



Asian Mode

Official Newsletter of the ASA Asia and Asian America Section

Fall 2020 and Winter 2021

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Letter from the Section Chair

Dear Section Members,

It is a joy to be following in the footsteps of outgoing chair Xiaoling Shu. I am extremely grateful for her dedicated service to our section and for her ongoing support as we weather these uncertain times. On behalf of the Council, I would also like to express my gratitude to outgoing Council members Victoria Reyes (2017 to 2020) and Minjeong Kim (2017 to 2020), as well as student representative Fangqi Wen (2019 to 2020).

I am pleased to introduce the new membership of the Council. Hyunjoon Park, University of Pennsylvania, is Chair-Elect. The Council also welcomes Amy Hsin, Queens College, City University of New York, and Hyeyoung Woo, Portland State University, for three-year terms. In addition, I am very pleased to welcome Praveena Lakshmanan, Michigan State University, as Council student representative for 2019 to 2020.

I would like to thank our communication team for their outstanding work: newsletter editor Kevin Escudero (Brown), associate editor Carolyn Choi (University of Southern California), listserv coordinator Fangqi Wen (Oxford), and public liaison and [Twitter account](#) coordinator/manager Yue Qian (University of British Columbia). I particularly appreciate the team's generosity in continuing for the current year in their present roles.

Finally, I am grateful to members who have shared ideas for conference themes and volunteered to organize section paper sessions, serve on awards committees, and take on other initiatives to expand AAA programming. We are working on programming for the 2021 annual meeting, which, while virtual, will include two section paper sessions, a roundtable session, a business meeting, and a Council meeting.

Thanks to all who responded to our questionnaire about session themes for ASA 2021. We have tried to accommodate as many of these ideas as possible in the detailed session descriptions we shared with the ASA for the paper call, which can be found [here](#). One paper session, "Session on Asia and the Global Asian Diaspora," solicits submissions on all topics relevant to Asia and global Asian diaspora communities. Hyeyoung Woo, Portland State University, is kindly organizing this session. A second paper session, "Session on Asian America", solicits submissions on all topics relevant to the sociological study of Asian America. Many thanks to Phoebe Ho, University of North Texas, and Esther Chan, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, for organizing this session. Finally, the Asia and Asian America

Roundtable Session will feature emerging projects on the sociology of Asia, Asian America, and Asian diaspora communities around the world. Hyunjoon Park, University of Pennsylvania, will lead this effort.

In lieu of our usual mentorship reception at ASA, we are working on developing a small number of informal virtual panel discussions on professional development topics in 2021. We are seeking guidance from the membership to target our efforts to topics of greatest interest. Possibilities might include journal and book publishing processes, grantsmanship, public engagement, US and international academic job market experiences, academic interviewing, the non-academic market, and negotiating the tenure track. Senior and junior colleagues, please take a moment to visit [link](#) to select a) your topic preferences as a potential audience member or b) topics for which you would be willing to share your experiences. There is a space to write in new topic areas for consideration.

The official Call for AAA Section Award Nominations was released in December. As in prior years, we will solicit nominations for a student paper award, a research paper award, book awards for most outstanding book on Asia/Transnational and most outstanding book on Asian America, and a contribution to the field award. The deadline for receipt of all award nominations is March 31, 2021.

Finally, the implications of the pandemic and a second virtual ASA for overall membership remain to be seen. Understanding the difficulties that many members face, we hope to encourage continued and new section memberships, to the extent possible. As circumstances permit, please consider helping us in the below ways:

1. Please renew your ASA and section membership: <https://www.asanet.org/membership>.
2. Please consider sponsoring a section student membership for \$5 per member. To sponsor a student, please go to <https://www.asanet.org/membership>, log in, and click on Access Your ASA Portal. Next, click on Purchase a Gift Section Membership under Contribute/Give, select Asia and Asian America, and select the person that you are sponsoring.

If you are interested in sponsoring a student but do not have a name in mind, we will also offer a matching service. Faculty members willing to sponsor a student can register [here](#) and we will seek a student for them to sponsor.

3. Please let ASA student members in your university (or other universities) know about the section and encourage them to join. ASA student members who would like to join but need a sponsorship can register [here](#) and we will seek sponsorship for them.

