

Coalitions, Conflicts, and the Space in Between: Political Relations between Asians, Blacks, and Latinos in the U.S.

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Queen's University

July 2, 2024

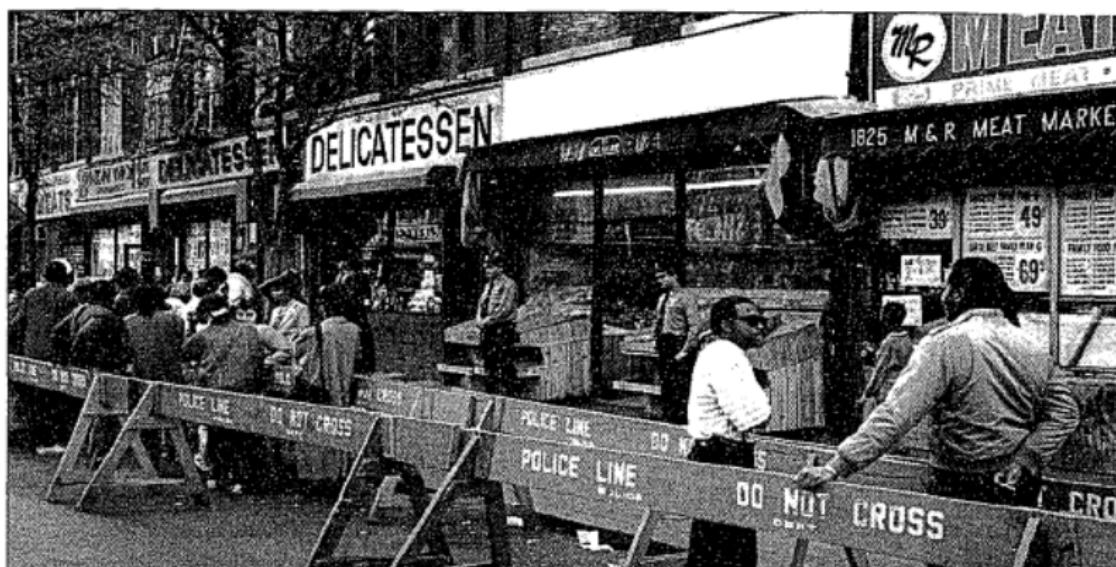
Boycotts against Korean businesses in New York 1980s-1990s

Black-Korean Who-Pushed-Whom Festers: What began with peppers had ...

By M.A. FARBER

New York Times (1923-); May 7, 1990; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times

pg. B1



Korean grocer fatally shot Black teenager on March 16, 1991 in Los Angeles

A34 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1991 /R



Richard Brown, Latasha Harlins' uncle, and family friend Gina Ray, at left, react to verdict. At right, Soon Ja Du relatives listen to ruling in court.

ROSEMARY KAOI / Los Angeles Times

Korean Who Killed Black Teen Gets Probation

■ Crime: The grocer shot the 15-year-old girl in a dispute over an orange juice bottle. Girl's family and friends decry the sentence as too lenient.

By TRACY WILKINSON
and FRANK CLIFFORD
Times Staff Writers

LOS ANGELES—Saying it is



create solutions," Karlin told a hushed courtroom guarded by extraordinary security.

"This is not a time for rhetoric. It is not a time for revenge. It should be a time of healing."

But as the judge spoke of healing, angry spectators spilled into the hallway outside the courtroom. While some of Latasha's friends and relatives sobbed, others shouted, "Murderer!" and, "We'll take this to the streets!" There were several shoving matches between spectators and television photogra-

"This is an individual who, to this day, still believes she is justified in killing Latasha," Carvajal said. "The defendant has to be punished. She has to suffer.... [Putting Du on probation] is to make Latasha's life meaningless."

The judge blamed the killing in part on an alteration in the gun that made it fire more easily. She said she believed Du acted out of fear of being victimized and was remorseful but unable to express the emotion because of cultural dif-



1992 Los Angeles Riots/Rodney King Riots/ Sa-i-Gu



Figure: Video footage of LAPD officers beating Rodney King on March 3, 1991. Source: The Hollywood Reporter

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Figure: Roof Koreans in 1992

