

## ASIAN CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER

AT VIRGINIA TECH®

### ACE Center's Statement of Purpose

The Asian Cultural Engagement Center (ACEC) is in the division of the Cultural and Community Centers under the Virginia Tech Office for Inclusion and Diversity. The ACEC's mission is to advocate for the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) communities, including Virginia Tech faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students, and alumni. We also aim to educate the campus community on issues centered around or related to our communities. All members of the campus and the local community are welcome to the ACEC and can participate in the ACEC's events, programs, and activities.

Interested in financially supporting the ACEC so that it can better serve the APIDA community? Please consider donating here: [ACEC Donation Page](#)

Thank you for your consideration!

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### Undergraduate Student Spotlight: Sania Mahmood

Sania Mahmood is currently a sophomore at Virginia Tech, double-majoring in Computational Modeling and Data Analytics and Economics. Mahmood was born in Brooklyn, NY but was raised in Northern Virginia and enrolled at Virginia Tech in August of 2019. She is currently the President of Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc. (SYZ), one of the largest and most distinguished Asian-interest sororities in the nation, and she is also a part of other organizations such as the United Council of Fraternities and Sororities as Historian!



When applying to Virginia Tech, Mahmood was worried about not being able to embrace her identity as a Desi American. She felt that she wasn't able to embrace her Bengali ethnicity before Virginia Tech and often felt out of place, and she worried it would be a similar experience once she arrived at Virginia Tech. However, when Mahmood arrived, she joined Sigma Psi Zeta and the sorority helped her explore her culture and learn more about others as well. Joining the sorority also helped her connect with people who are similar to her and it helped her grow and thrive. After joining Sigma Psi Zeta, Mahmood found herself getting involved with other organizations such as the Asian American Student Union and being able to represent her sorority and other people who share the same culture and ethnicity. Becoming more involved in these communities has helped her learn to not only embrace her identity, but to also advocate and represent other people from her community.

Sania Mahmood has two pieces of advice for undergraduate students: Get out of your comfort zone and do things that you are typically afraid of.

“The nice thing about college is that you almost have a clean slate— you’re starting from scratch so you do not have to stick with what you have known for eighteen years. You can turn your life around completely and pave a path for your future. This is your time to change for the better, but only you can do that by putting yourself out there.”

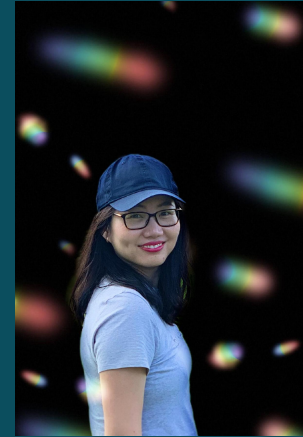
(Caption: Sania Mahmood, photo: Rohit Batra)

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## Graduate Student Spotlight: Jing Geng

Jing Geng is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology at Virginia Tech. She also earned her Master’s degree in Sociology at Virginia Tech. She holds an M.A. in Marxist Philosophy from Renmin University of China in Beijing and a B.A. in Political Science from Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China.

Geng’s primary research focus surrounds the Sociology of aging, health, and quantitative methodology. Her Master’s thesis examined the life satisfaction of widowed elders and gender disparities. As of now, she is currently in the process of exploring her research areas for her dissertation, which focuses on health disparities across race, gender, and class in later life.



In her free time, Geng’s favorite hobby is traveling. “[Before the pandemic], my whole family will go out and just have fun across the country. I think that’s my biggest hobby, but it’s obvious I cannot do this [in] a pandemic. Overall, Geng sees that “[We need] more representation of APIDA students in Liberal Arts as we do see a lot of our [faculty and] the undergraduate students in STEM.”

Her advice to the APIDA community here at Virginia Tech is to reach out to others, especially if you are able to do so. “[Because as an APIDA graduate student in Liberal Arts], you feel lonely in this environment... [Although it’s seldom that people want to reach out and talk], I choose to talk to them. So that’s my strategy to get involved [with the community], especially because I’m not a native English speaker.” She concluded with a point that echoes what we really need at this juncture - “If people are not reaching out to you, you should reach out to them. You never know and it is, more than ever now, important to make friends.”

(Caption: Jing Geng, photo: Self-taken portrait)

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## Alumni Spotlight: Julie Nguyen

Julie Nguyen is a first generation Vietnamese-American Virginia Tech alumna who majored in Biology. As a first generation student, Nguyen was not exposed to APIDA advocacy issues prior to coming to college. However, before she graduated in Spring 2019, Nguyen was involved in various organizations that kicked off her APIDA experience at Virginia Tech. She joined an Asian-interest sorority, alpha Kappa Delta Phi Sorority, Inc. (aKDPi) her freshman year and became the President of her sorority by her junior year. Following her presidency, she became the Vice President External of the Asian American Student Union (AASU), an experience that unearthed her



passion for APIDA awareness. Nguyen noticed that there was a lot of apathy from her peers towards issues revolving around the APIDA community. However, Nguyen was determined to bring awareness to those issues and become part of a larger movement to slowly educate the APIDA community. During her senior year at Virginia Tech, Nguyen became the Programming Assistant for the Asian Cultural Engagement Center (ACEC). With her knowledge of the ACEC and its purpose, she believes that the ACEC should be advertised more on campus, especially to freshmen who are looking for a community and a safe space at Virginia Tech. Even after graduating, Nguyen continues to be an advocate for the APIDA community. Nguyen is currently working as an Event Ambassador at Deloitte and serves as the Chapter Advisor for her sorority's alumnae association. At Deloitte, she has participated in open discussions about various diversity and inclusion topics, such as exploring stereotypes in the workplace. Nguyen noticed that there is a lack of APIDA representation in many consulting firms and corporations. Hence, joining the Asian Business Resource Group at Deloitte is one of the many ways that Nguyen hopes to become more involved in the community at her workplace. Nguyen has one piece of advice for undergraduate students:

“You are in control of your undergrad experience. Don't be comfortable. Put yourself out there, get involved with the community, and use your voice because it matters!”

(Caption: Julie Nguyen, Photo: Vincent Mai)

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## Faculty Spotlight: Farida Jalalzai

[Dr. Farida Jalalzai](#) is a Pakistani-American scholar in Political Science and Global Women's Leadership Studies. She grew up in upstate New York, received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science and African and Afro-American studies from SUNY College at Brockport in Western New York, and subsequently earned her Master's degree and her doctorate in Political Science from the University of Buffalo. Her research focuses on global women leaders, studying questions and behaviors related to regional and international women's incorporation into political positions.



Dr. Jalalzai entered Virginia Tech as a faculty member in July 2020. She is the Associate Dean of Global Initiatives and Engagement at Virginia Tech, a new position that will help increase the global reach of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, as well as is a Professor in the Department of Political Science. Prior to Virginia Tech, she was at Oklahoma State University (OSU) for 5 years, where she was the head of the Department of Political Science. At Virginia Tech, Dr. Jalalzai is also a member of the Asian Pacific Islander and Desi American (APIDA) Caucus and the Women's Alliance and Caucus.

She has two pieces of advice for students at Virginia Tech: Connect with faculty and staff, and take advantage of the networking and learning events during your time in college.

“The faculty not only want to help students when they need support, but also just to have the established relationships with their faculty and build some of those relationships, I think makes a big difference as students are thinking about life after college,” Jalalzai said. “I would [also] encourage them to stay active — one of the bright sides of the pandemic is that there are a lot of events. I think all of these different networks, you can find different programs that are really highlighting the great work that some of the scholars or practitioners, or even just having these online forums to talk about more support that students need, or a whole myriad of topics. I think this is something that's unique in that you can really hear from, or showcase yourself in front of a large audience that you wouldn't necessarily be able to do in a normal time.”

(Caption: Dr. Farida Jalalzai, Photo: Gary Jones, Oklahoma State University)

## Featured AASU Organization: Exodus at VT

Exodus at Virginia Tech is a live and video K-pop dance group on campus. The organization was established in 2016. The organization's current president, Brettan O'Beirne, has been a part of the organization since 2017. While centered around dancing and performing K-pop songs, the organization is very inclusive. According to O'Beirne, Exodus has a "family dynamic in the club where all levels of dance experience are welcomed to join as they all are able to unite by having the common interest in K-pop." They host and/or participate in events in Blacksburg, Virginia, as well as along the east coast. They were able to host their first intercollegiate K-pop dance competition at Virginia Tech. It was held in Burrus Hall and groups from out of state and in state participated including: Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), University of Virginia (UVA), and some from New Jersey. The competition was a 2 day event in which Alex Reid, a former K-pop idol, judged the competition and hosted a workshop the following day. The organization was able to have a plethora of sponsors from Blacksburg businesses in order to run this large scale event.

