Asian American Masculinity in White Hegemonic Masculine Society: Hmong Men Perspectives

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INTRODUCTION

STEREOTYPES OF ASIAN AMERICANS: (Shen, 2006; Lu & Mosses, 2013; Epstein, 2008)

Model Minority Myth: Success comes from hard Confucian work ethic
Perpetual Foreigner: “Where are you really from?”
Yellow Peril: Hyper masculine, menacing, villains, liars, traitors, spies, taking over businesses

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGY

CRITICAL RACE THEORY (Stefancic & Delgado, 2012),

RACISM IS NORMAL

DEFINITIONS


LITERATURE REVIEW

ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND EXPERIENCES (Tang, 1999 & Liu, 2001)

Cheap Labor and Exclusion Laws and Policies

1875: Page Law—First restrictive law which banned immigrants who seemed “undesirable”.
1907: Gentlemen’s Agreement: To deny passports to laborers intending to enter the United States and recognizing the U.S. right to exclude Japanese immigrants holding passports originally issued for other countries.
1924: Immigration Act—Limited the number of immigrants allowed entry into the U.S. through origins quotas.
1965: Immigration Act—Abolished an earlier quota system based on national origin and established a new immigration policy based on reuniting immigrant families and attracting skilled labor to the United States.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

WHAT MESSAGES HAVE YOU RECEIVED ABOUT BEING A HMONG MAN?

• Respect Hmong Elders
• Paub Kev Cai
• Representing your family

“Whenever we are with the elders, depending on how old we are, you always have to shake their hands and always greet them with the most utmost respect because they are more wiser what not. It’s all about Hmoob kev cai (practices and hospitality).” -Participant

REFLECTIONS

• Spaces for conversations and dialogue
• Working together with everyone
• Recognition of patriarchy in Hmong communities
• Start conversations and dialogue at a younger age

“No matter how much we have use it in a way to empower others and help your community instead to overpower other people.” –Participant

“For me I will talk to my family or my younger brother. Deconstructing his masculinity at a younger age definitely sees improvements.” –Participant

“Having conversations more if informal or formal amongst us guys amongst others as well like our sisters, mother, aunts. For me, it begins a lot with myself.” - Participant

FUTURE RESEARCH

Pa Nhia Xiong

• Orphan and refugee of the Secret War
• Hmong American Women
• Factory and manual laborer 15 years

PERSPECTIVES

• Hmong masculinity from Hmong women perspectives
• Hmong masculinity from LGBTQIA+ perspectives
• Hmong masculinity from Hmong youth perspectives
• Hmong masculinity from Hmong elders perspectives