Hmong and Black communities live close to one another in St. Paul, Minnesota



Figure: Hmong Village, St. Paul Minnesota

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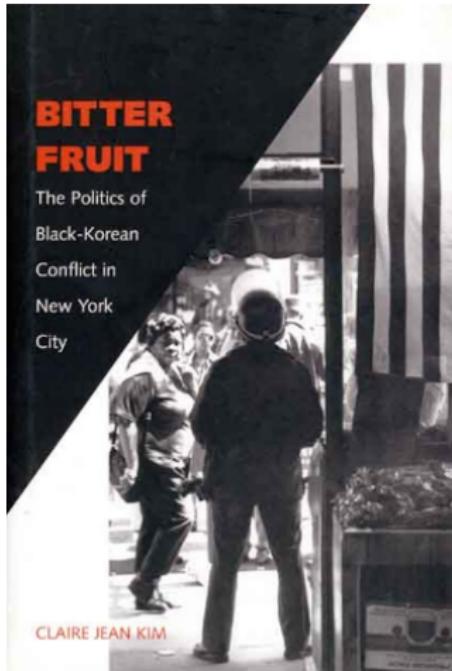


Figure: Tou Thao

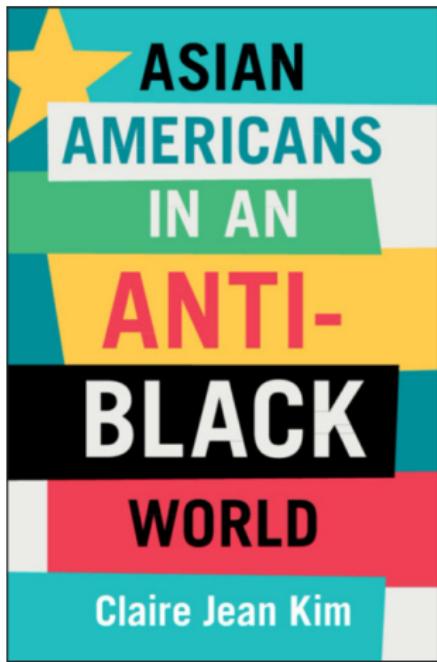
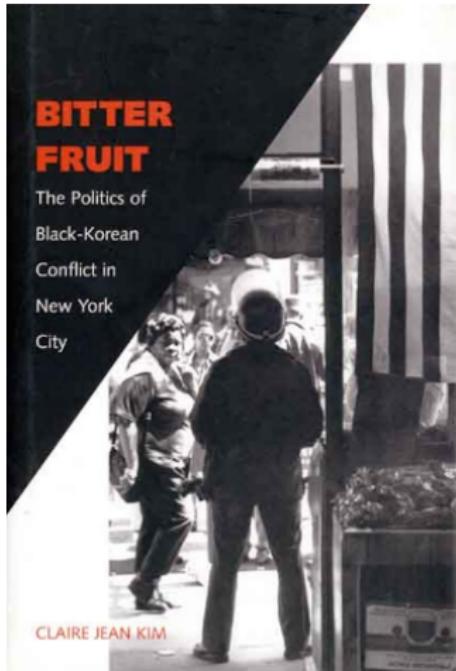
Non-White political candidates compete against one another in majority-minority districts

Election	Top candidates
2018 San Francisco mayor	Breed vs. Kim vs. Leno
2017 CA 34th district	Robert Ahn vs. Jimmy Gomez
2016 California Senate	Kamala Harris vs. Loretta Sanchez
2016 Doral, Florida mayor	Boria vs. Bermudez vs. Ruiz
2015 San Antonio mayor	Ivy Taylor vs. Leticia van de Putte
2014, 2016 CA 17th district	Mike Honda vs. Ro Khanna
2014 CA 65th district	Young Kim vs. Sharon Quirk-Silva
2013 CA 9th district	Curren Price vs. Ana Cubas
2012 Illinois 8th district primary	Duckworth vs. Krishnamoorthi
2012-2016 Texas 23rd district	Will Hurd vs. Pete Gallego
2011 San Francisco mayor	Ed Lee vs. John Avalos
2009 CA 32nd district	Judy Chu vs. Gil Cedillo

Racial triangulation theory centers on conflict and Korean Americans



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Research Question

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- ▶ **How** can similarities in their experiences and identity motivate sustained allyship, i.e. solidarity?

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- ▶ Conflict/solidarity

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- ▶ Conflict —Solidarity

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- ▶ Conflict—business transactions, ignorance, indifference, apathy, temporary bedfellows—Solidarity

Strictly business relations between Chinese and Blacks in Mississippi



Third and fourth generation Chinese grocers no longer carry on the family business in Mississippi



Search for identity and agency as reasons for Blackface among Japanese American internees



**Blackface Behind
Barbed Wire**

Coalitions, conflicts, and the space in between

- ▶ Conflict/solidarity
- ▶ Conflict —Solidarity
- ▶ Conflict—business transactions, ignorance, indifference, apathy, temporary bedbellows—Solidarity
- ▶ **Theoretical and empirical implications**

Social contact hypothesis (Allport 1954)

Social interactions reduce prejudice when individuals

- ▶ have **equal status** in the contact environment
- ▶ work toward a **common goal**
- ▶ have support from a **communal authority**

