Diversity Forum 2021 at UW-Madison

Healing and Harmony for the Socially Homeless: Asian Women Scholars in the U.S. Academy

Moderated by Stacy Hoult-Saros

Panelists: Michelle Batacan Alexander, Pamela Saylor, Mary Szto, Yeohyun Ahn, Shin Yeon Jeon, Sangeeta Swamy
Introduction

Stacy Hoult-Saros
Brief history and distinctive features of AWS

Mary Szto & Yeohyun Ahn
Mental Health Care and Emotional Resilience

Michelle Batacan Alexander
Earned her MFA in Studio Art, Concentration in Ceramic Sculpture from Towson University

Received her B.F.A in Oriental Painting from Ewha Womans University

Artist, Educator and Researcher

Has taught various courses including Ceramics, Introduction to Photography, Elementary and Secondary Art Education, 3D Design, Figure Drawing, Figure Clay Sculpture and Sculpture for 14 years

Has written over 68 articles that have been published in journals and magazines such as Monthly Ceramic Art in Korea, Ceramics TECHNICAL in the US, Ceramics: Art and Perception in Australia and New Ceramics: The European Ceramics Magazine in Germany

Originally came from South Korea and has lived in MD, OK and currently in Oregon
Social Work and Vulnerable Populations

Pamela Saylor
Clinical Assistant Professor
Director, Social Work Program
Purdue University Northwest
"She only got this job because she's Oriental."

Unnamed Tenured Faculty
Journey to PNW Social Work Program & Accreditation

• Valparaiso University, Social Work Department
• Purdue University Northwest College of Humanities, Education & Social Sciences, Social Work Program
My role in Academia

• Share lived experience as Filipina-American Educator/Social Worker in the Midwest
• Educate future social workers in competency-based degree program
• Experiential Learning & Program Development
Social Work Program Director
• Lead accreditation process (3 years)
• Program Assessment
• Administration
• Community Engagement

Clinical Assistant Professor
• Teach Foundational Courses
• Develop Education Abroad, Macro Practice & Social Justice
• Service
What are social issues faced by disadvantaged and oppressed populations?

• Student Self-Reflection & Discussion on Positionality & Cultural Sensitivity
• Social Work Lens addressing social, economic, and environmental justice
• Social Work Grand Challenges:
  ◦ Individual & family well-being
  ◦ Stronger social fabric
  ◦ Just society
Individual & family well-being

- ensure healthy development for youth
- close the health gap
- build healthy relations to end violence
- advance long & productive lives
Stronger social fabric

- Eradicate social isolation
- End homelessness
- Create social responses to a changing environment
- Harness technology for social good
Just society

- Eliminate racism
- Promote smart decarceration
- Build financial capability & assets for all
- Reduce extreme economic inequality
- Achieve equal opportunity & justice
Restorative Justice and Racial Awareness in Law School

Mary Szto
Teaching Professor
Syracuse University College of Law
Overcoming Anti-Asian Harassment Trauma

Part 1 – What is Trauma?
OVERVIEW

01 What happened? What is trauma?

02 Have I experienced previous trauma?

03 Bigger picture of anti-Asian racism in the US I

04 Bigger picture of anti-Asian racism in the US II

05 Healing the Wounds

06 How can We be Victors
WHAT IS TRAUMA?

Our response to distressing injury.
Physical, emotional, and spiritual damage as individuals, families, and communities.

**ACUTE TRAUMA** – one event e.g., a car accident.

**CHRONIC TRAUMA** – repeated events e.g., domestic violence.

**COMPLEX TRAUMA** – several events, e.g., a pandemic, unemployment, and a car accident.
HOW DOES TRAUMA AFFECT ME, MY FAMILY, AND MY COMMUNITY?

COMMON REACTIONS:
Shock, Denial, Confusion, Anger, Fear, Anxiety, Shame, Sadness, Hopelessness, Numbness, Pain, Depression
WHAT IS ANTI-ASIAN HARRASSMENT?

FOR BEING ASIAN

- Yelled at
- Cursed at
- Blamed for the coronavirus
- Coughed at
- Spit on
- Laughed at
- Denied service in stores
- Shunned for ride-shares
- Vandalism of property
- Physical attack
- Customers boycott
Human Emotion and Self-Expression through the Arts

Yeohyun Ahn
Assistant Professor of Graphic Design and Interactive Media
Art Department at University of Wisconsin-Madison
A selfie is a form of art. Over 1 million selfies are now taken every day. Selfies are not always as spontaneous as they seem. They can be a visual communication tool purposely to express inner troubles and feelings of anxiety.
"Studies show that women faculty of color may be the most marginalized faculty on US campuses. Challenging areas are isolation, high attrition, student evaluations, peer perception, additional service responsibilities, etc."

