

Regarding the recent anti-Asian violence across the country, and as a member of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, I have been educating myself on these issues. I feel obliged to share with you some of my thoughts and feelings. I certainly do not intend to represent all Asian groups.

1. The anti-Asian sentiment is not new. Since Chinese workers were building the transcontinental railroad in the 19th century, Chinese (and Asians in general) have been suffering from racial discrimination in this country. These include the Chinese massacre of 1871 in Los Angeles, the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, American Japanese internment during World War II, the murder of Vincent Chin in 1982, and the looting of Korean American businesses in 1992 Los Angeles uprising.
2. The "perpetual foreigners" is a negative stereotype of Asian Americans. It manifests as a form of microaggression in the examples like "where are you from?" or "go back to where you came from". The recent "China initiative" by the Department of Justice has wrongfully prosecuted many Chinese scientists working in the U.S. who had only normal and open research collaborations with Chinese universities. Although most of these accusations have been dismissed, many careers were destroyed. This new McCarthyism sent a chilling effect to many Chinese scientists working in U.S. research institutions. Somehow, Chinese (and Asian) Americans are just not "American enough."
3. The stereotypical "model minority" of Asians have been hurting this group of people. This ignored the fact that the wealth gap among Asians is the largest among any racial groups in the U.S.; the diverse composition of Asians includes Eastern Asians, South Asians, Southeastern Asians, etc. The average higher-income status of Asian Americans overshadows the fact that American Asians are politically invisible because they comprise a small percentage of the U.S. population. Asian voices "do not count", according to some legislators.
4. The "Bamboo ceiling" excludes Asians and Asian-Americans from executive positions due to subjective factors such as "lack of leadership potential" and "lack of communication skills". The cultural-specific values on being respectful to authority, agreeableness, and self-effacing do not work well in the American workplace.
5. The link of Asians with the origin of the coronavirus, magnified by the former president's voice, exacerbated the current anti-Asian sentiment.

Over the years, my family has encountered both explicit and inexplicit abuse. I have also heard harassment stories from some Asian students. Many Chinese scholars, including myself, do feel powerless, sad, anxious, and angry. Please do support our Asian students and scholars during this difficult time.

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Here are some books on this issue I read and recommend:

Chang, I. (2004). *The Chinese in America: A narrative history*. Penguin Books.

Lee, E. (2016). *The making of Asian America: A history*. Simon & Schuster.

Wong, J. (2020). *Not this shit again!: A comedian's guide to tackling anti-Asian racism*. Kindle Books.

Yu, C. (2020). *Interior Chinatown: A novel*. Vintage Books.