For Allport (1954), “individuals” always include White racial majority

“status aspects of contact” (pg. 262):

- ▶ Minority member has inferior status
- ▶ Minority member has equal status
- ▶ Minority member has superior status
- ▶ Not only may the individuals encountered vary thus in status, but the group as a whole may have relatively high status (e.g. Jews) or relatively low status (e.g. Negroes)

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- ▶ communal authorities help to **bridge the gap** between
 1. virtual and in-person contact
 2. in-group vs. out-group discrimination
 3. instrumental vs. expressive interests

Hypotheses on distinction between ingroup/outgroup discrimination and instrumental/expressive motivations

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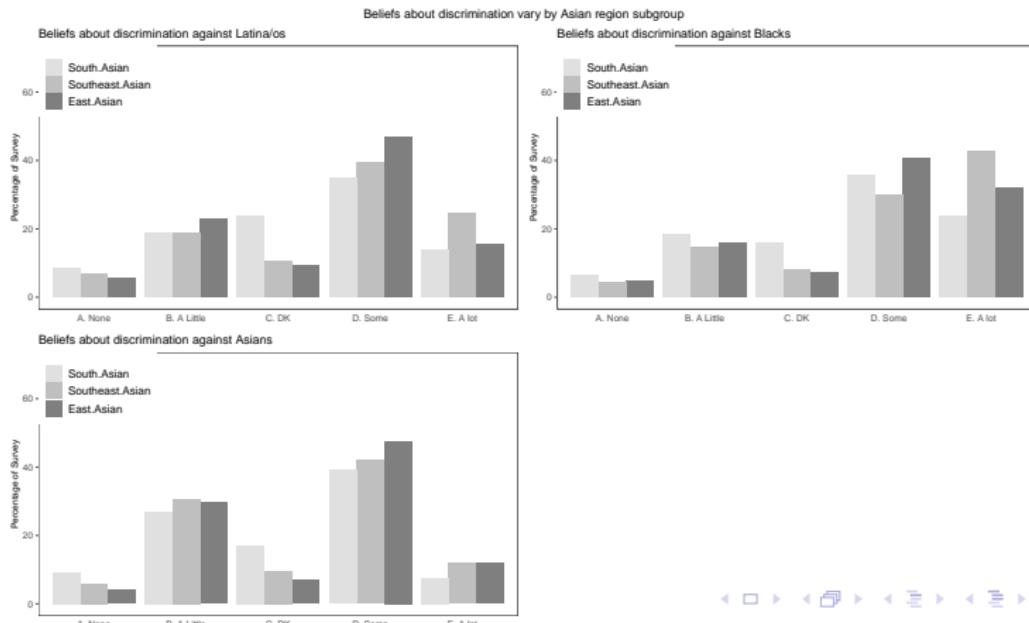
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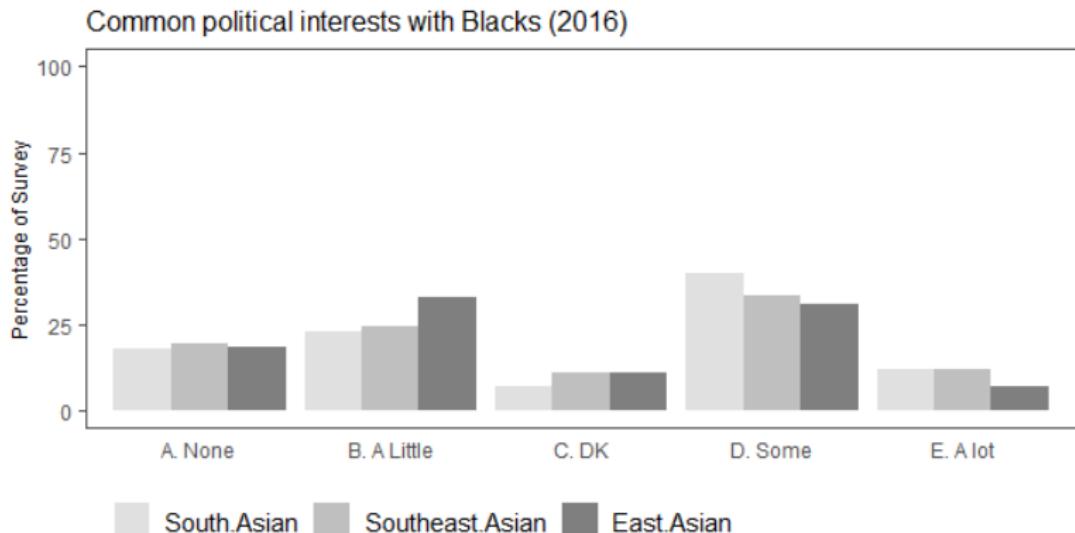
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Asian Americans recognize they do not bear the brunt of racial discrimination relative to Black and Latinos (CMPS 2016)

