



Ethnic Studies Program

333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos, CA 92096-0001 <https://www.csusm.edu/ethnicstudies/index.html>

ETST Statement of Commitment

Along with many others, we have watched with anger and sadness as the most recent spate of anti-Asian discrimination and violence play out in our state and many other parts of the United States. We have watched with horror elderly aunties stomped as others passively observe and do nothing to help. We have watched murdered Asian women fetishized and erased simultaneously. As we have watched, we are reminded once again of how structural inequities bolstered by a white supremacist culture continue to authorize this and many other forms of violence toward Asian and Asian American people.

On March 16, 2021, when eight people were killed and one wounded after a mass shooting at three Atlanta-area spas, we felt the ripples of trauma throughout our own campus communities. Six of the eight victims were Asian women. White supremacist violence must be understood as the arm of a machine meant to divide and destroy community alliances. As members and affiliates of the Ethnic Studies Program at CSU San Marcos, we acknowledge and condemn the current epidemic and history of anti-Asian and Asian-American violence across the United States. We reject attempts to dismiss the racial motivations of this violence and efforts to accept explanations that obfuscate the way racism is deeply entangled with American life.

In response to the ongoing attacks on Asian Pacific Islander Desi American communities (APIDA), as Program Director and members of the Ethnic Studies Steering Committee, we commit to the following:

- ❖ Create and deliver ethnic studies curriculum that honors the varied histories and experiences of communities of color generally, and APIDA in particular;
- ❖ Support campus efforts to increase APIDA student representation on campus;
- ❖ Collaborate with the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American-FSA on campus to support their efforts and to offer joint programming;
- ❖ Help uplift APIDA voices on campus;
- ❖ Organize spaces and events that foster solidarities;
- ❖ Promote available resources, on- and off-campus, on the Ethnic Studies website;
- ❖ Use our privileged positions to advocate with and for APIDA students, staff, and faculty;
- ❖ Work against the normalization of the fetishization and attacks on Asian and Asian American folks.

Let us stand together, resolute in our commitment to stand with our APIDA sisters and brothers. Let us stand together, resolute against a history of exclusions, discrimination, and

anti-Asian racism. Let us stand together, resolute in solidarity. As the Ethnic Studies Steering Committee, we will continue to generate additional strategies to advance a sustained critique of anti-Asian violence and white supremacy. We invite you to join us.

Signed April 19, 2021

Rafael Hernández, Steering Committee Member
Michelle A. Holling, Program Director
Dreama G. Moon, Steering Committee Member
Jason Magabo Perez, Steering Committee Member
Gabriel Valle, Steering Committee Member
Lori Walkington, Steering Committee Member