

Sun, Michael

March 21, 2020

PWR 2: RBA

The Asian American Dream and Awakening

“I am the ideal candidate for the job because the opposite of Donald Trump is an Asian man who likes math.” The audience at the summer meeting of the Democratic National Convention gave presidential candidate Andrew Yang a standing ovation as he finished his speech. The room, rather than descend into an awkward silence, bursted with joy as Andrew Yang walked down the podium jubilantly with Mark Morrison’s “Return of the Mack” playing in the background. For those first introduced to the concept of an “Asian man who likes math” running for president, this scene is a bit hard to process, if not downright ludicrous. As the first Asian American to make a serious run for president¹, Yang not only proudly attaches himself to a stereotype that send cringes down many Asian Americans’ spines (like with me when I first heard it), he uses it to *qualify* himself to be president. To be perfectly honest, Andrew Yang was a major reason I chose this topic for my RBA. As a second-generation Asian American who grew up in China², who didn’t become fluent in English until high school, I had an especially difficult time emigrating to the US. Many of the challenges common to second-generation Asians had an especially pronounced effect on me, so learning about Andrew Yang’s life story and seeing the

¹ To be precise, Hiram Fong, Patsy Mink, and Bobby Jindal, all of Asian descent, all ran prior to Yang, but their obscurity and lack of traction only further “underscore the idea of Asian American invisibility” (Lee). I later explore the implication of this in my RBA.

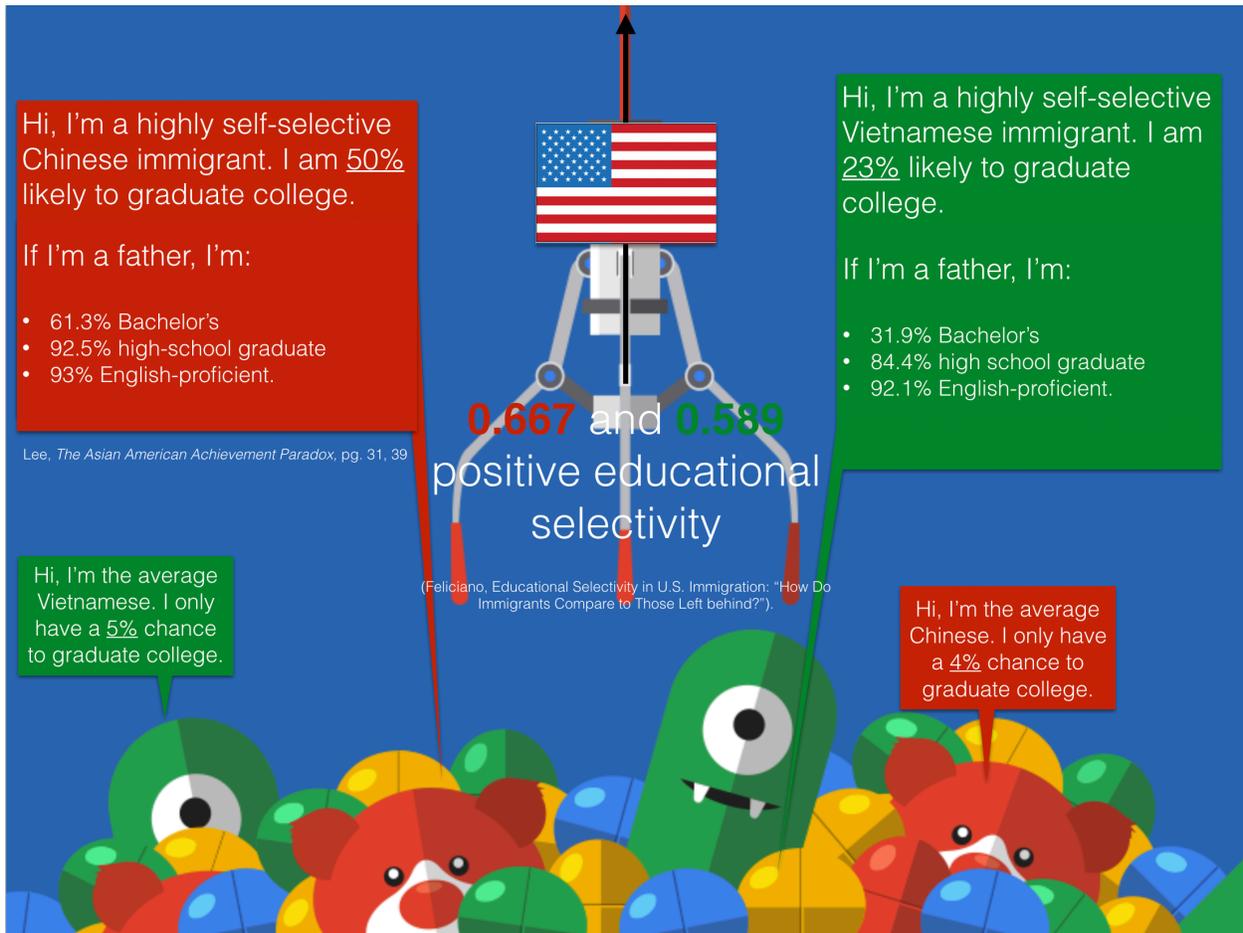
² My immigrant parents gave birth to me in the states, which is why I am second-generation, but due to my father’s job reasons, I was raised in China, from age 2 until 18.

way he navigated his way through the US political landscape (and the fun he had doing so) not only assured me I was not alone in facing these challenges, but serves as a guiding beacon in my own life dealing with them moving forward. Now, I want to share some of these lessons with you.

