Combatting Anti-Asian Racism in the Age of the Coronavirus

Dr. Russell Jeung
San Francisco State University
Asian American Studies
A Litany of Lament

1. A large white man was bullying a non-English speaking Asian man at the [warehouse retail] food court of all places calling him a "Chinaman" among other things.

2. Someone wrote “infected” on our garage door, and that of our neighbor who is also an API

3. [Someone] yelled “FUCK CHINA” when I walked by. No one else was around

4. Non-white young girl (10) and her grandmother chanting "born in the USA" while we were all leaving the store. As they're looking at us, the girl says she's afraid of Chinese because they have disease to which her grandmother said that we should all go back to China. When we parted ways, the little girl was yelling "Ching Chong Chinaman" all the way to her car.
5. A random person on the opposite side of the street screamed at me "Go fucking die, you chink! All you chinks brought us the Chinese virus.

6. Person ran away, then came back and grabbed her child and ran away hysterical from me and cursed at her husband because he didn’t initially run away with their child. Then pointed at me and shouted “why don’t you go fuck the Chinese.”

7. While washing my hands in the bathroom with my N95 mask on, a white female employee came out of the stall. She came up behind me & started gesticulating in an aggressive tone: "Look at this woman here wearing a mask." The she moved close to my right side and leaned forward into my personal space with an aggressive stance and threatened, "I could cough all over you now and your mask would do you no good."

8. While I was trying to pick a bike at the dock station, an employee who was changing the batteries on ebikes yelled at me and said "Spray that shit!" This employee went on and said "the Chinese invented the virus and Donald Trump knows it."
9. We own and operate a Japanese restaurant. On 3/26/20, four glass window panels were vandalized and shattered. We boarded the windows only to be a victim of graffiti the next day. On both days of the incident, I visually inspected the other businesses on the block. [Our restaurant] was singled out.

10. I got yelled at "Fucking Chinese who brought the Corona virus. Go back to China... blah blah blah.." by my neighbor who lives directly across from my house.

11. I was waiting outside of a Chinese restaurant for my friend when few disruptive bikers happened to be passing by. They saw me standing there alone myself and started yelling “coronavirus” at me.

12. Boarded bus (8 line - City College) 8:50am and after finding a seat I noticed something hit my hair and then the window. Looked to my right and saw a middle aged man who then continued to spit on me (my coat sleeve and backpack which I used to block my face). I rushed to the back of the bus and bus driver stopped the vehicle so two officers could board shortly after and removed the man (after I identified him).
Type of Discrimination (US= 1,864; SF=161)

- Verbal Harassment
- Shunning
- Physical Assault
- Coughed/Spat On
- Workplace Discrimination
- Online
- Barred From Establishment
- Barred From Transportation
Suspected Reason for Discrimination

- Race: 90.00% (US), 90.00% (SF)
- Ethnicity: 90.00% (US), 90.00% (SF)
- Face mask or clothing: 30.00% (US), 30.00% (SF)
- Gender: 10.00% (US), 10.00% (SF)
- Language: 5.00% (US), 5.00% (SF)
- Food: 2.00% (US), 2.00% (SF)
- Religion: 0.00% (US), 0.00% (SF)
What the fight between Biden and Trump over China means for the 2020 election
China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia

Its financial markets may be even more dangerous than its wildlife markets.

By Walter Russell Mead
Feb. 3, 2020 6:47 pm ET
Social Media Frames
The Yellow Peril: A Racialized stereotype that Asians are a threat to the West
San Francisco's bubonic plague epidemic has eerie parallels to modern day

By Katie Dowd, SFGATE  Updated 2:38 pm PDT, Thursday, April 9, 2020
Racialization of Covid-19

- Source of Virus in China
- Chinese Virus
- People in Face Masks
- Chinese people in masks = Diseased

• General Truth
• Political Rhetoric
• Media Frame
Racial Profiling: What’s your automatic reaction to an Asian wearing a face mask who coughs?

**Racial Schema**
Categorize a person as Asian
Prime: note face mask

**Automatic Assumption**
Attribute behavior to their racial uniform: Asian + Mask = Disease Carrier

**Behavioral Response**
Flight: shun
Fight: attack
Institutional Boycotts

Chinese restaurants around the world struggle to survive amid COVID-19 pandemic

By Ji Yuqiao Source: Global Times Published: 2020/3/26 17:20:57

East Village Chinese Restaurants Report Vandalism and Harassment Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

Plus, nearly 2,000 NYC restaurants and bars laid off almost 70,000 people in the past week — and more intel

by Erika Adams | Mar 26, 2020, 11:21am EDT
Interpersonal Attacks

Asian woman attacked in New York City in possible coronavirus bias crime
A 23-year-old woman told officers she was punched in the face by a woman who also made anti-Asian slurs before fleeing the scene, the NYPD said.

