



1999-2000 Issue 2

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The *Asian Mode*, the official Publication of the ASA Section on Asia and Asian American (ASA/AA Newsletter), is edited by Yen Le Espiritu, Section Secretary, Department of Ethnic Studies, 0522, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093-0522 PHONE: (619) 534-5206; FAX (619) 534-8194; E-mail: yespirit@weber.ucsd.edu Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome.

Paper Sessions

Officers of the ASA Section on Asia and Asian America

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2000 ASA MEETING PROGRAM

Listed here is the **tentative** 2000 program of the Asia and Asian American Section. Our section day is Monday, August 14. Please come and join us.

1. Transnational Asian/Asian American Linkages: Views From Asia

Organizer/Discussant: Alvin Y. So, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Presider: Xiangming Chen, University of Illinois at Chicago

- Zai Liang, Queens College. "Legal and Illegal Migration from Fujian (China) to the U.S.: A Sending Country's Perspective."
- Yen-Fen Tseng and Sue-Ching Jou, National Taiwan Univ. "Taiwan-Taiwanese American Linkages: A Transnationalism Approach to Return Migration."
- Diem-My Bui, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. "Global Fantasies: Constructions and Commodification of Vietnamese Women in Post-Embargo Vietnam."
- Manisha Desai, Hobart and William Smith College. "Engendering Globalization from Below: The Solidarities between an Indian NGO and Asian American Communities."

✓ 2. Transnational Asia-Asian American linkages: Views from Asian America

Organizer/Presider/Discussant: John Lie, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Syed Ali, University of Virginia. "Are Indian Immigrants in the United States Transnationals?"
- Emily Noelle Ignacio, Loyola University Chicago. "Transcending Old Paradigms in New Spaces: an Analysis of Internet Discussions about Location, Citizenship and Membership in an Ethnic Community"
- Sita Reddy, University of Pennsylvania. "Reinventing Ayurveda: Asian medicine, American Bodies and the New Age."

Section Refereed Rountables

(Ed.'s note: Due to space limitation, the names of the presiders and discussants are not included).

Organizer: John Lie, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

1. Caste at the End of the Millennium: In the Memory of M.N. Srinivas

- Joseph W. Elder, University of Wisconsin, Madison. "Sanskritization and Hindutva."
- Murry Milner, Jr., and Syed Ali, University of Virginia. "'The Village Remembered, the City Observed.'"
- Victor S. D'Souza, Bangalore, India. "Caste among Non-Hindu Communities."
- Bam Dev Sharda, University of Utah, and Proshanta Nandi, University of Illinois at Springfield. "Caste and Community in India's Politics Today"

2. Socio-Cultural and Political Arrangements of South Asia at the End of the 20th Century

- Bandana Purkayastha,, University of

Connecticut, Storrs. "From Colonialism to the "New" Global Economy: A Look at Asian Indian Women Activists/Activism Then and Now"

- Maitreyi Das, University of Maryland, College Park. "Traditional Women's Association of India: Acquiescence to Dominance or Forms of Resistance?"
- Proshanta Nandi, University of Illinois at Springfield. "Mate-Seeking through Personals: Contrasts in Values and Styles between Indian Immigrants and Main Stream Americans"
- Afroza Anwary, Concordia College "The Construction of Collective Identity and Identity Politics in a Changing Political Opportunity Structure: A Study of the National Language Movement of East Bengal: 1947-1956"

3. Friends, Networks, and the Chinese Diaspora.

- Weizehn Dong and Janet W. Salaff, University of Toronto. "Just Friends: Social Networks and Middle Class Chinese Immigrants"
- Maochun Liang, Institute of Sociology "Han and Zhuang's Residential Patterns in Middle Guangxi"
- Danching Ruan, Hong Kong Baptist University, and Wenhong Zhang, Nankai University. "What Is Universal about Friendship Ties"
- Philip Q. Yang, Texas Women's University. "Conceptualizing Chinese Transnationalism"

4. The Fate of Chinese Economic Reforms

- Jiping Zuo, St. Cloud State University "From Revolutionary Comrades to Gendered Partners: Marital Construction of Breadwinning in Urban China."