The Model Minority

Andrew Yang is a second generation Taiwanese immigrant. The late 20th century saw major political upheavals in Asia, ranging from the Communist takeover of China, the retreat of the KMT to Taiwan, to the Korean and Vietnam wars. The opportunity to leave for abroad was highly prized and awarded to only the deserving or privileged few, many of whom “arrive with extraordinarily high human capital and ample financial resources; they come armed with family savings, graduate school education, and labor market skills that far exceed those of the native-born average” (Lee 25). Others like my father, who grew up on communist food stamps during the Cultural Revolution, without the financial resources to self-fund, “come to the United States on non-immigrant student visas [or scholarships] with the intent to pursue advanced academic or professional degrees...” and later “find not only U.S. jobs that match their credentials and skills levels but employers willing to sponsor them... and decide to stay in the United States and apply for permanent residency under the sponsorship of their employers” (25). What remains of this wave of highly self-selecting immigrants at the end of the immigration funnel is what we now know as the model minority. To understand just how exceptional this group is, we directly compare the educational attainment between immigrants and their native counterparts. The average Bachelor attainment rates for Chinese and Vietnamese immigrants are 50% and 23% respectively, much higher than that of their native counterparts, which are 4% and 5% (Lee

30-32). Jennifer Lee scores Chinese and Vietnamese immigrants at 0.67 and 0.59 on the NDI (Net Difference Index), a standardized metric of positive educational selectivity adopted from Feliciano that intuitively means how much more often “an immigrant’s educational attainment will exceed that of a nonmigrant from the same country” (Feliciano 138) than the vice-versa.



My RBA presentation

From growing up on a peanut farm to getting a PhD in Physics and generating over 50 patents in his career, Andrew Yang's father is one of many narratives that exemplify what the American Dream holds for Asian immigrants. My dad exudes a similar tale. Like many Chinese students after China opened its doors in 1978, my father emigrated to the US on a full scholarship to work as a hardware engineer under a professor in Tennessee University. He would later obtain Masters at USC and work his way up to become senior directors at Marvell and Broadcom, two of the US's largest semiconductor companies.

Now that we understand the context and profile of the model minority, we now apply that to explore the ways the model minority fit in the American Dream.

The Asian American Dream

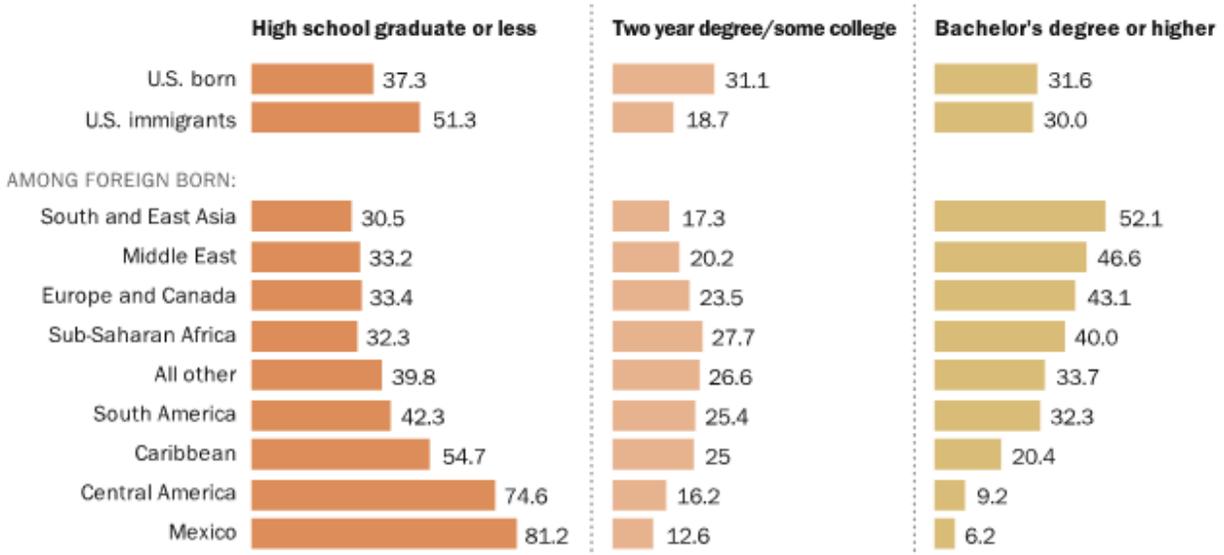
In 1931, James Truslow Adams coined, in his book *The Epic of America*, the American Dream as that which makes life better and fuller for everyone, regardless of "the fortuitous circumstances of birth and position" (Adams 214-215). It has attracted immigrants from all over the world to the US to start a new life, and is closely intertwined with the narratives of immigrant families, from that of Benjamin Franklin or that of Elon Musk.

On first thought, the American Dream does not mix with traditional aspects Asian culture. The concept of "wu wei" is a traditional Confucian and Taoist ideal which literally means "do nothing". Neither does the (relatively speaking) individualistic free market capitalism of America mix with the more collectivistic societies of Asia, like socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Due to these cultural, as well as logistical factors like applying for H-1B or Green Card and practical factors like not knowing English, the model minority overwhelmingly enter high paying and secure service professions like medicine or engineering that best put their educational attainment to use. Indeed, 52.1% of Asian American immigrants attain bachelor's degree or higher, the highest of any racial group and blowing past the average 30.0% of all immigrants and 31.6% of Americans (Krogstad and Radford 2018).

