as Visiting Assistant Professor in Higher Education at Northern Illinois University this fall.
- **Stephanie Nguyen** (Higher Education) won the August and Ann Eberle Fellowship for Higher Education and Student Affairs at Indiana University in May 2019. She also worked on the AAST Digital Timeline.
- **Jordan Lynton** (Anthropology) graduated from Indiana University with a PhD in Anthropology and accepted a tenure-track job in the Anthropology department at Mississippi State University.
- **Sydney-Paige Patterson** (History) passed her qualifying exams and is now a doctoral candidate. She has been awarded a Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship to complete her dissertation research in Mumbai, India. She also received the College Arts and Humanities Institute Graduate Research Award and the Asian American Studies Graduate Student Research Grant.

Congratulations

GRADUATE STUDENTS CONT.:

- **Natasha Saelua** (Higher Education) received a fellowship from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, to support travel for dissertation research. She also got a new job working as a researcher for McREL International on their REL Pacific contract.
- **Mihee Kim-Kort** (Religious Studies) became a new pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis in Maryland.
- **Mai Thai** (Sociology) accepted an Assistant Professor position at Occidental College.
- **Pamela Hong** (Sociology) received the National Science Foundation GRF, and co-authored a publication in the Analysis of Social Issues and Public Policy:
<https://spssi.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/asap.12230>.

FACULTY:

- **Ishan Ashutosh** (Geography) published "The Spaces of Diaspora's Revitalization: Transregions, Infrastructure and Urbanism" in Progress in Human Geography and "Postcolonial Geographies and Colonialism's Mutations: The Geographing of South Asia" in Geography Compass.

Congratulations

FACULTY CONT.:

- **Vivian N. Halloran** (English) was named the new Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion in the College of Arts & Sciences.
- **Jennifer Lee** (Sociology), with Ilana Umansky and Rebecca Callahan published "Making the invisible visible: Identifying and interrogating ethnic differences in English learner reclassification" in the American Journal of Education. She was also one of the inaugural recipients of IU's Inclusive Excellence Award.
- **Dina Okamoto** (Sociology), with G.C. Mora, published "Boundary Articulation and Emergent Identities: Asian and Hispanic Panethnicity in Comparison, 1970-1980" in Social Problems and "Postcolonialism, Racial Political Fields, and Panethnicity: A Comparison of Early 'Asian American' and 'Hispanic' Movements" with G.C. Mora in Sociology of Race and Ethnicity. She also received a Russell Sage Research Grant and was selected to represent Indiana University as a nominee for the 2021 Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program. Dina is also Co-Editor of American Sociological Review.
- **Lisa Kwong** (AAST) *Becoming AppalAsian*, her first poetry chapbook, has been accepted for publication by Glass Lyre Press.

Congratulations

FACULTY CONT.:

- **Lisa Kwong, cont.** Lisa's poem "S'mores and Smoke" was published in root and branch, volume XIV, and her poems "Poem for My Mother Who Dared Beyond Tai Shan," "Bitten by Bitterness," and "Declaration Written on a Leaf" are forthcoming in the summer issue of Still: The Journal. She spoke virtually for UIUC's Asian American Cultural Center's Food for Thought series on March 30, 2021. The name of her presentation was "An AppalAsian Writer on the Importance of Being Yourself." She gave her first masked reading at Bloomington High School North on May 5, 2021. Students studied the poems she wrote in response to anti-Asian racism and the Atlanta tragedy as part of a unit on poetry and current events. This event was meaningful for several reasons but particularly because she did not have the opportunity to study any Asian American poets when I was in high school. She wrote and read new poems specifically for the IU Community Conversation Hour on COVID-19 and Anti-Asian Racism (April 2020), the Justice for AAPI event responding to Atlanta (March 2021), and for the Fourth Sunday of Lent at First United Church of Bloomington (March 2021).

Congratulations

FACULTY CONT.:

- **Joel Wong** (Counseling and Educational Psychology) co-authored six peer-reviewed articles on issues affecting people of color, including "Perceived discrimination and academic distress among Latinx college students: A cross-lagged longitudinal investigation" with H.-L. Cheng, R. C. McDermott, and K. M. McCullough in *Journal of Counseling Psychology*. He was awarded the Faculty Mentorship Award from the IU Graduate and Professional Student Government.
- **Ellen Wu** (History) served as a consultant and "talking head" for the PBS documentary series *ASIAN AMERICANS* which debuted in May 2020. She received a 2020-2021 Senior Ford Fellowship for her book project *OVERREPRESENTED: ASIAN AMERICANS IN THE AGE OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION*. The Obama Foundation and the AARP mentioned Ellen Wu's book *The Color of Success* as recommended reading for AA/PI Heritage Month 2021. *The Color of Success* also made a brief appearance on HBO's *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* (June 7). To de-stress from the pandemic, Dr. Wu resumed harp-playing after a 25-year hiatus.

Congratulations

FACULTY CONT.:

- **Cynthia Wu** (RMI, Gender Studies) was promoted to the rank of professor. Her coedited anthology *Sex, Identity, Aesthetics: The Work of Tobin Siebers and Disability Studies* is forthcoming from the University of Michigan Press this fall. She finished a five-year term on the Executive Committee on Disability Studies of the Modern Language Association and joined the editorial board of the *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*. She also served on the Norman Foerster Prize Committee, which presents an award for the best article published in the journal *American Literature* over the past year. She spent much of the pandemic year enjoying the great outdoors.

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