

Celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month: Highlighting the Contributions Asian American Pacific Islander Psychologists

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Asian American/Pacific Islander Psychologists

Stanley Sue (1944-present)^{1,2}



Stanley Sue was born in 1944 in Portland, Oregon. His parents were first- and second-generation Chinese immigrants. In 1966 he received a B.S. degree in Psychology at the University of Oregon. In 1967 and 1971, he received a master's degree and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles. Throughout his career, he was a faculty member at the University of California Davis, the University of California Los Angeles, and the University of Washington. In 2011 he joined the faculty at Palo Alto University, where he is s Distinguished Professor of Psychology. He is known for his work on multicultural studies and the need for developing and using culturally competent evidence-based treatments. In 1972 Stanley Sue co-founded the Asian American Psychological Association with his brother Derald Wing Sue. Throughout his career, he has received several awards for his contributions to psychology, including the 2003 American Psychological Association's Distinguished Contributions to Applied Research Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Psychological Association, awarded in 2005.

Derald Wing Sue (1942 – present) ^{3,4,5}



Derald Wing Sue was born in 1942. His parents immigrated from China. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Oregon State University and his master's and Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Oregon. Derald became a counselor at the University of California, Berkeley counseling center after completing his Ph.D., where he supported Asian American students. Dr. Sue is a psychology professor at Teachers College, Columbia University. In 1972, he and his brother Stanley Sue co-founded the Asian American Psychological Association due to the lack of research on Asian American mental health. Derald Wing Sue became the first president of the Association. He is also a past President of the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues and the Society of Counseling Psychology of the American Psychological Association. Dr. Sue has received numerous awards throughout his career for his contributions to psychology, such as the Leadership Award, Distinguished Contributions Award, and President's Award from the Asian American Psychological Association. He has authored over 150 publications and is best known for his work on multicultural competencies and microaggressions. In 1996 Dr. Sue served on President Bill Clinton's advisory board on race.

K. Patrick Okura ((1911 - 2005) ^{6,7}



Kiyoshi Patrick Okura was born in 1911 to Japanese immigrants growing up in the South Bay region of Los Angeles, CA. In 1933 he received a bachelor's degree from the University of California Los Angeles and a master's degree in psychology in 1935. Okura was the first Asian American to receive a master's degree in psychology from the University. Later in his life, he was granted an honorary doctorate from another supporting institution. In 1938 he became the highest-ranking Japanese American to work on the Los Angeles Civil Rights Commission. Okura and his wife were among the 120,000 Japanese Americans interned during World War II. Due to

a work shortage, he was removed from the camp and offered a position in Omaha, NE, to work as a staff psychologist at Boys Town, where he worked for 17 years. From 1971-1981 Okura worked as an executive assistant to the director of the National Institutes of Health, where he helped launch programs to address social issues in minority communities. In 1988 he founded Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation to support individuals who wanted to become mental health professionals. In 1999 Okura was honored by the emperor of Japan. In 2002 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the American Psychological Association and the Kun-Po Soo Award by the American Psychiatric Association Committee of Asian-American Psychiatrists.

Reiko Homma True (1933 - present) ^{8,9}



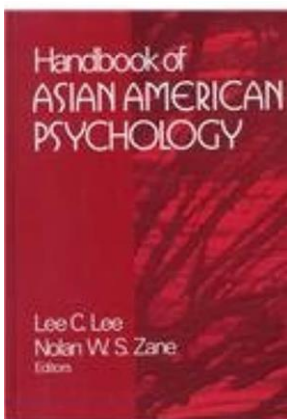
Reiko True was born in Japan in 1933 and grew up in Niigata, Japan. In 1949 she was accepted into the University of Tokyo and majored in English and International Relations. In 1958 she moved to San Francisco, CA, and studied social work at the University of California Berkley. After working for some years in a psychiatric clinic in San Francisco and observing the lack of cultural sensitivity in the treatments and interventions in 1972, True returned to school, applied for clinical practice at the California School of Professional Psychology (CSPP), and completed her Ph.D. in 1976. Upon completing her degree, she accepted the Region IX office position at the National Institute of Mental Health in San Francisco, where she was tasked with creating community mental health programs for multiple ethnic and racial groups. From 1997-1999 Dr. True served as the President of the Asian American Psychological Association. In 2012 Dr. Reiko True became the first female director of the Mental Health Substance Abuse and Forensic Services for the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Richard Suinn (1933-present) ^{10,11}



