

TITLE: Establishing a Network for Asian American Psychology Faculty at Liberal Arts Colleges

ORGANIZERS:

- Designated workshop liaison: Shu-wen Wang (Haverford) swang1@haverford.edu
- Stephen Chen (Wellesley)
- Heejung Park (Bryn Mawr)

ANTICIPATED INVITEES:

Up to 15 participants from AALAC member institutions plus interested colleagues from non-member institutions.

PROPOSED LOCATION AND DATE: Haverford College, June 2023

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

A. RATIONALE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE

The rise of anti-Asian hate and growing health inequity in the wake of COVID-19 has underscored the critical roles held by Asian American psychology faculty at liberal arts colleges. These faculty are multiply engaged in science, teaching, community-building, and advocacy roles. Serving in these roles also demands familiarity with a range of topics such as Asian American identities, stereotyping and discrimination, health and well-being, and social and political change movements. Furthermore, Asian American psychology faculty have been campus pillars of “hidden service” by providing support for Asian American and other BIPOC students, providing colleagues with psychological perspectives on anti-Asian discrimination, and being public scholarly advocates for Asian American communities.

While the LAC setting can provide fruitful ground for transformative work, it also presents particular challenges distinct from the structures of larger research institutions. Many Asian American psychologists are the only psychologists in their departments focused on issues of culture and diversity, much less Asian American experiences in particular. Relatedly, many LACs do not have Ethnic Studies or Asian American Studies programs to provide cross-disciplinary dialogue, and many LAC campuses are far removed from Asian American population centers, adding obstacles to research and community-engaged work. Taken together, these challenges can hinder research and pedagogical development, career progression, and effective faculty leadership of Asian American psychology faculty.

The proposed AALAC workshop will address these challenges by catalyzing a new network of Asian American psychology faculty at LACs. To our knowledge, this will be

the first AALAC workshop focused on either Asian American Studies or Asian American Psychology.

B. SCHEDULE AND FORMAT

We propose a two-day workshop format that includes:

1. Keynote Presentations by outside senior speakers about their perspectives on career development, community engagement, and racial/social justice activism at LACs
2. Network-Building sessions where participants will: (a) become familiar with respective areas of experience and expertise in research, teaching, and service, and (b) establish groundwork for collaborations across AALAC member colleges.
3. Breakout Sessions on the following topics
 - a. Research: Develop concrete ideas and preliminary plans for tackling challenges in conducting research with Asian American communities
 - b. Teaching: Dialogue about challenges and successes of teaching Asian American Psychology courses at the undergraduate level
 - c. Service: Discuss responsibilities and effective leadership both in academia and in the community at large.

C. GOALS AND INTENDED IMPACT

Through presentations and interactive sessions, we will address challenges and strategies for engaging in meaningful research, teaching, and service as Asian American psychologists in LAC settings, offering racial and social justice perspectives in the twenty-first century. This workshop can produce opportunities for research collaboration (e.g., data sharing, cross-site data collection, enhanced community partnership), strategies for curriculum development and pedagogical practices, faculty mentorship specific to thriving in LAC contexts, and overall enhancement of undergraduate experiences (e.g., cross-lab mentorship of undergraduates). Following the workshop, we will create a shared drive housing resources for all attendees. We will also administer an electronic survey to attendees to evaluate the workshop.