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**MAYBE RISD
IS RACIST**



BASIC PREMISES

The intention behind this project is to create an open forum, a **safe space** where members of the RISD community can experience and view this space in a different light and hopefully help to **educate, reflect, and start a discussion** about the racism and discrimination the Asian Community at RISD encounters from their peers, professors and faculty.

In Asian culture, we were always taught as kids to **stay silent, not cause any trouble** and to just **"deal with it"** if we were wronged. However, as we have seen from recent events, **doing nothing is not the answer.**

Use these steps as a guide to educate yourselves on a brief history of Asian immigration, the model minority myth which leads to the current events that are happening today and how it directly relates to our community.

THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT OF 1882

was meant to curb the influx of Chinese immigrants to the United States. It **suspended Chinese immigration for 10 years** and declared Chinese immigrants ineligible for naturalization. Chinese-Americans already in the country challenged the constitutionality of the discriminatory acts, but their **efforts failed.**

This was the first significant law **restricting** immigration into the United States. When the exclusion act expired in 1892, Congress extended it for 10 years in the form of the **Geary Act**. This extension, made permanent in 1902, added restrictions requiring each Chinese resident to register and obtain a **certificate of residence**. Without a certificate, she or he would face **deportation.**

OPEN DOOR POLICY

The Open Door policy was a statement of principles initiated by the United States in 1899 and 1900. It called for **protection of equal privileges** for all countries trading with China and for the support of Chinese territorial and administrative integrity. The policy increased **foreign influence** in China, which led to a rise in anti-foreign and **anti-colonial sentiment** in the country. The backlash against foreigners led to **widespread** killings of missionaries working in China and an increase in nationalist feelings among the Chinese.

WHY #stopasianhate ISN'T PRODUCTIVE

The term 'stopasianhate' is empty; it doesn't go after the root cause- the state and the institutions. The word 'hate' implies to the individual's interpersonal feelings when Asian racism is more than just hate and was developed to justify imperialism and war. The United States killed millions of Asians overseas. The only way you can maintain public support for that is by dehumanizing Asians at home.

Many separate this movement into a black vs Asian issue, leaving the larger systems of white supremacist violence intact.

MORE PRODUCTIVE TERMS

STOP YELLOW PERIL
PROTECT ASIAN LIVES
END THE MINORITY MYTH
DEFUND MILITARY+
PENTAGON
END WESTERN
IMPERIALISM
ABOLISH ICE

WHY NO ONE CARES (STEREOTYPES)

As we observe the stopasianhate movement we can see a significant difference in the people's **reaction** compared to BLM. There is a lack of response from all groups of people including the Asian community. This advocates the previous idea that the phrase stopasianhate has **no deeper value**. It also brings awareness to the issue of the **stereotypes** placed on the Asian community such as the **model minority myth.**

THE MODEL MINORITY MYTH

The term "model minority" was first used in popular culture over half a century ago. It is most often applied to Asian Americans because this particular immigrant group is often praised for its apparent **academic, economic and cultural** success.

While it may seem to be a positive characterization of Asian Americans, the model minority myth is actually harmful to both Asian Americans and other immigrant groups because: it **erases differences between individuals**, erases differences – both **cultural and economic** – between Asian groups, relegates Asian Americans to **perpetual foreigner status**, and **erases racism and discrimination against Asian Americans.**

MURDER OF VINCENT CHIN

On June 19, 1982, a Chinese American man named Vincent Chin went with friends to a strip club in Detroit to celebrate his upcoming wedding. That night, two white men who apparently thought Chin was Japanese **beat him to death**. At the killers' trial, the men each received a \$3,000 fine and zero prison time. The light sentencing sparked **national outrage** and fueled a movement for pan-Asian American rights.

Vincent Chin's murder marked a **turning point** for Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans and other communities who hadn't previously thought of themselves as "Asian Americans" with common interests.

WRITE YOUR EXPERIENCES

In my gender-women's studies class we wrote down "microaggressions" and more than half were inflicted at asians. Things like "get out of this country", and "Kung Flu" ... These are not microaggressions ...

I haven't really thought about this in depth, but having been told I'm eloquent by a cis-white woman last semester made me think a lot about the space that opens the conversation of whiteness and it's ties to violence.

one time, I was walking down the RISD beach & this guy had asked me how my day was going. When I responded, he looked at me very surprised saying "Oh I didn't expect you to speak English back to me."

When COVID-19 hit and we had to go fully online just year, one of my professors divided the team groups into two and the professor called it "east coast students and asian students" I think the professor said it later? It sounded like the professor was assuming asian students are just from asia continent.

I was playing music in another language because I was lonely and because I was the only Pinyin I knew in the city. I know what that feels like I was the only one who had a minority school. I didn't know how to explain what it was like to be a minority within a minority - I didn't even have the chance to try.

ON ANY BLANK SURFACE

In freshman year, when I introduced myself saying where I'm from, a guy in my group said "obviously, look at her hairstyle and her fashion" laughing like nothing's wrong.

In my Queer + Surface class with a well-known and well-liked professor, an international student professor, their work along with their written observations. The professor started picking on a certain sentence and, in front of the class, kept going back and forth with the -A about how it was wrong and improper grammar. It was obvious to me that the professor was picking on the student's lack of fluency in English. She never made a comment like that towards anyone else.

And then during COVID-19 when my friends and I were doing grocery shopping, there were people fake coughing in the store or on the street where they would spit on the window glass and cough real hard with my shirt pulled over.

When I made a meeting with someone from careers, she spoke to me slowly with frequent pauses between long words as if to let me process. It was until I spoke that she looked surprised and realized that I spoke English fluently and was an American. She then proceeded to speak at her regular pace. She was nice. Can you be (multilingual?) racist and still kind?

[Faint, illegible handwritten text on a crumpled piece of paper]

well-known and well-loved professor, an international student presented their work along with their written observations. The professor started picking on certain sentence and, in front of the class, kept going back and forth with the TA about how it was wrong and improper grammar. It was obvious to me that the professor was picking on the student's lack of fluency in English. She never made a comment like that towards anyone else.

TO CROSS THE
2150 BEACH INTERSECTION
ONKED AT ME, THE DRIVER
STUPID CHINESE GIRL.
STARTED RUNNING
STREET, THE SAME CAR
TOWARD, TOWARDS ME.

In freshman year, when I introduced myself saying where I'm from, a guy in my group said "obviously, look at her hairstyle and her fashion" laughing like nothing.

Early in the Covid-pandemic, I had to go to the mail room to pick up a Costco package from my mother. Two white guys drove up to me and yelled "What you got in that box? coronavirus? Send it back to China!" They laughed as they drove. I flipped them off.

Even in a classroom, with mostly asian students present at the time, it still felt uncomfortable to address a comment made by a white student basically saying reverse racism was real. None of the students said anything then and my white professor said nothing and continued the discussion. It just reminded me that outside my friend group and social circles, we don't actually live in this progressive, open space RISD likes to promote because experiences like these are so frequent and it seems pointless to even bring it up to white peers or faculty.

I WAS WAITING TO CROSS THE
BENEFIT ST. / RISP BEACH INTERSECTION
AND A CAR HONKED AT ME, THE DRIVER
SAID "MOVE, STUPID CHINESE GIRL."
AND WHEN I STARTED RUNNING
ACROSS THE STREET, THE SAME CAR
REVVED FORWARD, TOWARDS ME.

A [^] conversation with my professor.
real

Are you Japanese?

No."

"Oh, are you half Japanese?"

No."

"Do you want to be Japanese?"

"No?"

"Are you sure?"