The Asian American Experience: Diversity and Challenges

Friday, April 1, 2022

9 am – 5 pm
Program

9:00 am  Welcome and introduction
- Chenoa Flippen, University of Pennsylvania, CSERI Director
- Emily Hannum, Associate Dean for Social Sciences, University of Pennsylvania

9:15 am  Asian American Identity
- Dina Okamoto, Indiana University Bloomington
- Zhenchao Qian, Brown University
- Tahseen Shams, University of Toronto
- Moderator: Tiffany Huang, University of Pennsylvania

10:45 am  break

11:00 am  Data and Methodological Innovations
- Zai Liang, University at Albany, SUNY
- Dasol Kim, University of Pennsylvania
- Lan Doàn – NYU Grossman School of Medicine
- Moderator: Hyunjoon Park, University of Pennsylvania

12:30 pm  lunch - tent next to PCPSE

1:45 pm  Diversity of the U.S. Asian Population
- Amy Hsin, Queens College, CUNY
- Sanjoy Chakravorty, Temple University
- Hua-Yu Sebastian Cherng, New York University
- Moderator: Michael Jones-Correa, University of Pennsylvania

3:15 pm  break

3:30 pm  Asian Youth and Activism
- Diane Wong, Rutgers University, Newark
- Rachel Kuo, UNC Chapel Hill
- Kevin Escudero, Brown University
- Moderator: Ankit Rastogi, University of Pennsylvania

5:00 pm  Concluding remarks
Panelists

**Sanjoy Chakravorty, Temple University**

Sanjoy Chakravorty is Professor of Geography and Urban Studies and Director of Global Studies at Temple University and Visiting Fellow at the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania. He has written or edited eight academic books, one novel, and more than sixty journal articles and book chapters on India, inequality, cities, and theory. He is the author (with Devesh Kapur and Nirvikar Singh) of the 2016 book *The Other One Percent: Indians in America*, published by Oxford University Press. His research has been funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation, the U.S. National Institute of Justice, the American Institute of Indian Studies, and the World Bank, and has won or been shortlisted for high awards, including The Crossword Prize and the Muzaffar Ahmad prize in India and The CHOICE Award from the American Library Association.

**Hua-Yu Sebastian Cherng, New York University**

Hua-Yu Sebastian Cherng is a sociologist whose scholarly and community-based work focuses on the social lives of marginalized youth. His interests include comparative perspectives on race/ethnicity (with a focus on China and the US), immigrant adaptation, and social capital within the school and educational context. As such, his research examines the social relationships in the lives of minority and immigrant adolescents in the US, gender and ethnic differences in education in China, and cultural and social capital transfers between adolescents in the US. His scholarship has appeared in journals such as American Educational Research Journal, Educational Researcher, Social Forces, and Social Science Research. Cherng received his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania and Bachelor's from MIT, and he has taught in a public middle school in San Francisco and a college in rural China.
**Lan Đoàn, New York University Langone**

Lan Đoàn is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Population Health, Section for Health Equity at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine. Her work is centered on the structural determinants of health and has focused on cardiovascular disease and psychosocial factors among Asian American older adults and how neighborhood deprivation modifies the impact of these determinants. She is an interdisciplinary scholar with expertise in analysis of complex datasets, with a focus on aging and aging-related processes, immigrant health, and social environments. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and published in JAMA Open Network, American Journal of Public Health, and American Journal of Epidemiology. She is a Scholars Strategy Network (SSN) and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Health Equity Scholar and serves as Program Chair for the American Public Health Association (APHA) Aging and Public Health Section and Co-Editor for a Frontiers in Public Health special issue on “Anti-Asian Racism and Public Health.”

