

Steven Chen

Solomon, TA Ken Saragosa

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Photos: Steven Chen, University of California San Diego

The following images feature two of my Asian American friends. The quotes on the pieces of paper say “I am still and ethnic minority” and “I don’t have straight As”. The quotes strive to show the audience that Asian Americans are not model minorities and the stereotypes given to Asian Americans by society are incorrect.

Personal Takes on Climate Culture & Response to Angela Kong

Angela Kong’s piece *Re-examining Diversity Policy at University of California, San Diego: The Racial Politics of Asian Americans* draws from ideas that Asian Americans are overlooked as ethnic minorities on the UCSD campus, because of the large number of Asian Americans making up the student population. Kong argues that Asian Americans are identified by others as the “model minority” and the idea leads to many false stereotypes. These stereotypes in turn make it easy for others to overlook that many Asian Americans today are still first generation college students, from low income, working class communities.

I personally connected to many parts of Kong's analysis. She focused on the events that occurred after the "Compton Cookout". Kong observed that resource centers were created for other ethnic minorities on campus, but the school failed to implement a center for Asian Americans. I myself have noticed that there are many resources in place for other ethnic minorities on campus, but the lack of support for Asian Americans. I think, with this, UCSD's administration is just contributing to a negative climate of stereotyping Asian Americans as the model minorities. In my opinion, the school is implicitly stating "Since Asians make up such a large part of our student body, they are no longer considered a minority". I agree with Kong that the statistics and numbers should not define if an ethnic group is considered a minority. Instead, institutions should focus on the challenges and struggles that are persistent within those groups.

The climate of UCSD allows Asian Americans to be stereotyped as the model minority. This proves to be negative because it makes Asian Americans on this campus feel difficulty discussing their issues since everyone believes we "have it all". I personally have found myself in situations where I felt uncomfortable discussing issues of race with other ethnic minorities, simply because people think Asian Americans are no longer minorities. I think this mindset is dangerous because people need to realize the issues plaguing Asian American communities.

Works Cited

Kong, Angela., *Re-examining Diversity Policy at University of California, San Diego: The Racial Politics of Asian Americans*. United States 2015: 82 - 109. *University of California, San Diego*. 28 November 2016