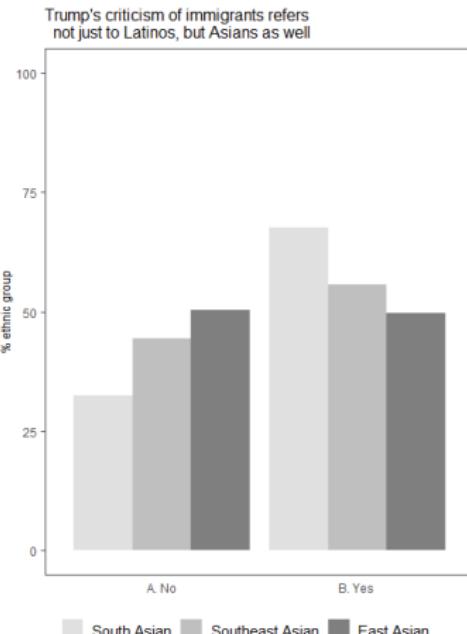
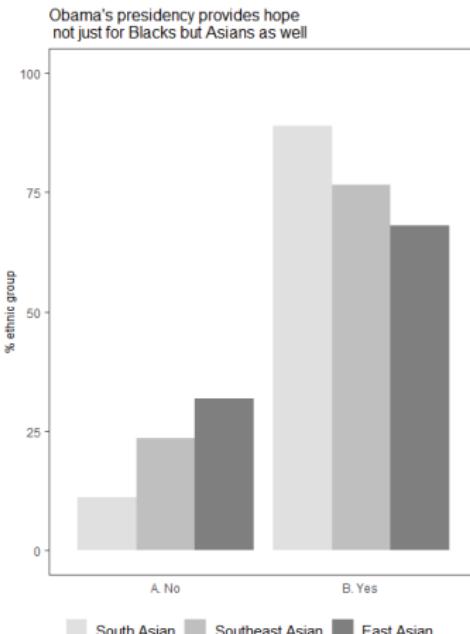


~ 40% of Asian Americans perceive some/a lot in common political interests with Blacks (NAAS 2016)



Symbolic value of Obama and Trump presidencies CMPS 2016

Asian Americans' perceptions of Obama and Trump presidencies (2016 CMPS)



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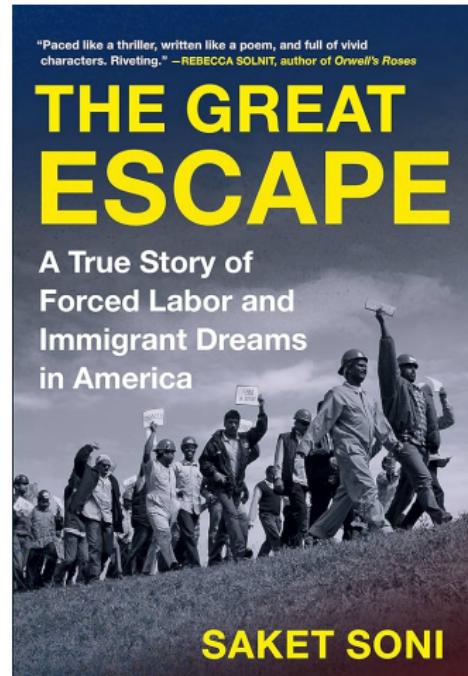
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- ▶ Coalition for TJ's fight against affirmative action.