U.S. immigrants from South and East Asia had highest education levels in 2016

% among U.S. immigrants ages 25 and older, by region of origin



Note: "High school graduate" includes persons who have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent, such as a GED certificate. Middle East consists of Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Yemen.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2016 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The central dogma of the American Dream, as it has been for most immigrant groups, is a rags-to-riches story of a penniless immigrant family who came on a cargo ship and gradually worked their way the economic ladder to provide for a better life for their children.

As a second-generation Asian immigrant, it has dawned on me that such an image is not only just the hackneyed stuff of theaters, but reflect the opposite to the reality I find myself in. A shocking statistic throws into question the entire legitimacy of the second generation Asian American Dream. Whereas traditional immigrant assimilation models, substantiating the dogma of the American Dream, show that every subsequent generation rise above the previous in socioeconomic status, “Asian Americans were the only racial group whose upward mobility was lower among second-generation immigrants” (Fosco). In other words, the second generation already hits the inflection point³ of Asians’ socioeconomic status progression, because “those with American-born mothers [the third generation and beyond] have a similar income trajectory to whites” (Fosco). This makes the second generation both the rising action and climax of the Asian American narrative from a purely economic trend. However, it would be wrong to think this is the end of the Asian American dream. Rather, this is only the precursor to the fascinating lives led by Asian Americans and the lessons they have to tell for many generations beyond.

Perpetuating the Dream

Before trends take a different turn, it’s important to recognize the second-generation Asians still hold their own against the high bar set by the model minority. 55% of second-

³ The inflection point, a term in mathematics, in this context refers to the peak of a downward bowl-shaped curve.

generation Asians have bachelor degrees or above, 5% higher than their parents, and earn a median household income of 67.5K, 2.3K higher than their parents (“Second-Generation Americans” 2013). This makes second-generation Asian Americans the highest-earning racial group, a prestigious honor to hold.

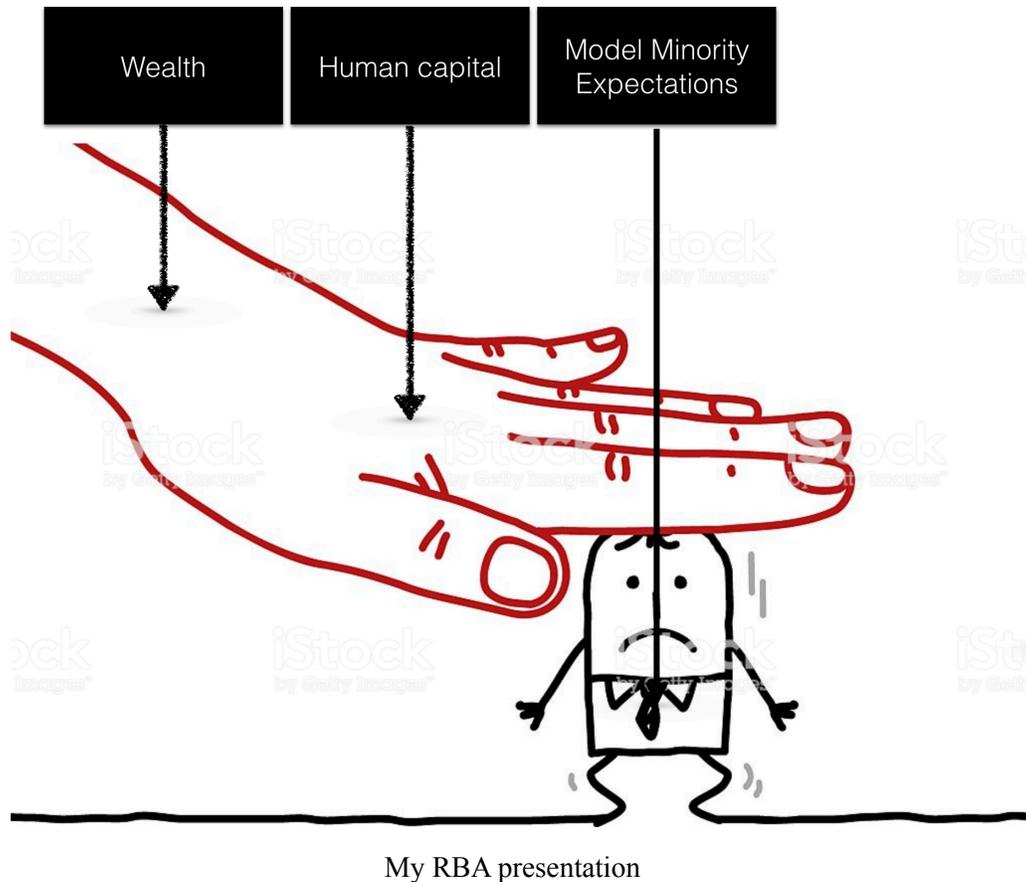
Not only is this honor held up by the race as a whole, it has been shown that, despite huge inter-ethnic differences in second-generation Asian subgroups, the parents’ socioeconomic status and financial circumstances back home, do not correlate with the success of the second-generation. In particular, factors which traditionally are part of the class attainment model that explains the advantages children of high-status parents tend to have, do not translate inter-generationally. This is a phenomenon unique to Asians, which Jennifer Lee, in “The Asian American Achievement Paradox”, coins as the “second-generation convergence” in outcomes amongst all second-generation ethnic subgroups.

As an example, second-generation Vietnamese immigrants, whose “immigrant parents (especially their mothers) exhibit lower levels of education than both native-born blacks and whites, but within one generation the 1.5- and second-generation children surpass both native-born groups and move closer to the Chinese—a pattern that points to ‘second-generation convergence’ among the two Asian ethnic groups’ (Lee 43). In addition, “second-generation Chinese whose parents did not graduate from high school are even more likely to have earned a BA compared to all second-generation Chinese” (Lee 43-44). Many second-generation Asian ethnic subgroups live up to the American Dream, because this “convergence defies the

expectations of the classic status attainment model, which privileges parental human and cultural capital” (49). It is an honor that this quintessential element of the American Dream is being epitomized by Asians.

