

2018 Asian American Footsteps Conference Workshops and Presentations

Adoption Fusion: Discovering Where Race, Culture and Adoption Blend Together:

Hess Acting Lab (downstairs)

When adoptions cross racial and cultural lines, it creates a unique identity journey and family experience. However, through sharing our stories, we can discover points of commonality which empower us to strengthen and enrich the communities around us. In an artful blend of the presenter's narrative and small group facilitation, participants will draw from their own experiences to dialogue about race, culture, identity formation and transracial adoption. Come ready to learn - and to share. **Jenny Hammond**, Deerfield Academy

Asian Education vs. Western/American Education:

Hess Concert Hall

Through this lecture, students learn about Asian education and Western/American education. The lecture begins with recent news about these two education types, followed by the definition, advantages, and disadvantages for each. Then, students are separated into small groups to discuss which education system, or neither, is better. **Gohta Aihara and Sanghyun (Sang) Ko**, Berkshire School

Cracking the Porcelain Mold: Reconciling Western Beauty Standards with Asian American Feminism:

Koch Garonzik Auditorium

What lies behind the normalcy of double-eyelid surgeries? Colonization of Asian countries has imposed subtle yet powerful systems of oppression and paved the way for Eurocentrism to pervade Asian America. But what role does feminism play? The workshop will explore ways in which body image can truly be empowering. **Solby Lim**, Phillips Academy

Creating a Space:

Koch Garonzik Auditorium

At many of our schools today, Asian American and Asian International students are outnumbering all other students of color and yet their needs often go unmet. In face of the model minority myth, what can Asian American student leaders and faculty do to create safe spaces? What should these spaces look like? How can we build trust and act on the things we talk and complain about? John Lee, from the Counseling Program at Milton Academy, and Vivian Wu Wong, history teacher and an advisor to Milton's Asian Society, will focus on why cultural and affinity spaces are so important at today's independent schools, and participants will share the challenges they've faced and successes they've experienced in drawing attention to the growing needs of Asian and American students. **John Lee and Vivian Wu Wong**, Milton Academy

Cultural Appropriation: Asian Americans as Victims and Perpetrators:

Boyden Library B10

How are Asian Americans subject to appropriation (ex. kimono- or qipao/cheongsam-inspired clothing, (fusion) food, anime) and also guilty of appropriating other cultures? (ex. Hairstyles, hip hop) Incorporating a variety of media and using anecdotes of my own, I present a series of hypothetical situations and facilitate discussions. **Nadia Jo**, Deerfield Academy

Dance with DBJ Dance Crew:

Hess Large Auditorium

Come learn hip-hop, pop and other forms of dance from the DBJ Dance Crew! DBJ Dance Crew is a K-pop dance crew based in the Five Colleges (Amherst College, UMass Amherst, Smith College, Mt. Holyoke College, Hampshire College) with many different ethnic backgrounds. DBJ Dance Crew members utilize their unique backgrounds and styles to bring a great mix of musicality, cultural diversity and unique personalities to the stage, and consistently entertain the audience to the fullest.

GAYSIANS : The LGBTQ+ Asian/Asian American Experience!*Hess Room 123*

This workshop aims to explore the intersectionality of the Asian/Asian American community and the LGBTQ+ community. We will explore the overarching theme by discussing the roots of discrimination in history, personal experiences, and ways in which we can take action to destigmatize LGBTQ+ Asian/Asian Americans. **Skylar Kim & Talya Li** The Hotchkiss School

Living Between the Lines: Intersections of Our Identities:*Hess Acting Lab (downstairs)*

Have you ever struggled to fit into a specific category—a square peg in a world of round holes? Our identities are complex. Come to this workshop to better understand our separate identities and the collective identity as Asian persons. We'll be planting (identi)trees and connecting to/with our roots! **Adalyn Ngo & Nora Yasumura**, The Hotchkiss School

Looking Across the 38th Parallel: Moral Dilemma Hidden Behind the Human Rights of North Koreans:*Hess Room 123*

After the Korean war, the politics, economies and livelihood of North and South Korea diverged. South Korea transformed into a powerful democracy, and the North went the way of an authoritative regime. Resultantly, the human rights conditions in the North have alarmingly lagged behind their southern neighbor. As fellow human beings, we bear the obligation to provide aid - however, has/will our aid bear our intended consequences? **Andy Han, Kishor Bharadwaj, Arthur Yao, Adrian Yao, Maggie Roche & Acy Cai**, Deerfield Academy

My Racial Timeline: Exploring Asian Racial Identity Development:*Hess Concert Hall*

This workshop explores racial identity developments in Asian, Asian American and mixed-heritage Asian students. We'll map our experiences to unpack racial identity development at personal and theoretical levels, using frameworks for identity development to illuminate our own identities and the forces that affect how we understand--and feel about--them. **Laura Twichell**, Concord Academy

Opium/Opioid: Effects of a Drug on the Asian and Asian-American Experience:*Boyden Library B10*

Our workshop employs political cartoons, book illustrations and contemporary media materials to explore the ways in which Western economic desires drove the developments of devastating opium cultures in Asia and contributed in unfair ways to enduring biases against some Asian groups. We additionally wrestle with the reality that US opium fortunes have funded beautiful buildings for prestigious universities and prep schools, and we explore how the U.S. opioid crisis affects all young people, including Asian and Asian American students today. **Mary Ellen Friends and Fatima Rashid**, Deerfield Academy

Race, Person, Population: Rethinking Group Identification from an Asian Standpoint:*Hess Room 123*

The central proposition of the presentation is that the concept of race is inadequate when it comes to thinking about the Asian experience in America. It may prove more useful to begin thinking in terms of population rather than race. The presentation also discusses group identification, group difference and individuality in general terms. **Victor Li**, Berkshire School

The Complicated World of College Admissions and Affirmative Action From an Asian-American Perspective:*Hess Large Auditorium*

At America's top prep schools, the topic of getting into a prestigious college weighs heavily on the minds of most. This workshop will dive into what the college admissions process looks like for Asian-American students, and how this journey may differ from the one that our peers embark on. **Lynnette Jiang**, Deerfield Academy