From the Section Chair

Dear Members,

I hope your semester has ended or is almost ending! We are gearing up for Philadelphia and our sessions and we look forward to connecting with many of you there. Please see this newsletter for details of the exciting papers and sessions that our section is organizing. We also invite you to attend our Business Meeting and our Section Reception. This is an important way that you can make contact with others in the section and make your voices heard!

From the Section Chair

This edition of the newsletter carries two essays by members dealing with issues that are at the heart of our intellectual enterprise in this section. Adrienne Atterberry discusses the fluid relationship between Asia and Asian America by focusing on transnational migrants who move back and forth between their home country (in this case, India) and the United States. Unlike the typical “goose families” of Korean immigrants, where children are sent to the United States for schooling, some Indian migrants prefer to return to India and to educate their children in international schools there to “get the best of both Eastern and Western cultures.”

The relationship between Asian and Asian American studies was initially fraught and I remember
the days when people in Asian American studies wanted nothing to do with scholars of Asian studies. Fortunately, our section was one of the organizations at the forefront of imploding that distinction and now many programs combine or at least link Asian and Asian American studies. The overwhelming majority of Asian Americans are immigrants whose lives have been intimately shaped by their Asian backgrounds and who continue to maintain connections with their homelands. As in the case of the immigrants that Atterberry studies, some even move back and forth between Asia and the United States. Asian capital and Asian migrants are remaking the United States in many ways, and American politics, capital, religion, and culture are also shaping contemporary Asia in profound ways. Even if scholars choose to just focus on either Asia or Asian American, it makes sense to examine these questions together, under one inclusive umbrella, and to have our research informed and stretched by these discussions.

In their essay, Van Tran and Jennifer Lee touch on another vexed question that has been at the center of many discussions in Asian American studies. Is there an Asian “race” or are Asian Americans a multi-racial group defined by geographical background? Tran and Lee raise the issue of the “cognitive construction” of the Asian racial category and what it means to be perceived as “Asian” in the United States. We should also consider which groups are included and which groups are excluded from such a construction. Are Chinese Americans considered the “prototypical” Asian American group? If so, what are the implications for groups such as South Asians and Filipinos, who are both phenotypically and culturally different from Chinese Americans and are present in very large numbers in the United States? In the post 9/11 period, are brown-skinned Asian Americans more likely to be lauded for hyper-selectivity and racial mobility or attacked as potential terrorists or undocumented immigrants? These are all important issues which we should consider. The work of scholars like Radha Modi (2016) shows that context matters, particularly for South Asian men who may be viewed as high-achieving minorities in the workplace but also have to contend with harassment in public spaces.

The members of our section have been very productive as always, and the newsletter carries a listing of all the recent publications and other announcements. Newsletters are an important source of information about the section and its membership. In our department we use newsletters and section websites to come up with some of the reviewers for tenure and promotion cases, to see the latest work in the field, and to make decisions about which journals and book publishers to target for our own work. Please keep this in mind and continue to send in your publications and announcements to our newsletter.

I look forward to handing over my responsibilities to Angie Chung, our capable incoming chair, in August after the ASA meetings! Thank you for the privilege of being able to serve as your section chair over this academic year.

Warm wishes,
Prema Kurien
Chair, ASA Section on Asia and Asian America
Professor and Chair
Department of Sociology
Syracuse University

Reference
ASIA AND ASIAN AMERICA SECTION PANELS
AT THE 2018 ASA MEETING

SECTION ON ASIA AND ASIAN AMERICA REFEREED ROUNDTABLE SESSION
Mon, August 13, 8:30 to 9:30am, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Level 5, Salon D

Session Organizer: Angie Y. Chung, University at Albany

Table 01. Dating, Marriage and Family in Asia
Table Presider: Gowoon Jung, University at Albany, SUNY

Dating, Marriage, and Parental Approval: An Examination of Young Adults in China
Sampson Lee Blair, SUNY-Buffalo; Timothy Madigan, Mansfield University

Have Japanese People Become Asexual?: Quantitative Analyses of Love in Japan
Jun Kobayashi, Seikei University

Is Marriage Also a Greedy Institution on Social Life in China?
Fang Fang, Virginia Tech

Women's Bodies, the Life Cycle, and Power in Indian Households
Megan Nicole Reed, University of Pennsylvania

Navigating Race and Class Hierarchies in School: Becoming Asian in Southern California
Jennifer Huynh, University of Notre Dame

