

AAPI Heritage Month: Safeguarding Asian American inclusion and belonging

Participant Biographies



Grace Meng

U.S. Congresswoman Grace Meng is serving her fifth term in the United States House of Representatives. Grace represents the Sixth Congressional District of New York encompassing the New York City borough of Queens, including west, central and northeast Queens.

Grace is the first and only Asian American Member of Congress from New York State and the first female Congressmember from Queens since former Vice Presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro.

Grace is a member of the House Appropriations Committee and is Vice Chair of its Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations. She also sits on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies. Grace also serves on the House Ethics Committee.

Prior to serving in Congress, Grace was a member of the New York State Assembly. Before entering public service, she worked as a public-interest lawyer.



Andy Kim

Congressman Andy Kim was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2018. He represents the Third Congressional District of New Jersey, which stretches from the Delaware River to the Jersey Shore encompassing most of Burlington County and parts of Ocean County.

As a member of the House, Congressman Kim serves on the House Armed Services Committee, the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Small Business.

Prior to serving in the House, Congressman Kim worked as a career public servant under both Democrats and Republicans. He served at USAID, the Pentagon, the State Department, the White House National Security Council, and in Afghanistan as an advisor to Generals Petraeus and Allen.



Willow Lung-Amam

Willow Lung-Amam, Ph.D. is a nonresident fellow at the Urban Institute's Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center and a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Governance Studies program. She is also Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Planning at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she also serves as Director of Community Development at the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education and Director of the Small Business Anti-Displacement Network.

She has written extensively on suburban poverty, racial segregation, immigration, gentrification, redevelopment politics, and neighborhood opportunity. She is the author of *Trespassers? Asian American and the Battle for Suburbia*, and a forthcoming book on redevelopment politics and equitable development organizing in the Washington, DC suburbs.

Dr. Lung-Amam holds a Ph.D. in landscape architecture and environmental planning from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.C.P. in urban studies and planning from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a B.S. in comparative studies in race and ethnicity from Stanford University.



Nicol Turner-Lee

Dr. Nicol Turner Lee is a senior fellow in Governance Studies, the director of the Center for Technology Innovation, and serves as Co-Editor-In-Chief of TechTank.

Dr. Turner Lee researches public policy designed to enable equitable access to technology across the U.S. and to harness its power to create change in communities across the world. Her work also explores global and domestic broadband deployment and internet governance issues. She is an expert on the intersection of race, wealth, and technology within the context of civic

engagement, criminal justice, and economic development.

Dr. Turner Lee graduated from Colgate University magna cum laude and has a M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern University.



Janelle Wong

Janelle Wong is Professor of American Studies and a core faculty member in the Asian American Studies Program.

From 2001-2012, Wong was in the Departments of Political Science and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. Wong is the author of *Immigrants, Evangelicals and Politics in an Era of Demographic Change* (2018, Russell Sage Foundation), *Democracy's Promise: Immigrants and American Civic Institutions* (2006, University of Michigan Press) and co-author of two books on Asian American politics, including *Asian*

American Political Participation: Emerging Constituents and their Political Identities (2011, Russell Sage Foundation), based on the first national, multilingual, multiethnic survey of Asian Americans. She was a Co-Principal Investigator on the 2016 National Asian American Survey, a nation-wide survey of Asian American political and social attitudes.

She received her PhD in 2001 from the Department of Political Science at Yale University.

Frank H. Wu



Frank H. Wu serves as the eleventh President of Queens College. Prior to joining the City University of New York (CUNY) system, Frank served as Chancellor & Dean, and then William L. Prosser Distinguished Professor at University of California Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. Before joining UC Hastings, he was a member of the faculty at Howard University, the nation's leading historically black college/university (HBCU), for a decade.

Frank is the author of *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White*. Prior to his academic career, he held a clerkship with the late U.S. District Judge Frank J.

Battisti in Cleveland and practiced law with the firm of Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco – while there, he devoted a quarter of his time to pro bono work on behalf of indigent clients.

He received a B.A. from the Johns Hopkins University and a J.D. with honors from the University of Michigan.

Diana Fu



Diana Fu is a nonresident fellow in the John L. Thornton China Center at Brookings and an associate professor of political science at the University of Toronto and director of the East Asia Seminar Series at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

Her research examines domestic politics in contemporary China, with a focus on civil society, popular protest, state repression, labor, and authoritarian citizenship. She is leading several projects on changes in state and society under the Xi administration, as well as on authoritarian citizenship: what it means to be a “good” versus “bad” citizen in China today. She is author of the award-winning book *“Mobilizing Without the Masses: Control and Contention in China.”*

She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in politics and a Master of Philosophy in development studies with distinction from Oxford University, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar.



Russell Hsiao

Russell Hsiao is the executive director of GTI, senior fellow at The Jamestown Foundation, and adjunct fellow at Pacific Forum.

He is a former Penn Kemble fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy and visiting scholar at the University of Tokyo's Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia. He previously served as a senior research fellow at The Project 2049 Institute and national security fellow at the Foundation for Defense of

Democracies. Prior to those positions he was the editor of China Brief at The Jamestown Foundation from October 2007- to July 2011 and a special associate in the International Cooperation Department at the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy. While in law school, he clerked within the Office of the Chairman at the Federal Communications Commission and the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Mr. Hsiao received his J.D. and certificate from the Law and Technology Institute at the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law where he served as the editor-in-chief of the Catholic University's Journal of Law and Technology. He received a B.A. in international studies from the American University's School of International Service and the University Honors Program.



Cheng Li

Cheng Li is director and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's John L. Thornton China Center. Dr. Li is also a director of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, a distinguished fellow of the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at University of Toronto, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Dr. Li has advised a wide range of U.S. government, education, research, business and non-profit organizations on work in China. He is the author of the book *Middle Class Shanghai Reshaping U.S.-China Engagement* and editor (with author Li

Chunling) of the forthcoming volume in the Brookings China Thinker's Series *China's Youth: Increasing Diversity amid Persistent Inequality*.

He received an M.A. in Asian Studies from the University of California at Berkeley and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Princeton University.



Jessica Lee

Jessica Lee is a Senior Research Fellow at the Quincy Institute. Her research focuses on East Asian alliances and U.S. strategy toward the Asia-Pacific region.

Previously, Jessica led the Council of Korean Americans, a national nonprofit organization that supports Korean American leadership development. Prior to CKA, Jessica was a Resident Fellow at the Pacific Forum in Honolulu and a senior manager at The Asia Group, LLC. She began her career in Washington 13

years ago as a staff member on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and as a senior legislative

assistant for a member of Congress on the Ways and Means Committee. Jessica is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a member of the National Committee on North Korea.

She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Wellesley College and an A.M. in East Asian Studies from Harvard University.