However, this convergence is a double-edged story, and is taken to the extreme in the case of my friend, John, who attended a top-rated STEM public Palo Alto high school, Gunn. ~50% of the students are second-generation immigrants, whose parents’ alma maters were all the top universities in the US or their origin country, like MIT, Stanford, Tsinghua, Peking, etc. Gunn has a notorious history of suicides to a common feeling of failure to live up to parents’ expectations, and John gave me an explanation why. Whereas the parents are drawn from a “far skewed distribution” (Guibas) in both genetic traits and factors relevant to success like work ethic, the students in reality come from more of a “normal distribution”. Inevitably, some children of even the most distinguished parents are left in the bottom percentile of this environment. Gunn high school demonstrates that the problems stemming from this generational gap can become existential, that lead one to take their own life.

Whereas factors and predictors of success do not pass down inter-generationally, expectations do, and this can be a source of immense pressure especially in Asian cultures with high emphasis on patriarchy and hereditary. Left with disproportionately high expectations, many second-generation Asian immigrants find themselves at odds with the same model minority impressions they are endowed with.

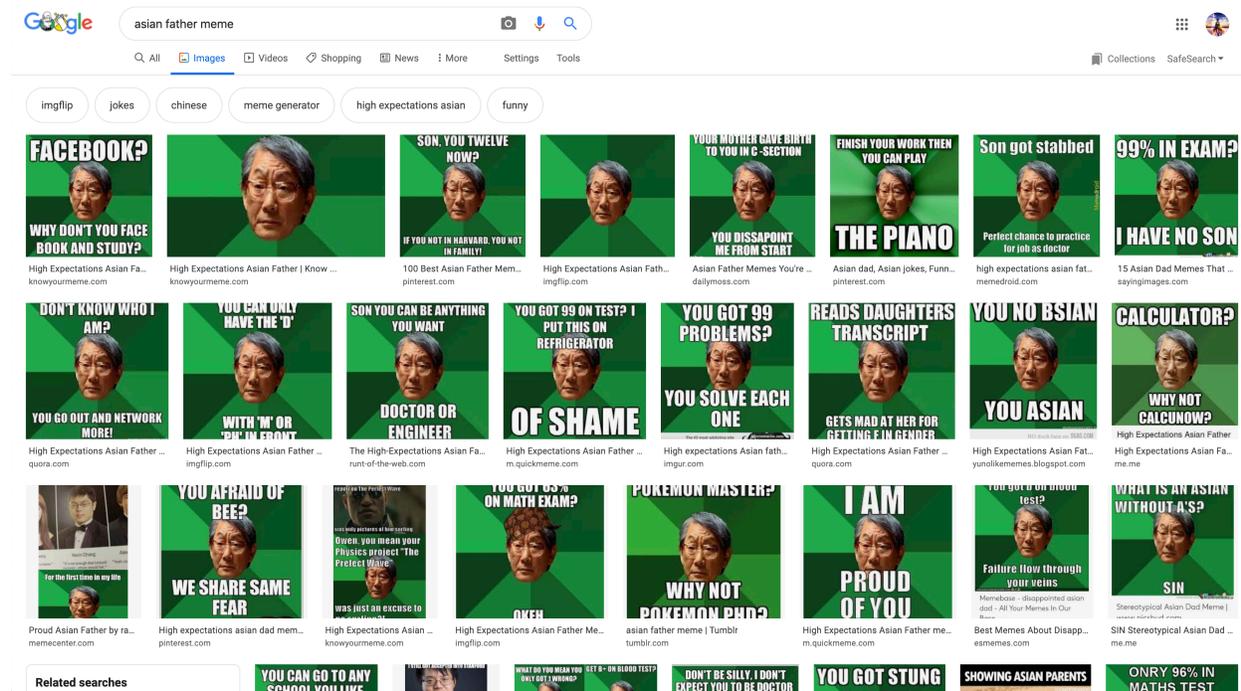


For many immigrant children, surpassing their first-generation parents is a predetermined rite of passage. For second-generation Asian Americans, it is a tough-if-not-impossible bargain to drive. Whereas responses vary anywhere from culpability to rejection, this common frustration underlies the second-generation narrative and eventually leads a defining aspect of it — the desire to rebel⁴.

⁴ My original plan was to make this my thesis statement and put it earlier in the paper, as we discussed in our RBA meeting. However, after a lot of experimenting, I still think here is where it belongs, because I want to tell my RBA in a story format in a chronological order, and here is where I finally establish enough context on the model minority and second generation to make this claim. I apologize if this doesn't follow the most standard of formats, but for the flow of the story I think this is best.

The Desire to Rebel

These shared frustrations was why the Facebook group “Subtle Asian Traits” took off. Subtle Asian Traits is an online gathering of second-generation Asian Americans whose content “references cultural pressures that many immigrant children face” (Wu and Yuan 2018). As an example, contrary to popular belief, less than 20% of American-born Chinese adults work as lawyers, doctors, engineers, or similar professions (Lee and Zhou 2014). Thus, rather than be taken seriously, the career prospects of becoming a doctor are more likely taken as the subject of Internet memes amongst second-generation Asians. Upon Googling “Asian father memes”, one of the first results depicts a head of an Asian father, with captions, “What is difference between A- and A+? My love for you”. Another one reads, “All I want is for you to be happy and a doctor.”