As for planned activities for this semester, the organization is planning to do a social distance dance cover of Can't Stop Me by Twice. It will be a compiled video of their members dancing and will be posted on their YouTube channel (@EXODUS at VT). Other than that, they will continue to have their online workshops held on zoom every week. The link can be found on their Instagram page (@EXODUSVT\_Official). One does not have to be a member in order to join in on the fun and learn a new dance!

If you have any questions or want to get involved, the organization can be reached through email at [exodusvt@gamil.com](mailto:exodusvt@gamil.com), Instagram at EXODUSVT\_Official, and Gobblerconnect where all the officer contact information is up to date.



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## APIDA Caucus

The APIDA Caucus serves as an advocacy and support group for faculty, staff, and graduate students at Virginia Tech and Blacksburg/NRV community members who self-identify as APIDA, or allies who are interested in participating in conversations relevant to the APIDA community. We also serve the APIDA community at other Virginia Tech campuses (Washington DC area, etc). The Caucus acts as a liaison to the university administration and is committed to supporting the needs of all APIDA individuals. Our events are open to faculty, staff, graduate & undergraduate students, and community members.

To be added to our new email listserv ([apidacaucus-g@vt.edu](mailto:apidacaucus-g@vt.edu)) and to get more information, please contact Rommelyn Coffren at [rconde@vt.edu](mailto:rconde@vt.edu). Want to get involved? Find us on Twitter @VTAPIDACaucus!

## APIDA Faculty and Graduate Student Mentorship Program

The APIDA Caucus, in collaboration with the ACEC, recently started a mentorship program for APIDA faculty and APIDA graduate students. The program, spearheaded by PhD student and APIDA Caucus co-chair Hana Chan, provides mentors for APIDA graduate students who traditionally have difficulty finding mentors and role models in their

respective fields who also self-identify as APIDA. The purpose of the program is to create connections between graduate students and faculty within the APIDA community who share similar identities and experiences, and to create safe and culturally sensitive environments for graduate students to seek guidance and support.

## **APIDA Caucus Statement in Response to Recent Anti-APIDA Violence**

Recent events, including the killing of 84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee and the violent attacks against Asian American elders in the Bay Area, New York City, and other locations nationwide in the past two weeks are a reminder that anti-Asian violence continues to increase in prevalence and severity. Such violence is now receiving national media coverage, and allies across racial groups are condemning the violence and anti-Asian rhetoric. As calls for justice intensify however, we must also resist increased policing as the only or most appropriate response. Even if offered in the name of the APIDA community, increased carceral logics and anti-Blackness have historically perpetuated the racialized hierarchies that ultimately harm all minoritized communities.

Members of the APIDA Community, we urge you to remain vigilant and stay safe. If you or your loved ones have experienced anti-Asian harassment, bullying, or discrimination, you can report bias incidents and hate crimes to the following organizations:

Virginia Tech Dean of Students: [https://dos.vt.edu/express\\_a\\_concern.html](https://dos.vt.edu/express_a_concern.html)

State of Virginia Attorney General: <https://www.oag.state.va.us/programs-initiatives/no-hate-va>

Nation-wide tracking: <https://stopaapihate.org/>

### **To our allies, here are some things you can do now to support the APIDA Community:**

Check in with your friends, colleagues, classmates, and students -- simply acknowledging that you see what is happening as a trend and not isolated instances, and exhibiting care and compassion can help people feel more connected within their communities.

Consider registering for bystander training so that if you do witness harassment, you will feel more confident in safely intervening to prevent escalation of the problem.

Call out anti-Asian and xenophobic language and rhetoric when you hear it. Words matter, and when discriminatory words go unchallenged, they can escalate into hateful actions by some individuals.

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## **APID Alumni Society**

"Calling all APIDA alumni and students- if you're interested in learning more about the Asian Pacific Islander Desi Alumni Society (APIDAS), please fill out this [Google form](#). You can also follow us on Instagram ([apidas\\_vt](#)) and like our Facebook page [here](#)."

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## **AASU**

The mission of the Asian American Student Union is to serve the Asian/Pacific Islander/Desi American (APIDA) communities within Virginia Tech. It shall act as an umbrella organization over the branching undergraduate APIDA organizations. It shall strive to enhance and further the individual, cultural, and ethnic diversities that exist in the APIDA communities. It shall make efforts to address the problems, issues, and concerns of the APIDA communities to the administration and other fellow student organizations.

# AASU Statement in Response to Recent Anti-APIDA Violence

For immediate release: March 1, 2021

To the APIDA and Virginia Tech Community:

We, the Asian American Student Union, representing 15 constituent organizations, would like to shed light on the considerable increase in anti-Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) violence that threatens the daily lives of members in the APIDA community.

APIDA targeted violence and hate crimes have substantially increased by 1900% according to a New York Police Department report since the emergence of COVID-19 in the United States. These hate crimes and violence have gone under-reported for a year and only recently have received national coverage. This month, House representatives have taken the initiative to urge both the Biden administration and Congress to take firmer action.

The White House has acknowledged anti-Asian sentiments and issued a public memorandum condemning the violence. Although these heinous and hate-fueled crimes have been denounced, the memorandum essentially reacts as a mere list of suggestions rather than a mandate of action. We must step up and continue to bring attention to the previous and ongoing attacks against the APIDA community.

The model minority myth has persistently harmed and oppressed APIDAs. It has perpetuated this false notion “that Asian Americans have class privilege, that they have high socioeconomic status and education, and that any discrimination doesn’t really happen or feel legitimate,” stated Bianca Mabute-Louie, a racial justice educator. The APIDA population has too long been neglected and perceived as a community that is not underserved.

It is imperative that the Virginia Tech community, an institution dedicated to the excellence of the Ut Prosim motto – that I may serve – become vigilant and aware of the rise in xenophobia. Doing so is to engage actively in the practice of combating racism, a central component of practicing anti-Racism in our daily lives.

Crucially, now more than ever, the APIDA community must bridge the intra-ethnic and intra-racial boundaries whereby ethnic and racial solidarity is further divided by investing in abstract, rugged individualism. We must instead work with our BIPOC peers to advance the well-being of a community oppressed by the inherent structures of white supremacy. As witnessed in the animosity and misunderstanding that some in the APIDA community have held following the murder of George Floyd, we must dismantle practices that ultimately uphold any sentiment of white supremacy- whether it be covert or overt. Lastly, we urge our membership and the broader Virginia Tech community to actively combat matters of injustice by speaking out and to continually support each other during these times.

To report a bias incident or hate crime, please refer to these resources:

<https://stopaapihate.org/>

<https://www.oag.state.va.us/programs-initiatives/no-hate-va>

[https://dos.vt.edu/express\\_a\\_concern.html](https://dos.vt.edu/express_a_concern.html)

In Peace and Solidarity,  
The Asian American Student Union Executive Board

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## AASU Events

### Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE)


- March 8: 2nd GBM on Zoom at 7PM
- March 9-14: Mentor & Mentee Bonding Week

## Japanese Cultural Association (JCA)

- Feb 28-March 6: JCA Big Little Appreciation Week
- Feb 28-March 6: JCA T-shirt Voting
- March 4: JCA 3rd GM
- March 9: JCA Elections Interest Meeting
- March 27: JCA Culture Show

## Vietnamese Student Association (VSA)

- March 24th: General Body Meeting at 7PM



SIGMA PSI ZETA SORORITY, INC AND VT WOMEN'S CENTER.

# PERIOD SUPPLY DRIVE


PADS, TAMPONS, PANTY LINERS, CUPS, UNDERWEAR, ETC. ACCEPTED  
BABY ITEMS SUCH AS DIAPERS, CLOTHES, ETC. ACCEPTED AS WELL

Items accepted until mid April 17, 2021  
DROP OFF AT WOMEN'S CENTER AND SQUIRES (ROOM 140/ACEC)  
DM @vtchsz on Instagram for extra drop off locations

Not in Blacksburg but want to help? Donate to our Venmo: @vtsigmas

**Sigma Psi Zeta**

- Period Supply Drive



VT Ascend x FreddieMac  
We make home possible

## ACING YOUR INTERVIEW

COME JOIN US AS WE RECEIVE TIPS AND ADVICE ON HOW TO IMPRESS INTERVIEWERS AND SECURE FUTURE POSITIONS

VIA ZOOM ON MARCH 10TH @ 7PM

RSVP FOR LINK:  
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/H9CAWJTE](https://tinyurl.com/H9CAWJTE)

**VT Ascend:**

- March 10th: Acing Your Interview


## ACEC Events and Collaborative Events:

### Private Conversation with Jake Shimabukuro

- March 2, 2021 at 6 PM EST
- <https://ukulelejake.eventbrite.com>

### Virtual Performance from Jake Shimabukuro

- Join us on Thursday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. EST for a virtual performance from Jake Shimabukuro. With his out-of-the-box blend of stunning virtuosity and deep musicality, ukulele master Shimabukuro takes the four-string, two-octave instrument to places no one has gone before. In this intimate night of music followed by a question-and-answer session, Shimabukuro will forge a deep emotional connection that is open, magical, and transcendent.
- See: <https://artscenter.vt.edu/performances/jake-shimabukuro.html>



MOSS ARTS CENTER  
artscenter.vt.edu

Tuesday, March 2, 6-7 PM EST

### A CONVERSATION WITH JAKE SHIMABUKURO

Join this private CBA with Jake Shimabukuro and APIDA students, co-presented with the Asian Cultural Engagement Center.

