

# Community Guidelines

- Intent ≠ Impact
- Lean into discomfort
- Admitting ignorance
- Share the air
- Step up/step back
- Actively listen
- Be patient
- Give credit (props)
- What's learned here leaves here; what's said here stays here
- Oops/ouch
- Assume good intentions
- Beware of overgeneralizing (~be precise; define terms)

# Asian American Model Minority Stereotype and Affirmative Action

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# Who are Asian-Americans?

“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.” – *US Census Bureau*



**Table 1: Asian American and Pacific Islander Ethnic Categories**

<b>Asian American</b>		<b>Pacific Islander</b>	
Bangladeshi	Laotian	Carolinian	Papua New Guinean
Bhutanese	Malaysian	Chamorro	Pohnpeian
Burmese	Maldivian	Chuukese	Saipanese
Cambodian	Nepalese	Fijian	Samoan
Chinese	Okinawan	Guamanian	Solomon Islander
Filipino	Pakastani	I-Kiribati	Tahitian
Hmong	Singaporean	Kosraean	Tokelauan
Indian	Sri Lankan	Mariana Islander	Tongan
Indo Chinese	Taiwanese	Marshallese	Yapese
Iwo Jiman	Thai	Native Hawai'ian	Polynesian
Japanese	Vietnamese	Ni-Vanuatu	Micronesian
Korean	Other Asian	Palauan	Melanesian

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, Summary File 1, 2000.

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# Who Counts As Asian American? Answers by Race of Respondent

Now I am going to read you a list of different groups. After I say each one, please tell me if you think the group is very likely to be Asian or Asian American, somewhat likely, or not likely to be Asian or Asian American.

	White	Latino	Black	NHPI	ASIAN AM
<b>Chinese</b>					
- Not likely to be Asian/Asian Am	5%	9%	10%	5%	5%
- Don't Know	11%	17%	17%	3%	7%
<b>Korean</b>					
- Not likely to be Asian/Asian Am	7%	11%	11%	6%	6%
- Don't Know	12%	17%	19%	4%	8%
<b>Japanese</b>					
- Not likely to be Asian/Asian Am	5%	8%	11%	6%	7%
- Don't Know	12%	18%	17%	2%	8%
<b>Filipino</b>					
- Not likely to be Asian/Asian Am	15%	15%	17%	17%	6%
- Don't Know	14%	18%	15%	1%	9%
<b>Indian</b>					
- Not likely to be Asian/Asian Am	42%	35%	34%	48%	15%
- Don't Know	14%	20%	19%	4%	11%
<b>Pakistani</b>					
- Not likely to be Asian/Asian Am	45%	42%	45%	56%	27%
- Don't Know	16%	24%	22%	6%	16%
<b>Arabs or Middle Eastern people</b>					
- Not likely to be Asian/Asian Am	55%	43%	47%	59%	45%
- Don't Know	14%	21%	21%	6%	17%

