



Friday, April 29th
3:00-4:30 pm on zoom

<https://lsu.zoom.us/j/93074664017?pwd=U3FTNVFKTE9Ubm02NXFmc0s1NXlWZz09>

The Listening Room

Hosted by
The Asian/Asian American Pacific Islander Faculty and Staff (A/AAPI) Caucus

Sponsored by
The Graduate School
Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Office of International Programs

The LSU community is invited to attend the second annual Listening Room, where A/AAPI faculty, students, and staff will tell their stories and lift each other's voices.

The Listening Room was organized in the wake of the Atlanta shootings in March 2021, which occurred amid a sharp rise in hate crimes against A/AAPI people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thirteen months later, the brutal onslaught on A/AAPI groups continues, targeting women and the elderly, the most vulnerable constituents in our society. These attacks are often downplayed in news outlets and unregistered in public consciousness.

Yet, the pandemic is only the most recent trigger in a long history of xenophobic violence against our community. Perpetually marked as alien, foreign, and Other, A/AAPIs have historically been made into scapegoats during times of crisis. Many of us who identify as A/AAPI remained quiet over the years. We told ourselves our pain and suffering were not real or did not matter as, all too often, our emotions were delegitimized or relegated to what Cathy Park Hong calls "minor feelings."

Then, one day in Atlanta, everything changed.

When silence was no longer an option, we had to overcome our reluctance to speak. We found out that we were not alone. We had a community. We had people with whom we could share our suffering and celebrate our differences. Together, we became stronger.

The Asian/Asian American Pacific Islander Faculty and Staff Caucus at LSU was founded in May 2021.

As we gather for another Listening Room, we will reflect on a year of loss but which was also aglow with newfound hope. Above all else, we want to hear you speak. We are listening.

#strongertogether