Thanks to all of you for your engagement with the Section. These are busy and difficult times for many of our members, and the efforts to

support our community are most appreciated. Wishing all of you a peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Emily Hannum
Professor of Sociology
Associate Dean for Social Sciences
University of Pennsylvania
Chair, ASA Section on Asia and Asian America

Meet our New Section Officers!

Hyunjoon Park (Chair Elect)

I am Hyunjoon Park, Korea Foundation Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. I am also the Director of the Kim Program in Korean Studies at Penn. As the Chair-Elect, I am so excited about the opportunity to serve the great community of the ASA Asia and Asian America Section. My central goal as the chair of the section would be to strengthen diverse and comparative perspectives on Asia and Asian America. I am particularly interested in integrating scholarship of Asia and Asian America. I helped establish the Association of Korean Sociologists in America (AKSA) and the Research Network on Education, Family, and Inequality in Korea, organizations that provide research and professionalization support to graduate students and junior scholars.

My research and teaching focuses on the comparative study of education, family, and inequality in South Korea and Japan. I published a single-authored book, *Re-Evaluating Education in Japan and Korea* (2013), and two co-edited volumes – *Korean Families Yesterday and Today* (2020) and *Korean Education in Changing Economic and Demographic Contexts* (2014). I edited a journal special issue on the transition to adulthood in Asia, and co-edited journal special issues on one-parent families in Asia and on education as a positional good, respectively. I was a co-editor of *Research in the Sociology of Education*, 2014-2019. I have also studied education of Asian American youths and patterns of leaving the parental home among Asian American young adults. More than 80 articles I have published so far highlight my long-term commitment to the sociological exploration of Asia and Asian America. I currently direct the Korean Millennials Research Lab, a five-year multidisciplinary project team tasked with investigating the transition to adulthood among young adults in South Korea and Asian Americans in the US.

Amy Hsin (Section Councilmember)

Amy Hsin is Associate Professor of Sociology at Queens College, CUNY. Her research is at the intersection of education, immigration and inequality. She was a 2019-2020 visiting fellow at the Russell Sage Foundation to complete her book (co-authored with Sofya Aptekar) on undocumented youth in NYC. Her work on undocumented CUNY students has been funded by the William T. Grant Foundation, Russell Sage Foundation and John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Her research on gender norms and Asian American achievement was featured in *The Upshot* in the New

York Times. A new focus of her work investigates the effect of aggressive policing policies--such as police stop-and-frisk--on the academic performance of Black/Latino and undocumented youth by linking administrative data on CUNY students with 'big data' from the NYPD. Her research has been published in *The Proceedings of the National Academies of Science*, *Demography*, *Economics of Education Review*, *International Migration Review*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies* and *Journal of Marriage and Family* and featured in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *LA Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Economist*, *TIME*, and *NPR*. She is the incoming associate editor of *International Migration Review* and on the editorial board of the *American Sociological Review*. In addition to her academic work, Professor Hsin is a public sociologist. She was appointed by the Mayor of NYC to serve on the Executive Committee of the School Diversity Advisory Group, a task-force charged to study and recommend policies to integrate NYC public schools. She co-authored an amicus brief to the Supreme Court of the United States in support of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and has written several OpEd articles on DACA and the DREAM Act in *The Conversation* and *The Hill*.

Hyeyoung Woo (Section Councilmember)

I am Professor of Sociology at Portland State University (PSU). I also currently serve on the Faculty Advisory Board at the Institute for Asian Studies at PSU. As a social demographer interested in health and well-being, my research centers on status attainment, such as education, work, and family, and its associations to health disparities over the life course among people in the US and Korea. I recently co-edited a volume, *Korean Families Yesterday and Today* (2020, University of Michigan Press), and co-authored a textbook for an introduction to Sociology for premed students, *Social Foundations of Behavior for the Health Sciences* (2017, Springer). My other recent work has appeared in a number of journals, including *Society and Mental Health*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Journal of Gerontology*, *Series B: Psychology Sciences and Social Sciences*, and *Medical Care*. I served as a co-editor of *Sociological Perspectives* (2016-2019) and co-editor-in-chief for a special issue of *Sociological Perspectives* on *Millennials/Gen Z* (2020).

