Anti-Asian American Pacific Islander Hate in the Time of COVID-19

Dr. Russell Jeung
Introduction: How To Build an Antiracist Movement

1. Developing Critical Consciousness
2. Mobilizing AAPI Networks and Resources
3. Effecting Social Change
A Litany of Lament

• Both my girlfriend and I (Korean ethnicity) were shopping, and a middle aged Caucasian lady told us to keep a 6 feet distance from her, looking at us as if we were perpetrating a crime. She did not say anything to customers of other ethnicities when they were in close proximity to her. (Madison, WI)

• Men in their late teens, early twenties hurled beer bottles and slurs at me from their vehicle while I was walking home from work. (Lafarge, WI)

• Around the start of the pandemic, my family members of Filipino descent were being stared at by a white couple talking amongst themselves, and being avoided. My sister-in-law only caught little bits of what was said and much of it was accusation that they were carriers of the virus simply for being of Asian descent. (Palatine, WI)
A Litany of Lament

• I was performing a self checkout in a grocery store when two men of color shouted at me, making a scene, and said "Hey ch**k! Get out of my country, b**ch!" One of the men pointed a "finger gun" at me and acted as if he was firing the "gun." (Milwaukee, WI)

• A Caucasian male shouted out to me when I was running. He said that I was spreading the Coronavirus. (Wauwatosa, WI)

• I had a large, plastic tarp full of dirt dropped on top of my head and body. With a small handful of onlookers, not one person stood up, spoke up, or asked if I was okay. After I shook all of the s**t off and out of my hair, I broke down in my car. I was subjected to public humiliation because I’m Asian. (Milwaukee, WI)
A Litany of Lament

• My daughter was told, “No one cares that you’re Asian, so don’t stop Asian hate, go kill yourself. I found your dog and chopped it up and ate it for you.” (Ashland, WI)

• I was picking up Chinese food and walking back to my car. A car on the street slowing down, open the window, and shouted at me. They tried to mock Chinese words, then ended by ‘F**k You’. I was alone in the parking lot. (Superior, WI)

• My son and I were verbally attacked by a woman at a store. I was wearing a mask and sneezed, then the woman started screaming about the "f**king Chinese" spreading contagious diseases everywhere and that I needed to "get the f**k out of the store." There were dozens of people watching and no one said anything. I was so upset that I left the checkout line and walked out of the store, with the woman following me and yelling. (Madison, WI)
Type of Discrimination

- 9.9% are under 18 y.o.
- 7.0% over 60 y.o.
- Women attacked twice as often as men
Sources of Racism

1. Political Rhetoric
2. Media Representations
3. Yellow Peril Stereotype
POLITICAL RHETORIC

‘The Plague Came Over’: Trump Rips into China for its Failure to Contain Coronavirus

Politics

Schumer Seeking Endgame on $200 Billion-Plus Anti-China Bill

By Daniel Flatley
June 7, 2021, 11:00 PM PDT

Donald Trump Explains Why He Called Coronavirus ‘China Virus,’ Lies About Taking Outbreak Seriously

Faced With Crisis and Re-election, Senate Republicans Blame China

Politically endangered Republicans are scrambling to make their contests referendums on China rather than the coronavirus pandemic.

*“China is to blame for this pandemic and the death of thousands of Americans,” said Senator Martha McSally, Republican of Arizona. Anna Moneymaker/The New York Times*
Racialization of COVID-19 and the Neuropsychology of Racism

- Rhetoric of Chinese Virus
- Implicit Bias of Racial Schema
- Automatic Response of Flight/Fight
- Anti-Asian Hate: Harassment/Shunning
Media Representations
When Yu appeared on screen, Crowder interjected, “Oh! That’s an aggressively Asian face.”

A co-host can be heard laughing and implies that Yu resembles actress Lucy Liu, saying, “Where’s Drew Barrymore and Cameron Diaz?”