Register on Eventbrite:  
[ukulelejake.eventbrite.com](https://ukulelejake.eventbrite.com)

ONLINE EVENT

VIRGINIA TECH.

THE CCCS AND CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS:

# GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES IN THE WORKPLACE

MARCH 3, 2021 | 12-1PM EST



REGISTER IN ADVANCE:  
[HTTPS://RB.GY/PWOIOM](https://rb.gy/PWOIOM)

For questions, contact Dr. Ha at [nha@vt.edu](mailto:nha@vt.edu) or Weston Truss at [weston19@vt.edu](mailto:weston19@vt.edu)



CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTERS VIRGINIA TECH.



CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT VIRGINIA TECH.

## Global Perspectives in the Workplace

- March 3, 2021 at 12PM EST
- Register in advance for this meeting: [https://virginiatech.zo.com.us/meeting/register/tZcvc-6uqDgoHNMe95MfU8chJ8Di8WOuCO\\_I](https://virginiatech.zo.com.us/meeting/register/tZcvc-6uqDgoHNMe95MfU8chJ8Di8WOuCO_I)

THE ACEC AND HOKIE WELLNESS PRESENT:

## GOING TO COLLEGE? FINANCIAL PREPARATION WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021 | 11AM EST

KEVIN SUTTON



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL WELLNESS, HOKIE WELLNESS



SCAN HERE:

This is a workshop for high school students planning to attend college. Applying for financial aid and learning about the financial aid process will be provided. Please be prepared to ask questions and be engaged!

Register in Advance: <https://rb.gy/c2tsmt>  
 For questions, contact Dr. Nina Ha at [nha@vt.edu](mailto:nha@vt.edu)

## Workshop for high school students

- March 8, 2021 at 11 AM EST
- Register in advance for this meeting: <https://virginiatech.zo.com.us/meeting/register/tZModu-mpqT0sHNOEbGGAKYTJIS139ADIsb3S>

Co-Sponsors: alpha Kappa Delta Phi, Asian American Mental Health Alliance, ACEC, Cook Counseling



## APIDA MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

BIWEEKLY MEETING ON:  
 MARCH 8, 2021 @ 4:00 PM EST



Register in advance:  
<https://rb.gy/uvnhuy>

Theme:  
 Familial Relationships and Expectations

For questions, contact Dr. Nina Ha at [nha@vt.edu](mailto:nha@vt.edu)



## APIDA Mental Health Support Group: Familial Relationships and Expectations

- March 8, 2021 at 4:00PM EST
- Register in advance for this meeting: <https://virginiatech.zo.com.us/meeting/register/tZUsde-ugpz4oEt2JTyBmVh0z-4cc43IC76z>

SPONSORED BY THE ACEC, WOMEN'S CENTER AT VT, WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY, VT ALPHA KAPPA DELTA PHI, & LAMBDA PHI EPSILON

FOR QUESTIONS OR ACCOMMODATIONS, CONTACT DR. HA AT [NHA@VT.EDU](mailto:nha@vt.edu)

## WOMEN'S MONTH PRESENTS: APIDAS AND SEXUAL ASSAULT PART IV: MALE GRADUATE STUDENTS, INTIMACY AND CONSENT

**WE AFFIRM**  
 Principles of Community Week 2021

*This panel addresses a crucial component of sexual consent concerning male graduate students. In doing so, the panelists address issues surrounding sexual consent and understanding of intimacy in an often-overlooked student population: APIDA graduate students.*



Bonnie Zare  
 Associate Professor (Woman's and Gender Studies, Department of Sociology)



Joong Won Kim  
 Ph.D. Candidate (Department of Sociology)

March 10, 2021 | 5 PM EST  
 Register here: [rb.gy/l6nbok](https://rb.gy/l6nbok)



"But it is ruining men's lives": Asian Male Graduate Students and the #MeToo Dating Climate

*This panel will present a study on Asian male international graduate students at a predominantly White university located in the Southern United States. The panelists' findings suggest how Asian international male graduate students wonder about the legitimacy of women's level of sexual interest. This presentation also highlights the importance of dialogue on consenting behaviors and how a healthy campus dating climate might look, going beyond listing practices to avoid.*



## APIDAs and Sexual Assault Part IV: Male Graduate Students, Intimacy, and Consent

- March 10, 2021 at 5PM EST
- Register in advance for this meeting: <https://virginiatech.zo.com.us/meeting/register/tZYpc-2qqDMuH9aa0Trij3qjdBRYRF05vabs>



## HOW DO I FIND A JOB OR INTERNSHIP? A WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Workshop will be facilitated by Weston J. Truss, MPPA

**MARCH 19, 2021 3:30 PM EST**



This Workshop will provide useful information for conducting job searches and finding internships as a high school student. Included in the process will be how to write a resume and what to do in an interview. Please be prepared to ask questions and be engaged!



**REGISTER IN ADVANCE:**  
[HTTPS://RB.GY/OPDIV9](https://rb.gy/OPDIV9)

For questions, contact Dr. Nina Ha at [nha@vt.edu](mailto:nha@vt.edu)



### How do I find a Job or Internship? A Workshop for High School Students

- March 19, 2021 at 3:30PM EST
- Register in advance for this meeting: <https://virginiatech.zo.om.us/meeting/register/tZEIc-uggDMvHNGrQpgtTQAWp1J9yN7MMENn>

## ADMISSIONS INFO SESSION AND VIRTUAL CAMPUS TOUR

The session will cover some history and fun facts about Virginia Tech. We will then explore the academic opportunities we have for you and the application process. We will conclude with a virtual campus tour.

**MARCH 22, 2021 11:00 AM EST**

**Workshop Presenter:**  
**Luisa Burgos**

Luisa Burgos currently serves as Senior Assistant Director of Admissions at Virginia Tech. Luisa earned her Bachelor's from James Madison University and her Masters from Virginia Tech.



**REGISTER IN ADVANCE:**  
[HTTPS://RB.GY/2WUTOL](https://rb.gy/2WUTOL)



For questions, contact Dr. Nina Ha at [nha@vt.edu](mailto:nha@vt.edu)

### Admissions Information Session and Virtual Campus Tour

- March 22, 2021 at 11:00AM EST
- Register in advance for this meeting: <https://virginiatech.zo.om.us/meeting/register/tZYvcuGtqjMrG9baowUO4xXFwXyWlyBvV7QG>

Co-Sponsors: alpha Kappa Delta Phi, Asian American Mental Health Alliance, ACEC, Cook Counseling

**APIDA MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP**

**BIWEEKLY MEETING ON:**  
**MARCH 22, 2021 4:00 PM EST**

**Register in advance:**  
<https://rb.gy/uvnhuy>

**Theme:**  
Tokenism/Anti-Tokenism

For questions, contact Dr. Nina Ha at [nha@vt.edu](mailto:nha@vt.edu)

### APIDA Mental Health Support Group: Tokenism/Anti-Tokenism

- March 22, 2021 at 4:00PM EST
- Register in advance for this meeting: <https://virginiatech.zo.om.us/meeting/register/tZUdeugpz4oEt2JTymVh0z->

Co-Sponsored by the ACEC and Office of Recruitment, Diversity, and Inclusion - Graduate School

InspirASIAN Series Presents:

**ILLUMINATING APIDA GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCES**

This transdisciplinary panel features APIDA graduate students from Science, Technology, and Society (STS), Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics, and Sociology. The panelists will share their research and their experiences as APIDA graduate students in their respective fields.