- Binh Pok, Cornell University
"Feminism and Globalization in China"
- Yingfeng Wu, SUNY-Stony Brook
"Views of Rural Chinese on the Economic and Political Reform"
- Hongwei Xu, University of Minnesota
"Embeddedness Effects in Different Market Contexts: A Study of Exchange Relationships among Private Business, State-owned Enterprises, and Government Officials in Transitional China"

5. Occupations, Careers, and Work

- Yang Cao, Cornell University
"Careers inside Organizations: A Comparative Study of Promotion Determination in Urban China."
- ✓ • Bibin Qin, Texas A&M University
"Occupational Disparity between Asian American Women and Whites: An Ecological Perspective"
- Jun Imai, Duisburg, Germany.
"Power Relation at White-Collar Workplace: Personnel Evaluation Practice at Japanese Company"
- Young-Jin Choi, Chinese University of Hong Kong. "East Asian Invested Enterprises in China: Labor Disputes in Organizational Perspectives"

✓ 6. Asian American Activism and Politics

- Yvonne M. Lau, Loyola University Chicago. "Asian American Activism in Local School Reform: Gaining Visibility and Voice"
- Leland Saito, University of California, San Diego. "Race, Politics, and Cultural Meaning in Downtown San Diego's Economic Redevelopment Policies"
- Dina Okamoto, University of Arizona
"The Effects of Multi-ethnic Competition on the Rise of Asian American Organizations"
- Anthony Paik, University of Chicago.

"The Search for a Discipline: The Network Structure of Asian American Studies"

7. Ethnic Enclaves and Immigrant Businesses around the World

- Ku-Sup Chin, Johns Hopkins University
"Transnational Enclave: Korean Communities in Los Angeles"
- Harris H. Kim, University of Chicago
"Testing the Ethnic Enclave Hypothesis in State Socialist Economy."
- Eunju Lee, SUNY-Albany. "Gender and Ethnic Stratification in Immigrant Small Businesses"

8. Religion

- Carolyn Chen, University of California at Berkeley. "The Ethnic Consequences of Religion: A Comparison between Taiwanese Immigrant Buddhists and Christian Converts in the United States"
- Stephen S. Fugita, and Marilyn Fernandez, Santa Clara University.
"Religion and Japanese Americans' Views of Their World War II Internment"
- Freddie R. Obligation, Franklin Pierce College, and Julie Obligation-Arboleda, Bicol University. "Faith and Empowerment in Filipino Women"

9. Education

- Lynne Rich, Mississippi State University and Ming Tsui, Millsaps College.
"Social Capital and Mathematics Achievement of Female High-School Students in China"
- Mamoru Tsukada, Sugiyama Jogakuen University. "Teachers' Life History and the Entrance Examination System in Japan"
- Rose M. Kim, City University of New York. "The Fight over Racial Quotas: A Comparison between Jewish and Asian Immigrants"

10. Democracy, Class, and Justice in Asia

- Chulhee Chung, Chonbuk National University. "New Class and Democratic Social Relations in South Korea"
- Modhurima Dasgupta, Brown University. "Justice, Democracy, and the Indian Supreme Court: Development through Social Action Litigation"
- Hui Niu, University of Minnesota "Civil Society in China: A Case Study of Dagang Oilfield"

11. Adoption, Marriage, and Public Health

- Karen Miller-Loessi, and Zeynep Kilic, Arizona State University. "A Unique Diaspora? The Case of Adopted Girls from the People's Republic of China"
- Zoua Vang, University of Pennsylvania "Early Marriage in the Hmong community: Beyond a Cultural Explanation."
- Wei Wang, and Richard Barrett, University of Illinois at Chicago. "Comparative Study on the Trend and Pattern of Lung Cancer in the Chinese Diaspora: Age-Period-Cohort Analysis"

