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Asian American Studies Program: Community-Centered Commitments and Pathways in the AsAmSt Curriculum

Asian American Studies Program, University of Massachusetts Boston

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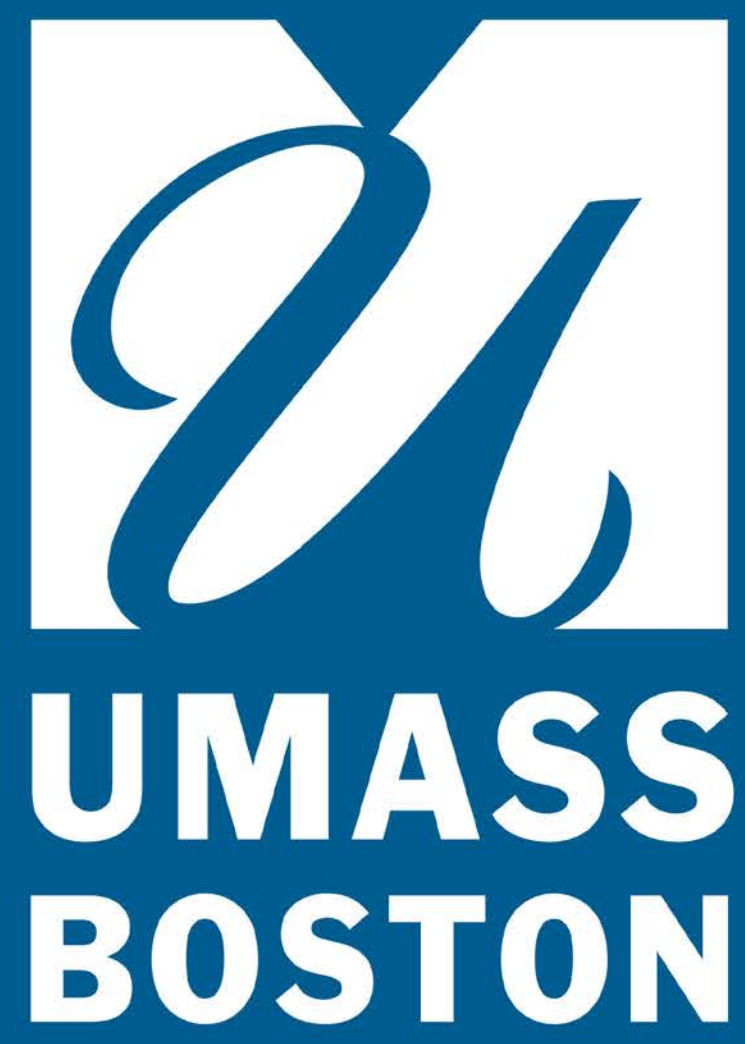


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Recommended Citation

Asian American Studies Program, University of Massachusetts Boston, "Asian American Studies Program: Community-Centered Commitments and Pathways in the AsAmSt Curriculum" (2013). *Office of Community Partnerships Posters*. 119.
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Asian American Studies Program

Community-Centered Commitments and Pathways in the AsAmSt Curriculum

Summary/Abstract

UMass Boston offers the most Asian American Studies courses, faculty, and community linkages of any university in New England. Through culturally-responsive instruction in the classroom and holistic practices of mentoring, community-building, service-learning, and advocacy, we address the social and academic needs of students as well as the critical capacity-building needs of local Asian American communities. Our alumni include teachers, social workers, health care providers, business entrepreneurs, and leaders of local Asian American community organizations where we sustain vital, long-term partnerships.

Goals and Objectives




Using Geographic Information Systems to Map Ethnic-Vietnamese Nail Salons in the Greater Boston Area
Sara Ca Laro (sca_laro@umb.edu)

I. Introduction: When people think of nail salons, they often think of Vietnamese "spas" or "nail salons" in the Greater Boston area. However, these salons are not just places for manicures and pedicures. They are also places where many Vietnamese women work. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of nail salons in the Greater Boston area. This increase has led to a rise in the number of Vietnamese women working in nail salons. This research aims to explore the reasons for this increase and the impact it has on the Vietnamese community. It also aims to explore the role of nail salons in the lives of Vietnamese women in the Greater Boston area.

