

Message from the Psychology Program: Valuing the Diversity of the AAPI Community and Condemning Anti-Asian Violence

Fall 2021

The CSU Channel Islands Psychology Program values and embraces the rich diversity, heritage, and broad cultures and languages encompassed by Asian Americans and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.

AAPI communities are comprised of over 50 ethnic/cultural groups speaking over 100 different languages from Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, Hawaiian, and other Asian and Pacific Islander ancestries (NAMI; the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2021). The AAPI population in the U.S. nearly doubled between 2000 and 2019 with over 23 million of the U.S. population (7.3%) who trace their ancestral roots to East and Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent, which is projected to surpass 46 million by 2060 ([PEW Research Center, 2021](#)).

The Psychology program is saddened and angered by the increase in hate crimes, killings, verbal harassment, physical violence, implicit/explicit biases and racial/social injustices that members of AAPI communities have encountered due to xenophobia, propaganda, and misinformation about the coronavirus. The Psychology program condemns and will not tolerate this behavior.

Our program aims to ensure all students, faculty, staff and members of AAPI communities are treated fairly with respect, equity and dignity regardless of nationality, race, gender, culture, age, heritage, language, religious beliefs, etc. We are each working towards the advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence and reinforcing anti-racism policies and practices through our teaching, research, community engagement, and international work, while actively speaking out against anti-Asian sentiments and violence in our local communities.

Our Psychology program will aim to provide support and resources for healing of the intergenerational trauma experienced by members of our AAPI communities. Members of the AAPI communities have the lowest help-seeking rate of any ethnic/racial group due to stigma, cultural beliefs and practices, and systematic barriers that limit access to mental health care treatment (see [PEW Research Center, 2021](#)). We strongly support the development and establishment of AAPI Studies and Ethnic Studies programs at CSUCI as well as the hiring of tenure-track faculty to support AAPI Studies to lead and educate our campus about the complex histories and experiences of AAPI communities. We must be educated about our past and our ancestral histories in order to heal this intergenerational trauma that continues to affect our students, faculty, and staff today and our children tomorrow.

We must treat each other with kindness, empathy and respect while remembering to practice self-compassion and appreciation for our own unique qualities in order to create a more unified and inclusive community.

The Psychology Program
California State University Channel Islands

Support and Resources to Combat anti-Asian Violence and Xenophobic harassment:
<https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>

<https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Identity-and-Cultural-Dimensions/Asian-American-and-Pacific-Islander>

<https://www.justice.gov/crs/highlights/AAPL-hate-crimes>

Articles, Educational Information and news:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/12/magazine/asian-american-discrimination-coronavirus.html>

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/04/24/watch-san-jose-reacts-to-vandalism-at-asian-owned-businesses/>

<https://apnews.com/article/china-or-state-wire-race-and-ethnicity-ny-state-wire-virus-outbreak-11b8b1ddacfecfb3d449dad9060d6aa8>

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/01/economy/unemployment-benefits-new-york-asian-americans/index.html>

https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-uncomfortable-truth-about-affirmative-action-and-asian-americans?utm_source=EF%3A+Woo%27s+letter+to+Ivy+Presidents&utm_campaign=BOD+Result&utm_medium=email