

Episode 41: AAPI at Cornell, Part II  
Released on May 21, 2021

[00:00:00.12] TORAL PATEL: The opinions expressed by the guests and contributors of this podcast are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Cornell University or its employees.

[00:00:09.54] [MUSIC PLAYING]

[00:00:11.35] Welcome to the Inclusive Excellence Podcast. May is Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month, a month that honors and celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander identity, also known as AAPI. While there are many events that recognize this special month, it is important to acknowledge that this time feels different.

[00:00:33.06] The wave of anti-Asian violence and racism that has negatively impacted the community is something that cannot be dismissed. We continue our series called AAPI at Cornell, where you will hear the stories of Cornell staff members, in their authentic voice, celebrating their heritage and the joys of being Asian and Pacific Islander while also naming the very real concerns that they experience in this moment. My name is Toral Patel.

[00:01:00.86] ANTHONY SIS: My name is Anthony Sis.

[00:01:02.48] TORAL PATEL: And you are listening to AAPI at Cornell. We continue the second part of our conversation with Perdita Das-Humphrey, Jamie Hom, Aaron King, and Carolyn Chow. All right, welcome back. I want to thank you so much for being here for part two of our conversation.

[00:01:21.01] And I want to start this portion of our conversation with a discussion of how the AAPI community has been impacted by recent events. And by "recent events", I just want to be blunt and state that all of the violence that Asian and Asian Americans are facing here in the United States. And so I just want to start maybe just a little bit more broadly with your opinions on what it means to be Asian or Asian American here at Cornell, in Ithaca, or in the US at this moment.

[00:01:46.15] JAMIE HOM: So, I think, for me, this is a question of seeing myself in very macro level-- that's Cornell and that's Ithaca-- to the greater micro and macro. To the micro, which is Cornell and Ithaca and then to the macro, which is the US. I think I'll speak upon my experience in the US because, I think, something you're just hearing in the news a lot and just different stories.

[00:02:12.72] And, I would say, what's happening in the US right now with a lot of hate crimes happening against Asian and Asian American community, especially Eastern Asians and the elderly, that's really hard for me to hear. I think me, being more of a younger generation and this higher education community, in a way, compared to the US, it is like a safe space. And just at large, in the US, I think, it's a privilege for me to say, I, myself, am scared. But I am scared for my grandparents.

[00:02:50.04] And I think about my grandfather. He is in New York City. He has dementia. So he doesn't really know what's going on, doesn't really understand this pandemic, doesn't understand how hate crimes that we're seeing has come up because of the pandemic and narratives being put out there of Kung Fu flu and just these really degrading remarks spread throughout social media and people's way of talking and talking about the COVID global pandemic that we are in.

[00:03:25.30] So specifically, for me, in what does it mean in this moment, in the US, it's disheartening for me. It's fearful, especially for my family members and thinking at the thought of my grandfather, who-- is it possible that he could be attacked on the streets just because of the color of his skin, of his physical attributes, and him being helpless and not really understanding why? And that is just disheartening. So, I guess, that's the word that pops out in my head to speak about this moment in history and this moment in time.

[00:04:01.17] CAROLYN CHOW: I really agree with that, Jamie, in terms of just that if we let any group be discriminated against, it makes it OK to discriminate against anybody. And when it translates to actual violence and just any time I open the news and I see an article that happened where elderly Asian person was just walking down the street and then getting punched from behind and then kicked, I mean, some pretty serious violent acts that aren't necessarily something that you'd think about necessarily walking down the street.

[00:04:38.26] But it's interesting because I think Jamie probably-- my mom's 82 years old. She walks 3 and 1/2 miles every day. And I am terrified every day, actually, for her because I think, I don't know, maybe the wrong person in the neighborhood could just decide to just mow her over. I mean, I just obviously-- that's something that I think about.

[00:04:59.14] That is something that thankfully I haven't really read about in terms of physical safety in Ithaca and in Central New York. But this is an added thing that, because my mom is elderly, because my niece lives in New York City, is something that just really resonates in terms of it actually affected my ability to focus on my work.

[00:05:23.89] During the week of the Atlanta shootings, that was just a week that I can very clearly remember being like, are you kidding me? I really just can't focus right now. There's just a lot of heartbreak. There's something also different that fear-- that kind of fear, it's nebulous, right? It's like you don't know where it's coming from. You don't know if it's-- it's just there. And that, I think, can sometimes be overwhelming.