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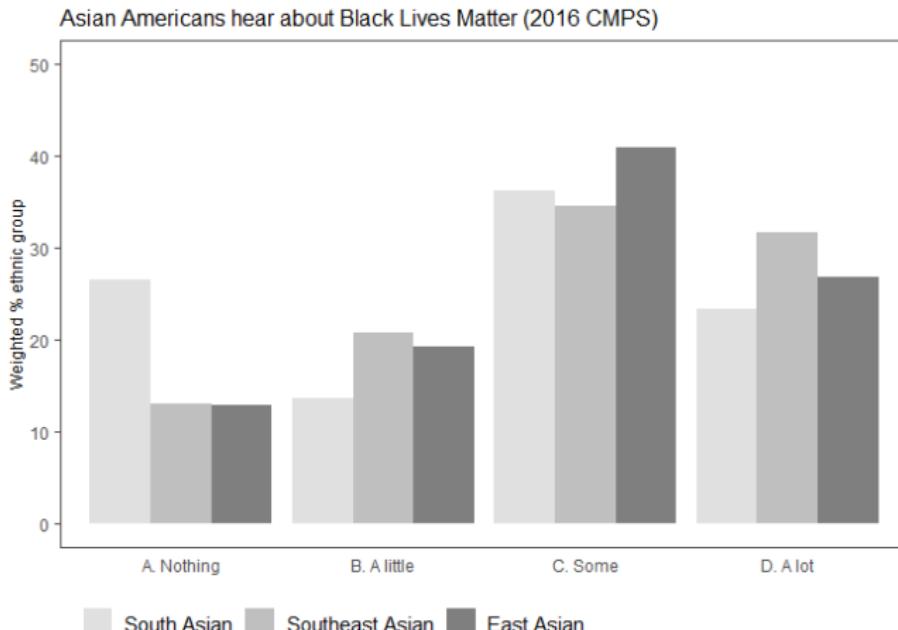
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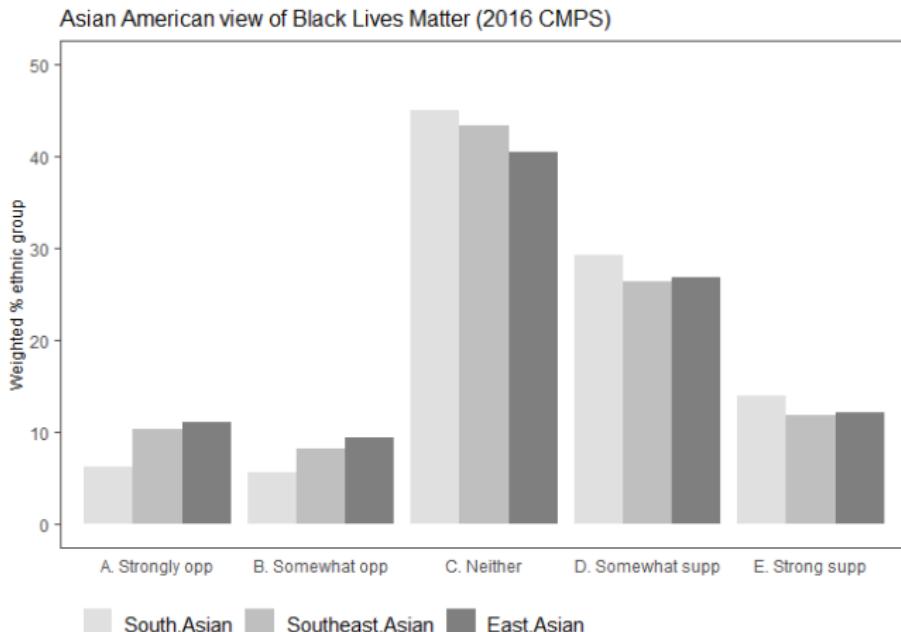
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- ▶ In 2020, Minneapolis police officer Tou Thao complicit in murdering George Floyd. Liang was convicted.



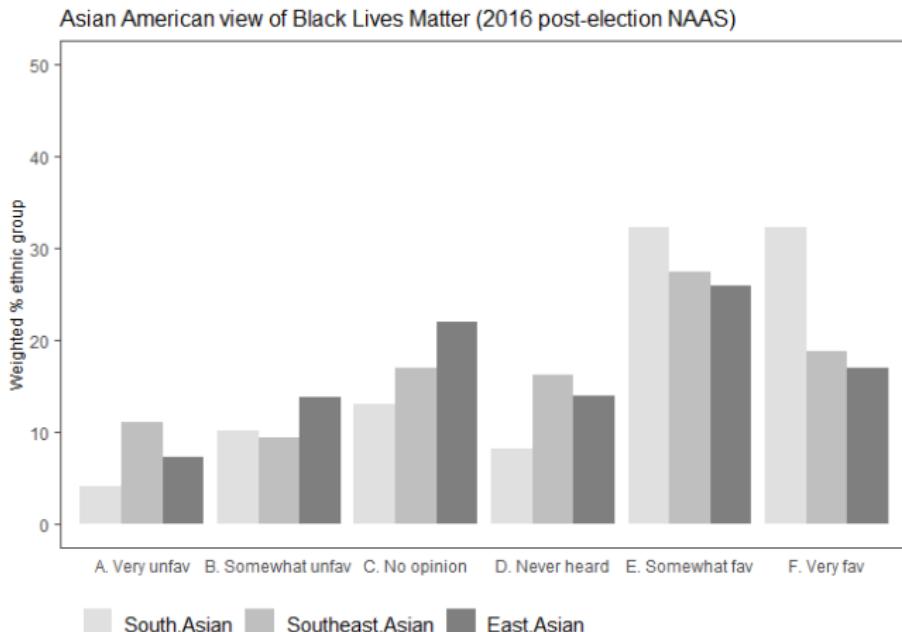
~ 30% of Asian respondents heard nothing or a little about BLM in 2016 (CMPS)



