Exploring the Asian American Student Experience at Predominately White Institutions - Part 1

Roger Wang
Exploring the Asian American Student Experience at Predominately White Institutions

– Part 1 – Current and Historical Context and Background and Asian American’s in Higher Education
  – Monday, July 10 – 12:00 – 1:00pm @ the Library Fishbowl

  – Monday, July 17 – 12:00 – 1:00pm @ the Library Fishbowl

– Part 3 – Complicating the Conversation @ HSU – Dialogue on Future Steps
  – Monday, July 24 – 12:00 – 1:00pm @ the Library Fishbowl
Outline

- Introduction
- Background and Context of the Asian American Experience
  - History – Nation & Local
  - Model Minority Myth
- Asian American’s in Higher Education
Ground Rules
Definitions and Context of the Asian American Experience
Definitions

- Race & Ethnicity
  - Race – social construct
    - Prescribed
    - Internalized
  - Ethnicity – culture, traditions, and customs of a group of people
    - Often related to country of origin

- Race & Ethnicity Dissonance
  - Race ≠ Ethnicity
  - Both/and
Definitions

- **Ethnicity** *(select only one)*
  - Hispanic or Latin or Not Hispanic or Latino

- **Race** *(select multiple)*
  1. American Indian or Alaska Native
  2. Asian
  3. Black or African American
  4. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  5. White
Definitions

A. Background

For more than 20 years, the current standards in OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 have provided a common language to promote uniformity and comparability for data on race and ethnicity for the population groups specified in the Directive. They were developed in cooperation with Federal agencies to provide consistent data on race and ethnicity throughout the Federal Government. Development of the data standards stemmed in large measure from new responsibilities to enforce civil rights laws. Data were needed to monitor equal access in housing, education, employment, and other areas, for populations that historically had experienced discrimination and differential treatment because of their race or ethnicity. The standards are used not only in the decennial census (which provides the data for the "denominator" for many measures), but also in household surveys, on administrative forms (e.g., school registration and mortgage lending applications), and in medical and other research. The categories represent a social-political construct designed for collecting data on the race and ethnicity of broad population groups in this country, and are not anthropologically or scientifically based.

B. Comprehensive Review Process

The Supplementary Information in this Notice provides background information (Section A), a summary of the comprehensive review process that began with a brief synopsis of the public comments OMB received on the recommendative standards in response to the July 9, 1997, Federal Register Notice (Section B). The specific recommendations of the Interagency Committee (Section C) work that is underway on tabulation issues associated with the reporting standards (Section D).
Definitions

- **Ethnicity (select only one)**
  - Hispanic or Latin or Not Hispanic or Latino

- **Race (select multiple)**
  1. American Indian or Alaska Native
  2. Asian is a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
  3. Black or African American
  4. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  5. White
Asian Americans

Represent multiple different ethnicities with unique histories, religions, customs, language, and institutions
Asian Americans represent multiple different ethnicities with unique histories, religions, customs, language, and institutions.
Asian Americans

Represent multiple different ethnicities with unique histories, religions, customs, language, and institutions.
Pacific Islanders

Represent multiple different ethnicities with unique histories, religions, customs, language, and institutions.
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

- East Asia
- Southeast Asia
- South Asia (Desi)
- Pacific Islanders
Context

- Cultural traits
  - Group orientation
  - Externally rather than internally focused
- Asian American History
- Model Minority Myth
1763 – First Filipinos in Americas
1840s – 50s – First Opium Wars, Chinese flood and crop failures, and California Gold Rush
1854 – People v. Hall
1850-9 – California laws and taxes
1864 – Transcontinental Railroad
1875 – Page Law
1882 – Chinese Exclusion Act
1894 – Japanese man applies for US Citizenship and is denied
1906 – San Francisco Earthquake
1922 – Takao Ozawa v. U.S.
1924 – Immigration Act
1942 – Executive Order 9066
1943 – Congress repeals all Chinese Exclusion Laws
1965 – Immigration Law abolished “national origins”
Asian American History – Humboldt County

Asian (estimate as of July 1, 2015)

- UNITED STATES: 5.6%
- California: 14.7%
- Humboldt County: 2.9%
- Humboldt State: 3.3%
Asian American History – Humboldt County
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1763 – First Filipinos in Americas
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**1885 – Eureka Expulsion of Chinese**

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**1906 – Second Expulsion of the Chinese**

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**1950’s – Ben Chin moves to Eureka**