Search results from Googling “asian father meme”

Social media feeds like Subtle Asian Traits occasionally see serious, reflecting posts, but for the most part are filled with memes, pop culture references, and inside jokes that are specific to second-generation Asians. Over the years, I have observed a commonality that underlies many of these references — an underdog narrative that many second-generation Asians can relate to.

As I became more involved in Subtle Asian Traits, I noticed common references to childhood memories I was fond of — the anime Naruto, Pokemon, Kpop boy band BTS, or basketball player Kobe Bryant. It struck me as really surprising how second-generation Asians all over the world can bond over common idols or interests they had as children before the Internet took off, to the extent some content assume prior knowledge of certain anime or video game characters. Naturally this begged me to self-reflect: what is it that Naruto, Pokemon, BTS and Kobe had in common? For those who may not be familiar:

- Best-selling manga series “Naruto” follows a young ninja kid, who due to a curse by birth, was a village outcast of sorts, and how he dreamt of becoming the village leader. The series follow his journey to earning the recognition and trust of his peers to achieve his dream.
- The video game and cartoon “Pokemon” follows a kid from some middle-of-the-nowhere town and his dream to become the greatest Pokemon master of all time.
- BTS is a boy band formed by a (at the time) no-name entertainment company BigHit but overcame all expectations to become an international sensation.
- Kobe, one of the greatest basketball players ever, will be remembered for his competitiveness, relentless work ethic, and leading the same team to 5 championships. When he passed away this year, a tribute post in Subtle Asian Traits earned 54k likes, which to my knowledge is by

far the highest-liked post ever in the group.

Randy Jacob Tindage
January 26

This is not really an SAT thing, but I just want to pay respect to this man who a lot of the asians I know truly respected. Growing up in a predominantly asian community, basketball was a sport that dominated our community and all us kids and even adults tried to replicate his style of playing. We all at least once in our lives shot a basketball and yelled "Kobe!". Without knowing it, you brought us together. Thanks for the memories Mamba. This time, you have given everything.

Edit: Hey guys, I understand that this post brought up some issues for some of you due to past allegations of rape and sexual assault and I want to acknowledge the pain that this brings up to some women and I don't want to dismiss these things, but I would kindly ask to give us this time to grieve losing such an amazing athlete and to those who have held their tongue about the allegations, I want to thank you. R.I.P to his daughter Gianna as well

"You don't owe these people any more. You've given them **everything**."

"Not everything. **Not yet**."

You, Brian Li, Anthony T Su and 54K others
802 Comments

Common to all these is an underdog narrative that many second-generation Asians can relate to, because they often feel misunderstood and that they have to work extra hard to overcome these limitations and the already-high expectations.

Choosing to be unconventional

Taking inspiration from some of these childhood icons, many Asian Americans undergo a rebellious phase in their lives where they reject any association with model minority stereotypes that were attached to them growing up, often painfully embedded in their psychic. Many would continue this phase for the rest of their lives. Revisiting the shocking statistic I mentioned earlier

on the fact the second-generation exhibit lower upward mobility than their parents, Fosco notes “one reason for this disparity could be that second-generation Asian-Americans are choosing different career paths from their parents.” In a 2014 survey on intergenerational mobility, Lee and Zhou found that fewer than 20% of American-born Chinese became doctors or lawyers, a decision their parents, in the same survey, called risky because they rely on subjective evaluation. Having experienced these very discriminatory and xenophobic practices in their immigration journey, immigrant parents are no stranger to to what academics like Jennifer Lee call the “bamboo ceiling”, the phenomenon competent Asian Americans “haven’t been able to climb up the professional ladder.” Op-ed writer Marie Myung-ok Lee wrote of her experiences, “I can’t help but recall during my years in investment banking, how many times I was spoken over, mixed up with the only other Asian person in my department of 200. My ideas were stolen, and I was overlooked for promotions. Invisibility is hard to pin down precisely because you can’t see it. When few Asian Americans are in the top tier of leadership, the visual narrative conveys we are somehow not qualified.” Out of both care and reprimand for their children, immigrant parents spare no effort to relay these lessons to their children, often overbearingly, adding to the children’s desire to rebel.

Like John, I too experienced what it was like growing up in a predominantly-Asian privileged K-12 environment. Growing up attending an international school in China where >90% of the student body was Asian, I saw Asians all over the spectrum, from the nerdy kids like myself who ran the math club to jocks who spent most of their extracurricular time on sport practice. The culture of meritocracy was taken seriously, regardless if one was in debate, sports,

math, or student council, but there was also a strong incentive to differentiate oneself from others in order to brand one's own portfolio to stand out in their college application. This created a dynamic where everyone was simultaneously racing with each other while changing where they were racing towards. This simultaneous uniform respect for the standards yet rejection for what those standards apply to is a phenomenon common to many second-generation Asians.

A prime example of a second-generation Asian immigrant who embodies this phenomenon is Andrew Yang. Born under the shadow of two high-achieving immigrant parents, Andrew begins in his book, *The War on Normal People*, "I grew up a skinny Asian kid in upstate New York who was often ignored or picked on — like one of the kids from *Stranger Things* but nerdier and with fewer friends" (3). Andrew's parents worked hard to send him to elite college-preparatory schools like the Center for Talented Youth and Phillips Exeter Academy. Andrew went on to an Ivy school, law school, and a NY law firm, none of which deviates far from the model minority narrative. However, flashes of this journey show, that from a young age, Andrew had in him the defiance and courage to challenge stereotypes stacked against him. "As I grew up, I tried to stick up for whoever seemed excluded or marginalized.... I grew up and found that my zeal extended into my professional life" (5). Quitting his job as an unhappy lawyer, he joined many Internet startups and grew Manhattan Prep to the number one education prep company in the US. This led him to found Venture for America to train entrepreneurs in disenchanting cities across America. This gave him insights into the larger, structural issues in America. This led him to run for president on a campaign of policies and ideas that will uplift those he has seen are being left behind by the accelerating economy. Numbers and facts driven, Andrew Yang