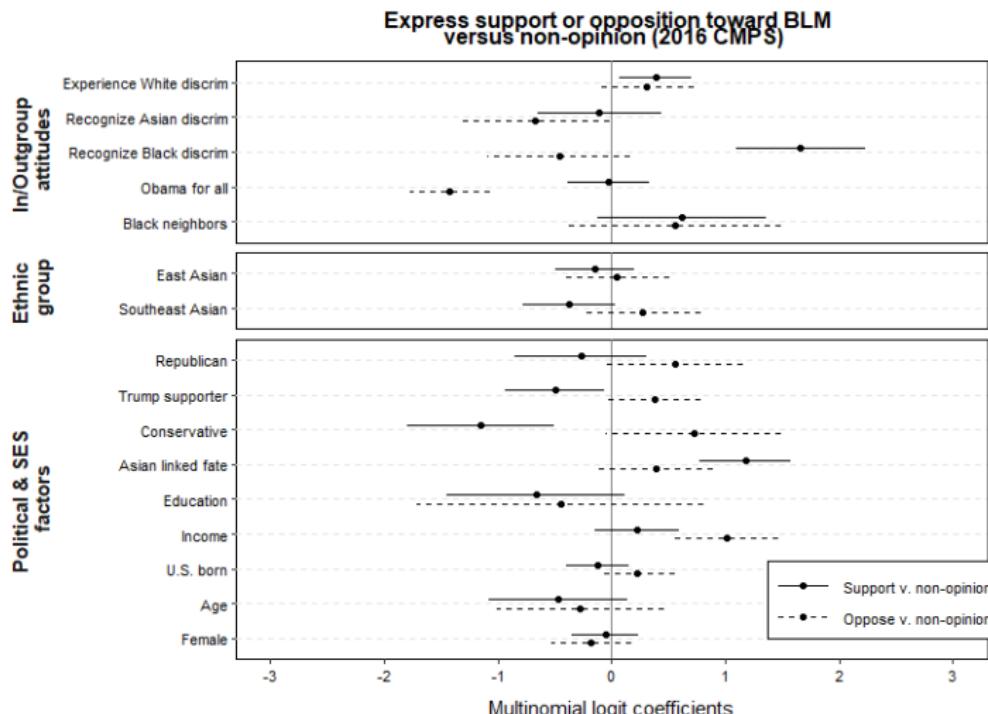
~ 40% of CMPS Asian respondents support BLM



