

Department of American Studies Statement against Anti-Asian Racism and Violence

On March 16, 2021, Robert Aaron Long targeted three Atlanta-area spas and killed eight people—Delaina Ashley Yaun, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Paul Andre Michels, Hyun Jung Grant, Soon Chung Park, Suncha Kim, and Yong Ae Yue—and critically injured Elcias Hernandez-Oritz. Six of the victims were women of Asian descent. This mass killing occurred amidst a dramatic increase in anti-Asian violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Stop AAPI Hate, there have been nearly 3800 hate incidents reported against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders nationwide over the last year. The Department of American Studies condemns these and all forms of racist, misogynistic, and xenophobic violence, and we stand together with Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) communities.

The Atlanta shootings have brought increased attention to acts of violence, harassment, and discrimination against Asian Americans in the past year, yet the targeting of these groups has deep roots in the history of the United States. From the 1871 Chinese Massacre in Los Angeles to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II to the murder of Vincent Chin in 1982 and countless other attacks, anti-Asian racism has been linked to matters both domestic (immigration and economy) and international (U.S. empire and militarization).

We in the Department of American Studies recognize this long history and condemn all forms of anti-Asian American violence and hate. We stand in solidarity with and seek to amplify the critical work of CSUF's Department of Asian American Studies whose teaching, research, and community efforts are essential to change.

We have been grateful for the statements and resources shared by CSUF's Departments of [Asian American Studies](#) and [Chicano/a Studies](#). To join in these efforts, we have created a [resource list](#) to provide historical contexts and raise awareness with the ultimate goal of ensuring the safety and equity of communities across and beyond the CSUF campus. What we do—as students, staff, faculty, and community members—matters. We look forward to doing this work together.