New York Racist Attack: Search Underway For Suspect Who Hit Asian Woman With Umbrella On Bus

Report: FBI lists stabbing at Sam’s as hate crime
By Midland Reporter-Telegram
Published 1.15 pm CDT, Monday, March 30, 2020
Individual Fear and Stigmatization

Asian students fear bullying in reaction to coronavirus

'It look at me and think I'm some kind of virus': What it's like to be Asian during the coronavirus pandemic

Kristine Phillips  USA TODAY
Published 9:00 a.m. ET Mar. 28, 2020 | Updated 11:09 a.m. ET Mar. 28, 2020

It’s dangerous to stigmatize Asians, especially during a public health crisis
Fear of Racial Bias

COVID-19 Impact on Racial Issues

- People Have Avoided Me: 38%, 18%, 22%, 20%, 13%
- Worried about Racial Bias: 80%, 71%, 88%, 81%, 70%
- Virus Has Stigmatized Chinese: 29%, 22%, 30%, NA, NA
- Virus Has Stigmatized Korean: 35%, 39%, 32%, 15%, 15%
- The term Chinese Virus Creates Hostility: 66%, 72%, 65%, 67%, 67%

Interracial Communications, COVID-19 Study March 2020
WHAT ASIAN AMERICANS ARE DOING TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

1. Political Statements
2. Counter Media
3. Community Resistance

House lawmaker proposes legislation to denounce coronavirus-related racism

The legislation stipulates that the House would condemn all forms of racism and scapegoating and call on public officials to denounce any anti-Asian sentiment, as well.
History of Asian American Resistance

- 10,000 appeals
- Boycotts
- Mass Civil Disobedience
Flipping the Political Rhetoric

Gary Locke Is Mad About That Trump Ad
The president’s latest attack ad makes a reckless claim about the former governor of Washington.

Edward-Isaac Dovere  April 10, 2020

It was getting late in the afternoon, but Gary Locke hadn’t had time for breakfast or
Stop the Spread of Rumors

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 situation summary page.

Fact 1
Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

Fact 4
There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
Jeremy Lin and Karrueche Tran blast ‘Chinese virus’ term

President Donald Trump justified using the term by saying, ‘I’m not racist at all’ and ‘It comes from China, that’s why’

By Shaw Grant - March 19, 2020

COUNTER MEDIA
'The virus is our enemy, not China': SF's Chinatown holds large anti-discrimination rally

By Amanda Bartlett, SFGATE  Updated 4:30 pm PST, Sunday, March 1, 2020

COMMUNITY RESISTANCE
 COMMUNITY RESISTANCE

HTTP://WWW.ASIANPACIFICPOLICYANDPLANNINGCOUNCIL.ORG/STOP-AAPI-HATE/

因冠狀病毒引發對亞裔和太平洋島居民種族歧視的報告

在過去的幾周中，世界遭受了世界衛生組織所謂的“全球流行病”的打擊。隨著Covid-19病毒的傳播，許多亞裔美國人和太平洋島民（AAPI）都紛紛報告他們遭受了小型攻擊，種族歧視和仇恨事件，在某些情況下還受到了仇恨引發的暴力對待。在洛杉磯的聖費爾南多谷，一名兒童就讀的中學遭到毆打，並被指控患有冠狀病毒，僅僅是因為他是亞裔美國人和太平洋島民。在舊金山的華人街道上，一名年輕的亞裔美國人和太平洋島民的女性被路人吐口水，並被指責將冠狀病毒帶到了美國。由此，加州的亞裔和太平洋島的青年，成年人乃至老年人，逐漸開始警惕被周圍人視為病毒的攜帶者或來源。

亞太政策與規劃委員會（A3PCON）和華人權益促進會（CAA）已啟動了針對由冠狀病毒引發的歧視和暴力事件的報告中心，使社區成員能夠及時報告自身經歷的類似事件。居民報告後，個人信息（包括個人身份信息）將被保密，並且只有在獲得許可的情況下才能共享。總體而言，這些信息將用於援助受害者，宣傳和教育社區民衆。

我們正在將此表格翻譯成其他語言，請耐心等待。
Reporting Hate To Organize for Change

- Collective Voice
- Resources for Resilience
- Strategic Policy Interventions
- Governor’s Strike Team
Conclusion

- Looking Forward
- Looking Outward
- Looking Inward
FBI warns of potential surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans amid coronavirus

Critics say rhetoric has fueled ill will.

By Josh Margolin
March 27, 2020, 6:28 AM • 5 min read
Solidarity with Other Communities of Color

More Latinos than U.S. adults overall say someone in their household has had pay cut or lost a job due to COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Had to take a pay cut</th>
<th>Been laid off or lost job</th>
<th>NET either/both</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All U.S.</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Hispanics are of any race. Share of respondents who didn’t provide an answer not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 19-24, 2020
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Data shows African Americans are dying at an alarming rate from COVID-19
Organizing Our Communities