Stop AAPI Hate Movement: History and Narratives

This is a curated module of videos and readings on the history and narratives behind rising Anti-AAPI violence across the nation in 2020-2021.

AAPI = Asian American Pacific Islanders
For info on the complexity of the more inclusive AAPI racial category, read this:
http://perspectives.acct.org/stories/the-complexity-behind-the-aapi-inclusion-who-counts-0

Watch This First
News Flash for Context: Asian American Community Mourning Victims of Atlanta Spa Shooting
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izGoC_81rME
Take Notes and Answer
What is the story being told by the police about the Atlanta spa shooter? What are Helen Zia's key points of countering the police story?

Watch This First
Anti-Asian Stereotypes in American Pop Culture: these are the racial stereotypes that are internalized and became accepted cultural norms. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5cFcII67q4
Take Notes and Answer
How are Asians historically scapegoated for problems in the larger society (note the familiar rhetoric)? What are some of the negative images of Asian Americans that's been perpetuated by American popular media? Take notes of the specific lines and images that the Asian American scholars and advocates say are the most harmful.

Watch This First
Catherine Choy talks about the historical narratives of connecting disease to Asians and other people of color.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vy4p-btsoXI
Take Notes and Answer
What are some examples Choy gives of the American society blaming Asian and other non-White for carrying diseases. What are the consequences of that rhetoric?

Watch This First
Why there's an 'impulse' to erase the experience of Asian Americans?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQUpcZZTc8k
Take Notes and Answer
Kim Tran articulates some nuanced racial dynamics in Asian American experiences. What does she say about how Asians are positioned in American racial politics? What are some dynamics that are historically "internalized" by Asian Americans in order to stay safe? Note anything else you can use as reference or examples to talk about the complexity of Asian racial dynamics.

Watch This First
Asian-American Advocates Address Shooting In Atlanta Amid Spike In Anti-Asian Attacks
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jS0sEVMrONM
Take Notes and Answer
What are the key findings of the Stop AAPI Hate Report? What is Grace Meng's Anti-Asian Hate Resolution (that didn't pass in congress)? And what do all three panelists say about the larger, structural impact of former President Trump's repeated use of terms such as "Chinese Virus," "Kung-Flu", etc?

Read This First

Stop AAPI Hate Report:
https://secureservercdn.net/104.238.69.231/a1w.90d.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/210312-Stop-AAPI-Hate-National-Report-.pdf

Take Notes and Answer

Besides the key findings Russel Jeung shared in the video, note trends and some of the stories of experiences included in the report.

Watch This First

Police Joined by Volunteers to Patrol Streets in Oakland Chinatown:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1pk5S3tUEM

Take Notes and Answer

What happened in Oakland's Chinatown and how are business owners responding to the recent rise of attacks?

Read This First

Grace Meng's Anti-Asian Hate Resolution:
https://meng.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/meng-reintroduces-resolution-to-denounce-anti-asian-hate-related-to

Take Notes and Answer

Take notes of the key features of the intended resolution.

Cultural Humility Principles

1. Life-Long Commitment to learning and critical self-reflection.
2. Recognize & Challenge power imbalances within [racialized] dynamics.
3. Build Institutional accountability and mutually respectful partnership based on trust.

Watch video if this is new to you: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaSHLbS1V4w)

Reflections and Connections:

What are some of your major take-aways from working through this module? What are some dominating narratives used to oppress, control, and hurt Asian Americans? What are some countering narratives and data being offered by Asian American community members, advocates, and scholars to articulate their experiences and empower their voices? How would you connect what you've learned to your understanding and practice of Cultural Humility principles?

To end, here is a PSA made by Bay Area filmmakers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24z0uWww8_U

If you are interested in in-depth exploration of Asian American history and experiences, PBS's series on Asian Americans is free for streaming: https://www.pbs.org/weta/asian-americans/watch/