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OFFICE FOR INCLUSION  
AND DIVERSITY  
VIRGINIA TECH.

## CCC Weekly News & Updates

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### A message to the Virginia Tech community from President Tim Sands

To the Virginia Tech community,

In recent days, the first confirmed cases of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Southwest Virginia have emerged. Included among these cases is a member of the Virginia Tech community, a student living off campus in Blacksburg who is believed to have been exposed during recent international travel. According to the New River Health District, our student is receiving care and has been in self-isolation, with no known exposures to the public. There is no evidence of a risk of community spread and we wish the student a quick recovery.

The Virginia Department of Health, working with our own health professionals, has identified the individuals who came in contact with the student and is managing the situation to prevent further exposure in this case. Based on the experiences of other Virginia communities, and those throughout the country, it is likely that more cases will be identified in the coming days and weeks. Going forward, all cases will be noted on [Virginia Tech's COVID-19 website](#) . Our thoughts are with everyone in the Hokie community nationwide and around the world who is dealing with the effects of the virus.

By now you all should be aware of the current procedures we have in place to continue instruction online, maintain research and critical operations, and keep

our employees on the payroll, while also following state mandates and recommendations to minimize the spread of the virus. It is more important than ever for you to stay informed by visiting [vt.edu/covid-19](http://vt.edu/covid-19) and reading the Daily Email.

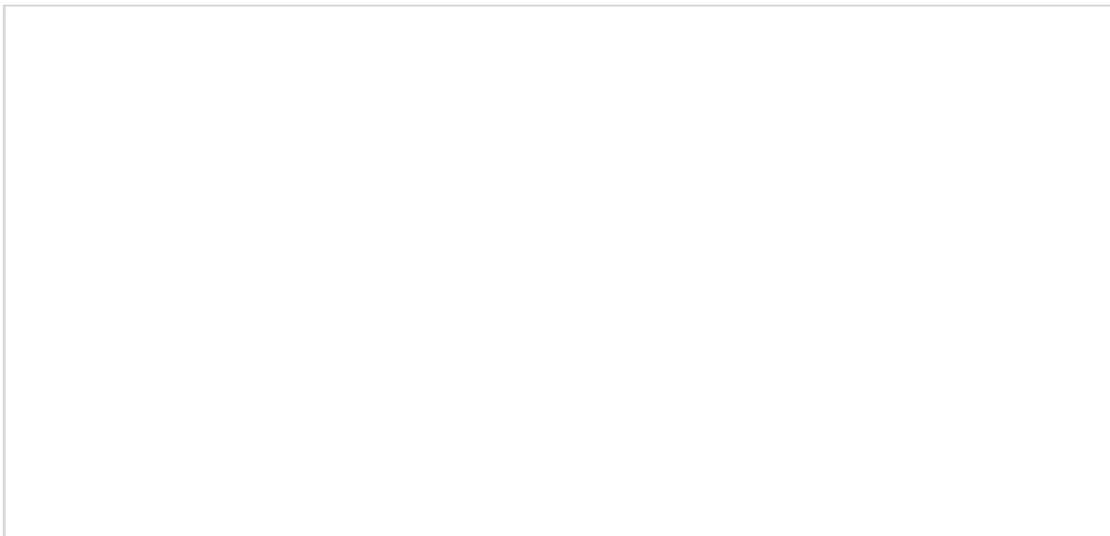
I strongly encourage you to follow public health guidelines to stay at home and practice social distancing to keep our community healthy and ensure that we continue to have the capacity to care for and manage the needs of those who become ill. There is strong evidence that communities that take decisive action to #flattenthecurve have fewer cases of COVID-19.

Our local community has created a task force to share resources and expertise to meet the needs that arise. I encourage you to support the local businesses who are working to provide food and essentials within the guidelines issued by the governor and Virginia Department of Health. In addition to the serious health concerns, this situation is potentially devastating for businesses and community partners, many of which have supported Virginia Tech for generations. Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Montgomery County are a crucial part of what makes our campus a unique and a special place. We could not ask for better partners, neighbors, and friends.

I want to speak directly to our students, those in Blacksburg as well as those in communities across the country. Whether you are here on the Blacksburg campus, in off-campus residences, or in another community, it is your individual and collective responsibility in the spirit of Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) to respect and protect yourself and others by following public health guidelines. If you are on campus or in town, continue to follow state and university guidelines regarding social distance and limited contact. Stay at home if you can. You are here because this is the safest and perhaps the only place you had to go, a place you share with a broad community of people whose generous spirit of friendship and hospitality makes Virginia Tech feel like home.

This semester we will all face challenges, and we will all have opportunities to have a positive impact on the lives of others. Thank you for everything you do to support our community.

In the spirit of Ut Prosim,  
Tim Sands,  
President



API DAHM PRESENTS

# Anti-Asian Panic and the Pandemic: A Virtual Teach-In

During the COVID-19 pandemic there has been an intensification of anti-Asian rhetoric and recorded discrimination in the United States and elsewhere. This teach-in will shed light on how to critically engage with anti-Asian discourse and what kinds of collective and individual strategies Asians and Asian Americans (and allies) can do for our communities during these exceptional and precarious times.

**Date: April 2, 2020**

**Time: 4:00-5:30PM**

**Zoom Link:** <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/304608745>

**Meeting ID:** 304 608 745

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Linsey Marr (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Dr. Kevin Ko (Independent Scholar)

Michelle Kim (Asian American Coalition)

Joong Won Kim (Department of Sociology)

Dr. Bikrum Gill (Department of Political Science)

Moderator: Allan Lumba (Department of History)

Questions?  
Contact Dr. Nina Ha at  
[nha@vt.edu](mailto:nha@vt.edu) or  
Dr. Allan Lumba at  
[lumba@vt.edu](mailto:lumba@vt.edu)

In response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, many U.S. political authorities and media sources have increased anti-Chinese and anti-Asian rhetoric. Subsequently, there has been an intensification of anti-Asian harassment and discrimination throughout the United States ([https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mzNEU2ebTF\\_5OZUon-ovrt36x22nXcuE/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mzNEU2ebTF_5OZUon-ovrt36x22nXcuE/view)). Anti-Asian discourse is of course not necessarily new during times of crisis in the United States. Indeed, public health and economic panics of the late nineteenth century was deeply intertwined with anti-Chinese vigilante violence and state legislation, resulting in the infamous 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. Anti-Asian rhetoric, therefore, is not merely an expression of xenophobia or bigotry, but has severe systemic and deeply structural consequences, shaping the everyday lives of Asians and Asian Americans in the United States. This teach-in will shed light on how to critically engage with anti-Asian discourse and what kinds of collective and individual strategies Asians and Asian Americans (and allies) can do for our communities during these exceptional and precarious times. Invited speakers include faculty and students from the humanities and sciences.

Zoom Meeting Information:

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 304 608 745

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213.19.144.110 (EMEA)

103.122.166.55 (Australia)

209.9.211.110 (Hong Kong)

64.211.144.160 (Brazil)

69.174.57.160 (Canada)

207.226.132.110 (Japan)

Meeting ID: 304 608 745

**To have your event included in the CCC Newsletter, email Sandy Martin at [sypack@vt.edu](mailto:sypack@vt.edu) with information and jpg files by Thursday of each week.**

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