Table 03. Ethnic Identities
Table Presider: Angie Y. Chung, University at Albany

Decentered Identity: Ethnic and Identity Dilemma among Ethnic Return Migrants in South Korea
In Seo Son, Korea University; Hwajin Shin, Korea University; Chang Won Lee, IOM Migration Research and Training Centre

Jacki Fitzpatrick, Texas Tech University; Erin Kostina-Ritchey

The Beautiful Life: Taiwanese Immigration and Evangelical Christianity in the United States
Shirley Michelle Lung, Johns Hopkins University

Table 04. Government and Civil Society
Table Presider: Irene Rossetto, The University of Texas at Austin

Counting Caste: Censuses, Politics and Castelessness in India
Trina Vithayathil, Providence College

Household Registration System and Health in China: A Life Course Approach
Qian Song, RAND Corporation; James Smith, RAND

The Structure of Civil Society: Does Trust Matter in Korea, Japan, and China?
Seokho Kim, Seoul National University; Jaeun Lim, Cornell University

Chinese American Social Movement in the Era of Social Media: Making of Pro-Peter Liang Movement
Keqing Zhang
Table 05. Health in Asia/Asian America
Table Presider: Gina Masequesmay, CSU Northridge

Asian Americans' Mental Health Reexamined: The Role of Education
Bohui Wang, Temple University

Mapping the Discursive Landscape of the Chinese Postpartum Practices
Kuan-Yi Chen, College of Staten Island

The Influence of Acculturation and Weight-Related Behaviors on Body Mass Index among Asian American Ethnic Subgroups
Chih-Chien Huang, Saint Anselm College

Trend of Health of Adolescents from Multicultural Families in Korea
Hyeyoung Woo and Lindsey Wilkinson, Portland State University; Wonjeong Jeong, Yonsei University; Sojung Lim, Utah State University

Table 06. Intermarriage and Assimilation
Table Presider: Mel Moore, University of Northern Colorado

Migration as Process: the Homemaking Experiences of Chinese Canadians
Jing Zhao, University of British Columbia

Racialized Attraction and Assimilatory Implications for Intermarried Asian Americans
Louise Ly

Stress and Sensibility: Differential Social Stress and Interracial Marriage Attitudes amongst Asian Americans
Ryan Gibson, Emory University
SECTION ON ASIA AND ASIAN AMERICA
BUSINESS MEETING
Mon, August 13, 9:30 to 10:10am, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Level 5, Salon D

PANEL TITLE: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN ASIA AND ASIAN AMERICA
Mon, August 13, 10:30am to 12:10pm, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Level 4, 405
Organizer: Jennifer Ji Hyo Chun, University of Toronto
Presider: Sharmila Rudrappa, University of Texas at Austin
Papers:
South Asian Americans and Post-9/11 Experiences of Racialization: Divergently Impacted, Divergently Mobilized
Sheena Sood, Temple University
Emergence of the "Comfort Women" Issue and Breaking Silence of Comfort Women Victims
Pyong Gap Min, City University of New York-Queens College
Social Capital as a Double-edged Sword: Negotiating Conflicting Visions in Post-Morakot Reconstruction in Taiwan
Ming-Cheng M. Lo, University of California-Davis; Yun Fan, National Taiwan University
Civic Localism, Anti-Mainland Localism, and Independence: The Changing Pattern of Identity Politics in post-1997 Hong Kong
Alvin Y. So, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Ping Lam Ip, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

PANEL TITLE: RACE IN ASIA AND ASIAN AMERICA
Mon, August 13, 2:30 to 4:10pm, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Level 4, Franklin Hall 2
Organizer/Presider: Kazuko Suzuki, Yale University
Papers:
Divergence Within? Indian Caste Lines and Immigrant Ethnic and Racial Identity Formation in the U.S.
Saswathi Natta, University of Maryland, College Park, and Julie Park, University of Maryland, College Park
“I Can Choose to Look Away”: The Protective Role of Race among Asian Undocumented Young Adults
Esther Yoona Cho, University of California, Berkeley
In the Margins: Pan-Ethnic Diversity among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on Television
Christina B. Chin, California State University, Fullerton; Meera E. Deo, Thomas Jefferson School of Law; Faustina M. DuCros, San Jose State University; Jenny Jong-Hwa Lee, University of California, Los Angeles; Noriko Milman, University of San Francisco; and Nancy Wang Yuen, Biola University
Okinawan as a Global Ancestral Group: Indigenous, Ethnic Minority, and Uncategorized
Jane H. Yamashiro
The Same Separate?: Group Discrimination in the United States and Japan
Tristan Ivory, University of Missouri

SECTION MENTORSHIP MEET-AND-GREET
Please tentatively mark your calendars for a Section Mentorship Meet-and-Greet on Monday, August 13th from 5:15-6:15PM at or near Penang (right before the section reception)! We're thrilled to have received 43 signups for our mentorship program this year and are looking into reserving a space for this pre-reception event. Mentorship matchups and RSVP link will be sent to those who signed up, hopefully by June. Please contact aychung@albany.edu for more information.