**Family  
values**

**Creative**

**Hard-working**

**Leader**

**Intelligent**

**Vocal**

**Respect for  
elders**

**Assertive**

# Why the model-minority stereotype?

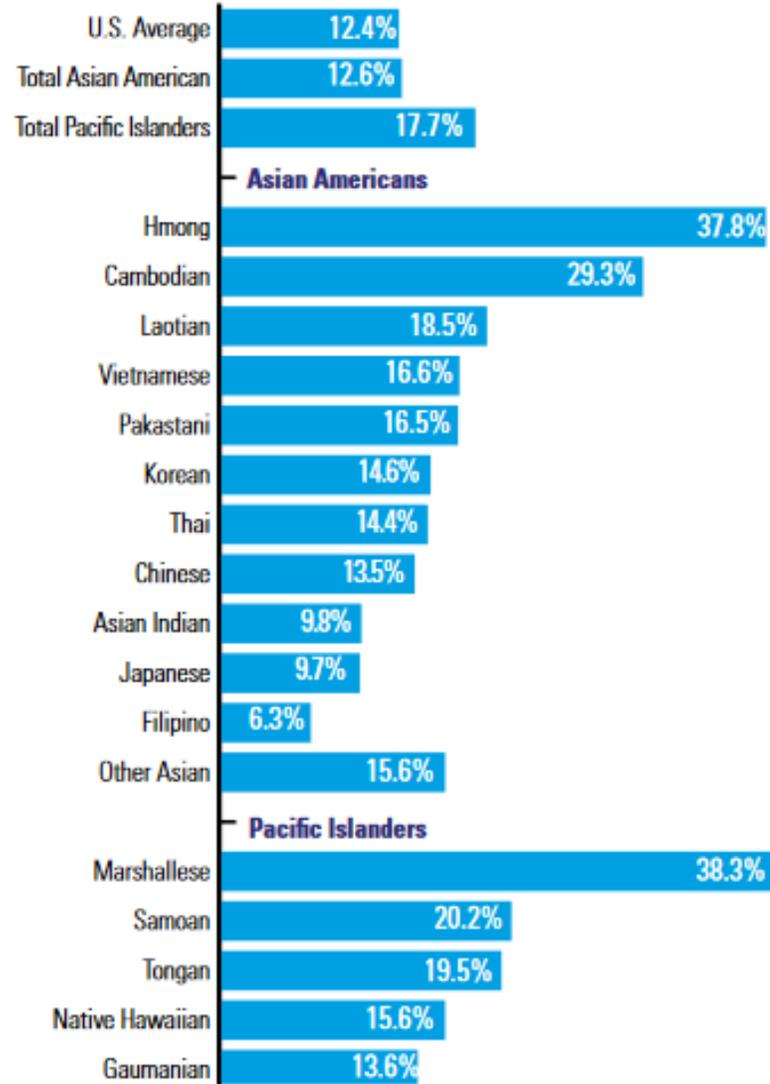
- 1960s Civil Rights Movement and the Immigration and Nationality Acts Amendment of 1965 – Karthick Ramakrishnan
- Conflating anti-Asian racism with anti-black racism – Claire Kim
- Reframing of Asian-Americans by the media – Ellen Wu
  - “Success Story, Japanese-American Style” - William Petersen, NYT 1966
- Racial Resentment – Jamelle Bouie

# One Dimensionality of the MM Stereotype

& Bonacich, 1984; Hurh & Kim, 1989; Xie & Goyette, 2003). The influence of first-generation Asian American parents on their U.S.-born children's educational and vocational decisions may reflect their harsh experiences as immigrants in the United States as well as Confucian values (Xie & Goyette, 2003). Such

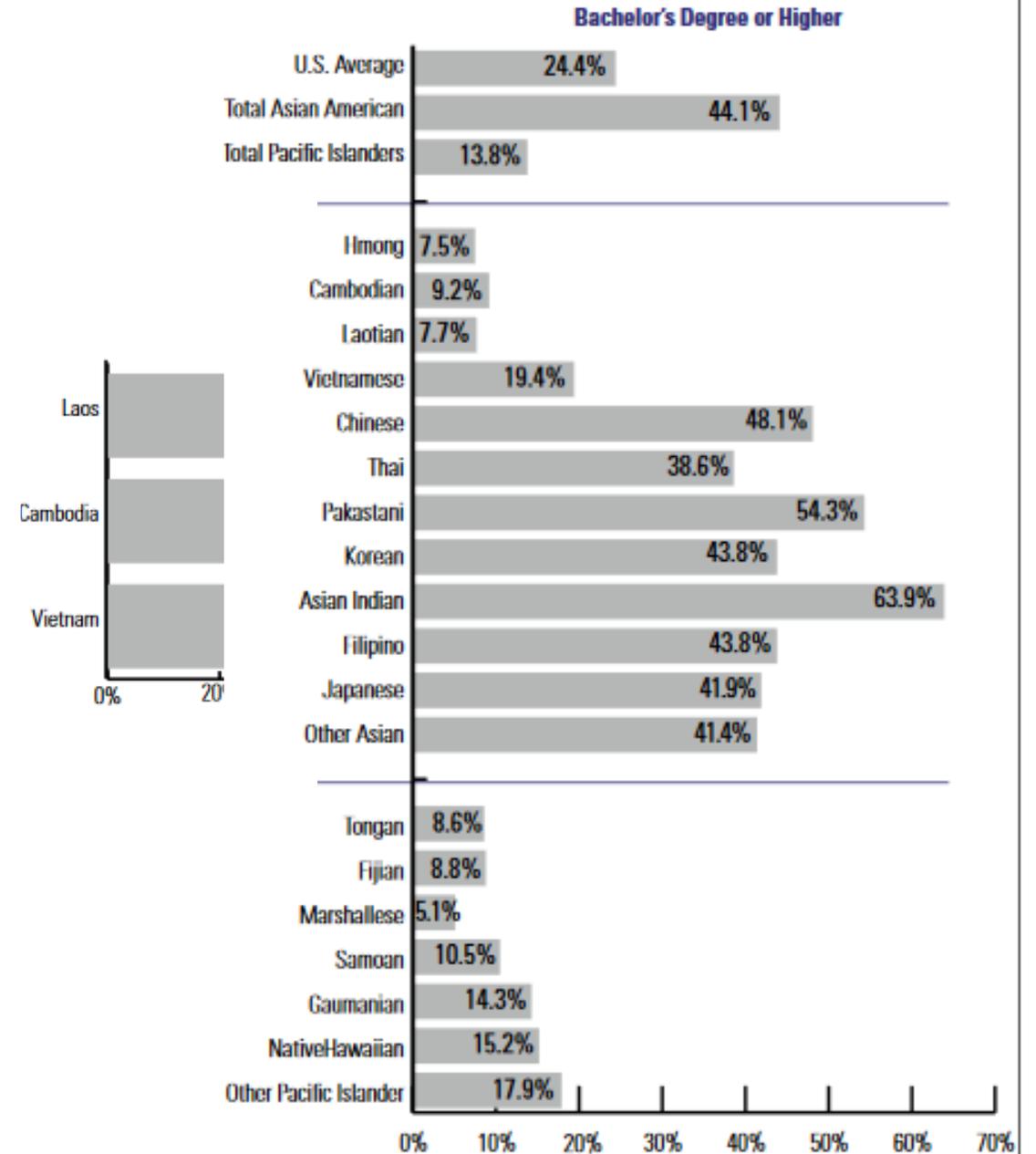
Some disagree, but I'm pretty sure that one factor is East Asia's long Confucian emphasis on education. Likewise, a focus on education also helps explain the success of Jews, who are said to have had universal male literacy 1,700 years before any other group.

