



Radical Caring

A Qualitative Study on the Role of Frontline
Workers in Eradicating Gender-Based Violence in
Asian American Communities

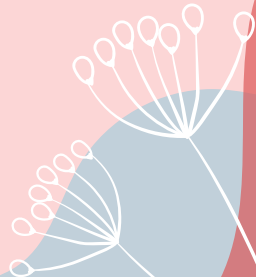
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Department of Anthropology



“I am a survivor of childhood sexual abuse, so I had been working on my own healing journey for a number of years. When the Children’s Advocate job came up, I was at the crossroads of thinking about my career... having this job come up that seemed to blend together my desire to put energy outwards instead of just focusing on inner healing for myself, this was really crucial.”

- **Sun Hee***



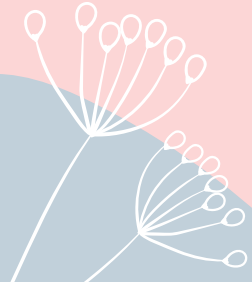


*All names and organizations in this presentation are pseudonyms to protect the identities of my interlocutors.



What is Gender-Based Violence?



“an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetuated against a person based on socially ascribed (i.e gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual or mental harm and suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivation of liberty. These acts can occur in public or in private” (Inter-Agency, 2010).



The background is a solid light pink color. It is decorated with several abstract elements: large overlapping circles in shades of red, pink, and light blue; small black dots of varying sizes; and white line art depicting stylized dandelion-like seed heads with multiple thin lines radiating from a central point to small oval shapes.

21-55%

of Asian women in the US report experiencing intimate physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetime, based on a compilation of disaggregated samples of Asian ethnicities in local communities (APIGBV, 2015).



Radical caring is the amalgamation of individual and organizational motivations, along with personal responsibility, to care for survivors.

— **Rudrappa, 2004**

Frontline workers are direct service professionals who “comfort, advocate for, and assist victims and survivors of gender-based violence”

— **Wies and Haldane, 2011**



Women of Asian Descent Were 6 of the 8 Victims in Atlanta Shootings

THE ATLANTA SHOOTING AND THE DEHUMANIZING OF ASIAN WOMEN

To live through this period as an Asian-American is to feel trapped in an American tragedy while being denied the legitimacy of being an American.

Atlanta shootings show Asian women's vulnerability in the workplace

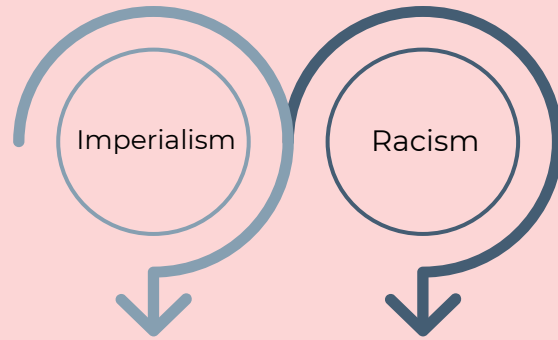


08:10



A Century Of Objectifying Asian Women: How Race Played A Role In Atlanta Shootings

STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES



"White sexual
imperialism" -
Sunny Woan
(2008)

State-sanction
ed bigotry and
hate (ex. The
Page Act of
1875)

Asian American
Critical Race
Theory
(AsianCrit)

Story, Theory, and
Praxis
(Curammeng,
Buenavista, and
Cariaga, 2017)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS



Q#1

How do frontline workers view their work relative to their racial and ethnic identities?



Q#2

How can radical caring, and Asian American Critical Race Theory be used as frameworks of understanding the labor of frontline workers?

THEORY & METHODOLOGY

Asian American Critical Race Theory

Story, Theory, and Praxis

Feminist Ethnography

Documenting lived experiences as it is impacted by gender, race, etc.