**MARCH 23 2021 5 PM - 6:15 PM EST**

**MEET THE PANELISTS**

<b>Joong Won Kim</b> Sociology, Ph.D. Candidate (5th Year)	<b>Annie Y. Patrick</b> 5th Year Doctoral Student, Department of Science, Technology, and Society (STS)	<b>Hana Chan</b> Graduate Research Assistant, 3rd year (PhD), Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics

**REGISTER HERE:** <https://rb.gy/xtxxgv>  
FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT DR. HA AT [NHA@VT.EDU](mailto:NHA@VT.EDU)

### Illuminating APIDA Graduate Student Research Experiences

- March 23, 2021 at 6:15PM EST
- Register in advance for this meeting: <https://virginiatech.zo.om.us/meeting/register/tZwkdeGoqT8pH9IMIjLfHx9XfKsORb>

WOMEN'S MONTH PRESENTS THE ACEC'S

**LEARNING LUNCH SERIES**

WITH DR. FARIDA JALALZAI

CO-SPONSORED BY THE VT WOMEN'S CENTER AND VT AKDPH

MARCH 24, 2021  
12 PM - 1 PM EST

REGISTER HERE:  
<https://rb.gy/u2i4ti>



Farida Jalalzai, Associate Dean for Global Initiatives and Engagement, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and Professor. Her research analyzes the role of gender in the political arena including women national leaders. Her books include: *Shattered, Cracked and Firmly Intact: Women and the Executive Glass Ceiling Worldwide* (Oxford University Press 2015) which offers a comprehensive analysis of women, gender, and national leadership positions; *Women Presidents of Latin America: Beyond Family Ties?* (Routledge 2016), a comparative analysis of women presidents in Latin America and *Senhora Presidente: Women's Empowerment and Disempowerment in Brazil: The Rise and Fall of President Dilma Rousseff*, which examines the first female president of Brazil (with Pedro das Santos, forthcoming 2021 Temple University Press). She has published dozens of peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters. Her research has been funded by the Thyssen Foundation and she is a recipient of the Fulbright Commission Global Scholar Award.


FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT DR. NINA HA AT [NHA@VT.EDU](mailto:NHA@VT.EDU)

### Women's Month Presents: The Learning Lunch Series with Dr. Farida Jalalzai


- March 24, 2021 at 12PM EST
- Register in advance for this meeting: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/join/82523208914>

ACEC Presents:  
**Nighttime Guided Meditation with Vivek Rajan**  
Thursday, March 25, 2021  
at 8pm EST

Questions? Contact Dr. Nina Ha at [nha@vt.edu](mailto:nha@vt.edu).

Scan Here: 

Vivek Rajan was trained and certified as a meditation teacher at the Art of Living Center in Washington D.C. in 2009 and has led these programs for hundreds of people nationally.



Zoom Link: <https://rb.gy/lwq49e>

### Guided Meditation Session

- March 25, 2021 from 8–9PM EST
- Zoom

Link: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/82523208914>

## OPPORTUNITIES for Students/Faculty/Alumni/Community Members

### Research study for Asian and Asian American college students seeking volunteers

- Link: [https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5mvdKeggRimsPr?fbclid=IwAR3CIQyWxjJg2hVQRD2Z19jKFhjtHrqnUQ-yxM8ocPdZC5w8C-Loy\\_pPVdw](https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5mvdKeggRimsPr?fbclid=IwAR3CIQyWxjJg2hVQRD2Z19jKFhjtHrqnUQ-yxM8ocPdZC5w8C-Loy_pPVdw)

**Do you identify as an Asian or Asian American college student and have lived in the U.S. for at least 10 years?**

#### STUDY DESCRIPTION

- We invite you to participate in this confidential online research study in which you will hear and provide feedback on stories of college students getting help for mental health.
- This study aims to better understand perspectives Asian and Asian American college students have about seeking help for mental health
- Participation in this online study should take around 60 minutes, at most 75 minutes, to complete.

#### COMPENSATION: CHOOSE ONE

Enter a raffle for a \$50 Amazon gift card

OR

Get credit for your psychology course if you attend the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB) and your professor approves.

You cannot both be entered into the raffle and receive course credit

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Current college student
- You identify as Asian or Asian American (of South Asian, Southeast Asian, Filipino, or East Asian backgrounds)
- Any generational status
- You have lived in the U.S. for at least 10 years
- Age 18 or older (at least of legal adult age in your location)

CLICK THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE:

[https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5mvdKeggRimsPr](https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5mvdKeggRimsPr)

This study is sponsored by the Department of Psychology and has been approved by the UMass Boston Institutional Review Board. The Principal Investigator of this study is Anne Ting, D10027, [research@umb.edu](mailto:research@umb.edu)

# Digital Connect Series



**Digital Connect SERIES**  
Panel Discussion & 1:1 Networking/Q&A

**Preparing for Career Fairs**  
Tuesday, February 2, 3:30-5:00 PM

**Job and Internship Searching**  
Tuesday, March 2, 3:30-5:00 PM

**Working Remotely**  
Thursday, April 1, 3:30-5:00 PM

**Register:**  
vt.joinhandshake.com/events  
Keyword Search: Digital Connect

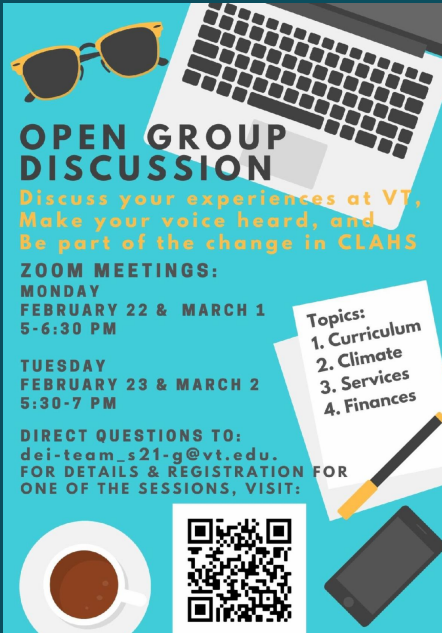
**Questions? Contact:**  
Ashley Roberts: ashleylr@vt.edu

## Open Discussion Sessions February 22 & 23, March 1 & 2

Do you fit in or feel safe on campus? Do you feel that the college or university could improve its curriculum and services? How do you think the college handles aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion? If any of these questions interest you, please consider participating in an open group discussion for undergraduate students in CLAHS (College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences). These sessions serve as opportunities for you to share your experiences at Virginia Tech; meet other students with similar interests, experiences, and concerns; and help facilitate the change you wish to see within the college and at the university.

The topics for discussion include:

- 1) Curriculum
- 2) Climate
- 3) Services
- 4) Finances



**OPEN GROUP DISCUSSION**  
Discuss your experiences at VT, Make your voice heard, and Be part of the change in CLAHS

**ZOOM MEETINGS:**  
MONDAY  
FEBRUARY 22 & MARCH 1  
5-6:30 PM

TUESDAY  
FEBRUARY 23 & MARCH 2  
5:30-7 PM

**Topics:**  
1. Curriculum  
2. Climate  
3. Services  
4. Finances

**DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:**  
dei-team\_s21-g@vt.edu.  
FOR DETAILS & REGISTRATION FOR ONE OF THE SESSIONS, VISIT:

QR code and contact information for registration.

Please fill in the information on this very [brief survey](#) (4 questions including your name and email) to register for ONE of the discussion sessions. Note that the sessions will be recorded so that we are able to analyze the information you share. See the attached flyer details. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at [dei-team\\_s21-g@vt.edu](mailto:dei-team_s21-g@vt.edu). We will send you a Zoom link for the session you selected. We look forward to speaking with you soon!

## Hokie Wellness - Seeking Applicants

- Educate students on financial topics like budgeting, credit, and student loans by joining our Peer Education Team
- Resume and Cover Letter required with application
- Learn more and apply:  
[hokiewellness.vt.edu/financial\\_peers](http://hokiewellness.vt.edu/financial_peers)



**APPLY TO BE PART OF THE HOKIE WELLNESS TEAM!**  
Educate students on financial topics like budgeting, credit, and student loans by joining our Peer Education Team!

Sorority Body Project  
HEAT

**Financial Wellness**  
Coach your peers in individual financial consultations  
Develop your presentation and public speaking skills  
Enhance our program offerings in unique and creative ways

Available for all rising sophomores and juniors  
Need to be able to work the full 2021-2022 academic year  
Open to all majors  
Volunteer opportunity, hours count towards CFP and AFC certifications

Resume and cover letter required with application  
Apply by March 29th

Learn more and apply:  
[hokiewellness.vt.edu/financial\\_peers](http://hokiewellness.vt.edu/financial_peers)

FEELS  
IMPACT

QR code and contact information for application.

# Undergraduate Student Senate

Student Government (SGA) as an organization is being phased out at the end of Spring 2021 and the Undergraduate Student Senate (USS) will be the new representative body for students. For more information on this process, please see this [VT Daily News article](#).

Student Affairs is currently recruiting for a [12-person USS Transition Team](#) that will be responsible for the creation of foundational documents, processes, and more throughout the shift from SGA to USS. These students should be change makers who care deeply about the experiences of their fellow students. We know that as student organization advisors, you work side by side with passionate students. As it makes sense for you, please help us share this unique opportunity with students!