II. Methods: This research was conducted using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). GIS is a computer-based system that allows users to store, analyze, and display data that is linked to location. In this research, GIS was used to map the locations of nail salons in the Greater Boston area. The data was collected from various sources, including online directories, newspaper articles, and personal interviews. The data was then analyzed to identify patterns in the distribution of nail salons and to explore the relationship between nail salons and the Vietnamese community.

III. Results & Discussion (1): The results of this research show that there is a significant increase in the number of nail salons in the Greater Boston area. This increase is particularly evident in the areas with the highest concentrations of Vietnamese residents. The research also found that many of the nail salons in these areas are owned and operated by Vietnamese women. This suggests that nail salons are an important part of the Vietnamese community in the Greater Boston area. The research also found that nail salons provide a source of income for many Vietnamese women. This is particularly true for women who are new to the United States and who may not have other sources of income. Nail salons also provide a place where Vietnamese women can socialize and support each other. This is an important part of the community-building process for many Vietnamese women in the Greater Boston area.

IV. Results & Discussion (2): This research also found that nail salons play a role in the lives of Vietnamese women in the Greater Boston area. Nail salons provide a place where women can get their hair and nails done, which is an important part of their self-care routine. Nail salons also provide a place where women can socialize and support each other. This is an important part of the community-building process for many Vietnamese women in the Greater Boston area. The research also found that nail salons provide a source of income for many Vietnamese women. This is particularly true for women who are new to the United States and who may not have other sources of income. Nail salons also provide a place where Vietnamese women can socialize and support each other. This is an important part of the community-building process for many Vietnamese women in the Greater Boston area.

By grounding our curriculum, teaching, and applied research in the complex realities of local Asian American communities and by respecting the knowledge and bilingual/bicultural skills that students bring to the classroom, the AsAmSt Program creates powerful learning environments for all students to gain critical understanding about the historical experiences, voices, contemporary issues, and contributions of diverse Asian populations in the U.S.

Results/Impacts

- AsAmSt 200 Introduction to Asian American Studies
- AsAmSt 221L Introduction to Asian American Writing
- AsAmSt 225L Southeast Asians in the US
- AsAmSt 226 Becoming South Asians
- AsAmSt 227L Multicultural Expression and Celebration
- AsAmSt 228L Asian Women in the US
- AsAmSt 238L Asian American Psychology
- AsAmSt 250G Rise Up! Asian American Leadership & Social Change
- AsAmSt 265L World War II Internment of Japanese Americans
- AsAmSt 270 Cambodian American Culture & Community
- AsAmSt 294 Resources for Vietnamese American Studies
- AsAmSt 326 Multiracial Experiences
- AsAmSt 333 Asian American Politics and Social Movements
- AsAmSt 345 Asian American Cultures and Health Practices
- AsAmSt 350L Asian American Literary Voices
- AsAmSt 355L Asian Americans and the Law
- AsAmSt 370 Asian American Media Literacy
- AsAmSt 375L Indian Cinema
- AsAmSt 397/398 Applied Research in Asian American Studies
- AsAmSt 390 Asian American Community Internship
- AsAmSt 423L Boston's Asian American Communities
- AsAmSt 497/498 Teaching & Learning in Asian American Studies

Approaches and Methods

Nearly every AsAmSt course in the curriculum includes relevant community-focused content.



The program also provides resources and opportunities for internships, service-learning, organizing and advocacy, documentation, and applied research each year.



Conclusion/Next Steps



Fall down seven times;
Get up eight times.

Ten years to grow trees;
One hundred years to grow people



Living near the water, one knows the nature of fish;
Living near mountains, one understands the sound of birds.

References and Resources

UMass Boston is funded by the U.S. Department of Education as an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) and is recognized by APAs for Progress as one of the ten Best Colleges for AAPI students in the U.S.

Additional Information and Contacts



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text and photos: Peter Kiang, 2013