SECTION ON ASIA AND ASIAN AMERICA RECEPTION (OFFSITE)
Mon, August 13, 6:30pm to 8:00pm, Penang, 117 N 10th Street

ASA AUTHOR-MEETS-CRITIC SESSION
Tue, August 14, 10:30 to 12:10pm, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Level 4, Franklin Hall 10
Featuring Angie Chung’s book, Saving Face: The Emotional Costs of the Asian Immigrant Family Myth
Critics: Nancy Foner, Nadia Kim, Annette Laureau
Why do highly educated, relatively affluent immigrants choose to leave their country of migration and return to their country of origin? What benefits do they see in raising their children in their country of ethnic origin? How do they decide into which K-12 schools they should enroll their children? How does where they would like their children to attend college affect K-12 school-choice? How does growing up in two national contexts shape the sense of cultural and national belonging of the children? These questions and others are examined in my dissertation project that focuses on the experiences of Indian American youth, which includes US citizens and permanent residents, who grew up in both India and the USA before reaching the age of majority. I refer to this group in my dissertation project and for the remainder of this essay as transnational Indian American youth.

I decided to pursue this project after conducting pre-dissertation research in Bangalore, a city in southwest India. While there I spoke with a high school student named Varad. Varad was born in the Bay Area. He spent nine years there before his family relocated to Bangalore to care for an ailing family member. He completed his schooling at a prestigious international school and was going to begin his undergraduate studies at Duke University that fall. I had the chance to speak with Varad after he started college in the USA. When I asked him to define what his identity is given his history of having grown up in the USA and India he responded by saying,

“I say that I’m Indian but after thinking about whether or not I’m an Indian or an American I just don’t like the label of either. The reason for it is that where you live and who you speak to ends up defining who you are. If you move around, then you’ll end up speaking to and living with different people over a long period of time. And who you are becomes an amalgam of every single person you’ve spoken to and every experience that you’ve had. So an Indian American as a concept accordingly wouldn't even exist. It's just a fluid identity. You are not either Indian, American, or Indian American—you can just be a fluid [blend] of all three. So at this very moment in time maybe I would say that I'm an Indian, but as time goes on I may not.”

What intrigued me about Varad was how his history of growing up within two national-contexts and receiving an education in a school capable of keeping him transnationally mobile resulted in him perceiving himself to have a 'fluid' identity.

Motivated by this idea, I designed a dissertation project that explores the interconnections between transnational mobility, education, and belonging in the lives of transnational Indian American youth. Examining these issues involved completing more than 65 interviews with Indian American high school students, as well as their parents and educators, along with Indian Americans who returned to the USA for higher education. To better illustrate what I learned from this project, I will use an example from one family I interviewed. I was introduced to this family by a close friend. The dad, Shaan, is from West Bengal, a state in east India. He came to the USA originally to complete a graduate degree in engineering. He eventually moved to the Midwest with his wife and two small children after obtaining a job in the automobile industry. When his daughter was in kindergarten and his son in second grade he describes being given an opportunity to relocate to Bangalore. He says, “I was asked, being of Indian origin, if I was interested in taking up a temporary assignment for about 3 years over there.” After discussing the idea with his wife, he decided that it would be in the family's best interest to move to Bangalore. According to Shaan, “It was back to the country of our origin and it was one of the upcoming, beautiful cities of India.” With this in mind Shaan relocated his family to Bangalore, settling in a popular area on the outskirts of the city—Whitefield.

I was introduced to this family by a close friend. The dad, Shaan, is from West Bengal, a state in east India. He came to the USA originally to complete a graduate degree in engineering. He eventually moved to the Midwest with his wife and two small children after obtaining a job in the automobile industry. When his daughter was in kindergarten and his son in second grade he describes being given an opportunity to relocate to Bangalore. He says, “I was asked, being of Indian origin, if I was interested in taking up a temporary assignment for about 3 years over there.”