**Figure 13: Percentage of AAPIs Below Poverty, 1999**



Note: Poverty status does not include individuals in institutions, military quarters, or college dormitories.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1, 2000.



# Effects of MM Stereotyping

- Mental health
  - Overburdened with expectation
- Only the most dominant voices are heard
- Discrimination within the Asian American Community

# What is Affirmative Action (AA)?

Affirmative action is a term used in the USA to depict a set of laws, policies, guidelines, and government-mandated and government-sanctioned administrative practices, including those of private institutions, **intended to end and correct the effects of a specific form of discrimination**. It seeks to end the effects of discriminatory practices that violate the inherent equality of persons who, because they share certain attributes such as sex or skin colour, have been denied opportunities on the grounds ***that they are inferior or different***.

- The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Practices

# Asian-American Relationship with AA

*AAPIs have become “racial mascots” to camouflage an agenda that, if presented by Whites on their own behalf, would look too much like self-interest. – Frank Wu and William Kidder*

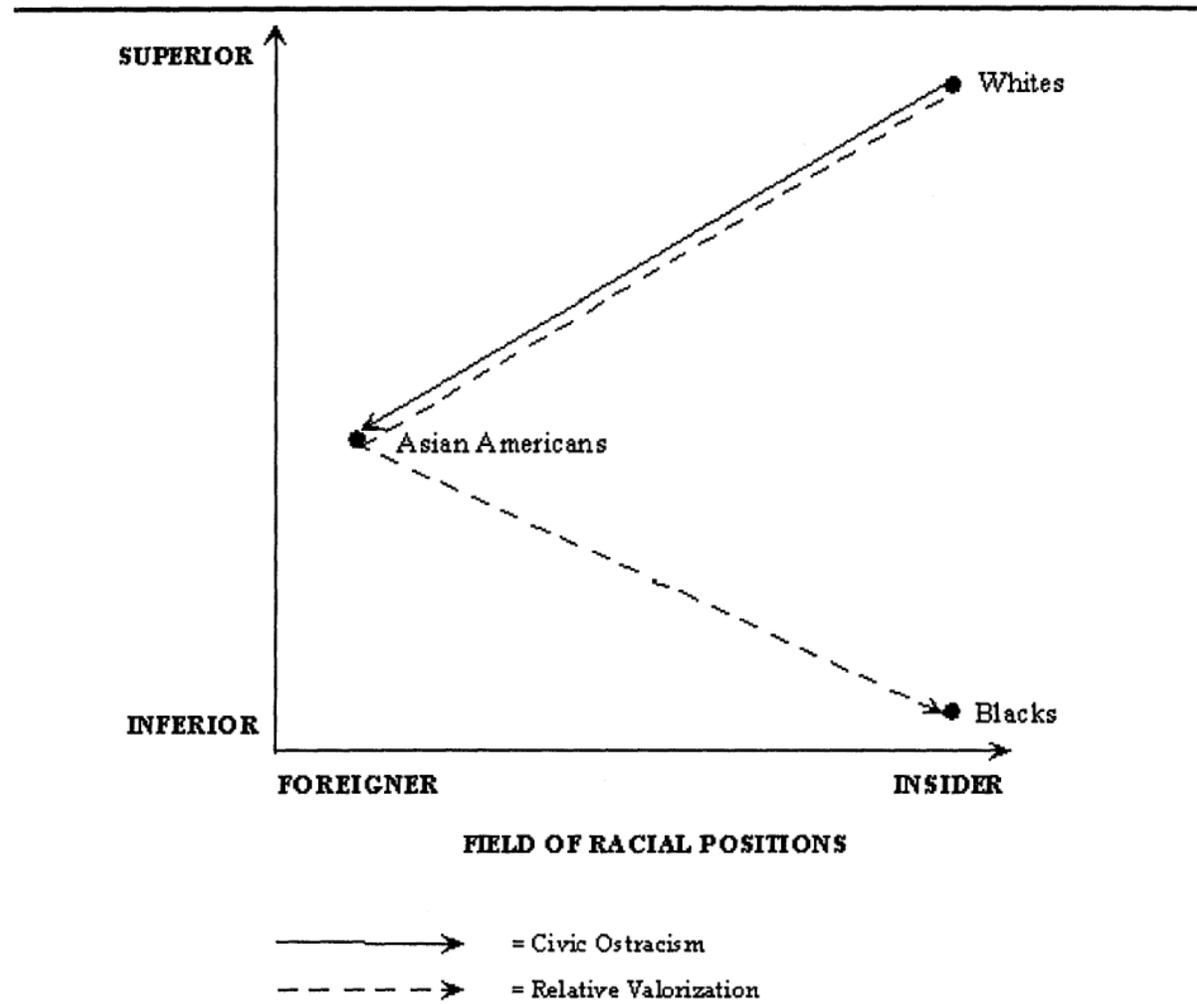
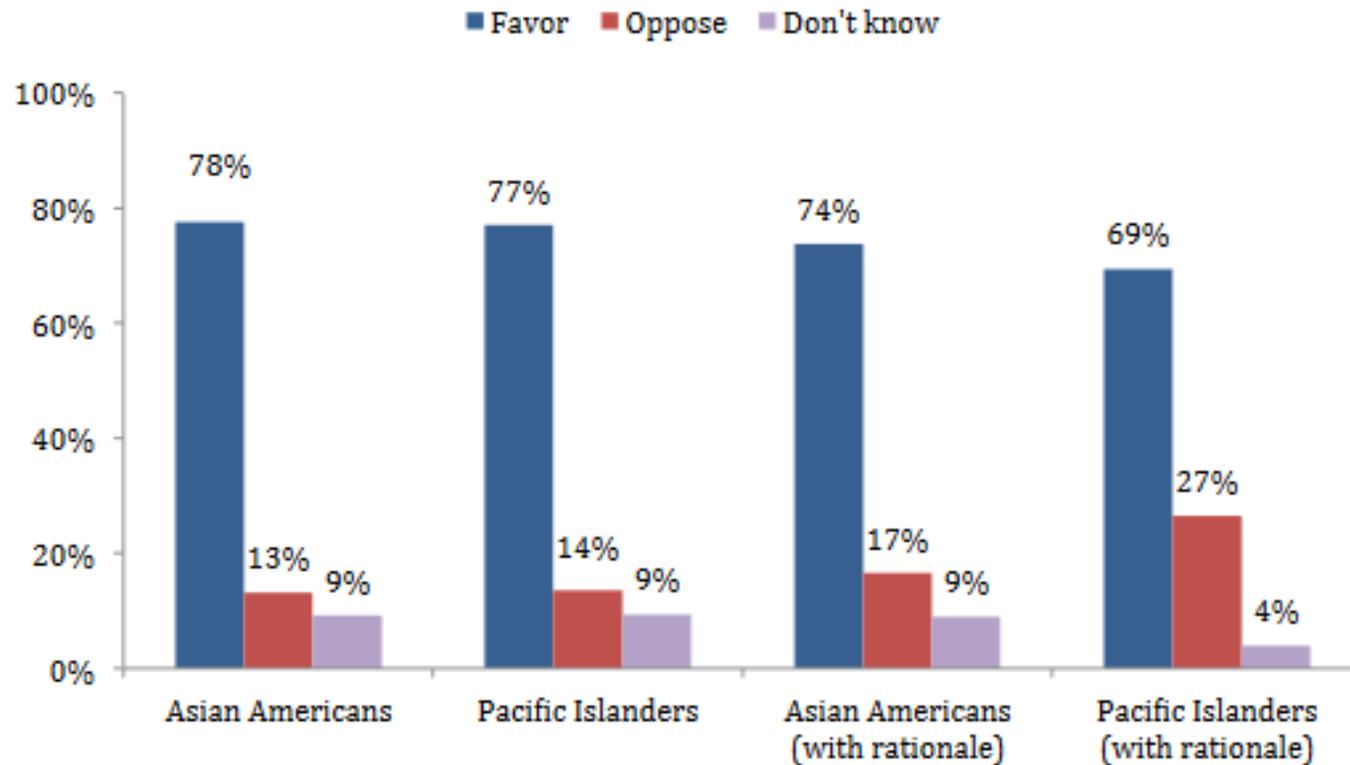


