

SPRING 2014

ASIAN AMERICAN

Speaker Series

According to the 2010 Census, Asian Americans are the fastest growing minority population in the United States. From 2000 to 2010, Speaker Series it grew by 46 percent. While the largest concentration continues to be in the West and East coasts, Midwest states such as Wisconsin have seen significant increases. Likewise, scholarship that critically examines their diverse perspectives and experiences is expanding. The UWM Hmong Diaspora Studies and Comparative Ethnic Studies Programs are pleased to sponsor a lecture series to give the UWM campus community opportunities to interact with leading scholars in the field of Asian American Studies.

All events are free and open to the public. Contact Professors Chia Youyee Vang (vangcy@uwm.edu) and Rachel Ida Buff (rbuff@uwm.edu) with questions about the series.



Balbir K. Singh
Wednesday, March 26, 2014
3:00-4:30pm
Curtin Hall (CRT) 175
3243 North Downer Ave

“The Body in Peril: Historicizing Oak Creek, Minor Politics, and the U.S. Sikh Diaspora”

In this lecture, Singh approaches the study of Sikhs in the U.S. through archival and cultural material by examining two distinct historical moments: 1) the 1907 Bellingham riots against South Asian migrant workers by members of the Asiatic Exclusion League; and 2) the 2012 attack on the Oak Creek, WI gurdwara by white supremacist Wade Michael Page. She argues that these particular moments are exemplary of the tense relationship of Sikhs to not just exclusion and violence, but to minoritarian political formation in the face of racial regimes under American empire. To that end, Singh puts these two moments in historical perspective as to theorize minor bodies and politics, as well as to rethink the work of the Sikh diasporic body at this critical juncture.

Balbir K. Singh is a PhD candidate in English at the University of Washington and a Visiting Fellow in American Studies at Harvard University. She is currently at work on her dissertation “Militant Bodies: Policing Race, Religion and Violence in the U.S. Sikh Diaspora,” which theorizes a relationship between race, violence, and minoritarian politics through a genealogy of the U.S. Sikh diaspora. With a background in postcolonial theory and critical ethnic studies, Singh’s research interests center on issues of race and violence, South Asian diasporic politics, minority critique and philosophy, and the theoretical convergences of race/religion/empire. She has recently published essays in *Sikh Formations* (2013) and *Amerasia Journal* (2014).

Nicholas Hartlep, PhD
Tuesday, April 29, 2014
3:00-4:30pm
Curtin Hall (CRT) 175
3243 North Downer Ave



The Danger of a Single Story: How We Can Disrupt the Model Minority Stereotype of Asians in the United States via Counter-Storytelling”

If knowledge is the key to true understanding, then what is the lock? In this interactive talk, Dr. Nicholas Hartlep will introduce the topic of the model minority stereotype, addressing the following three focal points: (1) why this Asian stereotype is deceptively racist; (2) how the “yellow peril” and “model minority” stereotypes share a dialectical relationship; and (3) what strategic actions can mitigate the model minority stereotype’s credibility, such as counter-storytelling. While addressing these focal points, Dr. Hartlep will also unlock why Asians in the United States are constructed by the media—and perceived by the public—to be model minorities. Nicholas D. Hartlep, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Educational Foundations at Illinois State University (Normal, IL) where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on educational and cultural

foundations of education. His research interests include the model minority stereotype of Asians, teaching for transformation, and critical race theory. He is the author of *The Model Minority Stereotype: Demystifying Asian American Success* (2013), editor of *The Model Minority Stereotype Reader: Critical and Challenging Readings for the 21st Century* (2014) and *Modern Societal Impacts of the Model Minority Stereotype* (Forthcoming), and co-editor of *Unhooking from Whiteness: The Key to Dismantling Racism in the United States* (2013) and *Killing the Model Minority Stereotype: Asian American Counter-Stories and Complicity* (In-Press). His “Model Minority Stereotype Project” website lists over 482 references to model minority stereotype literature. He received his doctoral degree in Urban Education (Social Foundations) from UWM.

Co-sponsored by Cultures and Communities Program and Organization of Chinese Americans