While in India Shaan chose to educate his children at an international school. When I inquired about what motivated his school-choice decision he said, “These kids are going to be global kids,” and that the diverse
student body and teaching staff would enable his son to grow up “as a citizen of the world.” Shaan wanted a school that reflected his family's transnational lifestyle and believed that attending this particular school would enable his children to gain the skills they needed to be successful in the future. When reflecting on the broader benefits he saw to raising his children in Bangalore he said, “We thought we could give the kids [an] excellent blend of both the eastern and the western culture. Eastern culture is where our roots are and as far as the western culture goes we could keep in touch—they're going to an international school and coming to the USA [during the summer breaks]. So they could get the best of both . . . worlds.” Shaan believed that by raising his children in Bangalore he could expose them to their cultural roots, while keeping them in touch with western culture.

However, in the process of educating his children at an international school and raising them in India, he did not anticipate that his son might want to return to the USA for college. He told me that after enrolling his children in an international school “What we started finding out was the vast majority [of the students]—I would say 95% of them—were heading outside of India to go for undergraduate school.” He soon realized that his son was also “following that path.” Keeping his son's college goals in mind, Shaan once again relocated his family to the Midwest in hopes that his son would receive in-state consideration to a public college or university.

Shaan's son, Siddharth, eventually enrolled as an out-of-state student at the University of Illinois—Urbana Champaign. I had the chance to speak with Siddharth about how he felt about his transnational background. He told me, “I guess I'm really proud to be a permanent resident of the USA while being a citizen of India but I don't know where to identify. Even though I really love India so much, I am living here in the USA right now and we are in fact planning to get American citizenship as soon as we can.” After leading a childhood characterized by transnational mobility, Siddharth expresses relative ambivalence about where he feels he belongs.

This dissertation project explores the role of migration and education in the lives of transnationally mobile Indian American youth. It does so to understand how migration affects what it means to be a second-generation immigrant. Exploring these issues has relevance to other migrant populations as return migration is not unique to Indian Americans, nor to the USA. Through my dissertation project I aim to provide insight into the effects of transnational migration that may be relevant to other groups as well.
In 2015, the Asian American population numbered 20.4 million, making up 6.4 percent of the total U.S. population. This is a significant increase compared to 1965 where Asians made up only 1.2 percent of the U.S. population. Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial group since 2009 when Asians overtook Hispanics as the largest group of new immigrants into the United States. The Asian population is projected to account for 10 percent of the U.S. population by 2060.

A key feature of contemporary Asian immigration is the hyper-selectivity of their migration stream (Tran et al. 2018; Lee and Zhou 2015). Hyper-selectivity refers to a dual type of positive selectivity in which immigrants are more likely to have graduated from college than their non-migrant counterparts from the countries of origin, and more likely to be college graduates than the host population. This hyper-selectivity has consequences for second-generation achievement because class-based and cultural resources among the first generation can facilitate second-generation mobility (Lee and Zhou 2015).

How does hyper-selectivity affect the assimilation of the second generation? How might hyper-selectivity and second-generation achievement change the cognitive construction of U.S. racial categories? We address these questions by drawing on a decade of pooled data from the Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement. While the Asian population comes from more than 20 countries, we focus here on the top five Asian groups – Chinese, Indians, Filipinos, Vietnamese and Koreans – which account for 83 percent of the total Asian American population in the U.S. in 2015. These groups are not only diverse in terms of language and culture, but also in legal status, immigration streams and co-ethnic networks — factors that interact to shape their assimilation experience in the U.S. context (Pew Research Center 2013).

Despite this diversity, immigrants from these Asian ethnic groups are hyper-selected, with the exception of Vietnamese. Figure 1 presents descriptive results on the proportion with a bachelor's degree or higher by ethnic group while contrasting these proportions with the education among the non-migrants in the five sending countries. Among the population aged 25 and older, this hyper-selectivity is highest among Chinese and Indians. For example, while only 3.6 percent of non-migrant Chinese report having a college education in China, 55.1 percent of first-generation Chinese immigrants hold a bachelor's degree in the U.S., a ratio of 18:1. Between the first and second-generation, there is clear progress for Chinese, Vietnamese, and Koreans with a significantly higher proportion of the second generation having a bachelor's degree or higher compared with the immigrant first generation. Among Indians and Filipinos, there is no clear, discernible trends between the first and second generation, but both groups fare significantly better than whites in terms of their college completion rates. In sum, the first generation is significantly more selective than the non-migrants in their home countries, and the second generation reports even higher educational achievement compared to the first generation.