Over the years, I have worked to support our Asian and Asian American community in various capacities. I was one of the founding members of The Association of Korean Sociologists in America, an association to promote research concerning Koreans and Korean Americans and to support its members. I have also been mentoring a number of graduate students and junior scholars with Asian backgrounds, including several at PSU and many I have met through Sociology conferences. As a new council member, I am extremely excited to serve AAA, a section that has fostered my intellectual and professional growth throughout my career. With other section officers, I will look forward to having many opportunities to contribute to the further success of this section for the upcoming years.

Praveena Lakshmanan (Student Representative)

I am a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at Michigan State University (MSU), with a specialization in International Migration, Gender and Social Research Methods. My interest in serving as the elected student representative for the Asia and Asian American Section (2020-2021) stems from my personal and professional experience as an immigrant woman of color. And, this along with my experience of representing students on undergraduate and graduate education committees, as well as in ASA's Sex and Gender section, I believe will bring a unique perspective. Through this position I look forward to advocating for diversity, inclusion and representation of the interests of undergraduate/graduate students and their identities. I hope to extend inputs about different programming that can assist students nurture their identity as scholars. Also, I look forward to serving as a conduit for encouraging students to build communities of support and remaining connected to scholarly community.

My dissertation research focuses on applying South Asian, Postcolonial and Transnational feminist frameworks to examine migration of economically precarious South Asian (Indian) ethnic migrants. These frameworks have also shaped the nature of my advocacy work around migrants and immigrant and communities. I currently serve as the Student Advisory Editor for the Journal of Social Problems. I graduated from University of Houston (UH) with a MA in Sociology and BA in Political Science. Prior to that, I have completed my university education (Master of Science in Sustainable Development) in India.

New Book Feature:



**Japanese American Millennials:
Rethinking Generation, Community, and Diversity
(Temple University Press, 2019)**

Edited by Michael Omi, Dana Y. Nakano, and Jeffrey T. Yamashita

Q & A with the Editors

1. What motivated you to develop such a volume?

Our aim was to inspire a rethinking and revitalization of the field of Japanese American studies. We wanted to challenge its prevailing historical narratives, dominant conceptual frames, and its familiar sites and subjects of inquiry. As part of this rethinking, we were also interested in situating Japanese American studies in the context of the broader scholarship on race, ethnicity, and generational change. While the Japanese American community has undergone profound demographic transformation over the years, we felt that Japanese American studies has not kept up with these changes nor understood their overall meaning and significance.

We took to heart historian Eiichiro Azuma's argument that the existing literature on Japanese Americans highlights and privileges some experiences to the exclusion of others. There has been a prevailing focus and emphasis in Japanese American studies on the *nisei* generation, the tragic episode of mass incarceration during World War II, and the presumed rapid assimilation of Japanese Americans in the postwar period.

In critiquing this dominant narrative, we asked a series of questions. How useful is the prevailing generational framework (*issei*, *nisei*, *sansei*, etc.) to understanding the contemporary experiences of Japanese? How do more recent Japanese immigrants, such as *zainichi* (ethnic Korean immigrants from Japan), relate to established Japanese American communities? How do "mixed race" individuals understand and express their Japanese American identity? And, how are Japanese American identities complexly interwoven with other identities such as gender, sexual orientation, class, and religious affiliation among others? Our intent in this anthology is to present multiple perspectives on who Japanese Americans are, how they think about notions of community and culture, and how they engage and negotiate multiple social identities.

2. What are some of the primary interventions that the volume makes in the fields of sociology and Asian American Studies?

One is to problematize the ways the assimilationist paradigm is deployed to capture ethnic identification and generational change. Since the mid-1960s, Japanese Americans have been widely regarded as the "poster child" for assimilation theory. The paradigm sees each succeeding generation of an immigrant-origin group shedding their ethnic distinctiveness through upward socioeconomic mobility and integration into the mainstream of American social and cultural life. In this process, ethnicity for Japanese Americans is assumed to be increasingly "symbolic" --- a nostalgic, intermittent, and optional identity with little impact on their life chances, primary relationships, or everyday experiences. Rather than undergo a process of ethnic attenuation, the articles in this anthology demonstrate the continued persistence of ethnic identity among Japanese American millennials and their ongoing engagement with ethnic institutions.