**Kevin Escudero, Brown University**

Kevin Escudero is an Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies and an affiliated faculty member in Sociology and the Population Studies and Training Center at Brown University. His research and teaching focus on comparative studies of race, ethnicity, and Indigeneity; U.S. imperialism and settler colonialism; immigration and citizenship; social movements; and law. Escudero’s book, *Organizing While Undocumented* (New York University Press, 2020), examines Asian and Latinx undocumented immigrant youth’s strategic use of an intersectional movement identity to facilitate coalition building with members of similarly situated groups and overcome the threat of deportation for their participation in social movement activism. *Organizing While Undocumented* received honorable mention for the American Sociological Association Section on Asia and Asian America’s Asian American Book Award and was a finalist for the Society for the Study of Social Problems’ C. Wright Mills Book Award. His current book manuscript, *Imperial Unsettling*, focuses on Filipinx
immigrant and Indigenous CHamoru communities’ participation in Guåhan (Guam)’s ongoing movement for decolonization to understand the relationship between immigrant political activism and Indigenous-led movements for self-determination. Escudero’s work has been supported by the American Council of Learned Societies, American Sociological Association, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, National Science Foundation’s Sociology and Law and Social Science Programs, UC-MEXUS Institute, UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Law and Society.

**Amy Hsin, Queens College, CUNY**

Amy Hsin is Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology at Queens College, City University of New York. She has recently completed a study on the experiences of immigrant students at different City University of New York campuses, incorporating analysis of administrative data on undocumented college students in NYC and in-depth interviews of over 100 undocumented youth and their families. Her research interests include the impact of policing practices on Black/Latino and undocumented youth, the causes and consequences of Asian American achievement, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Her research is at the intersection of education, immigration and inequality and employ both quantitative and qualitative methods to the study of these topics. My current research includes: (1) mixed-method project analyzing the immigration experiences of a racially diverse sample of undocumented youth in NYC, (2) big data project using spatial analysis to understand how aggressive policing practices produce inequalities by race and immigration status and (3) mixed method study aimed at understanding how immigrant youth develop STEM interests and navigate pathways through STEM education and career pathways.

She has longstanding interests in understanding the cause and consequences of Asian American academic achievement. Her work on the gender gap in achievement among Asian Americans was featured in The Upshot in the New York Times.
Her research has been published in The Proceedings of the National Academies of Science, Demography, Social Forces, International Migration Review and other venues and has been featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, LA Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Economist, TIME, and NPR. Her work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, William T. Grant Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation. She is an associated editor of International Migration Review, on the editorial board of the American Sociological Review, and was included in City and States' 100 Education Power List in 2021.

**Dasol Kim, University of Pennsylvania**

Dasol Kim is a postdoctoral fellow at the Center on Digital Culture and Society in the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a digital media scholar who studies contemporary issues of race and gender on digital media utilizing theories of power, identity, and platform economy to understand multiple layers of social inequalities in an increasingly transnational digital context.

She holds a PhD from the Department of Communication at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. As a CDCS fellow, she is currently working on a book manuscript titled “K-beauty Project: Transnational Beauty and Digital Media Platform” that examines the intersection of identity entrepreneurship and platform capitalism with a case study of Korean beauty discourse on YouTube.

**Rachel Kuo, New York University**

Rachel Kuo writes, teaches, and researches race, social movements, and digital technology. She is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Visiting Scholar at Duke University’s Asian American and Diasporic Studies program. She is also a Fellow at the Center for Democracy and Technology and Siegel Endowment Research Fellow. She has a PhD and MA in Media, Culture, and Communication from New York University, and BA in Journalism from the
University of Missouri. Bringing together archival research and ethnographic fieldwork, her current book manuscript, Movement Media: Racial Solidarities Across Platforms, demonstrates how technologies enhance and foreclose possibilities for political organization across uneven racial and class difference. She works closely with community partners in developing her research, and her longer-term research goals and questions center and engage emergent questions and practices from grassroots social movements. She is a founding member and current affiliate of the Center for Critical Race and Digital Studies and also a co-founder of the Asian American Feminist Collective, where she is co-editing the anthology Black and Asian Feminist Solidarities (under contract, Haymarket Books).

Zai Liang, University at Albany, SUNY

Zai Liang is Professor of Sociology and Core Director of Center for Social and Demographic Analysis at State University of New York at Albany. He is the former chair of Asia and Asian American section of the American Sociological Association, recipient of SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, and winner of the 2020 Louis Wirth Best Article Award from the American Sociological Association. Since 2004, he has been serving as Director and Co-Director of Urban China Research Network based in Albany. His main research interests are migration/immigration, urbanization, and urban sociology. He pursues these interests in the contexts of the United States, China, and Africa. His latest book project is “From Chinatown to Every Town: The Spatial Dispersion of Low-skilled Chinese Immigrants in the United States” (forthcoming from the University of California Press). His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, the Ford Foundation, Spencer Foundation, and China Social Science Foundation among others.

