



# Deconstructing the Model Minority Myth for First Year Asian American Students

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# Agenda

- Who are we?
- Overview of Asian Americans in higher education and OSU
- Defining the model minority myth and its implications
- Understanding the unique and diverse contexts of Asian American students through theory and personal experience
- Outlining initiatives for Asian American students at OSU
- Small group reflection on attendees' experiences and perceptions of Asian American students
- Large group discussion and Q&A

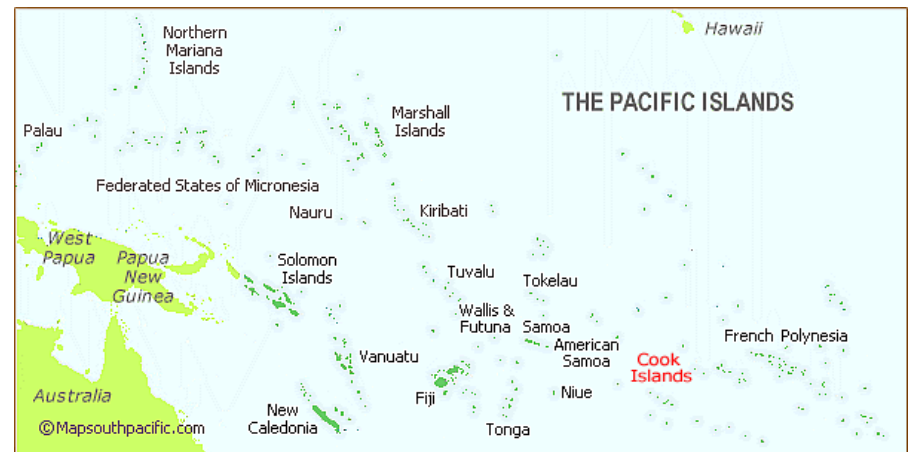
# Who are we? What do we do? Why do we do this work?



# Who are Asian American students?



APIA, AAPI, APIDA?

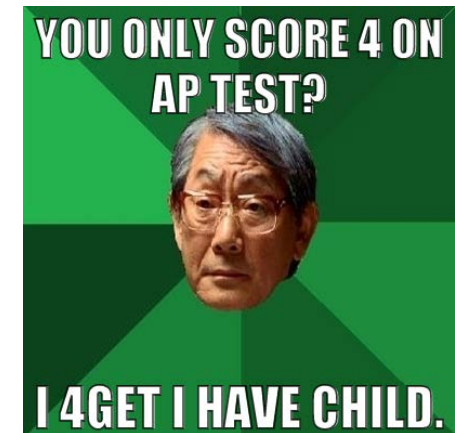
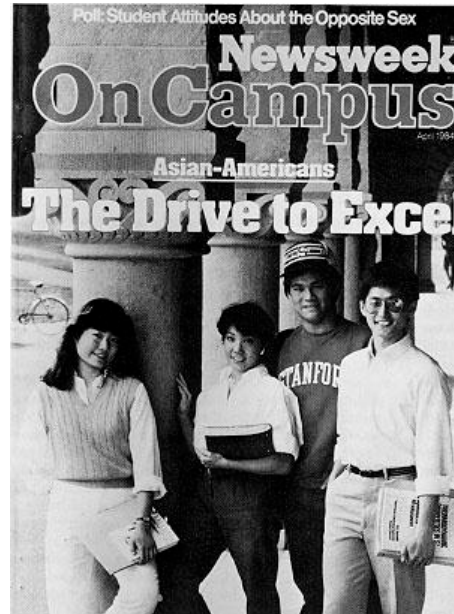


# Who are Asian American students?

	Columbus Campus		Total University	
Total Enrollment	58,322	% of Total	64,868	% of Total
Total minorities	10,113	17.34%	11,216	17.29%
African American	3,108	5.33%	3,630	5.60%
Asian American	3,339	5.73%	3,527	5.44%
Hispanic	2,049	3.51%	2,235	3.45%
Two or More Races	1,506	2.58%	1,693	2.61%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	76	0.13%	93	0.14%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	35	0.06%	38	0.06%



# Model Minority Myth





# Five Misconceptions Associated with the Model Minority Myth

1. They are all the same
2. They are not really racial and ethnic minorities
3. They do not encounter major challenges because of their race
4. They do not seek or require resources and support
5. College degree completion is equivalent to success

# 1. They're all the same

While Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Indian and Korean households had a higher high school graduation rate compared with the national average, Vietnamese, Laotian, Hmong and Cambodian individuals had graduation rates that were substantially lower. For example, Japanese high school graduation rates were **91.4%**, compared with Hmong rates of **40.7%**.



