



### Week 5 Reading Response: How IC It

Angela Kong's dissertation finds that assumption of Asian American homogenization, the lack of Asian American studies and history of cross-cultural activism all contributes to administration ignoring the needs of Asian American students in their diversity policies.

Kong observed that Asian American students come off as "people who only care about their studies and who have always been apathetic in important social justice movements" (Kong 109). Unfortunately, my experience as an Asian American on campus exemplifies that notion. Ever since I came here, school work has shaped the entirety of my experience of UCSD's

campus climate. Because my friends are academically-inclined, I spend most of my time doing schoolwork with them, rarely involving ourselves with school events. During the Trump protest, all my suitemates went except for me and two others who were also Asian American because we didn't want to stay up late on a school night. It wasn't because we didn't care--we were as upset as everybody else in our suite--but we prioritized our schoolwork.

Kong's work hasn't changed my view of the campus climate but it has given me insight to why I experience UCSD the way I do. Why are we so obsessed with school? Why were we the only ones who didn't go to the Trump protest? After reading Kong's work, I realize that as a "model minority", society has always expected me to excel and this has evolved into my personal expectation for myself. But coming from a low-income family also means responsibilities that detracts from school so I have to forego a lot of social events like the Trump protest to keep up with school, not because I am an academic robot. I agree with Kong that administration should realize assuming our homogeneity is to overlook the needs of subgroups where individuals may be underperforming and it's also important for us to recognize this too so we can ask for school diversity policies to acknowledge us and address our needs.

#### Works Cited

Kong, Angela W. "Re-Examining Diversity Policy at University of California, San Diego: The Racial Politics of Asian Americans" Diss. University of California, San Diego 2014.