Figure 1. Racial triangulation.

Figure 9: Opinion on Affirmative Action<sup>8</sup>



*[In order to promote diversity,] do you favor or oppose affirmative action programs designed to help blacks, women, and other minorities get better jobs and education?*

Source: National Asian American Survey 2012. N = 3034

*Espenshade  
2009*

Advantages by Race and Class on the SAT and ACT at Selective Colleges, Fall 1997

Group	Public Institutions (on ACT scale of 36)	Private Institutions (on SAT scale of 1,600)
Race		
--White	--	--
--Black	+3.8	+310
--Hispanic	+0.3	+130
--Asian	-3.4	-140
Class		
--Lower	-0.1	+130
--Working	+0.0	+70
--Middle	--	--
--Upper-Middle	+0.3	+50
--Upper	+0.4	-30

# Negative Action vs Affirmative Action

## **Negative Action Hurts Asian Americans**

Kidder, W.C. (2006). Negative Action Versus Affirmative Action: Asian Pacific Americans Are Still Caught in the Crossfire. *Michigan Journal of Race and Law* 605 (11), 605-24.

## **Affirmative Action Benefits Asian Americans**

Kidder, W.C. (2006). Negative Action Versus Affirmative Action: Asian Pacific Americans Are Still Caught in the Crossfire. *Michigan Journal of Race and Law* 605 (11), 605-24.

Lee, S.S. (2008). The De-Minoritization of Asian Americans: A Historical Examination of the Representations of Asian Americans in Affirmative Action Admissions Policies at the University of California

# Conclusion

- Model minority stereotype hurts both Asian Americans and other minority groups
- Averaging the “Asian-American” experience hurts different Asian-American ethnicities

## **Action Plan**

- Disaggregate of Asian-American data – Inside Higher Ed Article
- Educate policymakers and university administrators about Asian-American diversity
- Educate Asian-Americans about Negative Action vs Affirmative Action

# Discussion

- How can we do better public outreach to educate people about diversity within the Asian American community and misconceptions regarding Affirmative Action?
- If you have been in a committee in the past, what actions have you taken/could have taken to ensure Affirmative Action and not Negative Action?

# Resources

- <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2017/04/19/524571669/model-minority-myth-again-used-as-a-racial-wedge-between-asians-and-blacks>
- <http://pzacad.pitzer.edu/~mma/teaching/MS80/readings/lee.pdf>
- <https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2017/11/13/asian-group-tells-common-application-stop-disaggregating-asian-groups>
- [http://care.gseis.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/2008\\_CARE\\_Report.pdf](http://care.gseis.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/2008_CARE_Report.pdf)
- <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/notyourmodelminority-asian-americans-affirmative-action-debate>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/06/asian-americans-and-the-future-of-affirmative-action/489023/>
- <http://media.asian-nation.org/Kidder-Negative-Action.pdf>
- <https://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1144&context=aalj>
- <http://www.law.uci.edu/lawreview/vol3/no4/Chang.pdf>
- <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0032329299027001005>