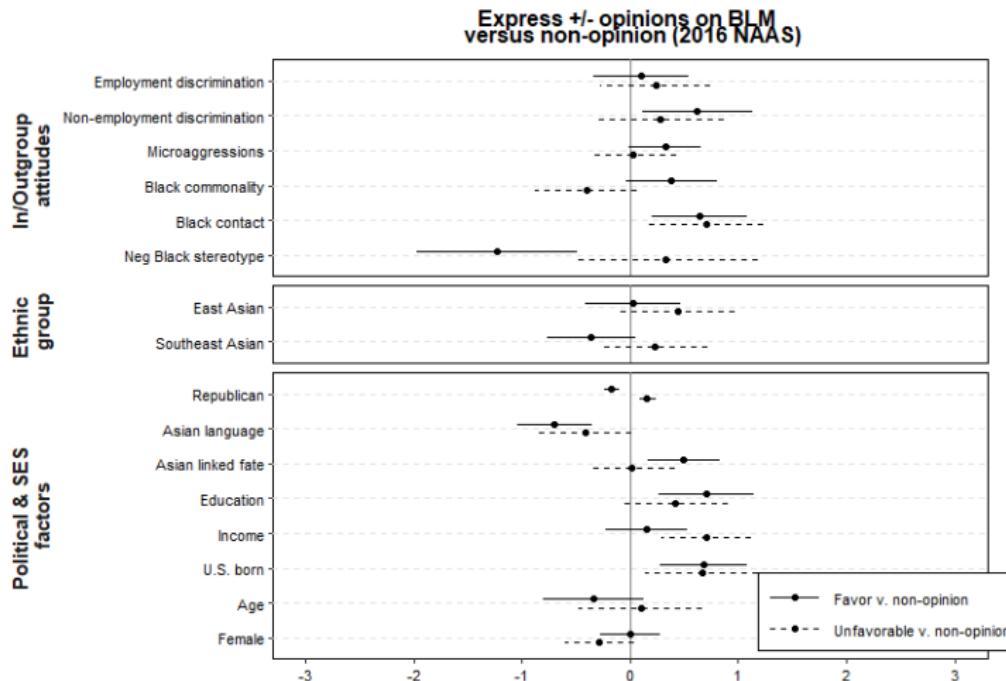
~ 50% NAAS respondents favor BLM



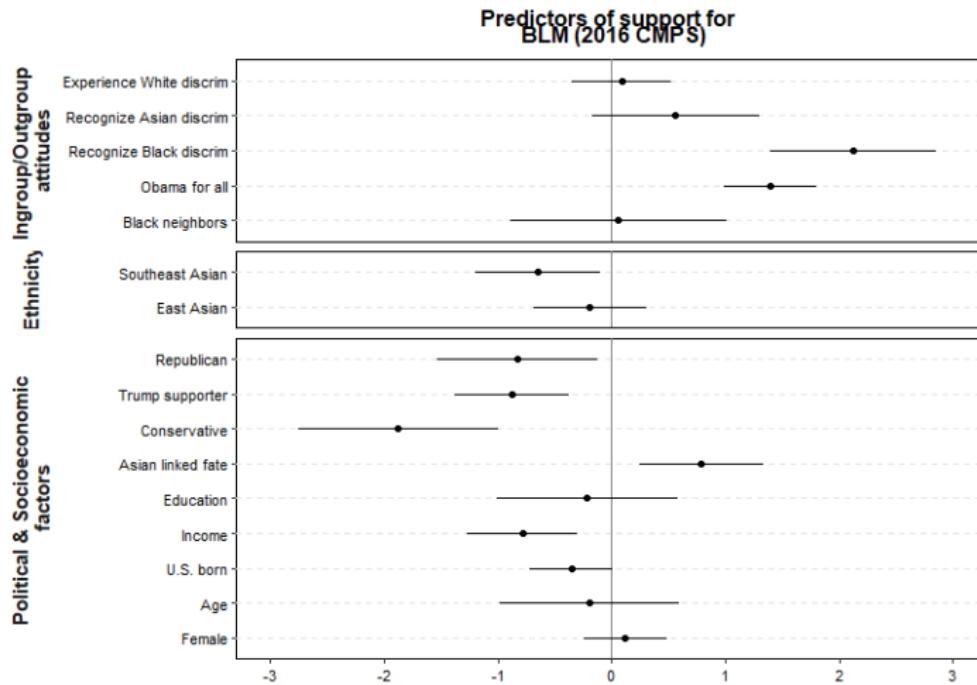
CMPS respondents may be suppressing negative opinions



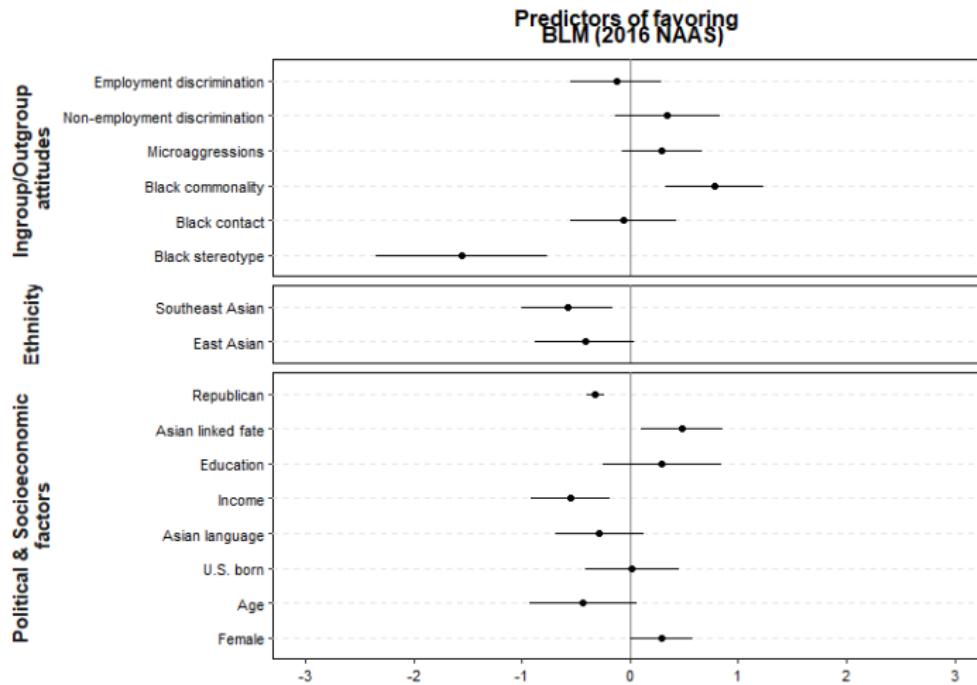
NAAS respondents may also be suppressing negative opinions



Support for modified contact hypotheses, but with caveat of self-censorship (CMPS 2016)



Partial support for modified contact hypotheses, but with caveat of self-censorship (CMPS 2016)



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- ▶ Measures of instrumental interests correlate with support versus opposition to BLM.
- ▶ Findings on expressive interests depend on how they are measured.