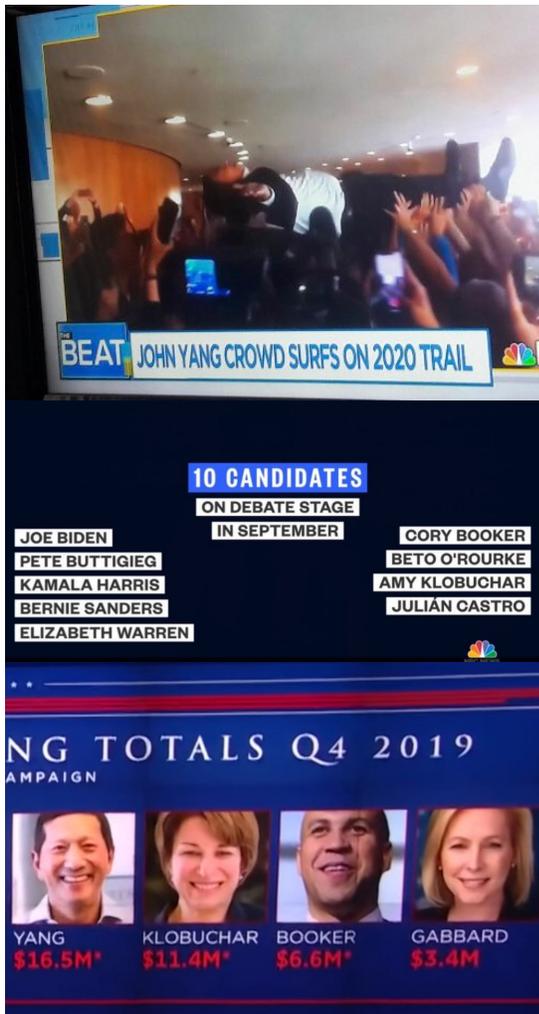
Andrew's senior year graduation photo in 1992

embodies many Asian model minority stereotypes, but at the same time exercises those strengths to run for president, until now an endeavor considered laughable for Asian Americans.

Now that the concept of a second-generation Asian American running for president no longer seems as ridiculous, the next question is, why does Andrew call himself “an Asian man who likes math” to *qualify* himself “as the ideal candidate for the job [president]”?

The Invisible Man

Asian Americans are often invisible in mainstream media, and Yang is no stranger to this. Addressing unfair coverage of himself by mainstream media outlet MSNBC, Yang tweeted last November, “They’ve omitted me from their graphics 12+ times, called me John Yang on air, and given me a fraction of the speaking time over 2 debates despite my polling higher than other



Graphics from MSNBC, taken from Scott Santens' post "A Visual History of the #YangMediaBlackout"

candidates on stage. At some point you have to call it. The irony of this is demonstrated in last year's Harvard Affirmative Action lawsuit, when a group of Asian Americans sued Harvard, "argued that Harvard had favored black and Hispanic applicants at the expense of another minority group — a strategic reversal of past affirmative action lawsuits in which the plaintiff complained that white students had been treated unfairly" (Hartocollis). Op-ed writer Lee empathizes. "Many Asian Americans will relate: White people regularly cut ahead of me in line and then are surprised when I call them out. My Korean American assistant recently reported that a man tried to walk through her on the sidewalk as if she wasn't there."

The issues of racism and discrimination are common to the American public, but when it takes the form of willful blindness, Asian Americans often find themselves as invisible victims to harmful practices whose perpetrators won't even recognize.

Invisibility is a Superpower

A common playdate question we often got asked as a child is, “What superpower would you choose to have?” My common reply was “invisibility”. As kids, we fantasize about the vast possibilities of things we can do if we were invisible. Personally, the movie *Click* and various sci-fi stories with a time-freeze motif like those of H.G. Wells really stirred my imagination as a child. Over the years, this led me to formulate that being part of the invisible minority may not be a hindrance after all, but may prove to be an *advantage*.

To understand why, we return to the example of Andrew Yang. Transitioning out of his job as an unhappy lawyer, he joined many Internet startups and grew Manhattan Prep to the number one education prep company in the US. After he grew disenchanted with the corporate bubble of New York, he decided to found Venture for America to train entrepreneurs in disenchanted cities across America to startup businesses. This allowed him to diagnose the larger, structural issues in America, citing his own research on the connection between adoption of manufacturing robots, the rise of disenchanted workers who filed for disability, and movement towards Trump. He diagnoses Donald Trump as the “symptom” of the problem and calls out his ploy to scapegoat immigrants for problems that are caused by automation, which he backs with an arsenal of statistics and powerpoint presentations as he campaigns around the country.

He runs on a campaign of policies and ideas that will uplift those who share the same underdog persona he identified with growing up — those being cast aside by the accelerating economy — by propelling innovative ideas like universal basic income, democracy dollars, and ranked choice voting to the forefront of national discussion.