## 2. They are not really racial and ethnic minorities

Although the struggles that various racial/ethnic minority populations are unique, evidence does suggest that AAPIs face many challenges similar to those other groups of color because of their minority status.

### 3. They do not encounter major challenges because of their race

- Some are inclined to discount such evidence because it contradicts their common preconceived notions of the AAPI experience.
- Even when access is not an issue for some Asian students, climate often is.

## 4. They do not seek or require resources and support

Some research indicates that Asian American college students are less likely than students within other racial groups to seek out support services. Instead, evidence suggests that AAPIs are more likely than the majority to use avoidance coping strategies in dealing with personal challenges. Thus, if AAPI undergrads are not using campus resources, it does not mean that they do not require, need, or desire support.

# 5. College degree completion is equivalent to success

Multiple studies have found that Asian Americans with the same level of education earn lower wages and hold fewer managerial positions than their non-Asian American peers.

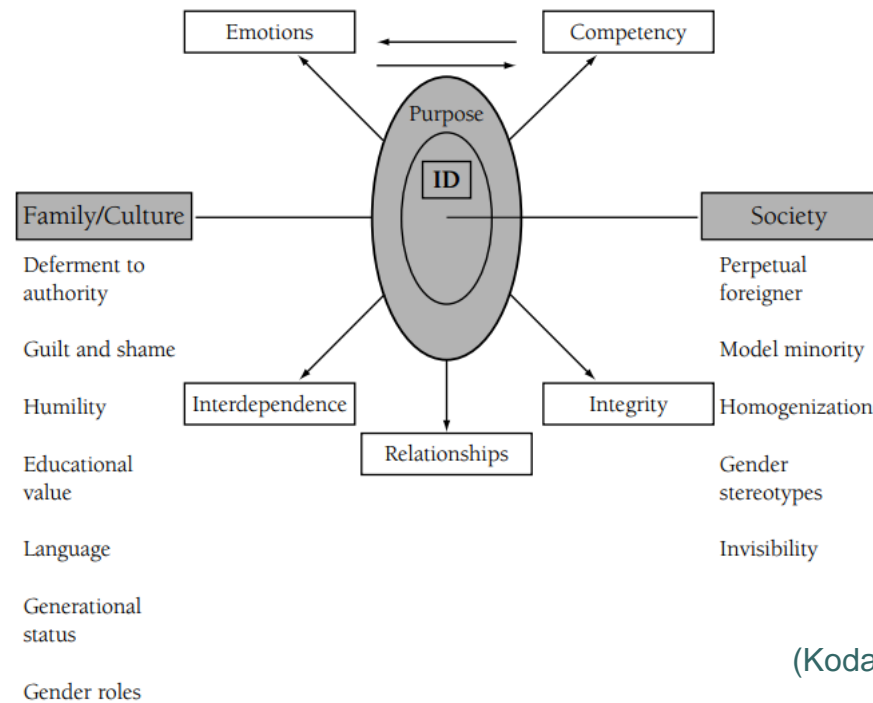


**What happens in a higher  
education context due to  
the model minority myth?**

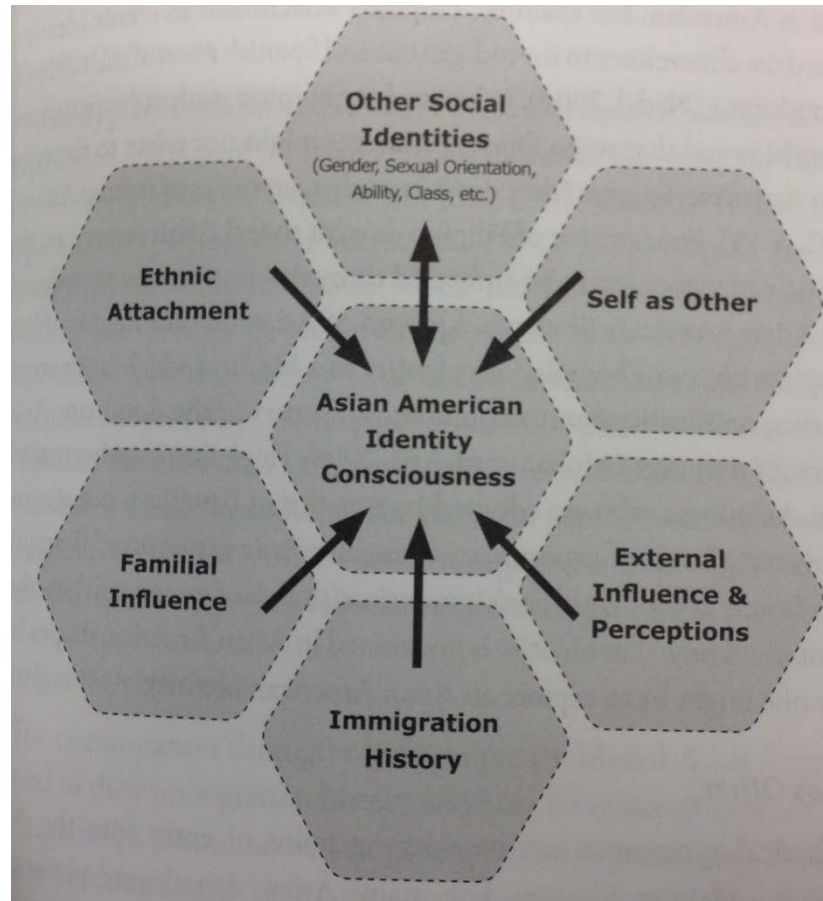


# Asian American Psychosocial Development

Figure 5.1. Asian Americans: Negotiating Identity and Developmental Tasks



# Asian American Identity Consciousness



(Accapadi, 2012)


# My Journey through Identity Development



First-Year Heidi



Today



How do these theories and experiences shape our approach to first-year (and beyond) Asian American students?



# Involvements and Initiatives for Asian American Students

- Student Organizations
  - Racial: Asian American Association
  - Ethnic: Chinese American Student Association, Indian American Association





# Student Life Multicultural Center

- Social, cultural, educational, advocacy
- Leadership Summits
- Speakers and dialogues
- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