12. Identities and Representations

- Kwang Chung Kim, Western Illinois University, Young In Song, California State University, Hayward, Ailee Moon, UCLA. "Pluralistic Accommodation and Ethnic Identity of Young Korean Americans"
- Josephine Vu, Chicago, IL "Recipes for Identity: Ingredients from My Kitchen"
- Bindi Shah, University of California, Davis
- "Reconstructing Ethnic Identity/Creative Belonging: A Case Study of the Role of Community Youth Programs in the Lives of Adolescent Laotian Girls"

13. Multiracial Asian Americans and Ethnic Options

- Evelyn I. Rodriguez, University of California, Berkeley. "Mothers and the Construction of Race and Cultural Identity in Filipino-White Multiracial Families"
- Natalie Cherot, Binghamton University. "Representations of Vietnamese Amerasians and the Multicultural Imagined Community"
- Miri Song, University of Kent. "Comparing Minorities' Ethnic Options: Do Asian Americans Possess 'More' Ethnic Options Than African Americans?"

14. Transnational Economic Relations

- Jo H. Kim, Columbia University "Coethnic Identities and the Institutionalization of Transnational Space: A Study of the South Korean Transnational Corporations in the United States"
- Lai Si Tsui-Auch, Nanyang Business School. "Towards an Integration of Global, Regional and Local perspectives to Explicate the Development and Change of ANICs"

15. Gender, Culture, and Inequality

- Eri Fujieda, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "Context of 'Sex Trafficking': contemporary Japan's Sex Industry and Foreign Women"
- Monisha Das Gupta, Syracuse University. "Gender and Culture: The Reception of Immigrant Specificities in the Age of Multiculturalism"
- Tian-Yow Wang, National Central University. "Gender Earning Inequality in Taiwan's Labor Force: the Effects of Class and Human Capital"
- Gina Lai, Hong Kong Baptist University "Married Daughters and membership in the Family of Origin: Focus-Group Interviews of

Three Cohorts of Chinese Women in Hong Kong"

16. Political Economy of the Asian Crisis

- Myoung Soo Kim, Hanyang University
"The Myth of Market and the Misunderstanding of the State: A Critique of Neo-Liberal Political Economy"
- Sang-In Jun, Hallym University.
"Asian Values and Asian Economic Crisis"
- Eun-Mee Kim, Ewha Womans University. "Corporate Restructuring since the Asian Financial Crisis: The Changes in the Organizational Structure of the South Korean Chaebol"
- Kyung-Sap Chang, Seoul National University. "From Developmental Liberalism to Neo-Liberalism: Crisis Politics, Dependent Reflexivity, and Social Policy in South Korean Development"
- Jung-Hee Lee, Pukyong National University. "Economic Transition and Labor Reform: A Comparison of China and South Korea"

SECTION RECEPTION

Thanks to the arrangement of Esther Chow and Sunhwa Lee, our section's reception at the 2000 ASA Annual Meeting in DC will take place at 6:30-8:15PM on our section day, August 14 (Monday). It will be at the Thai Chef Restaurant, 1712 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Do come and join us for good food and good friends.

SECTION BOOK AWARD

The ASA/AAA Book Award Committee seeks your nominations for the Book of the Year award. The book needs to have been published in the last few years, and, this year, it must be "Asian American" in focus. In accordance with procedure, edited books

will not be eligible for the Book Award. Please send your nominations to the chair of the Book Award Committee, Pyong Gap Min at min@soc1.soc.qc.edu.

REFLECTIONS ON DOING RESEARCH

By Margaret Abraham

(Ed.'s note: This contribution was solicited by section council member Linda Vo). A decade ago there was considerable research on domestic violence in the United States, but a serious paucity of material on its prevalence in ethnic minority communities. It was during this period that I decided to explore marital violence in the South Asian immigrant community in the United States. Interestingly, in the early stages of this research, I found myself being asked by some South Asian activists whether my work as a sociologist would be accessible to a larger audience than academics. This question, together with discussions with academics, friends, and activists about community identity construction, particularly in the context of violence against women, influenced me to critically reflect on my roles as a sociologist and as a South Asian immigrant woman working in the United States.