-- Oct 21, 2021
The Yellow Peril: Racialized stereotype that Asians are a threat to the West

Chinese threaten Whites and labor with immorality, diseases, and filth—The Wasp (1881)
San Francisco's bubonic plague epidemic has eerie parallels to modern day

By Katie Dowd, SFGATE  Updated 2:28 pm PDT, Thursday, April 9, 2020
Angel Island Immigration Station
Tuberculosis and Family Separation
Racialization of Asian Americans

- Outsider (Perpetual Foreigner)
- Insider (Model Minority)

NON WHITE SUBJUGATION

- Whiteness
- Blackness

WHITE SUPREMACY
Intersectional (Race X Gender) Objectification of Asian American Women

Outsider
(Perpetual Foreigner/ Dragon Lady)

Insider
(Model Minority/China Doll)
COMMUNITY IMPACTS OF RACISM

1. Mental Health Disparities
2. Economic Consequences
3. Exclusionary Policies
MENTAL HEALTH AND HEALTH

155% increase in depression
94% increase in stress
93% increase in anxiety
78% increase in somatic symptoms

15% unemployment in May 2020
83% of AAs with HS degree or less filed unemployment claims in CA (v. 37% of others with similar education)
75% of nearly 2 m. small businesses can’t access govt assistance
233,000 Asian-owned businesses closed from Feb – April, a 28% decline
12% of So CA business report decline in business due to racism

UNEMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS CLOSURES

EXCLUSIONARY POLICIES

IMMIGRATION

Trump’s COVID-19 visa bans may alter the face of American immigration beyond the pandemic

The president’s executive orders barring several types of visas and green cards will most affect immigrant hopefuls from Asian, African and Latino countries.

National Security

China Initiative aims to stop economic espionage. Is targeting academics over grant fraud ‘overkill’?
Critical Consciousness

1. Awareness of **Structural** Racism
2. Creation of Group **Solidarity**
3. Empowered with Collective **Efficacy**
Mobilizing Networks and Resources

1. Standing on Shoulders: Legacies
2. Asian American Organizational Networks
3. Documentation
4. Communications
5. Asian American Leadership
6. People Power
Legacies: Third World Liberation Front Strikes, Islamophobia and Black Lives Matter
Asian American Organizational Networks

Leadership

Manjusha P. Kulkarni, Executive Director of A3PCON
Cynthia Choi, Co-Executive Director of CAA
Russell Jeung PhD, Professor, Asian American Studies Department, San Francisco State University

Founding Organizations

Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council is a coalition of more than 40 community-based organizations that serve and represent the 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the greater Los Angeles area, with a particular focus on low-income, immigrant, refugee, and other vulnerable populations.

Chinese for Affirmative Action advocates for systemic change that protects immigrant rights, promotes language diversity, and remedies racial and social injustice.

Asian American Studies Department, San Francisco State University uses interdisciplinary approaches in teaching, community service, and research to address the structural and ideological forces that shape the lives of Asian Americans.
STOP AAPI HATE REPORTS
online tracker for incidents against Asian Americans during COVID-19

1,400 reports in the first 3 weeks
60% were non-Chinese reporters mistaken to be Chinese
46 states with incident reports
16% attacks were due to Asian Americans wearing masks
2-3 times more women get harassed

https://www.apacouncil.org/stop-aapi-hate/
Communications: Youth Campaigns

NBC Bay Area

San Mateo Girl Organizes Rally to Denounce Hate Crimes Against Asian Community

They want Asian-American victims to not be afraid of reporting crimes, something organizers say is crucial to making progress. "I do think that a lot ...
Communications: Social Media Campaigns

"Being a 9 year NBA veteran doesn't protect me from being called 'coronavirus' on the court."

Jeremy Lin detailed the racism that he and other Asian Americans have experienced. #StopAsianHate

(via @jlin7)
Asian American Leaders and Influencers

NBC News

CBC News
People Power
Effecting Social Change

United States
Biden to sign order to combat anti-Asian American bias

POLITICS
Senate passes bill to combat hate crimes against Asian Americans

‘Historic investment’: California allocates millions to fight anti-Asian hate
The Asian Pacific Islander Equity budget, approved Monday by Gov. Gavin Newsom, gives $156 million to community groups to tackle the root causes of racism.
Conclusion: An America Where We Want to Belong

www.stopaapihate.org