APALSA & Pitt OEIE Community Dialogue: Anti-Asian Bias, Harassment, & Violence
Discussion Take-Aways

- The broad categorization of persons of Asian heritage comprising a single racial group
- There is an invisible burden for Asian Americans associated with carrying racial identity
- Identifying and recognizing violent acts as hate crimes can create feelings of self-doubt. Am I being too sensitive? Am I being naive?
- There is a tendency to conflate interconnected marginalization with other social and economic issues
- Asian Americans can be seen as a "suitable target" for discrimination
- Questioning whether violence is truly anti-Asian (caused by mental health issues) is dismissive
- When people hear about an Asian American person's experience and then immediately equate it to something they've been through, can end up feeling really dismissive. We can fall into this trap when trying to empathize with the pain of people who experience the world differently than we do — sometimes 'over-identifying' can lead to minimizing what someone else is going through, and it can get in the way of listening.

- Solidarity can be just showing up
- Where does the hesitancy to assign "racial motive" come from? What is uncovered when we unpack the layers behind what acts that are or are not motivated by race?
- Learning how to respond in equity to the differences in how racism plays out for Asian Americans
- Disrespect for language of origin
- The disrespect of being subject to an ethnic identity guessing game