Though my entrée in the field of domestic violence was primarily as a researcher whose main goal was to contribute to the discourse on domestic violence, I was surprised to see how this goal became much more concrete than I had initially envisioned. Over the years I have increasingly come to see myself as a sociologist engaged in "action research" (Dobash & Dobash) committed to bridging the gap between scholarship and activism. I believe that doing research on violence against women involves integrating

theoretical and methodological rigor within a socio-political context. Theoretically, action research entails a commitment to continuously examine the commonalities and differences that exist among women and men based on the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender, class, and nationality. Methodologically, action research recognizes that issues such as where the research takes place, the types of questions asked, data collection strategies, interpretation, dissemination, and the relationship between researcher and respondent are intrinsically socio-political in nature.

I feel very fortunate, albeit at times a bit overwhelmed, that my research has allowed me as a sociologist to contribute to the discourse on domestic violence while simultaneously providing an important avenue to apply it more concretely in the struggle to end marital violence against South Asian women in the United States. There are three main ways in which I have been engaged in action research. The first way is as a scholar. Writing on marital violence has allowed me to include the voices of abused South Asian immigrant women in the discourse on domestic violence. It allowed me to be one among the growing number of sociologists to integrate ethnicity, gender, class and citizenship as categories of analysis and connection in understanding power relations, especially as it pertained to domestic violence. Drawing upon what I call an ethno-gender approach enabled me to explore the commonalities and differences in the sources, manifestations and outcomes of power for abused South Asian women at the inter-personal, community and macro-institutional levels. My intent is to show how each individual woman's oppression is closely interlocked with cultural and structural oppression in the

United States. In addition I aim to draw attention to the pivotal role played by South Asian women's organizations in defining domestic violence in the South Asian community as a social problem.

The second way that I have been engaged in action research is as a public speaker. Some of the South Asian women's organizations encouraged me speak about marital violence at various public forums in addition to my writing about it. These have included speaking at universities, South Asian functions, and at events sponsored by law enforcement agencies. Public speaking on marital violence allowed me an important avenue to share my ongoing research with a broader audience than academics. It provided a mechanism both for the dissemination of my research and to contribute to the vital work that South Asian Women's organizations do in shifting domestic violence from a private individual problem to a public social issue. Researching these organizations and working closely with Sakhi for South Asian Women in New York, also provided important sociological insights into the complex linkages between ideology, structure, goals, strategies, decision making, and outcomes for South Asian Women's organizations addressing violence against ethnic minority women. My interactions with South Asian abused women, with activists and the various audiences at my public talks have been extremely informative and empowering, both from a sociological and personal perspective.

Lastly, I have been able to offer my services as a domestic violence expert in cases where South Asian immigrant women have sought recourse through the judicial system. I have been able to draw upon my research and that of other scholars to explain the complexity of cultural and structural

factors in the South Asian immigrant woman's experience of marital violence in the United States. Depending on the case this has varied from testifying in courts to providing written documentation or oral input to judges or lawyers. To me this has been a very important aspect of my action research as the courts still lack a comprehensive understanding of the heterogeneity of women's experiences of marital violence.

Today as a sociologist I can truly say that writing and working in ethnic communities that have been historically marginalized or relegated to the ambiguous "third" position in a traditionally dichotomous society such as the United States has sensitized me to the socio-political context within which my research is done and applied. It has also highlighted the fact that although domestic violence research has clearly established the need to draw upon women's experiences, we still need to more effectively capture ways to address the subtleties of culture and the different situational, structural, and historical contexts within which ethnic minority women experience domestic violence. As sociologists who conduct research in Asian and Asian-American communities, it then becomes imperative that we deconstruct stereotypes of our communities and help in shifting issues pertinent to Asians and Asian Americans from the margins to the center. To do this we have to build better bridges between sociologists and activists, both national and transnational, while critically reflecting on and sharing our research. I believe that, in the years to come, more collaborative, comparative sociological analysis will help us address both the homogeneity and heterogeneity in the global pervasiveness of violence against women.