Students are able to learn more and apply by the March 3rd deadline at [campuslife.vt.edu/uss](https://campuslife.vt.edu/uss).



Join the Undergraduate Student Senate (USS) Transition Team

The 12-person USS Transition Team is responsible for the creation of foundational documents, processes, and ways of doing that help usher in a positive future for the undergraduate student voice.

Apply by March 3rd!

For more information and to apply, visit [campuslife.vt.edu/uss](https://campuslife.vt.edu/uss)

VT STUDENT AFFAIRS

# Student Success Center Hiring Tutors

The Student Success Center is hiring tutors and peer academic coaches for the coming year, and we'd like to make sure all interested students can [submit applications](#) before the March 5 deadline. With that in mind, I wanted to share our new recruitment options:

1. We are now offering classroom visits! Let me know if you would like a tutor or PAC to drop into your Zoom classroom, club meeting, etc. to briefly introduce our programs and answer questions.
2. We also have a new [referral form](#) that you can complete to let us know about students who would do a great job in these positions. We'll reach out to these students directly to encourage them to apply.
3. I also attached two new flyers that you are welcome to share with any interested students.



STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM!

NOW HIRING FOR THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

TUTORS AND PEER ACADEMIC COACHES

FIND JOB DESCRIPTIONS, INFO SESSION DATES, AND APPLICATION ON OUR WEBSITE: [STUDENTSUCCESS.VT.EDU](https://studentsuccess.vt.edu)

APPLICATION DUE MARCH 5



Student Success Center

WE'RE HIRING!

Tutors & Peer Academic Coaches

Details and application at [www.studentsuccess.vt.edu](https://www.studentsuccess.vt.edu)

# Refugee Studies and Southeast Asian American Cultural Production

Viet Thanh Nguyen writes that “all wars are fought twice, the first time on the battlefield, the second time in memory.” This mini speaker series interrogates the memory and construction of the Vietnam War through the intellectual interventions of critical refugee studies scholars and through creative and poetic means by Southeast Asian American cultural producers. Tied to the HL90ET Asian America’s Vietnam War seminar, the series offers students and the public the opportunity to engage with new work that challenges and offers diverse ways to think, remember, and narrate the Vietnam War and its enduring legacies.

Series Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/refractvnwar>

## Thursdays from 4:30-5:45pm ET

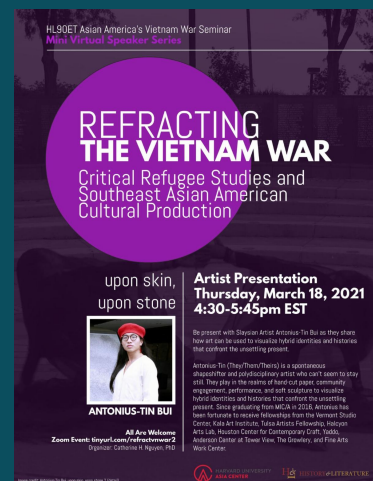
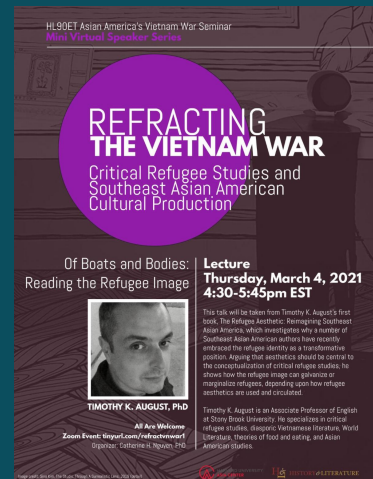
- March 4th - Timothy K. August, “Of Boats and Bodies: Reading the Refugee Image” Lecture
- <https://tinyurl.com/refractvnwar1>
- <https://fb.me/e/ahmXpzIDP>

## March 18th - Antonius-Tin Bui, “upon skin, upon stone” Artist Presentation

- <https://tinyurl.com/refractvnwar2>

## April 1st - Krysada Phounsiri, “LAOMERICA, a Wandering Narrative” Poetry Reading

- <https://tinyurl.com/refractvnwar3>



HL90ET Asian America's Vietnam War Seminar  
Mini Virtual Speaker Series

**REFRACTING THE VIETNAM WAR**  
Critical Refugee Studies and Southeast Asian American Cultural Production

LAOMERICA, a Wandering Narrative

**Poetry Reading**  
Thursday, April 1, 2021  
4:30-5:45pm EST

**KRYSADA PHOUNSIRI**

All Are Welcome  
Zoom Event: [tinyurl.com/refractvnwar4](https://tinyurl.com/refractvnwar4)  
Organizer: Catherine H. Nguyen, PhD

Image credit: Ma Vang, "Displacement's War" (2018)

**April 22nd - Ma Vang, “Hmong American Literature and Refugee Presence” Lecture**

- <https://tinyurl.com/refractvnwar4>

HL90ET Asian America's Vietnam War Seminar  
Mini Virtual Speaker Series

**REFRACTING THE VIETNAM WAR**  
Critical Refugee Studies and Southeast Asian American Cultural Production

Hmong American Literature and Refugee Presence

**Lecture**  
Thursday, April 22, 2021  
4:30-5:45pm EST

**MA VANG, PhD**

All Are Welcome  
Zoom Event: [tinyurl.com/refractvnwar4](https://tinyurl.com/refractvnwar4)  
Organizer: Catherine H. Nguyen, PhD

Image credit: Ma Vang, "Displacement's War" (2018)

Organized by Catherine H. Nguyen, PhD.  
Inquiries: [chnghuyen@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:chnghuyen@fas.harvard.edu)

This mini speaker series is funded by the Committee on the Degrees of History and Literature and the Harvard University Asia Center.

**International Women’s Day**

Cranwell International Center will be hosting an International Women’s Day celebration on Monday, March 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in partnership with Fralin Life Science Institute, Virginia Tech Graduate School, the Office for Inclusion and Diversity, and the Women’s Center at Virginia Tech. The International Women’s Day celebration will include both an in-person and a virtual component. The virtual component will include an insightful pre-recorded discussion with distinguished faculty members. This panel discussion will be shown in Steger Hall multiple times throughout the day. After watching the discussion, students will have an in-person, facilitated conversation with other attendees about the topics presented by the panelists. Attendees will also receive a gift bag and refreshments before departing. To attend the in-person celebration, students can register below. Please choose a time slot-- a maximum of 10 students will be able to attend each slot

- <https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/event/6702856>

Monday  
March 8, 2021  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
One-hour program  
repeats every  
half hour

Virtual Panel Discussion  
and  
In-person Student Discussion



**INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY**  
at VIRGINIA TECH

A GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC,  
CULTURAL, AND POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN.

SEMMILLIONAIRE CENTER

In Partnership with Fralin Life Sciences Institute, the Office for Inclusion and Diversity, the Women's Center, and the Graduate School at Virginia Tech.  
Sign-Up: <https://goconnect.vt.edu/event/9702956>

**Facilitator- Maria Elisa Christie, Ph.D.**  
Director of Women and Gender in International Development at the Center for International Research, Education, and Development at Virginia Tech. She holds a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Texas at Austin.



**Speaker- Najja Mouchrek, Ph.D.**  
Designer and scholar with an M.F.A. in Design, Innovation, and Sustainability (State University of Minas Gerais, Brazil) and an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. focused on human-centered design applied to empowerment and exploration of meaning and purpose in the transition to adulthood from Virginia Tech.



**Speaker- Farida Jalalzai, Ph.D.**  
Associate Dean for Global Initiatives and Engagement, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and Professor. Her research analyzes the role of gender in the political arena including women national leaders



**Speaker- Helena Carvalho, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor and Block Director at Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTCOM). Ph.D. in Physiology at University State of Rio de Janeiro and Post-doc at Virginia Commonwealth University in Virginia.




**INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY**  
at VIRGINIA TECH

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for volunteers to help run International Women's Day on Monday, March 8th. Will require a two-hour time commitment between 10 AM and 3 PM.

PLEASE CONTACT JULIH17@VT.EDU FOR MORE INFO

## VirTual Safe Zone

Reserve your spot today!  
Spring 2: February 22nd - March 26th

VirTual Safe Zone is an online 5-week intensive course with weekly readings, writings, and a live discussion lab. The curriculum is meant to assist with the development of content knowledge.

- The course curriculum delivers basic information to begin your development of content knowledge.
- The readings are meant to help deepen your scope of the topic.
- The discussion board reflective writings provide the opportunity to explore your thoughts, feelings, and questions.
- The live discussions engage you in conversation with one another and allow for questions to be proffered to the group.



