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October 2000

# "BREAKING THROUGH THE SOFT SPOKEN STEREOTYPE: THE VOICES OF ASIAN WOMEN IN DOCTORAL PROGRAMS"

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Vivian Ota Wang Ph.D.; Christine C. Iijima Hall Ph.D.; Debbiesiu Lee Ed.M.; Kayoko Yokoyama; July Jung Chuang Liang; and Karen Toa M.A., Ed.M.

## **"BREAKING THROUGH THE SOFT SPOKEN STEREOTYPE: THE VOICES OF ASIAN WOMEN IN DOCTORAL PROGRAMS"**

### **Discussants:**

**Vivian Ota Wang, Ph.D.**, Department of Psychology in Education, Arizona State University

**Christine C. Iijima Hall, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean of Instruction, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Glendale Community College

### **Panelists:**

**Debbiesiu Lee, Ed.M.**, Doctoral Student, Counseling Psychology, Arizona State University

**Kayoko Yokoyama**, Doctoral Student, Counseling Psychology, Arizona State University

**Juily Jung Chuang Liang**, Doctoral Student, Counseling Psychology, Arizona State University

**Karen Toa, M.A., Ed.M.**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**This panel session explores how the dynamics of race and gender within university settings influence Asian women's experiences in graduate psychology programs.**

### **Presenters:**

**Debbiesiu Lee** is currently a second-year doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology Doctoral program at Arizona State University. While attending ASU, she engages in a variety of activities. She coordinates the programs for the Relevance of Assessment and Culture in Evaluation, RACE 2000 Conference, and has continued her work in counseling low-income, ethnically diverse children and adolescents in schools throughout the greater Phoenix area. Her range of research interests includes multicultural competence, education and assessment; racial and ethnic identity; the experiences of graduate students of color; gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender issues in psychology; and spirituality and counseling. Other research interests incorporate: racism; international peace education; dominant and non-dominant group identity; empowerment theory; psychology, law and social policy; family and children. During the summer of 2000, Debbiesiu is serving as an intern for the United Nations Education, Scientific, Cultural Organization where she is assisting in the international peace education initiative to be implemented.

**Kayoko Yokoyama** was born in Tokyo, Japan. Due to her father's business transfer, the whole family moved to the Chicagoland area when she was five. As an undergraduate, she studied international relations at American University in Washington, D.C. She minored in Art History and received an Asian Studies Certificate. After the encouragement of a few influential professors, Kayoko joined the Asian American Psychological Association and applied for graduate school in counseling psychology. She received her masters training at Teachers College, Columbia University and is currently a Ph.D. student in counseling psychology at Arizona State University. Her areas of interest include multicultural counseling competencies, ethics, and talented women. She returns to Japan frequently and anticipates even more frequent visits as her parents prepare to

return to Japan after living as expatriates in the U.S. for twenty-four years.

**Juily Jung Chuang Liang** is a graduate student who began her studies in the doctorate program of Counseling Psychology at the University of Missouri at Columbia in the Fall of 2000. She attained her first Bachelor's degree in Biology and then pursued an Honors Bachelor degree in Psychology at York University in North York, Ontario. She continued in this field by applying to the Master's of Education program in Psychological Counseling at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York, New York with the intention of pursuing a doctorate degree in her last year. Based on her life experiences, education, and personal affinities, her research interests focus around socio-cultural issues and their effect on mental health. In particular, she is interested in exploring, first, the conceptualization of race, and second, the interaction of race and mental health for Asians and Asian-Americans, specifically, children, adolescents, women and immigrants.