Richard Suinn was born in 1933. He received a bachelor's degree from the Ohio State University and his doctorate in counseling psychology from Stanford University. Throughout his career, he held faculty positions at the University of Hawaii, Stanford Medical School, and Whitman College. He joined the faculty of Colorado State University, where he was Head of the Department of Psychology from 1973-1993. Dr. Suinn also served as a city councilperson and mayor of the City of Fort Collins. He was also the first to be appointed as a team sport psychologist for a U.S. Olympic Team. From 1990-1993 he served on the APA Board of Directors. In 1999 Dr. Suinn was elected as the first Asian American President of the American Psychological Association. Dr. Suinn also served as the Association for Cognitive and Behavioral Therapies president and on the Board of Directors of the Asian American Psychological Association. He is the author of numerous publications that address ethnic minority issues, behavior therapy, stress management, and sports psychology. He was the recipient of many awards. In 1999, the Ethnicity, Race, and Cultural Affairs Portfolio established the Suinn Minority Achievement Award in his honor.

Lee Charlotte Lee (1935-2006) ^{12,13}



Lee Charlotte Lee was born in 1935 in Suzhou, China. While teaching in an American school in Taiwan, she became ill and was encouraged by the American minister and his wife to continue her education in the United States. In 1957 she graduated from Mount Union College in Ohio with a bachelor's degree in psychology and mathematics. In 1959 she completed a master's

degree in clinical psychology and a Ph.D. in developmental psychology in 1968, both from the Ohio State University.

In 1968 she joined the faculty of Cornell University and became the first women professor of Asian ancestry. Lee rose to become a full professor in the Department of Development and Family Studies in the College of Human Ecology, as well as a professor of Asian Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences.

While at Cornell, Lee founded the first comprehensive Asian American studies program on the East Coast. In 1998 Lee C. Lee and Nolan W. Zane co-edited *The Handbook of Asian-American Psychology*. Lee was also the first American psychologist allowed to conduct research in the People's Republic of China after the revolution. From 1992-1994 Lee was also a Fulbright scholar at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where she became the founding director of the Hong Kong-American Center to promote understanding between Hong Kong and American communities. Lee died suddenly at the age of 70 in her home.

Jean Lau Chin (1944 -2020) ^{14,15}



Jean Chin was born to Chinese immigrant parents in 1944 in Brooklyn, NY. In 1966 she received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Brooklyn College. She received a master's in psychology and an Ed.D. in psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University, in 1969 and 1974, respectively. After graduating, she became a Chief Psychologist at the Douglas A. Thorn Clinic for Children in Boston, MA. From 2006-2010 she served as the Dean of the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology at Adelphi University. In 2018 she became a Fulbright Scholar studying global and diverse leadership as a Distinguished Chair at the University of Sydney in Australia, and in 2012, she was a Fulbright specialist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where she studied women and leadership and developed a gender studies degree. Dr. Chin's research and scholarship focused on leadership, women's issues, Asian American mental health, and providing culturally competent mental health services. She was president of several APA divisions and the International Council of Psychologists. She received many awards throughout her career from the American Psychological Association, the New York State Psychological Association, and the Asian American Psychological Association for her contributions to psychology.