# Targeting First-Year and Transfer Students

## **Asian Pacific Islander First Year/Transfer Cohort**

This program exists to build community and engage first-year and transfer Asian/Pacific Islander/Arab/Middle Eastern students in social, support and educational experiences. The cohort meets every other Tuesday from 6-7 in the Multicultural Center. Check the calendar for specific dates. Student mentors help to facilitate each session, plan social outings, coordinate small group discussions and serve as mentors to group participants. **Check out who the mentors are at the document towards the top of this page!** If you would like more information, email [Annabelle Estera](#).

**Meet the Mentors below!**



**Tom Carlin** | Senior (Fall 2015) | Computer Engineering | Minor in Entrepreneurship

**Student Organizations:** Pilipino Student Association, Vietnamese Student Association, Crosswalk Outreach

**Hobbies:** Video Games, Reddit, Chess and Pool

**Favorite thing about being at OSU:** Having so many different people of the same age

**Life motto or favorite quote:** Remember, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.



**Heidi Liou** | Senior | Fashion and Retail Studies

**Student organizations:** Buckeye Leadership Fellows, Asian American Association, Fashion Production Association, Student Athlete Advisory Board

**Hobbies:** Cancer research, startups, wearable technology, calligraphy, photography, traveling East Asia, learning Russian, fashion blogging

**Favorite thing about being at OSU:** Going to club meetings to eat food and meet people

**Life motto or favorite quote:** Work hard and be nice to people.




**Tiger Litam** | Senior | Biology (Pre-Med) | Minor in Sexuality Studies


**Student Organizations:** Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity, Pilipino Student Association

**Hobbies:** Paintballing, Creative Writing, (a lot of) Video Games, Swimming in the Deep End

**Favorite thing about being at OSU:** *Have you realized how much free stuff you've gotten yet?* Also, the diversity.

**Life motto/favorite quote:** We'll figure it out... Eventually.

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- What has happened during sessions?
  - How are things being modified for second semester?
  - What are the goals/learning outcomes?
  - Overall reflections?



# Small Group Reflection Questions

- What brought you to this session?
- What has been your experience with Asian American students?
- What questions do you have based on your experiences and from this presentation?





# Thank You!



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