We also challenge the normative framework of generations and generational change in Japanese American studies. Each generational cohort has been traditionally understood and portrayed as an internally coherent, fixed, and stable group. In sharp contrast, essays in our volume highlight the diversity of Japanese American millennials. In doing so, we explore how ethnic community institutions and practices are maintained, transformed, and reimagined by Japanese American millennials. We also look at how their racial and ethnic consciousness, identities, and affiliations are increasingly shaped in the broader transnational space of the Japanese diaspora. Taken as whole, the volume illustrates that the ways that identity, history, and community are thought about, expressed, and lived by Japanese American millennials are varied, diverse, and intersectional.

3. Can you preview for us an example or two of the types of topics covered in the volume? Relatedly, how did you and your co-editors decide upon the list of topics to be covered?

The anthology is divided into five broad sections: Sustaining Community, Spiritualities, Redefining Ethnicity, Intersecting Identities, and Crossing and Bridging Boundaries. The list of topics included in the anthology came together organically through a combination of what we, the editors, knew to be of enduring importance based on the Japanese American studies literature as well as the work that we knew was being produced on the contemporary Japanese American experience within the social sciences broadly. For instance, religious institutions, both Christian and Buddhist, have historically played a significant role in the maintenance of Japanese American community. Dean Adachi and Chenxing Han's chapters offer contemporary insight into the continuing role Christianity and Buddhism play in Japanese American ethnic and community maintenance. Another important site for the Japanese American community has been ethnic basketball leagues. Christina Chin examines the persistence and adaptation of contemporary basketball leagues to meet the needs of an ever-shifting Japanese American population in Southern California.

Other sections of the book confront the conventional wisdoms and locations of Japanese American studies. Rebecca King-O'Riain's chapter draws a stark comparison between our understandings of earlier generations of Japanese Americans and the contemporary reality of Japanese American millennials demonstrating the need for a paradigm shift. In this vein of paradigm shift, Jane Yamashiro and Wesley Ueunten's studies bring an important transnational perspective in their exploration of the formation and maintenance of Japanese American and Uchinanchu ethnic and racial identities in the context of Japan, Hawaii, South America, and the US mainland. Similarly, Lori Lopez introduces the complex negotiations of identity and community among a global multiracial Japanese diaspora through YouTube and other virtual community spaces.

4. Lastly, could you share with us for others who may be considering developing an edited volume project any suggestions you have for undertaking such an endeavor?

Edited volumes come to fruition through so many different paths that it is hard to provide adequate and generalizable advice. Our anthology brought together mostly original scholarship that at times diverged from our

contributors' main research interests. We also included the work 14 individual scholars. All this led to a particularly long project schedule and many missed deadlines. But the wrangling and the delays were worth it to put together an anthology that we all could be proud of.

If we had to provide one piece of advice, it would be that the most important component for the success of this project was having reliable co-editors who you trust, respect, and whose company you genuinely enjoy. Shared vision and camaraderie were essential. Working together made the long road from conception to publication with all its bumps and detours worthwhile—and, dare we say, fun.

Section Award Nomination Calls

Nominations (including self-nominations) are now being accepted for the 2021 Asia and Asian America awards. The deadline for receipt of all award nominations is March 31, 2021. The winners will be announced in June on the section listserv, and the award ceremony will occur at the annual meeting in August. The awards and nomination procedures are described below.

1. BOOK AWARDS: ASIA/TRANSNATIONAL AND ASIAN AMERICA

The Asia and Asian American section invites nominations for book awards for books published in 2019 or 2020 (for the 2021 award). The Book Award Committee will make two awards: most outstanding book on Asia/Transnational topics and most outstanding book on Asian America.