Ruby Takanishi (1946 - 2020) ^{16,17}



Ruby Takanishi was born in 1946 in Waimea, Hawaii. In 1968 she received a bachelor's in psychology and, in 1973, a Ph.D. in Educational and Child Development, both from Stanford University. In 1973 she joined the faculty University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Graduate School of Education. After receiving tenure in 1980, Ruby Takanishi left the university to serve on the Senate Appropriations Committee as a Congressional Science Fellow representing the Society for Research in Child Development and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, working in the office of Daniel K. Inouye. Dr. Takanishi was the Former President/CEO of the Foundation for Child Development and the Founding Executive Director of the Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences. While at the foundation, she and her colleagues developed a national index of child well-being that measured the well-being and health of children in the United States. She taught at Yale University, Teachers College, Columbia University, and Bank Street School of Education throughout her career. In 1997, she received the American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Contribution to Research in Public Policy; in 2007, the Society for Research in Child Development Award for Distinguished Contributions to Public Policy; and in 2014, the American Educational Research Association Distinguished Public Service Award.

Suniya S. Luthar (1958-2023) ^{18,19}



Suniya S. Luthar was born in 1958 in New Delhi, India. In 1978 and 1980, she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in child development from the Lady Irwin College of Delhi University, India. In 1990 she completed her Ph.D. in clinical and developmental psychology from Yale University and a post-doc at the Yale Child Study Center. In 1990 Luthar joined the Yale University School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and Child Study Center, first as a research associate and then as an assistant professor in 1992. In 1997 she joined the faculty of Teachers College, Columbia University as an associate professor and was promoted to full professor in 2001. She was the founder and executive director of the AC groups, which use evidence-based interventions in schools, hospitals, and universities, and co-founder of the organization Authentic Connections Co. with her daughter, Nina Kumar, to assess and improve mental health and well-being in schools. Throughout her career, Suniya Luthar received many awards to recognize her contributions to psychology from the American Psychological Association, the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Association for Psychological Science, the Society for Research in Child Development, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. In 2019 she was elected President of the American Psychological Association Division 7 (Developmental Psychology.)

Frederick Leong ^{20,21}



Fred Leong is a Chinese Malaysian who came to the United States to study Psychology. He received a scholarship to study at Bates College in Main. In 1982 he received a master's in psychology from the University of Maryland and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology with a second specialty in Industrial Organizational Psychology in 1988, also from the University of Maryland. At the beginning of his career, he joined the faculty at the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in the departments of psychology and management. In 1991 he joined the Department of Psychology as an assistant professor at the Ohio State University. From 2003-2006 he was a member of the Department of Psychology at the University of Tennessee, finally moving to Michigan State University to join the faculty as a Professor of Psychology and the Director of the Consortium for Multicultural Psychology Research. Throughout his career, Dr. Leong served in several leadership positions. He served as the editor-in-chief of the "Encyclopedia of Counseling" (Sage Publications) and the "APA Handbook of Multicultural Psychology" (APA Books). Dr. Leong was also the founding editor of the Asian American Journal of Psychology and the associate editor of the Archives of Scientific Psychology. He also served as associate editor of the American Psychologist and the lead editor of the Handbook of Asian American Psychology, 2nd Edition (Sage Publications). Dr. Leong was the past president of APA's Div. 45 (Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues), Div. 12-Section VI (Clinical Psychology of Ethnic Minorities), the Asian American Psychological Association, and the Division of Counseling Psychology of the International Association of Applied Psychology. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Asian American Psychological Association.

Kevin Nadal ^{22,23,24}



Kevin Nadal grew up in Fremont, California. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology and political science from the University of California, Irvine, a master's degree in counseling from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Columbia University. Dr. Nadal is a Distinguished Professor of Psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Dr. Nadal's research and scholarship focus on microaggressions, and he is considered one of the leading scholars in the field. In 2010 he was elected as an executive board member of the Asian American Psychological Association. In 2011, he received the Early Career Award for Contributions to Excellence from the Asian American Psychological Association. In 2012 he was elected Vice President of AAPA, was President-Elect in 2014, and served as AAPA president from 2015-2017. Dr. Nadal was the first openly gay person to serve as president during the organization's 45-year history. In 2017 he was awarded the APA Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest.

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