

March 22, 2021

DSA Statement on Anti-Asian Violence

The Dance Studies Association is outraged by the murders of Daoyou Feng 冯道友, Hyun Jung Grant [김]현정, Sun Cha Kim 김선자, Paul Andre Michels, Soon Chung Park 박순정, Xiaojie Tan 谭小洁, Delaina Ashley Yaun, and Yong Ae Yue 유영애. The murders that took place at three spas outside of Atlanta, Georgia are not isolated events, but the outcome of systemic, centuries-long racism and violence perpetrated against Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders in the United States and around the world. That six of the victims are Asian and Asian American women demonstrates the racial and gender-based violence at the heart of the longer history in which White supremacy, misogyny, orientalism, and xenophobia work in tandem to dehumanize and objectify Asian and AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) people, particularly Asian and AAPI women. The sympathy law enforcement extended to the white male perpetrator of these murders exemplifies racial bias inherent in the ways Asian and AAPI victims are viewed as not fully human. These recent events in Atlanta are symptomatic of escalating anti-AAPI hate and violence resulting from the circulation of misinformation and specifically racist anti-Chinese speech in the context of the coronavirus pandemic.

To become a truly anti-racist discipline, the field of dance studies must acknowledge, dismantle, and combat anti-Asian violence in all its forms and scales. Asian and AAPI members of our community have found themselves subject to microaggressions, outright discrimination, and discursive violence in the spaces of dance studies institutions, publications, and events. This must stop. The implicit and explicit marginalization, stereotyping, invisibilization, exoticization, and dismissal of Asian and AAPI dancers, choreographers, scholars, and cultural practices must end. The Dance Studies Association vows to take a lead in activating this change, educating and organizing against anti-Asian and anti-AAPI hate and violence, advocating for more resources, and cultivating meaningful dialogue towards equity in this critical moment.

DSA recognizes that anti-Asian and anti-AAPI hate and violence are inseparable from systemic violence against Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Muslim, disabled, and LGBTQIA communities.

Combating anti-Asian and anti-AAPI hate and violence must be done in allyship with actions to oppose anti-Black racism, settler colonialism, and homophobia. More information, including an action plan, will be released soon. All members of our community must step up and act together.

DSA stands in solidarity with those who fight to dismantle White supremacy and patriarchy globally and in all their forms. DSA extends deep condolences to the families of the victims and all those impacted by anti-Asian and anti-AAPI hate and violence.

Please see above the DSA Statement on Anti-Asian Violence. The Board is grateful to Yutian Wong, SanSan Kwan, Lorenzo Perillo, Peiling Kao, Angela Ahlgren, and Emily Wilcox for co-authoring this statement, with input from other DSA Board members. The statement was passed unanimously with strong support by the entire DSA Board.

DSA is committed to the idea that statements of this kind should be accompanied by concrete plans for action. To that end, the Asian and Asian Diaspora Dance Studies Working Group will hold a Zoom meeting on Friday, March 26 at 11am ET to draft this plan. If you are interested in attending the meeting, please check the [Working Group Facebook page](#) or email Emily Wilcox (emily.elissa.wilcox@gmail.com) and Angela Ahlgren (akahlgr@bgsu.edu) for the Zoom link. All are welcome to attend.