Hyper-selectivity and second-generation mobility have the potential to change the perceptions of Asian Americans as a racial group, resulting in the “racial mobility” of Asians. Following Lee (2015) and Tran et al. (2018), we define racial mobility as the change in status and/or group position of a racial group. Here, we draw from Saperstein's (2015) “racial mobility perspective,” which accounts for the shift in an individual's racial status based on changes to their social status. We build on this perspective by noting that racial mobility can also occur at the group level as a result of changes in an ethnoracial group's immigrant selectivity and/or socioeconomic status. These changes can affect out-group perceptions, alter the group's position in the U.S. hierarchy, and lead to racial mobility for both the ethnic group and the proximal host racial group.

The broader experience of Asian Americans is illustrative of this process over time. Over the last half century, Asian Americans have achieved significant social mobility in education, occupation and income, elevating the status of the racial group as a whole. For
example, the hyper-selectivity of Chinese immigrants shapes the perceptions that all Chinese are educated, hard-working, high-earning, and successful (Lee and Zhou 2015). Due to racialization, perceptions of Chinese extend to other Asian immigrant groups such as Vietnamese, even though the latter group is not hyper-selected. Similarly, many Laotians, Cambodians and Hmongs arrived as refugees and are not as highly achieving. However, these latter groups comprise a small share of the Asian population and the process of racialization in the U.S. creates the perception that Asians are upwardly mobile despite their internal diversity (Okamoto 2014). We also acknowledge that the recent surge in the levels of anti-immigrant rhetoric as well as incidents of hate violence and racial profiling towards brown-skinned South Asians in the aftermath of 9/11 and the Trump election can present a potential barrier to the integration of these groups (Modi 2018). However, we are cautiously optimistic that the hyper-selectivity among the top five Asian ethnic groups has begun to lead to the racial mobility of not only these ethnic groups, but also Asian Americans as a whole.

References
Figure 1: Hyper-Selectivity by Ethnic Origin and Immigrant Generation


Notes: Combined sample is limited to population aged 25 and older. Non-migrant data for Chinese, Filipinos, Vietnamese and Koreans are extracted from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Non-migrant data for Indians are extracted from Education Policy and Data Center (EPDC).
NEW BOOKS


Teo, You Yenn. 2018. This is What Inequality Looks Like. Singapore: Ethos Books.


NEW BOOK CHAPTERS


NEW ARTICLES


Oh, Eunsil. “Who deserves to work? How women develop expectations of childcare support in Korea.” Gender & Society. (Forthcoming)

King, Katrina Quisumbing. “Recentering U.S. empire: A structural perspective on the color line.” Sociology of Race and Ethnicity. (Forthcoming)


**NEW MEDIA PUBLICATIONS**


AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS


Ligaya Lindio McGovern, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology at Indiana University, received a Fulbright Research Scholar Award that gave her the opportunity to conduct research on the impacts of corporate mining on the indigenous people in the Philippines and its implications towards an integrated framing of human rights and sustainability during the Fall of 2017.

Saswathi Natta, a graduate student in the sociology department at the University of Maryland, has been awarded a 2018-19 Fulbright for research in India. The project title is “Family Aspirations for Girls in India: What are motives for Growing Girls’ Education?”

Barbara Holthus has taken up the position of deputy director at the German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo.

INVITATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Social Science Caucus of the Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) has finished its second year with a successful Karaoke Kickoff reception in San Francisco and is now working on new and exciting events for the 2019 AAAS meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, including a mentorship program. We are still seeking members to participate in one of our committees, including Mentorship, Conference Event, Local Community Outreach, Social Media, and Nominations. Please contact C.N. Le (le@soc.umass.edu) if you are interested in joining or volunteering as a member.

THE 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHINESE SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (ICSA)

The International Chinese Sociological Association (ICSA) was recently renamed from the North American Chinese Sociologists Association (NACSA), a nonprofit organization established in 1981 to promote social scientific research on Chinese societies, cultures, and populations in the world. ICSA will continue to NACSA's missions through organizing research symposiums and annual conferences to facilitate the interaction and collaboration between scholars in North American and scholars in the Greater China Region and elsewhere.

We are pleased to announce that the Annual Conference of the ICSA will be held on August 10th, 2018 in Princeton University, preceding the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association on August 11-14 in Philadelphia, PA. The conference will be hosted and partially sponsored by the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) (https://ccc.princeton.edu/).

For those who will need to attend both the ICSA meeting and the ASA meeting, a shuttle bus from Princeton to Philadelphia will be arranged after the conference dinner on August 10. The trip takes about an hour. For other logistics issues regarding travel and hotel information in Princeton, please see update at https://ccc.princeton.edu/ or contact Mr. Philip Rush (philiprush@princeton.edu).