ASIAN AMERICANS IN HIGHER EDUCATION
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Education Policy Organization & Leadership
What is a minority?
Who is the **Public** in Public Education?
Minorities

... in relation to what?
Who is Asian?
Who Are Asian Americans?

- **East Asians** Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Okinawan, Taiwanese, Tibetan.
- **South Asians** Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Indian, Maldivians, Nepali, Pakistani, Sri Lankan.
- **Southeast Asians** Bruneian, Burmese, Cambodian, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Laotian, Malaysian, Mien, Papua New Guinean, Singaporean, Timorese, Thai, Vietnamese
- **Central Asians** Afghani, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgians, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Mongolian, Tajik, Turkmen, Uzbek.
- **West Asians** This is a contested term, most people from the region do not self-identify as such. West Asia is typically referred to as the Middle East; and geographically includes the countries of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey (straddles Europe and Asia) United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
Asian American Demographics

- 17.3 million Americans identify as Asian alone or in combination
  - 5.6% of America
  - 15% of Asian Americans are mixed race
- Population growing 4x the national pace
- 75% concentrated in 10 states
  - CA (5.6 mil), NY (1.6 mil), TX (1.1 mil)
  - PA, VA, FL, WA, IL, HI, NJ (400-800K)
- 10.5 million (59%) born abroad
  - 4 million entered US since 2000
- 70% of Asian Americans speak a language other than English
  - 31% speak English less than "very well"
Asian Americans in Higher Ed

• 49.2% of Asian Americans have a Bachelor’s Degree or higher
  • But from where?
• 1.6 million Asian Americans are currently college students
  • 9% of all Asian Americans
  • 5.5% of all college students
• Asian educational attainment is not the same as Asian American educational access
Undergraduate Enrollment by Race and Sector

Black
- 4 yr public
- 4 yr private
- 2 yr public
- 2 yr private

Asian American
- 4 yr public
- 4 yr private
- 2 yr public
- 2 yr private

Latino
- 4 yr public
- 4 yr private
- 2 yr public
- 2 yr private
Waves of Asian American Immigration

- Original waves of migrant laborers
  - Chinese, Japanese, Filipino men
- Immigration closed 1882-1965
  - 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act
  - 1907 Gentleman’s Agreement
  - 1924 Immigration Act
  - 1934 Tydings-McDuffie Act
- 1965 Immigration Act
  - Shift toward professional, college-educated immigrants
- 1970’s SE Asian refugees
  - Displaced Hmong, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laotian, Mien
  - 1964: 603 Vietnamese Americans; 1985: 643,200
- 1965-Present: Family reunification
  - Chain migration → New set of waves
Asian American Campus Climate Issues

• Mental health/Counseling
• Hate crimes
• Lack of representation in faculty, staff, and administration
• “New White Flight”
• Divides with growing international student populations
• Rejection of Asian American identity
• Affirmative Action
Importance of Disaggregated Data

• Re-thinking data collection and its purposes
• Acknowledgement of historical, cultural, and political differences amongst Asian Americans
• Various populations of Asian Americans live under categorically different material circumstances
• Race and ethnicity are more than just social categories of difference
  • Challenging how we think of race and its role in our lives both structurally and individually
New Directions

- Development of AANAPISIs as part of the MSI conversation
- Promoting academic diversity
- What does it mean to be “international?”
- Expansion of Asian American populations beyond historical enclaves
- Mixed-race Asian Americans and the 3rd+ generation

- What are the changing definitions and contexts that influence what it means to be an Asian American?
For more information

• Asian Americans in Higher Education: Charting New Realities – Full monograph available in PDF at www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com or on campus at AACC
• NEXT WEEK: The Dr. Samuel D. Museus
• Other prominent scholars: Dina Maramba, Robert Teranishi, Mitchell Chang, Oiyan Poon

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