Inter-minority relations between Chinese, African, and Arab migrants in France

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- ▶ Chinese French mostly reside in Aubervilliers and Belleville, where they find work through ethnic networks in Chinese-dominated garment and restaurant industries.
- ▶ Anti-Chinese racism is part of a larger issue of racism in France, because generations of African and Arab immigrants to France have also been treated as “citizen outsiders” (Beaman 2017)

Disconnect between Chinese and Black French protests against police violence in 2016



Figure: Chinese French protest August 2016
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Figure: African French protest July 2016 murder of Adama Traore

Disconnect between Chinese and Black French protests against racial discrimination persists beyond 2020

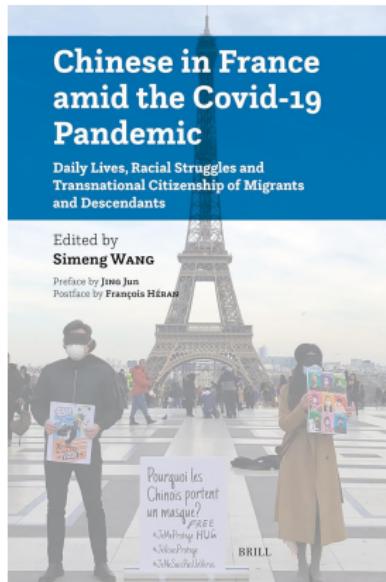


Figure: Chinese French targets of Covid-related racial discrimination

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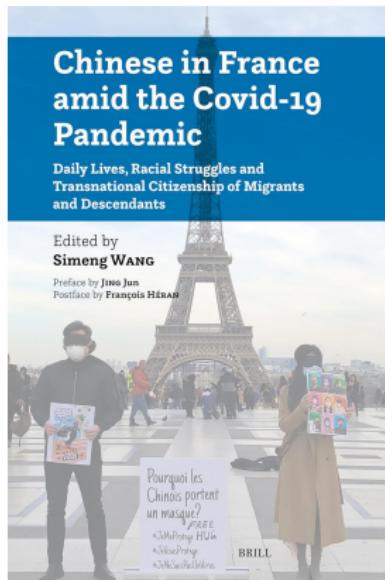


Figure: Chinese French targets of Covid-related racial discrimination



Figure: Protests triggered by June 2023 murder of Nahel Merzouk

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- ▶ Mixed evidence on how race affects vote choice for politicians such as Jagmeet Singh

Friendship between a Sikh man and the Nishimuras in Vancouver



Figure: 1907 Anti-Asian Riots in Vancouver. Source: Library and Archives Canada

Partnerships between Chinese men and Indigenous women in British Columbia

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- ▶ The Canadian residential school system from the 1880s to 1990s separated Indigenous children from Euro-Canadian children, severed their ties to native languages and cultures, and prepared them for manual labor jobs.

Legacy of Chinese-Indigenous partnerships



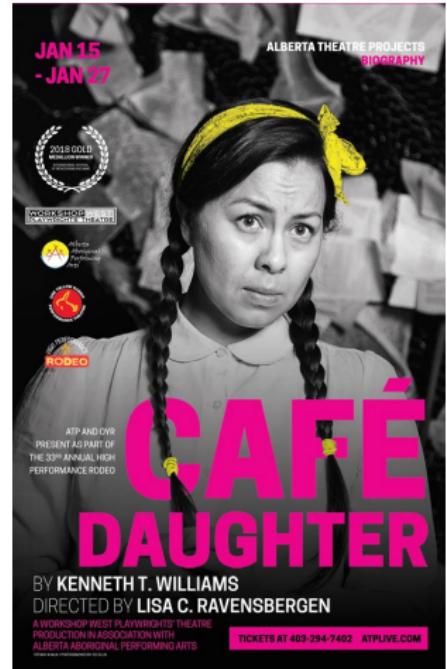
SENATE

Figure: Lillian Dyck, the first Indigenous woman and first Canadian-born Chinese person to be appointed to the Canadian Senate. Her story is dramatized in the play “Cafe Daughter”.

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Inter-minority relations between Blacks and non-Japanese Asians

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- ▶ Silence on BLM from Zainichi Koreans and Chinese/Taiwanese immigrants.

Police racial profiling in Japan

- ▶ In 2023, Maurice Shelton (a Black American with permanent residency status in Japan), Syed Zain (a Pakistani with naturalized Japanese citizenship), and Matthew (a Pacific Islander of Indian descent) filed a joint lawsuit against the Japanese state, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Aichi Prefecture for police racial profiling.



Thank you!