Books must be published in the two calendar years prior to the award year, based on the book's printed copyright date. When the publication date and copyright date are different, eligibility is based on the copyright date. Nomination letters (or self-nominations) are required and should be no more than 2 pages. Letters should state the significance and innovations of the book. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2021. Please send an electronic copy of the nomination material to each award committee member. In addition, please send, or request that the publisher send an electronic (or paper) copy of the book to each of the award committee members. Books may be resubmitted for qualifying years. ASA policy requires that all awardees must be registered members of the ASA and AAA section at the time an award is given.

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2. RESEARCH PAPER AWARD

The Asia and Asian American section invites nominations for the most outstanding paper on Asia/Transnational and/or Asian America published in 2019 or 2020 (for the 2021 award). Submissions for the Research Paper Award may include any article first published--whether online or print--within two years of the award year. Both solo-authored and coauthored publications will be considered. Nomination letters (or self-nominations) are required and should be no more than 2 pages. Letters should state the significance and innovations of the paper. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2021. Please send an electronic copy of the paper along with nomination letter(s) to each of the three award committee members. ASA policy requires that all awardees must be registered members of the ASA and AAA section at the time an award is given.

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3. GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PAPER AWARD

The Asia and Asian American section will award a \$300 cash prize to the best graduate student paper addressing any topic in the sociology of Asia/Transnational or Asian America published in 2018 or 2019 (for the 2021 award). (Cash awards will be divided equally first among co-winning papers and second among co-authors, if any). Submissions may include any published or unpublished research papers, where the student is the lead or solo author (at the time of submission to journals and anthologies). Published articles must have been first published--whether online or print--within two years of the award year. Unpublished entries should be double spaced with 12 point font and not exceed 35 pages in length (including all references, tables, and figures). Papers may be self-nominated or nominated by professors on behalf of their students. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2021. Please send one electronic copy of the paper along with nomination letter(s) to each of the three award committee members. ASA policy requires that all awardees must be registered members of the ASA and AAA section at the time an award is given.

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4. CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD AWARD

Nominations (including self-nominations) are invited for the Section's Contribution to the Field Award. This award is meant to recognize those professors who have worked to build up the fields of Asian and/or Asian American Studies within their universities/colleges and the discipline at large, such as through critically engaged pedagogy, curriculum building, institution building, grassroots organizing, mentoring, and scholarly contributions. Nominees' contributions may be local, regional, national, or international. Competitive applications include a large number of letters of support from faculty, students, and other relevant individuals as well as other supporting documents such as vita, teaching evaluations, syllabi, etc. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2021. Please send an electronic copy of the nomination letter(s) and all supporting material to each of the two award committee co-chairs. Unawarded nominations will be automatically reconsidered for a period of three years. Please note: to be considered, submissions must be in the form of a single packet that contains all required materials. ASA policy requires that all awardees must be registered members of the ASA and AAA section at the time an award is given.

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New Publications by Section Members

Deb, Nikhil and Maya Rao. 2020. "The Pandemic and the Invisible Poor of the Global South: Slum Dwellers in Mumbai, India, and Dhaka, Bangladesh." In *Social Problems in the Age of COVID-19: Volume 2 – Global Perspectives*, edited by Muschert, Glenn, Budd, Kristen Lane, David, and Jason Smith. Bristol, UK: Policy Press.