Photo of an Andrew Yang rally

Crowd erupts into chants of 'PowerPoint' after Yang pledges to use PowerPoint at SOTU

BY BROOKE SEIPEL - 05/06/19 12:59 PM EDT

50 COMMENTS

5,102 SHARES



Most Popular

- 1** **GOP senators push for probe of '...'**
→ 1,705 SHARES
- 2** **Rick Scott says Ocasio-Cortez has...**
→ 865 SHARES
- 3** **Biden takes 32-point lead over...**

(Seipel)

There is no doubt his strengths and experiences as a second-generation Asian contributed to these innovative ideas, which is why he proudly qualifies himself as “an Asian man who likes math” and a campaign slogan “Make America Think Harder (MATH)”. As op-ed writer Lee describes her own epiphany:

I am not a Yang partisan. I wrote an article in September criticizing him for using model minority stereotypes, such as calling himself ‘an Asian guy good at math.’ But now, I’m wondering if Yang, denied visibility, is deploying stereotypes as a subversive way to actually get visibility.

Whether or not you believe this way of challenging conventions has brought him fame or notoriety, there is no doubt this has extended the Overton window for second-generation Asians. As Lee finishes, “Yang’s candidacy may tell our Asian American children that one day, they, too, can run for president.”

Second-generation Asians like Andrew Yang are uniquely situated to hold insights invisible to others is exactly because they exist in an invisible medium themselves. Being of tremendous upward mobility while defying class attainment models, second-generation Asians are both competent yet malleable. As a member of the invisible minority, Yang can easily see through the partisanship and sensationalistic journalism that has overrun politics. His mantra, “Not left, Not right, but Forward” unites the most diverse coalition of voters, making him the candidate who undecided voters would be most satisfied with (Panetta), according to insider polls, the only candidate with a positive net favorability amongst all registered voters, and the betting favorite to win against Trump (MacDonald) in the general election.

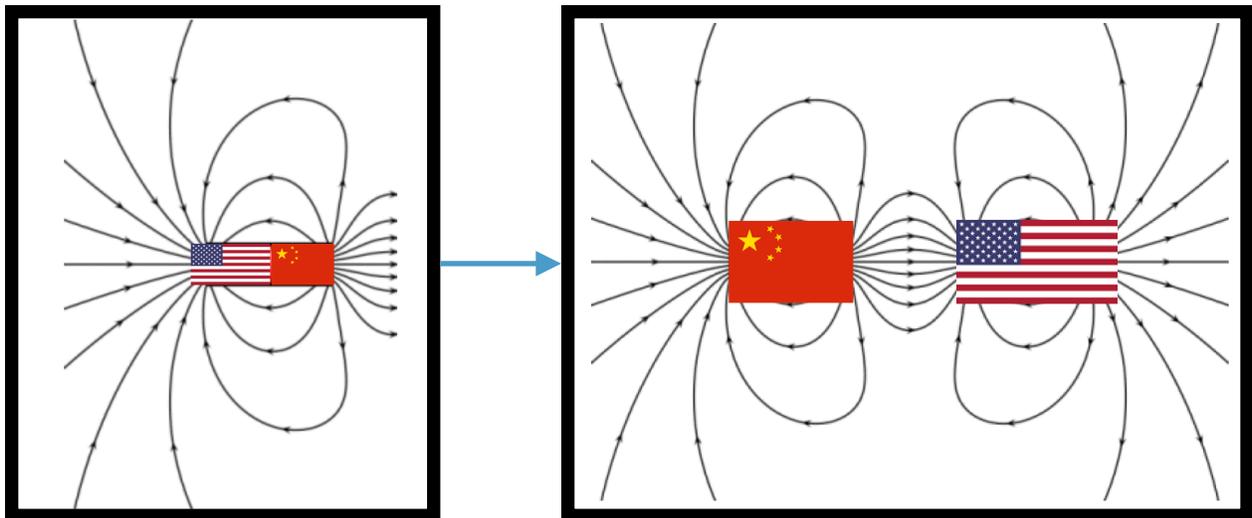
In a viral Facebook tribute post to Yang for his birthday this year, author Tada Hozumi wrote, “Even more than that though, he [Yang] reflected back to me that the presence of Asian people in our culture is vital, even critical, to its survival. Make no mistake, Andrew thinks like an Asian person. He carries the great traditions of Asian thought based on holistic thinking. The most amazing thing about Andrew as a candidate isn't just the amount and breadth of his policies (of which he has 150+) — it's his ability to see how they are all deeply interconnected.” Armed with this superpower, I believe second-generation Asians should not worry being invisible, and instead work to champion their insights in the right way that allow them to become drivers of change.

Implications

This issue is now more relevant than ever because second generation Asian Americans are now coming to an age where they will have a larger voice and role in society. Second generation Asian Americans have an average age of just 17 as of 2013 and account for 25.9% of the Asian American population as of 2010, but both figures have been growing and will continue to reflect the increasing representation of Asian Americans (“Second-Generation Americans: A Portrait of the Adult Children of Immigrants”).

Understanding the narratives of second-generation Asian Americans can not only inform others of their future interactions, but can perhaps enlighten those in other racial minorities. In the same way, Hispanic Americans often go through similar conflicts between preserving their heritage and culture. Indian immigrants, in particular, may also have difficulty transitioning out

of the mindset of escaping poverty taught by their parents to one of abundance. Hopefully, this paper has not only been informative for future interactions with second-generation Asians, but for enlightening all those pursuing the American Dream. Figures like Andrew Yang epitomize not only the hybrid, dynamic ways second-generation immigrants can pursue the American Dream but also the kind of insights a bicultural worldview can bring. In a world that's becoming ever more dynamic yet divisive, with an ever growing stake on foreign relations with Asian countries like China, second generation Asians can serve as a bridge to understanding two polarizing cultures and economies and carry lessons that transcend cultures and borders.



Works Cited

Adams, James Truslow. *The Epic of America*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1931. Print.

Dubner, J., Stephen. “Why Is This Man Running for President?” *Freakonomics*, Harry Huggins, 9 Jan. 2019, <http://freakonomics.com/podcast/andrew-yang/>.