### Spring 2 Sessions:

- Meets at 12pm on Thursdays with Alison Sibol:
  - <https://profdev.tlos.vt.edu/browse/inclusivepractices/courses/indv19-022221-4>
- Meets at 4pm on Thursdays with Anthony Wright de Hernandez:
  - <https://profdev.tlos.vt.edu/browse/inclusivepractices/courses/indv19-022221-1>
- Meets at 10am on Fridays with Jes Davis:
  - <https://profdev.tlos.vt.edu/browse/inclusivepractices/courses/indv19-022221-3>
- Meets at 12pm on Fridays with Jess Silvia:
  - <https://profdev.tlos.vt.edu/browse/inclusivepractices/courses/indv19-022221-5>
- Meets at 1pm on Fridays with JP:
  - <https://profdev.tlos.vt.edu/browse/inclusivepractices/courses/indv19-022221-2>

## Introducing VirTual Trans Safe Zone

VirTual Trans Safe Zone is an online five-week course addressing transgender identities and issues. This course aims to

- introduce participants to contemporary introductory information regarding gender

- minorities;
- contextualize this new/refreshed knowledge with some of the complexity and nuanced characteristics of these elements;
- provide the opportunity to engage in introspective or reflective thinking;
- engage individuals in discussion with one another regarding their own understanding, feelings, and experiences with the course content;
- and encourage active allyship during and after the course has ended

Please note: VirTual Safe Zone is a prerequisite and must be completed before this course can be taken.

Meets 3PM on Fridays with Gerlyn Murrell

<https://profdev.tlos.vt.edu/browse/inclusivepractices/courses/indv27-022221>

Upcoming Training Sessions Dates:

- Spring 3: April 5th - May 7th
- Summer 1: May 17th - June 18th
- Summer 2: June 28th - July 30th

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## Financial Wellness Individual Coaching via Hokie Wellness

- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054eaeae22a7ff2-financial>

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## Become a Welcome Week Leader!

- Click here for the [Position Description](#).
- Click here for the [Nomination Form](#).



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## Leadership Connections Retreat

This two-day virtual leadership retreat is a unique, interactive opportunity to explore what leadership means to you and how it intertwines with your purpose. You'll connect with new people over shared interests through personal reflection, discussions, and a collaborative group project. Throughout this experience, you'll learn more about your personal leadership style and how your identities, values, behaviors, and assumptions inform your approach to leadership.

This experience is for undergraduate and graduate students of any major who are interested in learning more about leadership or exploring their leadership style on a deeper level. Please note: the same information will be covered at both upcoming two-day retreats. Participants should select either the February dates OR the March dates.

- Thursday, February 25 & Saturday, February 27
- Saturday, March 20 & Sunday, March 21
- Schedule for each day: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. with an hour break for lunch)

Register here: <http://bit.ly/LeadConnectRetreat>

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## 30 Day Leadership Challenge

Are you ready to flex your leadership muscles? For the month of March, VT Engage will be bringing you the 30-Day Leadership Challenge. This challenge will have you reflect and



learning to engage leadership into all areas of your life including personal values and identity to well-being. Every week you'll have a set of challenges to complete focused strengthening your leadership skills and values. The activities will range from a short reflection, watching a video, or discussing with your friends about leadership. You will also be able to stay connected, support and complete the challenges with other participants through a slack channel.

Participants will receive a journal and VT Engage t-shirt for participating. For each challenge completed challenge participants will be entered into a drawing for a mystery prize!

Register here: <http://bit.ly/30DayLeadChallenge>

Participants can register anytime throughout the month to start their 30 days.

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## APIAVote Positions

### Join our team!

This past election cycle the Asian American and Pacific Islander community turned out at historic levels but it did not happen overnight. It takes ongoing work year after year, and we must also engage voters for local municipal, county and statewide elections. We are looking for additional team members to join us in this journey.



APIAVote is hiring and expanding our staffing. We have 3 openings as we continue to seek to expand and develop local and national capacity for long-term sustainability in the area of civic participation and electoral engagement.

APIAVote envisions a society in which all Asian and Pacific Islander Americans fully participate in and have access to the democratic process.

APPLY TODAY if you believe in community building and the value of civic engagement.

- National Field Director. This senior position is responsible for creating and implementing and managing local field plans, building and sustaining long term partnerships with local and national organizations, training and building the capacity of leaders, volunteers and partners.
- Communication and Development Director. This senior director is responsible for developing and implementing fundraising strategy plans and managing our communications and branding needs.
- Communications Associate is an entry level position. The individual must be detail-oriented and have experience in communications, especially in executing social media strategies on multiple platforms.

For more detailed descriptions of the openings, please go to [apiavote.org/jobs](https://apiavote.org/jobs).

We will be conducting interviews on a rolling basis and will accept applications until March 17, 2021 or until filled. Please upload your resume, 2-3 references, any supporting materials and cover letter explaining why you are a good fit for the position. APIAVote provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or genetics.

### Intern with us this summer!

APIAVote is excited to announce openings for Summer 2021 paid interns! Asian Americans have taken center stage in American politics; from Vice President Kamala Harris becoming the first ever South Asian and Black women to serve in her role, to two new executive

orders signed by President Biden, including an executive order that addressed the politicization of the Census and the under-counting of immigrants and an executive order that took on the discrimination AAPI's have faced from COVID-19. This summer will be pivotal for AAPI communities as we work to protect and expand voting rights in state legislatures and Congress around H.R. 1, the "For The People" Act, analyzing the 2020 Census results and the 2020 AAPI turnout, and building on the infrastructure to fight dis and misinformation.

We are looking for undergraduate students or recent graduates who are seeking hands-on experience in organizing directly alongside various community groups nationwide to engage and empower AAPIs in civic involvement. The APIAVote Internship Program strives to encourage and cultivate young AAPI student leaders to explore a career in the public sector or the political arena. This internship program will also provide hands-on experience and training on how to organize and implement voter activities to increase the participation of AAPIs in the electoral process.

APIAVote is accepting Summer 2021 applications until **March 19, 2021 at 11:59 pm PST**. [Click here to apply!](#) If you are interested in remote, unpaid internships throughout the year, please apply as well. Our spring, fall, and winter internships are unpaid – applications are taken on a rolling basis.

Former APIAVote interns have praised the internship experience for its comprehensive approach. Just read some of the biggest lessons they learned:

- "In my home state California, vote-by-mail is nothing new. In Pennsylvania, where I currently call home, vote-by-mail was introduced for the first time during the 2020 Primary Election in June. In other states, legislators are taking it to the courts to prevent people from voting-by-mail. It's been interesting to track these changes and watch for these changes, especially during our very unique circumstances in 2020 as a Presidential election year, a Census year, and a fully-fledged pandemic year. I have gained an invaluable vantage point to voting across the country, and it has enriched my perspective on how important it is to empower and mobilize the AAPI electorate through any circumstance." — [Claire Nguyen, second-generation Vietnamese American undergraduate at Penn](#)
- "Civic engagement, including the Census, is something that ultimately affects our livelihoods on a day to day basis -- it's not only empowerment in using your voice, but makes sure the whole community is counted." — [Maya Chen, rising senior English major at Occidental College](#)
- "I think it is important to amplify AAPI voices because our voices are what makes us visible. Through this, we are able to gain recognition and access to the resources needed for our specific communities." – [PaNhia Vang, rising sophomore political science major at Lawrence University](#)
- "Seeing how each state had its own important and very different needs and how APIAVote helped these states with their individual needs really showed me just how big our AAPI community is and how important it is that we work together on issues like civic engagement." — [Sam Solemnidad, rising third year at UCLA where she's double majoring in Political Science and Asian American Studies](#)
- "Witnessing a myriad of organizations, both local and national, fighting for various causes has inspired me to learn more about everything from Pacific Islander representation to API documentary filmmakers and more." — [Michael Messina, rising senior at Binghamton University double majoring in Political Science and Physics](#)



**APPLY TO BE A 2021 SUMMER INTERN!**

- Virtual internship
- \$2500 stipend
- 10-weeks; flexible start date and work hours based on your time zone
- connect with other organizers - leaders in community, and make new friends!

[apia.vote/intern-2021](https://apia.vote/intern-2021)

APIAVote: Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote

## Her-Story 2021: Call for Participants

We Invite You to Participate in RU's 2021 Her-Story Project

March is National Women's History Month. As part of a campus-wide series of events, for the eighteenth consecutive year we are re-activating the Her-Story listserv which is

dedicated to sharing stories written by members of the RU extended community about the women, or the aspects of womanhood, that have shaped their lives. In cooperation with the [National Women's History Alliance](#), this year's theme presents the opportunity to celebrate valiant women: refusing to be silenced.