- Elfstrom, Manfred, and Yao Li. 2019. "Contentious Politics in China: Causes, Dynamics, and Consequences." *Brill Research Perspectives in Governance and Public Policy in China* 4(1):1-90.
- Fulda, Andreas and Jennifer Y.J. Hsu. 2020. "The Resource Mobilisation Cycle: How Chinese Civil Society Organisations Leverage Cultural, Economic, Symbolic and Social Capital." *China: An International Journal*, 18(2), 55-76.
- Hasmath, Reza, Hildebrandt, Timothy, Hsu, Carolyn L., Hsu, Jennifer Y.J. and Jessica C. Teets. 2020. "Not everyone in China thought the government could handle the coronavirus." *Monkey Cage*, Washington Post, April 18.
- Lee, Wondong and Joseph Yi. 2020 (online Feb 3). "South Korean Evangelical Narratives on North Koreans and Homosexuals." *Journal of Homosexuality*.
- Li, Yao, and Manfred Elfstrom. 2020. "Does Greater Coercive Capacity Increase Overt Repression? Evidence from China." *Journal of Contemporary China* 1-26.
- Marrow, Helen B., Linda R. Tropp, Meta van der Linden, Dina G. Okamoto, and Michael Jones-Correa. 2020. "How does Inter-Racial Contact Shape Whites and Blacks' Receptivity toward Immigrants in the United States?" *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*.
- Okamoto, Dina, G. Linda R. Tropp, Helen B. Marrow, and Michael Jones-Correa. 2020. "Welcoming, Trust and Civic Engagement: Immigrant Integration in Metropolitan America." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 690: 61-81.
- Reza Hasmath and Jennifer Y.J. Hsu. 2020. "A Community of Practice for Chinese NGOs." *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, 25(4), 575-589
- Wang, Jia, and James M. Raymo. 2020. "Nonstandard Employment, Gender, and Subjective Well-Being in Japan." *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Online first.
- Xiao, Wenming, and Yao Li. 2020. "Building A 'Lofty, Beloved People's Amusement Center': The Socialist Transformation of Shanghai Dashijie (1950-1958)." *Modern Asian Studies*, 1-42.
- Yang, Myungji. 2020. "Defending 'Liberal Democracy'? Why Older Koreans Took to the Streets against the Candlelight Protests, 2016-2017." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 25(3): 365-382."
- Yi, Joseph and Wondong Lee. 2020 (July 17). *Pandemic Nationalism in South Korea*. *Society* 57 (4): 446-451.
- Zhang, Yueran. 2020. "Political Competition and Two Modes of Taxing Private Homeownership: A Bourdieusian Analysis of the Contemporary Chinese State." *Theory and Society* 49(4): 669-707.

Member Achievements & Placements

Chuncheng Liu was awarded the Association for Asian Studies China and Inner Asia Council Graduate Student Best Paper Award.

Announcements

New Podcast Alert

Professor Samuel R. Lucas at Berkeley recently conducted an interview of potential interest to the Asia and Asian America section. On his podcast, *This Week in Sociological Perspective*, he interviewed Professor ChangHwan Kim and Andrew Kim of the University of Kansas about their paper titled "COVID-19 and the Decline in Asian American Employment." They are two of the four authors of the paper, which is soon to be published in *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*. He announced this episode with a tweet from @TWiSP_Podcast. The audio podcast is available on iTunes/Apple podcasts and at: [This Week in Sociological Perspective, Audio -- November 5, 2020](#). The video version is available at: [This Week in Sociological Perspective, Video -- November 5, 2020](#).

ASA Mentorship Opportunity

In lieu of our usual mentorship reception at ASA, we are working on developing a small number of informal virtual panel discussions on professional development topics in 2021. We are seeking guidance from the membership to target our efforts to topics of greatest interest. Possibilities might include journal and book publishing processes, grantsmanship, public engagement, US and international academic job market experiences, academic interviewing, the non-academic market, and negotiating the tenure track. Senior and junior colleagues, please take a moment to visit this [link](#) to select a) your topic preferences as a potential audience member or b) topics for which you would be willing to share your experiences. There is a space to write in new topic areas for consideration.

Recruitment for University of Pennsylvania Study

Topic: NYC-based East Asian women in interracial relationships (\$25 for participation in one 1-2-hour virtual interview):
The purpose of this study is to understand how East Asian women conceptualize racial difference in mating contexts, as well as what happens to their understandings of race after they enter interracial/interethnic relationships. Currently we are seeking participants who fulfill the following criteria:

- Identifies as a woman of East Asian descent
- Currently in a romantic relationship with a Black man

- Currently resides in NYC (all boroughs) OR would be residing in NYC if not for COVID-19

Spent entire K-12 (kindergarten through 12th grade) experience in the United States

If you are interested in participating in the study, please complete this brief screening

survey: https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bkGoPvUVGSGm6LX.

It would also be tremendously helpful if you could share the attached recruitment flyer with your networks.

Please feel free to email the Principal Investigator, Wendy Roth (wroth3@sas.upenn.edu) or Olivia Hu (oliviahu@sas.upenn.edu) with any questions you may have.