Feliciano, Cynthia. “Educational Selectivity in U.S. Immigration: How Do Immigrants Compare to Those Left behind?” *Demography*, vol. 42, no. 1, 2005, pp. 131–152. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1515180. Accessed 10 Mar. 2020.

Fisher, Anthony L. “From 'Trump Train' to 'Yang Gang': Meet the Conservatives and Swing Voters Who Have Fallen Hard for Andrew Yang.” *Business Insider*, Business Insider, 7 Feb. 2020, www.businessinsider.com/right-leaning-voters-support-andrew-yang-2020-1.

Fosco, Molly. “Why the ‘Model Minority’ Ends With Second-Generation Asian-Americans.” *OZY*, OZY, 2 Nov. 2018, www.ozy.com/news-and-politics/why-the-model-minority-ends-with-second-generation-asian-americans/90337/.

Guibas, John. Personal interview. 2 Feb. 2020.

Hartocollis, Anemona. “Harvard Does Not Discriminate Against Asian-Americans in Admissions, Judge Rules.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 1 Oct. 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/10/01/us/harvard-admissions-lawsuit.html.

Hozumi, Tada. Tribute to Andrew Yang. *Facebook*, 13 Jan. 2020, www.facebook.com/taddy.mista/posts/10157575564625272. Accessed 1 February 2020.

Krogstad, Jens M, and Jynnah Radford. *Education Levels of U.S. Immigrants Are on the Rise*. Pew Research Center, 2018, *Education Levels of U.S. Immigrants Are on the Rise*.

Lee, J., Zhou, M. The Success Frame and Achievement Paradox: The Costs and Consequences for Asian Americans. *Race Soc Probl* **6**, 38–55 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12552-014-9112-7>

Lee, Marie Myung-ok. “Op-Ed: Andrew Yang Seems Invisible to the Mainstream Media - Just like Most Asian Americans.” *Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles Times, 1 Dec. 2019, www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2019-12-01/yang-invisible-asian-american-candidate.

MacDonald, Tyler. “Andrew Yang Is The Only Candidate With A Net Positive Favorability Rating, Says Nationwide Poll.” *The Inquisitr*, The Inquisitr, 23 Jan. 2020, www.inquisitr.com/5850448/andrew-yang-net-positive-favorability-monmouth.

Panetta, Grace. “Undecided 2020 Voters like Andrew Yang and Joe Biden the Most of All the Democratic Candidates.” *Business Insider*, Business Insider, 25 Oct. 2019, www.businessinsider.com/undecided-general-election-voters-prefer-biden-yang-2020-democrats-2019-10

Roose, Kevin. “His 2020 Campaign Message: The Robots Are Coming.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 10 Feb. 2018, www.nytimes.com/2018/02/10/technology/his-2020-campaign-message-the-robots-are-coming.html.

Santens, Scott. “A Visual History of the #YangMediaBlackout.” *The Swamp*, Feb. 2020, vocal.media/theSwamp/a-visual-history-of-the-yang-media-blackout.

Second-Generation Americans: A Portrait of the Adult Children of Immigrants. Pew Research Center, 2013, pp. 34–41, *Second-Generation Americans: A Portrait of the Adult Children of Immigrants*.

Seipel, Brooke. "Crowd Erupts into Chants of 'PowerPoint' after Yang Pledges to Use PowerPoint at SOTU." *TheHill*, 6 May 2019, thehill.com/homenews/campaign/442301-crowd-erupts-into-chants-of-powerpoint-after-yang-pledges-to-use-powerpoint.

The Rise of Asian Americans. Pew Research Center, 2013, pp. 9–18, *The Rise of Asian Americans*.

Yang, Andrew. *War on Normal People: The Truth About America's Disappearing Jobs and Why Universal Basic Income Is Our Future*. Hachette Books, 2018.

Yang, Andrew. 2019 Democratic National Committee Summer Meetings, 23 Aug. 2019, Hilton at Union Square, CA. Address.

Yuan, Karen and Nicholas Wu. "The Meme-Ification of Asianness." *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 27 Dec. 2018, www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2018/12/the-asian-identity-according-to-subtle-asian-traits/579037/.

@AndrewYang. "They've omitted me from their graphics 12+ times, called me John Yang on air, and given me a fraction of the speaking time over 2 debates despite my polling higher than other candidates on stage. At some point you have to call it." *Twitter*, 23 Nov. 2019, twitter.com/AndrewYang/status/1198300556885929984.

Reflection

I think I grew most as a speaker. I was confident in the topic I chose as I came with a lot of prior knowledge. That personal knowledge made the research and writing relatively easy, but getting in front of class and presenting it was a challenge that made me grow. I cherish the class as a platform for people to learn what matters to different people, an opportunity other courses don't offer. At the quarter's start, I was very unconfident about my ability to present my topic that made me script out my entire RBA proposal presentation, put it in my ppt, and read off it (that was why I sat presenting it). I was unsatisfied with how I did, as the presentation was messy and the thoughts a bit disorganized. By the time the genre mode came, I was more confident because I was familiar with my own weaknesses and the audience was more familiar with my topic. Finally, the RBA presentation flowed very naturally from what I had in the genre mode presentation. By now, I feel like an expert on this topic, my experience distilling a topic as complex as the model minority stereotype and the second-generation Asian experience was very helpful in developing my written rhetoric and presentation skills.

Moving forward, I am more confident in tackling more complex issues and championing my stance, the same way Andrew Yang brought what was considered a radical socialist idea (UBI) to now the forefront of national discussion. This class helped me discover a new dimension of my personality I can develop outside my STEM coursework and career.

Thank you for this class!