



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY
College of Education

Diálogos Virtuales and the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Resource Center (APIDA)



Anti-Asian and Anti-Asian American Hate and Racism in U.S. Society: Implications for Advocacy, Curriculum, and Pedagogy in Education.

“The history of the Asian American Pacific Islander community in the United States has been punctuated by times of racism and hate ... most recently, attacks and murder of API seniors incited by racist rhetoric about the COVID pandemic.”

-Assemblymember Pan,
Chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus.

Anti-Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) hate crimes increased by nearly 150% in 2020. As reported by the STOP AAPI HATE center (<https://stopaapihate.org/>), and multiple national media organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an alarming escalation in xenophobia and bigotry against AAPI communities at regional (California; New York), national, and international levels. These dynamics are, to a degree, also present in our schools. As such, school administrators, teachers, educational support staff, and families of AAPI students continue to express their concerns at the heightened levels of anti-AAPI sentiment, alongside the coronavirus pandemic. In this panel, AAPI scholar-professionals engage in an initial critical dialogue on both historical and contemporary underpinnings and manifestations of anti-AAPI hate, violence and discrimination in our communities. Additionally, panelists discuss implications of these dynamics for the interdisciplinary work we do in the College of Education, and propose concrete advocacy initiatives for dismantling anti-AAPI hate in education and society.

Moderator



Dr. Li-Rong Lilly Cheng
Chinese Cultural Center
SDSU



Dr. Virginia Loh-Hagan
Asian Pacific Islander
Desi American Resource Center
SDSU



Dr. Valerie Ooka Pang
School of Teacher Education
College of Education



Dr. Katina Lambros BCBA-D
Counseling & School Psychology
College of Education



Dr. Nellie Tran
Counseling &
School Psychology
College of Education



Dr. Sandra Wawrytko
Department of
Philosophy
College of Arts and Letter

**MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021
12:00 – 1:30 P.M. (PT)**

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Meet the Panelist



Li-Rong Lilly Cheng, Ph.D., is the Director of the Chinese Cultural Center at San Diego State University. She served as Professor in the School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and Executive Director of Chinese Studies Institute at SDSU. Dr. Cheng has published numerous articles and books on cross-cultural communication, language learning and language teaching focusing on the development of an optimal language learning environment (OLLE). She is on the editorial board of several major professional journals. In 2007, she received the best research article award from the Council of Exceptional Children. Prof. Cheng is the recipient of numerous awards, among these are: ASHA Award for special contributions to Multicultural Affairs (1997); Diversity Award from the California Speech & Hearing Association (2002); Award from the Asian Heritage Foundation (2010); SDSU Monty's Award (2012). Dr. Cheng is a frequent keynote speaker on the topic of cultural diversity, East meets West, language learning and language teaching and language disorders. Professor Cheng served as a member of the board of trustees of the Campanile Foundation at SDSU, as Chair of the International Affairs Board of the City of San Diego, and as Chair of the Asian Pacific Historical Thematic District for the City of San Diego.



Katina Lambros, Ph.D., BCBA-D, is the Director of the School Psychology Program at San Diego State University in the Department of Counseling and School Psychology (CSP). She is a School Psychologist and Board Certified Behavior Analyst specializing in ecobehavioral assessment-intervention for academic and socio-emotional problems in school-aged populations. Dr. Lambros directs Project BEAMS, a 5-year training grant funded by the Office of Special Education (OSEP) to co-train school psychologists and special educators to serve diverse students with behavioral, emotional, and mental health challenges in California's public schools. Her research to date focuses on three broad areas: (1) improving mental health services and positive behavioral support in schools with an emphasis on students with emotional and behavioral difficulties; (2) promoting the use of evidence-based practices and data-based decision making in schools; and (3) increasing access to school-based service use and culturally responsive services for diverse learners.



Virginia Loh-Hagan, Ph.D., is the Director of the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Resource (APIDA) Center at San Diego State University. She is also the Chair of the SDSU APIDA Employee Resource Group. Previously, she served in various capacities in SDSU's School of Teacher Education. Prior to working at SDSU, she was a K-8 classroom teacher. Her area of expertise is in examining the cultural authenticity of Asian-American children's literature. She has authored over 300 children's books and several academic publications about multicultural children's literature. Most of her publications feature and/or address Asian American themes. She is serving on various book award committees and is the Cover Editor and Book Nook columnist for *The California Reader*, the professional journal for the California Reading Association. She's an active member and/or leader of several groups focused on APIDA issues.



Valerie Ooka Pang, Ph.D., is a professor in Teacher Education at San Diego State University. She has been a consultant on Asian American issues for corporations such as Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, Sesame Street, Children's Television Workshop, Fox Children's Network, McGraw-Hill Textbooks, Scott-Foresman textbooks, the Spencer Foundation, and California State University Prep Toolkit. She has published in journals like *Harvard Educational Review*, *Educational Researcher*, *Theory and Research in Social Education*, *The Reading Teacher*, *Social Education*, *Science and Children*, *Multicultural Perspectives*, *AAPI Nexus*, and *The Kappan*. Her most recent book is *Diversity and Equity in the Classroom* where she shares extensive examples of ethnic studies and culturally relevant curriculum for schools. She also enjoys writing for community newspapers in Seattle's Chinatown.



Nellie Tran, Ph.D., is the daughter of Vietnamese refugee boat people, an Associate Professor at San Diego State University with the Community-Based Block Multicultural Community Counseling Program, an activist-scholar, and the Vice President of the Asian American Psych Association. She is a community psychologist who works with schools, communities, and agencies to create systems-level changes that reduce the impact of subtle forms of discrimination. Her central mission is to infiltrate systems of oppression to disrupt from within for the purpose of creating more just and inclusive settings. She has worked extensively with topics and programming aimed at understanding and advocating for solidarity for Asian Americans and among communities of color.



Sandra Wawrytko, Ph.D., Seven years service as Director of the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, and more than forty years teaching Philosophy and Asian Studies at SDSU; research emphasis in Asian philosophies of epistemology, aesthetics, and leadership; 35 years of experience traveling and teaching in Asia, including intensive summer classes on Buddhist texts for an international group of lay students and monastics at Tsung Lin University, Taiwan; President and Founder of the Charles Wei-hsun Fu Foundation, a family educational foundation honoring my late husband, which supports students and scholars studying Asian philosophy.

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