[00:05:49.67] And, I think, in terms of being Asian at Cornell, my history and my family's history with Cornell is so positive being Asian and at Cornell. And that has been my personal experience at Cornell in terms of really, again, being very welcomed in opportunities to talk with people, to do recruiting, to think about the DE&I space. So that's super positive.

[00:06:16.66] So it's interesting and it's hard to make sense of. And I realize during this whole podcast, I've been like, I'm just so confused, which is really just a matter of-- and I'm happy to admit that because I'm trying so hard to make sense of it. But it's a challenge because we get these messages, especially since last year, especially if you're paying attention to everything that's going on with African American and Black people. Just thinking about, it can be really-- how do you make sense of it when you get institutional messages that are like, this is a behavior that we abhor, we are not going to support this?

[00:06:59.57] And then it's just really hard to make sense of, because it's confusing, about, OK, well, I'm going to try not to be fearful, try not to be scared. And at the same time, it's unavoidable. So that's what I mean about the confusion piece. And, I think, that can sometimes be a little overwhelming because you don't have control over any of it.

[00:07:19.03] And at the same time, I think, it's also made me really experience maybe understanding-- while I know I can never understand anybody else's experience, there have been times that I'm like, OK, this is what it feels like to just go outside your house, and someone might hit you in the back of the head, and you wouldn't even know it. This is what that fear feels like. And that's a big bummer, not to totally go negative on that. But that sense of confusion, I think, is what's been really salient for me in the past year.

[00:07:49.90] PERDITA DAS-HUMPHREY: I think confusion and overwhelmed are two really good words to use. I think as someone who-- the world doesn't see me as Asian, right? So it's very interesting to find-- and I always hold both those truths that I don't experience anti-Asian violence that my East Asian friends, and loved ones, and families, and the people of the world do, like, Jamie and Carolyn, the way you experience the fear you have for your parents. It's not that.

[00:08:23.33] And I also have firsthand experience of how it feels to be othered. For the longest of times, I had a Bangladeshi passport, right? So having a passport from an Islamic country, what does that mean? So it's been a very confusing and an overwhelming time.

[00:08:39.52] Disheartening, I think, is also a really good word of putting it. Waking up every morning and seeing one 70, 80-year-old person getting hurt, another 80-year-old person getting hurt-- and both my parents are in their 70s-- and just for looking the way you look, right? We're all trying to survive this pandemic. And to think that there are some folks who have, on top of that, constantly attacked and have not been allowed to feel safe in their neighborhoods. Walking to the grocery store, I think, that has just been overwhelming.

[00:09:12.14] And I've always tried to make peace with this idea, it's not about to me. I want to be able to show up in solidarity and hold the fact that this is hard. It's breaking my heart.

[00:09:25.07] And even Toral and I were talking about this earlier. Right now with what's happening in India and Bangladesh, I also feel a certain level of guilt, I think, being here in the United States, being safe. Being in Ithaca and being at Cornell is a bubble. Everything is not perfect, everything is not rosy.

[00:09:45.62] And I'm safe. My family is safe. I am fully vaccinated. No one yells at me or tries to attack me for just walking down the street. And I can't say that for the people I left behind to, quote-unquote, "make a better life for myself."

[00:10:00.66] And, I think, that's something that I've been really holding the last couple of days of, I'm fully vaccinated. My husband just got his second shot. We're talking about reopening. We are planning for commencement, right? And every morning, I'm waking up and someone I know from back home has passed away. So it's just-- yeah, confusing and overwhelming, I think, is a really good word. And, I think, feeling guilty and understanding the privilege I hold and being able to say that the only thing I'm feeling right now is guilt.

[00:10:31.49] TORAL PATEL: Yes, I think, all of the words that you use, they all resonate, right? Jamie, I know you said disheartening. And, Carolyn, it's confusing and overwhelming. Perdita, you added that.

[00:10:40.52] And, I think, all of those words resonate with me. And, I think, it's OK that we feel all of that. I don't know that you need to feel one or the other.

[00:10:49.88] As all three of you were talking, I was like, oh, my gosh. I feel that too and I feel that too. And I feel all of it. And so if all three of us are feeling that, I can imagine, just even our Cornell community, Ithaca community, and then in the larger US, how many people are also feeling multiple emotions at the same time. So let's talk through a little bit about, how have each of you taken care of yourself through these traumatic times and through this trauma?