Women of Color Faculty at the University of Michigan: Recruitment, Retention, and Campus Climate (2008, Aimee Cox for the CEW) by Aimee Cox, PhD, Research Investigator Center for the Education of Women University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
The computational processes expand the concepts of traditional self-portraits to generative selfies conveying specific thoughts or feelings.
import processing.video.*;

// Size of each cell in the grid
int cellSize = 30;
// Number of columns and rows in our system
int cols, rows;
// Variable for capture device

Capture video;

void setup() {
  size(480, 480);
  translate(0, 240);
  cols = width / cellSize;
  rows = height / cellSize;
  colorMode(RGB, 255, 255, 255, 100);

  // This is the default video input, see the GettingStartedCapture
  // example if it creates an error
  video = new Capture(0, width, height);
  // Start capturing the images from the camera
  video.start();
  background(0);
}

void draw() {
  if (video.available()) {
    video.read();
    video.loadPixels();
    // Begin loop for columns
    for (int i = 0; i < cols; i++) {
      // Begin loop for rows
      for (int j = 0; j < rows; j++) {
        // Where are we, pixel-wise?
        int x = i * cellSize;
        int y = j * cellSize;
        int x0 = (5 * width - x - 1) + x * video.width; // Reversing x to mirror the image
        float r = red(video.pixels[x0] / 255);
        float g = green(video.pixels[x0] / 255);
        float b = blue(video.pixels[x0] / 255);
        // Make a new color with an alpha component
        color c = color(r, g, b, 75);

        // Code for drawing a single rect
        // Using translate in order for rotation to work properly
        pushMatrix();
        translate(x0, cols - j * cellSize - 2);
        rotateY(-PI * 45 * height / 256.0);
        rotateX(PI / 2);
        translate(0, cellSize / 2);
        rectMode(CENTER);
        fill(c);
        stroke(0);
        // Rects are larger than the cell for some overlap
        rect(0, 0, cellSize+6, cellSize+6);
      }
    }
  }
  // popMatrix();
}
In 2016, I started taking my generative selfies at a predominately white institution. It has been shared by social media. The virtual supporting system at Facebook, “Like”, by my diverse mentors and friends, helped me to persist and survive in a regionally exclusive community. Eventually, It has brought my psychological reconciliation and healing to succeed in dealing with difficulties.
Music Therapy and Asian identity

Sangeeta Swamy, PhD, MT-BC
Director of Music Therapy, Valparaiso University
Culturally Centered Music & Imagery

- Technique that uses recorded music and visualization
- Addressed acculturation and ethnic identity stressors in Asian women
- Music connects to the ‘inner world’ through symbols and metaphor
- Involves 1) relaxation 2) focused listening and drawing, and 3) verbal processing
New positive American self

Japanese/Korean self—trapped and depressed

Japanese self—confused
Childhood self—surrounded by darkness, unable to reach for help
Integrated self—using negative experiences to encourage others
Human Emotion and Self Expression through the Arts

Shin Yeon Jeon
• Earned her MFA in Studio Art, Concentration in Ceramic Sculpture from Towson University
• Received her B.F.A in Oriental Painting from Ewha Womans University
• Artist, Educator and Researcher
• Has taught various courses including Ceramics, Introduction to Photography, Elementary and Secondary Art Education, 3D Design, Figure Drawing, Figure Clay Sculpture and Sculpture for 15 years
• Has written over 68 articles that have been published in journals and magazines such as Monthly Ceramic Art in Korea, Ceramics TECHNICAL in the US, Ceramics: Art and Perception in Australia and New Ceramics: The European Ceramics Magazine in Germany
• Originally came from South Korea and has lived in MD, OK and currently in Oregon
“Always driven by the invisible aspects of human life, I feel that emotions are the least visible and the most ephemeral elements of a human being. My goal is to depict the transient aspects of human emotions in solid ceramic sculpture, transforming them into a permanent state. Instead of a literal description of the human form, I attempt to suggest feelings by use of ambiguous facial expressions. The psychological presence and the emotional content in the work keep the vitality and integrity of artistic expression in my sculpture.”
Self-Portrait
Earthenware, 16¼×7 ¾×6½, 2005
Woman & Woman II, Earthenware, 19"×9½"×8½", 2005
Two Heads, Stoneware, 23" × 14½" × 12½", 2007

Disturbed Woman, 2008
Wavy Woman, Wall piece, Multiple Fired, Earthenware, 14"×14"×3½", 2009
Beyond Time, Beyond Thought, Beyond Feeling (Detail), 8 ft × 3 ft, 2007
Beyond Time, Beyond Thought, Beyond Feeling,
8 ft × 3 ft, 2007
Crowd-I, Fired Clay, 2009
Crowd - II
Stoneware and Earthenware with Stain and Terra Sigillata,
24½" x 28" x 24½", 2010
Beyond Memory-II,
23''×13''×11'', 2009
Portrait - V
Stoneware, 5"×10½"×8"
2011
Recollection,
Stoneware and Glaze,
12"×11"×8½", 2012
Head Totem IV, 38" tall, 2012
Head Totem VI, 38" tall, 2013
Head Totem - I, V,
30"×15½"×12½", 32"×13"×12",
2012, 2013
Head -VI
Raku Fired Stoneware with Slips and Glazes, 13"×9"×7", 2014
Head Totem
28.5” tall
2017
My artworks right before and during pandemic
Artist in Residence at Caldera, Feb 2020
Cut-Out in Clay and Paper;
Floating Women, Men and Drips, The Campbell Studio
Wavy Woman
Portrait
2020
• My email – shinyeon@gmail.com
• My web-site – www.shinyeon.com