



**WHO IS THE ASIANIST?:
THE POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION IN ASIAN STUDIES**
BY WILL BRIDGES, NITASHA SHARMA,
AND MARVIN STERLING — ASIA SHORTS BOOK SERIES

SUGGESTED COURSES:

- Asian Studies
- Anthropology
- Gender Studies
- History

KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:

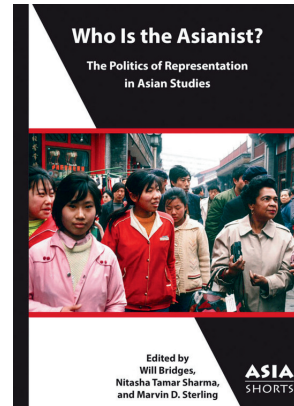
- Afro-Asia
- Transpacific Studies
- The Black Pacific
- Black Internationalism
- Blackness
- Black Lives Matter
- The Politics of Representation

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the Asianist? According to the authors, what is the usual profile of the scholar who studies Asia? What influence do they suggest the predominance of this profile might have on how Asia has been studied and understood?
2. How have some scholars who do not meet the usual profile of "the Asianist" experienced professional life in academia? How does the volume illustrate the potential contributions of such scholars in light of (even as it is not reducible to) their minority status within this field?
3. What concerns do the authors have about Asian Studies? How do the editors feel that each essay included in this volume helps to address these concerns? How do you feel about this?
4. What is blackness? How is blackness understood similarly, as well as differently, around the world, particularly across Asia, in the present as well as in the past?
5. What specific ideas for future projects in Asian Studies might these essays bring to mind?

EXTERNAL LINKS & RESOURCES:

- "The Black Pacific, 1919-1941: African Americans and Asia in The Interwar Period" <https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/perspectives-global-african-history/the-black-pacific-1919-1941-african-americans-and-asia-in-the-interwar-period/>
- "Black Lives Matter" <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>



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<https://cup.columbia.edu/for-instructors>

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<https://www.asianstudies.org/store/who-is-the-asianist/>

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"This extremely timely and crucial book helps Asian Studies to finally reckon with its racial unconscious in epistemological, pedagogical, and institutional terms. It examines the racial logic in various Asian countries in relation to the global racial formation, and shows how such studies are critical for Asian Studies. A must read for all Asianists."

— **SHU-MEI SHIH, University of California, Los Angeles**

"These outstanding essays compel us to reflect on the ways in which the pernicious 'color line' belts the world (Du Bois), including Asia, but in ways that must be attentive to both the singularities of locality and the entanglements of our world conditions. This means that we must also interrogate the past and present of Asian Studies as a radicalized formation. A courageous, timely, and important intervention that should be read in and far beyond Asian Studies."

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