Dina Okamoto, Indiana University Bloomington

Dina G. Okamoto is Class of 1948 Herman B Wells Professor and Director of the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society (CRRES). She received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Arizona in 2001 and was Assistant and Associate Professor at the University of California, Davis until 2013, when she
moved to IU. Her research focuses on the intersection of race, ethnicity, immigration, and social movements.

Dina’s research examines the dynamics of immigrant incorporation as well as intergroup conflict, cooperation, and collective action in the U.S. context. Her current projects investigate the civic and political incorporation of immigrants, the emergence of new panethnic categories, and how community-based organizations deal with increasing ethnic, racial, and language diversity. She is author of Redefining Race: Asian American Panethnicity and Shifting Ethnic Boundaries (Russell Sage Foundation, 2014) and is currently completing a book on how increasing ethnoracial diversity in the U.S. shapes intergroup perceptions and attitudes in the 21st century.

Dina has received research grants from the Russell Sage Foundation, William T. Grant Foundation, National Science Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and has been a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York and a visiting fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford.

**Zhenchao Qian, Brown University**

Zhenchao Qian is professor of sociology and research associate of Population Studies and Training Center at Brown University. His research areas include social demography, stratification, and inequality. More specifically, he studies “who marries whom” and “who lives with whom,” their patterns, trends, and consequences. He explores who are available in marriage markets and how men and women pair up to form marital and cohabiting unions in terms of age, educational attainment, race and ethnicity, and nativity. Such assortative mating patterns help reveal openness of stratification systems, social distance among social groups, and salience of group boundaries. In addition, he investigates how assortative mating patterns, changes in marital status, and marital transitions influence individuals’ wellbeing. He is also interested in topics including racial identification among children born to interracial couples, immigrant integration in the United States, and social and family change in China.
Qian received his Ph.D. in Sociology and Demography from University of Pennsylvania. Before coming to Brown, he had faculty appointments at the Ohio State University and Arizona State University. He served as department chair during the last five years at Ohio State. He is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**Tahseen Shams, University of Toronto**

Tahseen Shams is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto. Her research interests are in the areas of international migration, globalization, race/ethnicity, and nationalism. The overarching question that ties these interests together is how transnational, global forms of inequality intersect with race and ethnicity to affect immigrant groups, particularly those coming from Muslim-majority countries to the West. Her book – *Here, There, and Elsewhere: The Making of Immigrant Identities in a Globalized World* (2020, from Stanford University Press) – is the recipient of the American Sociological Association's 2021 Thomas and Znaniecki Book Award from the International Migration Section, the 2021 Distinguished Book Award from the Sociology of Religion Section, and the 2021 Asian America Book Award from the Asia and Asian America Section. Her book is also the winner of the 2021 Distinguished Scholarship Award from the Pacific Sociological Association. Currently, she is pursuing her second book project, which examines South Asian Muslim immigrants’ interracial and interfaith marriages in Canada.

**Diane Wong, Rutgers University, Newark**

Diane Wong is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, Newark and an affiliate faculty of Global Urban Studies, American Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies. Her research and teaching interests include American politics, race and ethnicity, critical urban studies, comparative immigration, gender and sexuality, cultural and media studies, and community rooted research. Her current book project, *You Can’t Evict A Movement: Intergenerational Activism and Housing Justice in New York City*, combines ethnography, participatory mapping, archival research, augmented reality, and oral history interviews to examine
intergenerational resistance to gentrification in Manhattan Chinatown. Her other book, *Contemporary Asian American Activism: Movement Moments and New Visions in the 21st Century* (co-edited with Mark Tseng-Putterman), examines a diverse range of issues from sex work decriminalization to abolition, deportation to decolonization, affirmative action to intergenerational memory. Her work has appeared in *PS: Political Science & Politics, Urban Affairs Review, Women's Studies Quarterly, Amerasia Journal, Politics, Groups, and Identities, Gateways, Asian American Policy Review,* and a variety of edited book volumes, anthologies, podcasts, and exhibitions. As a socially engaged artist, Diane is a member of the Chinatown Art Brigade and co-founder of The W.O.W. project, a queer, non-binary, trans youth-led initiative based out of Manhattan Chinatown that uses arts activism to combat displacement.