## A Reminder about How it Works – Sharing Our Stories

Beginning March 1st and extending through March 31st, subscribers to the Her-Story Listserv receive a daily posting from one of the list's members celebrating or otherwise contemplating the impact of a woman or of the aspects of womanhood upon the writer's life. Please note that pieces selected for publication are shared "as –is." Beyond basic formatting (TNR 12 pt font, etc.), we do not edit, censure, or otherwise intervene with content. The function of the list and of the celebration is to preserve and honor the voices and experiences of our contributors. For this reason, you must subscribe to the list to participate and you must agree to abide by the rules of our community. The Her-Story listserv is a safe zone where contributors can share their experiences without fear of judgment or reprisal.

## To Sign Up for Your Day

This year to help organize contributions, we are using [signup.com](#). Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to see our Sign-up: <https://signup.com/go/VWofrBc>
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
3. Sign up! - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password.

Note: [signup.com](#) does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

You are currently subscribed to her-story as: [ssamanta@vt.edu](mailto:ssamanta@vt.edu).

For more information, please contact Dr. Suchitra Samanta at [ssamanta@vt.edu](mailto:ssamanta@vt.edu)

## Outstanding Woman Leader Award

The Virginia Network of Women in Higher Education seeks nominations for the 2021 Outstanding Woman Leader Award. Please consider recognizing a woman in your organization who has made significant contributions to higher education in Virginia. Attached is a handout that I ask you to distribute as you are able.

The handout is a flyer for the "Outstanding Leadership Award" by the Virginia Network for Women in Higher Education. It features the ACE American Council on Education logo and the text: "The Virginia Network for Women in Higher Education Outstanding Leadership Award will recognize an outstanding woman leader who has made significant contributions to higher education in Virginia. By recognizing outstanding women in Virginia higher education, we create an environment that supports the development and promotion of women leaders." It lists criteria for the award, such as "Exemplified leadership, success and service; and" and "Served as a role model and leader to other women in the field of higher education through her demonstrated commitment to their leadership development; and". It also includes a "Process" section stating that nominations should be submitted by March 15, 2021, and a "Questions" section with contact information for Leanna Blevins at [learnab@vt.edu](mailto:learnab@vt.edu).

Criteria for the award are as follows:

- Exemplified leadership, success and service; and
- Served as a role model and leader to other women in the field of higher education through her demonstrated commitment to their leadership development; and
- Employment in, or retired from, a Virginia institution of higher education.

Nominations should be submitted to the Scholarship and Award Committee by March 15, 2021, by completing the form located [at https://virginia.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cYIJZ7cVNpXiaW1](https://virginia.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cYIJZ7cVNpXiaW1). Nominations may include up to three letters of recommendation. The award will be presented at the annual (virtual) University and College President's Panel which will feature women of color and will be held on May 26th, 2021.

If you have questions, you may contact [learnab@vt.edu](mailto:learnab@vt.edu).

Thank you for your part in creating an environment that supports the development and promotion of women leaders in Virginia.

## Empowering First-Gen Students Discussion Board Group Contest

Empowering First-Gen Students is a discussion board group on the Hokie Mentorship Connect platform specifically for those who identify as First-Gen. A student is identified as a first-generation college student if neither parent/guardian has earned a bachelor's degree or higher at a four-year college or university. This communal environment of the discussion board group provides participants the ability to network, have dialogue, and post content specific to their first-gen career development needs. It provides students the perfect collective and supportive environment to connect with alums, faculty, and staff who have been in their shoes and share their unique perspective as a first-gen college student.

Due to the robust career conversations and networking connections being made within the discussion board group we are expanding. Expansion plans include offering supplemental programming and scholarship opportunities for our first-gen students.

To kick-off the extension of the Empowering First-Gen Students programming we will be sponsoring the conference fees for 3 participants for the following virtual conference:

### **CIRCLE OF CHANGE FIRST GENERATION STUDENT**

- A National Virtual Career Conference for First Generation Students
- Friday, April 9 – Saturday, April 10, 2021
- 7:00 AM – 2:30 PM EDT

The conference is specifically geared towards first-generation students and focuses on career development which aligns with the purpose of the Empowering First-Gen Students discussion board group and Career and Professional Development. Contest submissions will be reviewed by the Empowering First-Gen Students discussion board group administrators and the selected winners will be contacted to have their registration fees paid for. The students that participate in the Empowering First-Gen discussion board group directly support our mission of community engagement. The training that the selected participants will receive at the conference would help move our mission forward. We would not be able to do our work or reach new students if it was not for our participants. Attendance will allow the selected participants to build skills and share those skills with others via the required mini-lecture which will be available for viewing.

#### Contest Rules:

- Be a member of the [Empowering First-Gen Students](#) discussion board group at the time of entry
- Create a 2-3 minute video entry submission that discusses your current career exploration process thus far and why you feel that you would benefit from attending the virtual conference
- Winners must have internet access and be able to attend both days of the virtual conference
- After attending the conference winners will be required to do a mini-lecture to talk about what they learned from the conference and how that information/work can be utilized or built upon for the benefit of the first-gen and greater Virginia Tech community

#### Submission Deadline:

- Video submissions can be emailed to [cpdmentorship@vt.edu](mailto:cpdmentorship@vt.edu) with the Subject Line "Empowering First-Gen Students Contest Submission" by: 5 PM EST on Monday, March 8, 2021

#### Recording Help Aide:

[https://video.vt.edu/media/Tips+for+recording+your+own+smartphone+video/1\\_3w7b9w9o/](https://video.vt.edu/media/Tips+for+recording+your+own+smartphone+video/1_3w7b9w9o/)

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## Calling all First-Gen Students!

Did either of your parents or guardians complete a bachelor's degree (4-year or higher) at any college or university?

**3** lucky members have a chance to attend the **CIRCLE OF CHANGE FIRST GENERATION STUDENT** national virtual career conference . . .

**FREE of CHARGE!**

#### Student benefits include:

- Valuable career readiness and leadership training
- Networking opportunities with first generation professionals from top tier organizations
- Lifetime membership into the Circle of Change Emerging Leaders Alumni Group
- Access to resume and reviews and career coaches throughout the conference experience

#### To enter you must:

- Be an undergraduate or graduate First-Gen student member of the Empowering Students discussion board group upon entry of your submission
- Create a 2-3 minute video entry submission discussing your current career exploration process and why you feel that you would benefit from attending the virtual conference
- Have internet access and be able to attend both days of the virtual conference
- Deliver a mini-lecture about what you learned from the conference and how that information/work can be utilized for the benefit of the first-gen and greater Virginia Tech community



#### Recording Help Aide:

[https://video.vt.edu/media/Tips+for+recording+your+own+smartphone+video/1\\_3w7b9w9o/](https://video.vt.edu/media/Tips+for+recording+your+own+smartphone+video/1_3w7b9w9o/)

Friday, April 9  
Saturday, April 10  
7 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
(Eastern Daylight Time)

# Application Now Open

Good Afternoon,

I am Grant Bigman, the Assistant Director for Hillel at Virginia Tech. Hillel at Virginia Tech is doing our annual PerspectivesIsrael trip again tentatively in August. The trip is a highly-subsidized politically oriented visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority's area. The mission behind the trip is to allow Virginia Tech students to see and learn about the situation firsthand. We will meet locals from both sides of the conflict, see the sites, and create a community open to conversation and able to listen to all opinions respectfully.

We are looking for key undergraduate student influencers from across all areas of campus. I know through your capacity in your role on-campus you can provide thoughts and recommendations for this experience. Interested individuals are welcome to contact me through my email, [bigman@hillelvt.org](mailto:bigman@hillelvt.org) or cell phone, 860-869-6379, or apply right away.

The trip dates are August 2nd - August 14th, 2021 out of EWR. Aside from transportation to and from EWR, several meals throughout the trip, and personal expenses, everything will be paid for.

Here is the application:

<https://forms.gle/gSF4sN6QZbDVhFYS7> and video filmed from the students' perspectives two years ago - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5P2TbygQz-Y>. You might recognize some of the previous participants! We had to cancel last year's trip due to the Pandemic.

## Volunteers needed to help run the International Women's Day on Monday, March 8th

- Will require a two-hour time commitment between 10 AM and 3 PM.
- Please contact [JULIH17@vt.edu](mailto:JULIH17@vt.edu) for more information.



## Research study for Asian and Asian American college students

Study direct link: [https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5mvdKEggpRimsPr?fbclid=IwAR3CIQyWxjJg2hVQRD2Z19jKFhjtHrqmUQ-yxM8ocPdzC5w8C-Loy\\_pVdw](https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5mvdKEggpRimsPr?fbclid=IwAR3CIQyWxjJg2hVQRD2Z19jKFhjtHrqmUQ-yxM8ocPdzC5w8C-Loy_pVdw)

**Do you identify as an Asian or Asian American college student and have lived in the U.S. for at least 10 years?**

### STUDY DESCRIPTION

- We invite you to participate in this confidential online research study in which you will hear and provide feedback on stories of college students getting help for mental health.
- This study aims to better understand perspectives Asian and Asian American college students have about seeking help for mental health
- Participation in this online study should take around 60 minutes, at most 75 minutes, to complete.

