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# “South Asian Americans in Queens, NYC”

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## Significance of South Asians for a Culturally Diverse Queens/US

- A large ethnic group???
- *Important lessons for Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora, Colonialism, and Diversity!*
- Students/Urban Communities and Public Higher Education

# South Asians Americans: About Names & Categories

- The term “South Asian” – Populations from nations such as Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. And also ...  
...Afghanis, Indo Caribbeans (Guyana, Trinidad, Jamaica, et al)  
and other diasporic communities (Africa, Mauritius, Fiji, UK, Canada ... )
- *Asians and the 1980 U.S. Census: Story of “Asian Indians”*

# South Asian Demographics in Queens/NYC/U.S.

- South Asians are 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Asian American group in the U.S. – a close second to Chinese Americans and higher than Filipino Ams, Vietnamese Ams, Korean Ams, and Japanese Ams.
- *Of a total Asian American population of over 20 million, South Asians are over 4.5 million in the 2020 Census.*
- NYC is the largest urban concentration of South Asians nationwide, with Queens County housing more than 60 % of South Asian New Yorkers. South Asian population of Queens is equal/close second to the Chinese Ams.
- South Asian concentrations in Queens neighborhoods like Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, Richmond Hill, Bellerose.
- *Suburbanization: Long Island as well as other adjoining counties such as Westchester and states like New Jersey have witnessed their rapid growth.*

# Racial and Ethnic Formations

- *An Asian Group? --- historic racialization vs. biological Race*
- **One Ethnic Group? --- nationalities and social class**
- *One Culture? --- layers of diversity*
- **Nation v Migration --- national boundaries and diasporic identities**
- *The Model Minority: A Case Study*

# South Asian Minorities: Learnings for Theory and Practice

- Diverse, Post-colonial cultures and identities
  - History of Social Movements
  - South Asian community is spread out and often hard to organize
  - Potential for cross-racial and cross-ethnic collaborations
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- ***Thinking Out of the Box: South Asian Americans as Deficit or Asset?***