

Resource Centre for Public Sociology (RCPS)

in the *Department of Sociology, York University*

Co-sponsored by the Korean Office for Research and Education (KORE)
at the *York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR)*

Thursday, 12 November 2020 | 1pm to 2:30pm via Zoom

Register by Tuesday, November 10 via this [Mach Form](#)

<https://laps.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=964698>

A conversation with Professor Claire Jean Kim on her upcoming book

Asian Americans in an Anti-Black World

We speak with Claire Jean Kim, Professor of Political Science and Asian American Studies at University of California, Irvine. She is the author of two award-winning books: *Bitter Fruit: The Politics of Black-Korean Conflict in New York City* (Yale University Press 2000) and *Dangerous Crossings: Race, Species, and Nature in a Multicultural Age* (Cambridge University Press 2015).

She is also author of *The Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans* (Politics and Society 1999) and *Are Asians the New Blacks?* (Du Bois Review 2018) and quoted in numerous media articles on race-related issues (NPR, *the Guardian*, etc.). This timely event is a live and interactive discussion with Professor Kim on her upcoming book, *Asian Americans in an Anti-black World*.

To take part in this conversation, send your questions to socrcps@yorku.ca before 12 November.



This book is a sweeping historical examination of how Asian Americans have been positioned relative to whites and blacks in the U.S. racial order, from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Following philosopher Lewis Gordon's argument that the U.S. racial order is structured by the principles "be white, and above all, don't be black," *Asian Americans in an Anti-black World* argues that Asian immigrants and their descendants have been constructed as a race at the turbulent disjuncture between anti-blackness, a force that elevates all not-black groups above blacks, and white supremacy, a force that pushes down all not-white groups below whites. Asian Americans are constructed, in other words, as *not-white but above all not-black*. Their not-blackness is a form of structural advantage that decisively enables their mobility in an anti-black social order, even as their not-whiteness is a form of structural disadvantage that makes them vulnerable to ostracism and exclusion. While Asian American Studies scholarship conventionally focuses exclusively on white supremacy, this book shows that bringing anti-blackness into the picture as an even more foundational force produces a profound and generative reorientation in our understanding of Asian American history and existence.

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