### COMPENSATION: CHOOSE ONE

Enter a raffle for a \$50 Amazon gift card

OR

Get credit for your psychology course if you attend the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB) and your professor approves.

**You cannot both be entered into the raffle and receive course credit**

### ELIGIBILITY

- Current college student
- You identify as Asian or Asian American (of South Asian, Southeast Asian, Filipino, or East Asian backgrounds)
- Any generational status
- You have lived in the U.S. for at least 10 years
- Age 18 or older (at least of legal adult age in your location)

**CLICK THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE:**

[https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5mvdKEggpRimsPr](https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5mvdKEggpRimsPr)

This study is sponsored by the Department of Psychology and has been approved by the UMass Boston Institutional Review Board. The Principal Investigator of this study is Anne Ting (at0001@research.umassboston.edu).

## COVID-19 Information:

Today, the Governor revealed a Statewide COVID-19 Vaccine Pre-Registration System: [vaccinate.virginia.gov](https://vaccinate.virginia.gov) that Virginians can use both to pre-register for the vaccine and as a hub for clear, updated information on the vaccine. I encourage everyone to pre-register today and ask your networks to do the same.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2021/february/headline-892800-en.html>

Yesterday the Governor announced \$524 Million in New Funding for the Virginia Rent Relief Program. This is a major investment of federal stimulus dollars to help landlords and tenants impacted by the pandemic; it is also something that many of you worked hard to include in your recommendations last year.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2021/february/headline-892766-en.html>

And in case you missed it, the Governor released a second Report on Systemic Bias in Virginia Law. This came from the Commission to Examine Racial Inequity in Virginia Law and presents new policy recommendations to address vestiges of inequity. This may be of interest to Boards that included recommendations about diversity, equity, and inclusion, racism, and reconciliation in their annual reports.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2021/february/headline-892615-en.html>

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## ACEC YouTube Channel:

New and Updated Videos For Viewing:

- Anti-Blackness in the APIDA Community
  - Website link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pKeaX7Llsc&feature=youtu.be>

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## SAVE THE DATE(S):

### Smith College:

“Disclosure”: An eye-opening discussion of transgender depictions in film and television

- Register via Zoom or watch on the Smith College Facebook Page
  - [https://smith.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JiBnKhT1RQmJz\\_aIOPUt9Q](https://smith.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JiBnKhT1RQmJz_aIOPUt9Q)
  - <https://www.facebook.com/smithcollege>

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### Principles of Community Week 2021



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### International Women’s Day Panels

- Event includes both an in-person and a virtual component. The virtual component

will include insightful discussions and will be pre-recorded and linked to a university website. If attending the in-person celebration, students can register here: [International Women's Day - GobblerConnect \(vt.edu\)](https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu)

- Please choose a time slot, of which a maximum of 10 students will be able to attend. The pre-recorded panel discussion is facilitated by Maria Elisa Christie Ph.D., and features Farida Jalalzai Ph.D., Helena Carvalho Ph.D., and Najla Mouchrek Ph.D., as panelists. A discussion follows with students that will be led by a facilitator. The event provides free refreshments and gift bags as well. Students must fill out the "self-assessment" on the Hokie Ready App before attending.

Monday, March 8, 2021, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. One-hour program repeats every half hour.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**  
at VIRGINIA TECH.

In Partnership with Fralin Life Sciences Institute, the Office for Inclusion and Diversity, the Women's Center, and the Graduate School at Virginia Tech.  
Sign-Up: <https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/event/6702856>

**Facilitator- Maria Elisa Christie, Ph.D.**  
Director of Women and Gender in International Development at the Center for International Research, Education, and Development at Virginia Tech. She holds a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Speaker- Najla Mouchrek, Ph.D.**  
Designer and scholar with an M.F.A. in Design, Innovation, and Sustainability (State University of Minas Gerais, Brazil) and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. focused on human-centered design applied to empowerment and exploration of meaning and purpose in the transition to adulthood from Virginia Tech.

**Speaker- Farida Jalalzai, Ph.D.**  
Associate Dean for Global Initiatives and Engagement, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and Professor. Her research analyzes the role of gender in the political arena including women national leaders.

**Speaker- Helena Carvalho, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor and Block Director at Virginia Tech  
Carilion School of Medicine (VTCESOM), Ph.D.  
in Physiology at University State of Rio de Janeiro and Post-doc at Virginia Commonwealth University in Virginia.

Monday, March 8, 2021, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. One-hour program repeats every half hour.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**  
at VIRGINIA TECH.

A global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

**CRANWELL INTERNATIONAL CENTER**  
VIRGINIA TECH.

## Principles of Community Conversation

- Tuesday, March 9th, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
- Join us to watch the InclusiveVT Insight, "What are the Principles of Community and Why are they referenced so often?" and to discuss how we can affirm the Principles of Community in our everyday actions. Register at:
  - [What are the Principles of Community and why are they referenced so often? GobblerConnect \(vt.edu\)](https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu)

## Hokie Collective: Indigenous Identity

- Tuesday, March 9th, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
- Participants will explore the complexities of Indigenous identity, contrasting ways in which Native Peoples define group belonging to how federal and state governments have defined "Indian." This introductory discussion introduces participants to the concept of Peoplehood while analyzing its capacity to advance Indigenous sovereignty and its inherent limitations. Register at: <https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/event/6740698>

## Leaders in CALS: A Conversation with women in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

- Tuesday, March 9th, 7:00 pm
- The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is proud to host a discussion panel with some of the leaders in the college. CALS Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Chevone Thorpe, Department Head in Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education, Dr. Tracy Rutherford, Department Head in Biochemistry, Dr. Glenda Gillaspay, Interim Department Head in Food Science and Technology, Dr.

Renee Boyer, and Department Head in Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, Dr. Stella Volpe. This event will be hosted by Erin Ling, Chair CALS Diversity Council, and Molly Wilson, CALS Director of Student Recruitment. Register at [https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3qhPzW9NKQ7sAe2](https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3qhPzW9NKQ7sAe2)

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## Go and Come Again: Segregation, Tolerance, and Reflection: A Four-Generation African American Educational Struggle

- Wednesday, March 10th, 12:00 pm
  - A conversation with Dr. Jerry L. Jones, a VT alumnus, and author of the New York Times featured book, *Go and Come Again: Segregation, Tolerance, and Reflection: A Four-Generation African American Educational Struggle*. He will share his experiences as a black southwest Virginia native and ways he has continued to encourage others to find their path! All are welcome to attend this event. Register at <http://bit.ly/VTJJ2021>
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## Principles of Community Conversation

- Wednesday, March 10th, 7:00-8:00 pm
  - Join us to watch the InclusiveVT Insight, "What are the Principles of Community and Why are they referenced so often?" and to discuss how we can affirm the Principles of Community in our everyday actions. Register at
    - [What are the Principles of Community and why are they referenced so often? - GobblerConnect \(vt.edu\)](#)
- 

## VTCSOM Lunch and Learn: The Principles of Community

- Thursday, March 11th, 1:00-2:00 pm
  - Join us to watch the InclusiveVT Insight on "What are the Principles of Community and Why are they referenced so often?" and have a conversation about the Principles and how we can affirm them in our everyday actions. Register at [Principles of Community | Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine | Virginia Tech \(vt.edu\)](#)
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## Making the Chair Fit: Talking with POC Award Recipients

- FRIDAY, MARCH 12th, 12:00-1:00 pm
  - A conversation with Dr. Bev Watford and Ms. Chris Tysor, two former recipients of the Principles of Community Award. Broadcasting from the Inclusive VT YouTube channel.
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## Revolutionary Visions & Practice of Care

- Thursday, March 25, 2021 2:00-3:30pm
- Zoom registration link: <https://bit.ly/3szeBnN>
- "Revolutionary Visions and Practices of Care" brings together two scholar-activists on the politics, ethics, and practice of care in the contemporary. Dr. Maryam Aziz (Penn State) and Dr. Ren-yo Hwang (Mount Holyoke) will discuss their respective and intersecting visions for care in



the contemporary spanning abolitionist politics, decarceration, queer and trans of color politics, self-defense, solidarity, and the collective empowerment of vulnerable communities.

THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION &  
CULTURE & VT WOMEN'S MONTH  
PRESENT

# REVOLUTIONARY VISIONS & PRACTICES OF CARE

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021  
2:00-3:30PM  
VIA ZOOM



SCHOLAR-ACTIVISTS MARYAM  
AZIZ & REN-YO HEANG IN  
CONVERSATION ON PRACTICING  
RADICAL CARE IN THE  
CONTEMPORARY

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT  
BRSINGH@VT.EDU

## Social Media