(Write to Margaret Abraham at
Margaret.Abraham@Hofstra.edu)

FACULTY POSITIONS

University of California-Santa Barbara.

The Department of Sociology invites applications for anticipated lecturer appointments in 2000-01 in the following areas: Introductory Research Methods; Social Stratification; Urban; Gender; Race/Ethnicity; Sexualities; Social Change and Development. Appointments will normally be for one year, but shorter appointments are possible. Reappointment for a second year is dependent on performance and departmental needs. Applicants must possess a Ph.D. in Sociology and be prepared to teach introductory research methods, have an emphasis in one or more of the substantive areas noted above, and have at least one year of teaching experience. Please submit vitae, teaching evaluations, and three letters of reference by March 30, 2000 for primary consideration to: Chair, Department of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9430.

Vanderbilt University. The Department of Sociology invites applications for an assistant professor of sociology, tenure-track faculty position, commencing August, 2001. The candidate will be expected to teach graduate statistics courses. Preference will be given to candidates with expertise in one or more of the following areas: medical, organizations, education, gender, or stratification. Applicants should submit a letter of interest in the position, curriculum vitae, and any supplemental material (e.g. reprints, pending manuscripts, teaching evaluations) indicating promise or evidence

of outstanding scholarship and effective teaching. Application materials, including three letters of recommendation, should be received by October 16, 2000. Send all materials to Search Committee Chair, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235.

NOTES ON FOLKS

Margaret Abraham. Sociology, Hofstra.
socmza@mail.hofstra.edu
Publication: *Speaking the Unspeakable: Marital Violence Among South Asian Immigrants* (Rutger).

Alvin So. soalvin@ust.hk
Publications: "Hong Kong's Problematic Democratic Transition: Power Dependence or Business Hegemony?" *Journal for Asian Studies*. 2000 (May).
"East Asia in World-Systems Perspectives" (with Stephen Chiu). In *The World-System Readers, Indigenous People, and Ecology*, edited by Thomas D. Hall. Boulder: Rowman and Littlefield. 2000.
"1997 and Democratic Compromise in Hong Kong." *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*. 1999.
"China Under the Shadow of the Asian Financial Crisis: Retreat from Economic and Political Liberalism?" *Asian Perspectives*. 1999.
"The Making of the Middle Classes in East Asia: Some Tentative Hypotheses" (with Michael Hsiao). In *East Asian Middle Classes in Comparative Perspective*, edited by Michael Hsiao. Taiwan: Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica. 1999.
Hong Kong's Embattled Democracy: A Societal Analysis. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1999.

Asia's Environmental Movements: Comparative Perspectives (co-edited with Yok-Shiu Lee). Armonk: M.E. Sharpe. 1999. This book won The 2000 Harold and Margaret Sprout Award of the International Studies Association (ISA) for the best book on international environmental affairs.

NEW BOOKS

To order the following books by Chan Kwok Bun, please contact: Pearson Education Asia Customer Service Department, 317 Alexandra Road #04-01 IKEA Building Singapore 155965. Tl: (65) 476 4688 ax: (65) 378 0370. Email: asia@pearsoned.com.sg

Chinese Business Networks: State, Economy and Culture. This edited collection provides an analysis and interpretation of the business conduct of the ethnic Chinese of Southeast and East Asia. The focus is on the emergence, utilization, and maintenance of business networks and connections among the ethnic Chinese worldwide, often providing cogent evidence from comparisons of different economies.

Crossing Borders: Transmigration In Asia Pacific features 31 multidisciplinary essays that explore the social phenomenon of Asian Pacific transmigration.

Stepping Out: The Making of Chinese Entrepreneurs offers a vivid character sketch of the Chinese entrepreneur. It is a study of the impact of personal values on economic behaviours in the once "brave new world" of the migrants.