1965 – Immigration Law abolished “national origins”
1885 photo of Fourth and E streets in Eureka looking east. Chinatown is on the right and the first few buildings on the left.
Friday, February 7, 1885 – About 6pm
A slice of Eureka's Chinatown in 1885. The sign in the background advertises Washing and Ironing by Tung Sing.
1906 Chinese leaving Eureka/pp][Group of people on a barge]
### Asian American History – Humboldt County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1763</td>
<td>First Filipinos in Americas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840s &amp; 50s</td>
<td>First Opium Wars, Chinese flood and crop failures, and California Gold Rush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>People v. Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>1850-9</td>
<td>California laws and taxes</td>
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<td>Chinese Exclusion Act</td>
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</tr>
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Themes from Asian American History

– Anti-Asian violence
  – Foreigners who present an economic, academic, social, and/or cultural threat to a White majority
– Controlled immigration leading to the stereotype of “forever foreign”
– Asian immigrants characterized as “filthy,” “inferior race,” “pollutants,” “deviants,” and “yellow perils”
Why They can live on 40 cents a day.

and They can't.
CHINESE TAKEOUT

HIGH TECH TRADE SECRETS SECURITY

US INDUSTRY

CYBER HACKING
Model Minority Myth

- Coined in 1966 by William Petersen in the *New York Times Magazine*
  - Provided a sharp contrast how Black Americans were still “the problem”
  - “At a time when Americans are awash in worry over the plight of racial minorities, one such minority is winning wealth and respect by dint of its own hard work—not from a welfare check.” – Robert Williams
- As recently as May 2006, a New York Times column entitled “The Model Students” declared that “stellar academic achievement has an Asian face.”
Model Minority Myth

– Ignores the heterogeneity of Asian American groups and the varied levels of success
– Ignores the history and role of selective immigration
– Overlooks social and cultural factors
– Distorts and minimizes actual experiences of racism faced by Asian Americans
Figure 1.
(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)

Percent below poverty

- White alone
- Black or African American alone
- American Indian and Alaska Native alone
- Asian alone
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone
- Two or More Races
- Hispanic or Latino

Note: Persons who report only one race among the six defined categories are referred to as the race-alone population, while persons who report more than one race category are referred to as the Two or More Races population. This figure shows data using the race-alone approach. Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. Because Hispanics may be of any race, data in this figure for Hispanics overlap with data for race groups.

Model Minority Myth

- Ignores the heterogeneity of Asian American groups and the varied levels of success
- Ignores the history and role of selective immigration
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Model Minority Myth - Impact

- Neglected by teachers, counselors, administration at school
- Restricts sense of identity and limited choice of educational and vocational opportunities
- Unrealistic expectations and pressure to succeed
- Dis-identification and decreased pride – leading to lack of understanding and engagement in one’s racial membership
- Silence personal problems and hinder help-seeking behaviors
- Low utilization rates of mental health services.
  - Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Asian-American women age 15 – 24.
Asian American’s in
Higher Education

Debunking 3 common myths
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the US & Higher Education

**Asian American**
- 18.9 million Asian American
- ~6 million in California
- 46% percentage growth from 2000 to 2010, more than any other racial group
- Asian Americans represent 6% of full-time undergraduate students in Higher Education

**Pacific Islander**
- 1.2 million Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders
- ~300,000 in California
- 40.1% percentage growth from 2000 to 2010
Myth – ADPI students are taking over U.S. higher education

– https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9S-3DIsQ
Myth – ADPI students are taking over U.S. higher education

- Reflects population growth
- Concentrated
  - 2/3 in 200 institutions
  - 3/4 concentrated in 300 institutions
  - In 2000, 2/3 attend college in 8 states
Myth – ADPI are concentrated only in selective four-year institutions

- Middle- and upper-income Asian American and Pacific Islander students are attend selective four-year institutions
- Lower-income families, struggling with poverty, public assistance, survival in an underground economy, and limited English language ability, typically do not attend selective four-year institutions
- ADPI enrollment in public two-year community college is increasing at a faster rate than at four-year institutions
Myth – ADPI concentrated only in selective four-year institutions.
Myth – ADPI are homogenous racial group in educational and financial attainment, culture, religion, and histories

- No simple description to characterize or describe students or communities as a whole
- Ethnicities, historical backgrounds, socio-economic statuses, education, language, religion, immigration patterns
### Myth – ADPI are homogenous racial group

*Figure 9: Language Spoken at Home and English Ability Among AAPIs, 2000*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Culture</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Total Asian American</th>
<th>Total Pacific Islanders</th>
<th>Asian Americans</th>
<th>Pacific Islanders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>53.7%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Indian</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>46.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodian</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>53.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laotian</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>52.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>62.4%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hmong</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Asian</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guamanian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samoan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marshallese</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tongan</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fijian</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>58.5%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend:****
- Only English at Home
- Non English at Home, English Spoken "Very Well"
- Non English at Home, English Spoken Less Than "Very Well"

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1, 2000.
Myth – ADPI are homogenous racial group.
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Thanks

- Mike Le
- Family, mentors, friends, and colleagues
- Asian Desi Pacific Islander Collective (ADPIC)


References