Researcher Positionality

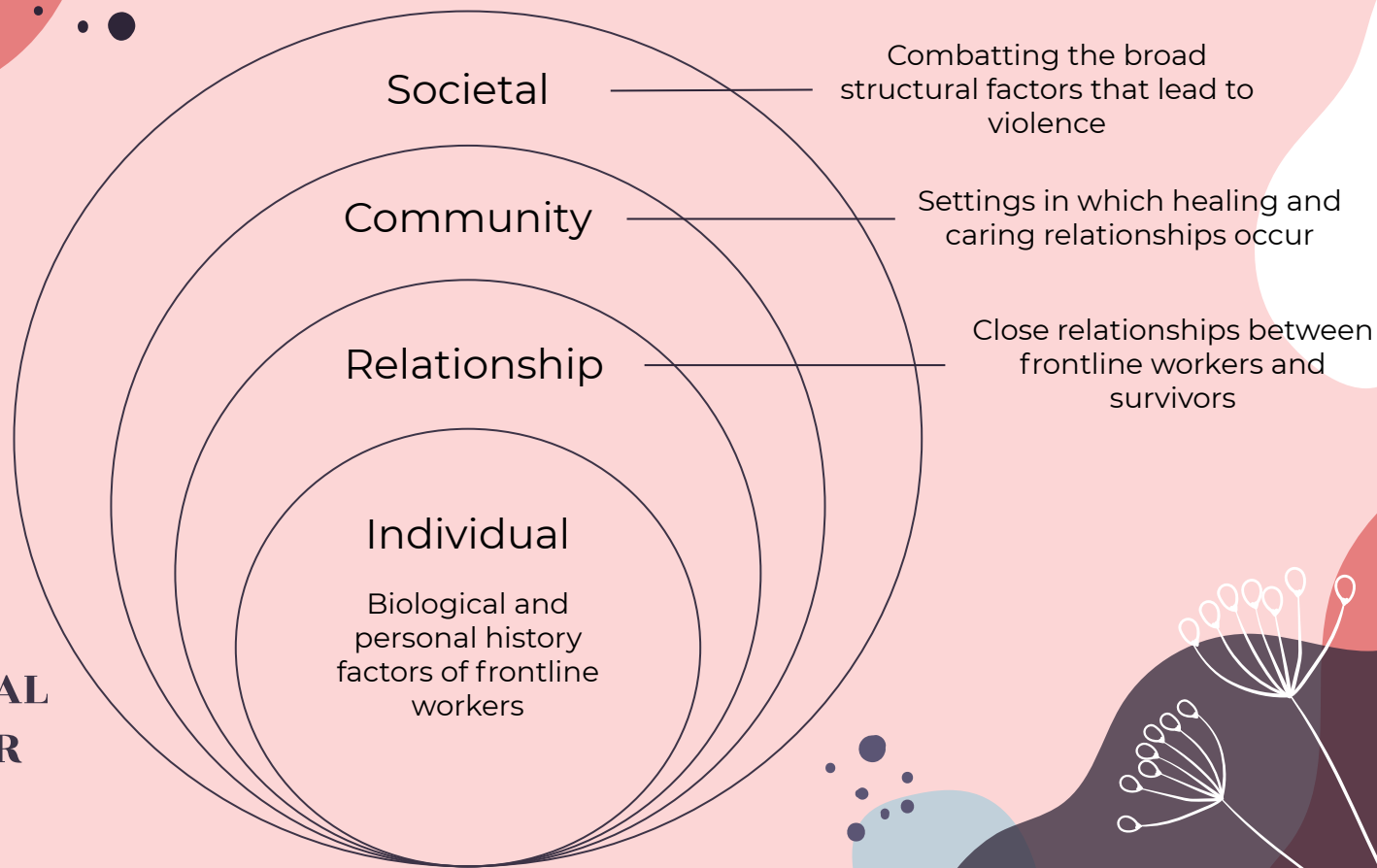
Ethnographic Fieldwork

6 weeks at a domestic violence agency in Chicago

Key Informant Interviews

14 interviews with frontline workers from 5 agencies across Chicagoland

SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION





INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

Themes:

- Personal History of Trauma (Sun Hee)
- Shared Immigrant Identities
 - First-Generation Immigrants
- Resonating with Culturally-Specific Agencies

“Growing up in a very collectivistic culture, you hear a lot about things like, “If a man beats you, it’s okay.” I’ve heard it and seen it to be very normalized and it has always bothered me. I have seen the manifestations of domestic violence in my relatives. Two of these girls were actually my nieces... They used to be very upbeat and friendly, very jolly. After all these years, I was quite shocked, like what the hell happened to you, not only physically but emotionally.”

- Munira



CONCLUSIONS

01

Complex Interactions
between Personal,
Social, and Professional
Factors Translate in
Radical Caring

02

The professional
advocacy of Asian
American frontline
workers is intertwined
with their lived
experiences, life
histories, and intimate
knowledge of
communities.

MOVING FORWARD

01

Asian American feminist voices are crucial in identifying the political connectedness of their everyday experiences.

02

Deep coalitions should be formed with care providers within academic conversations of gender-based violence.

Thank you.



*Justin
Mohan*

Questions?



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THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

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