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Immigration, Resistance, and Assimilation: Sport and physical activity experience of Viet America

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Abstract

This research centers around the narratives of the Vietnamese diaspora and their experience living in America. Asians living in America have a very diverse culture. There are many ways people can connect to being both Asian and American. We are exploring the ideas of how sports and physical activities can relate to their identity of being Vietnamese Americans through qualitative methods.

Research Questions

To what ways and extend do Vietnamese people in the US understand their Vietnamese and American identity through sport and physical activity?

Quotes From Participant 3:

Participant 3: Right, right so there's a lot of imposter syndrome that happens right and we do know that imposter syndrome happens a lot with women, with people of color, I am a woman of color and age right and so-called like white traditional professionalism appearances.

Participant 3: The cool thing was our kindergarten class had like a Vietnamese student-teacher person and she was there cause I think they knew that the incoming class had a lot of Vietnamese students. So she asked me what my name was. I told her my family nickname cause I thought that was my name or and so far I knew it my name was. So they wrote that down in my cubby and sort of fast forward months later, I learned my English and learned that my name was Tammy, and I was so like embarrassed that my cubby had my Vietnamese name on it. So embarrassed, so like I went to my teacher, I was like Ms. Brenden I want to change my name and she was like a hippy-dippy, like prairie shirt-wearing with the turquoise. She was a very like a 60's love child right. She was like, "no, you're name is beautiful, lets keep it" and I was like, "no, that's not my name. I know my real name now!". She eventually changed it for me, but it was a source of embarrassment.

Participant 3: Vietnamese norms and it was a weird tension for me because I was very proud of the fact that I spoke Vietnamese close to fluently. I was very proud of knowing Vietnamese food and having being able to go to Vietnam and like see fam— like did all of that and just understanding Vietnamese music like old school music right and being able to read although not great, but still I was very proud of that but I rejected like ABGs Vietnamese norms because it's very much like I'm not that Vietnamese person you know (...)

Quotes From Participant 6:

Participant 6: Yeah, it's a long time so I mean I've been an athlete my whole life and then you know my dad's wife, my mom, she's from Vietnam. So I think my mom said she was like 2 during the fall of Saigon or something like that. So it's just— it's always interesting cause I always want to learn something new about my family and all that and I just like want to you know heard about the research thing so I always want to come out and talk about it because I do researches in the past for classes about Vietnamese American. The only real athletes that I could find that like identified as Vietnamese is has been Dat Nguyen you know from Texas, A&M and then he played for the Cowboys. That's the only one I could ever find really that is in professional sports.

Participant 6: So I feel pretty strongly so I still celebrate New Year's, I still do some things that you like you know if I'm eating with my grandparents or like my older aunts and uncles all with them you know have the first bite. You know you love me first and then I get to go and proceed instead. So that practice kinda lags at my household because my dad is white and he wasn't raised that way but when I'm up here I tried my best to like oh hey wait for them to eat or get their food first and then I get to go.

Participant 6: I could understand sometimes so yeah whenever I hear it always brings me back to the pho place I used to go to back home or like whenever I'm back home I'm always reminded oh I'm in San Jose because of how my mom interact with the waiter and stuff like that and how we had to pay. It always brings me up oh up here New Year's with just me being with my family.

Project Activities or Findings

- Conducted reviews of literature that is relevant for the research
- Semi-structured interviews that focused on each individual's experience and how it relate to sports
- Transcribing interviews and analyzing information that is gathered from the participants
- Reflexing and comparing how the interviewees' experience differs from each other

Citations

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