[00:11:14.85] JAMIE HOM: I think for me, I've come to the conclusion-- and I think maybe I always knew this. But then someone said it one time that, identity development is lifelong. And, I think, that's something, with my own Asian, Asian American, Chinese American identity, that I'm constantly trying to educate myself on, reflect upon.

[00:11:34.83] But then with what's happening in the US right now and knowing that the racism that especially East Asians are facing is trauma. That racism is trauma. And, I think, that's something that was recently shared with me that I am trying to navigate and unpack myself of just understanding my Asian and Asian American history within the United States, of my own Chinese American identity and racism that I have experienced for my physical attributes, and just who I am as a person, and people making assumptions about me or saying things about me that is degrading. But then also, on the flip side, me knowing my privileges of being educated, having the opportunity to educate myself on my Asian American history.

[00:12:21.81] But, I think, throughout all of this and especially trying to navigate that racism is trauma is my support systems whether these support systems are my own family members, my parents. As we're sharing these stories, checking in on each other, I would also say, taking care of myself of my friends that I have in my community. Whether they are some colleagues across Cornell and with Ithaca, friends that I have in other cities and other places in the US, I think, those are the people. Those are my support system that have really helped me in navigating this whole past year and just life in general in my identity development as an Asian American woman.

[00:13:04.92] CAROLYN CHOW: So, Jamie, thank you so much for sharing that all because that resonates, really, a lot with me. What I've found being-- it's so funny because just the past couple of weeks, I started to not feel completely new to Cornell, which is really awesome. It's an awesome feeling to get to because I spent the first two years being here just being like, what the heck?

[00:13:28.68] And so for me, a lot of it has been about thinking about building my friend and chosen a family network locally. And so, I mean, I have to say, being at Cornell has been amazing for that because I've been able to really connect with like-minded people who want to have these conversations and who want to really think about, well, what is it that we can do about this?

[00:13:57.01] And so when it comes to self-care, being able to talk with and make friends with people who we can have these conversations with, like on this podcast, which is amazing, because that storytelling, that sharing of your story and your background, it's cathartic and it's also very validating, I think, in some ways. And so I really appreciate being able to do that. So that's something with getting together with friends, and really reaching out, and making those friends and those relationships happen.

[00:14:26.49] And during the pandemic, it was challenging, right? But even if it's a 7:30 in the morning Zoom coffee, I've been doing that with a friend just to connect because that was the only time we could really make that. So trying to figure out, how do you schedule things? And, how do you make time? Because that time is so necessary.

[00:14:46.23] And then also, just really, really reaching out to my family has been really huge. That worry that I have for my mom and then also both my nieces. And then also, just taking care of my own physical.

[00:15:00.27] And I'm very fortunate too. My wife is super supportive, amazing, and really interested in learning, and hearing more, and really understanding. So I'm very fortunate in that realm in that we talk about it every day. I mean, and that's something that has really helped quite a bit.

[00:15:21.37] And then, of course, there's the healthy food piece, right? But amazing food, healthy and amazing. And then also, just having the fortune to be able to go the physical route in terms of working out.

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[00:15:37.41] A couple of months ago, I actually started learning how to kickbox. And I was like, I just need an outlet because I can't really work out the way I used to. But I've got to do something to get this energy out that I can't really get a handle on.

[00:15:52.38] And then also, I think, I'm very fortunate that I happen to have a supervisor at Cornell who really just really wants to understand me and support me in all of my identities that I'm very open about because, I feel like, I can be at my best when the struggles that I'm enduring are being valued as actual struggles. She understands that. And so we have a lot of conversations about how-- she's like, I have your back.

[00:16:23.40] I will block and tackle whatever is necessary to help you because if I can keep you safe and being able to be whole in your job, then what you're giving back is all the more. And so that's been really definitely key to my-- I mean, I would say, in the past couple months, definitely key to the survival of just making sense of all the confusion and not knowing exactly how to position myself.

[00:16:49.50] PERDITA DAS-HUMPHREY: Something you said, Carolyn, about the sharing of the stories piece really resonated with me. I had one of my student staff members share this amazing comic strip from NPR recently about numbness and the large numbers that we are dealing with during COVID, right? After a while, what's the 500th dead versus the 1,000th death and how numbness becomes a mechanism.

[00:17:13.02] And a way to combat that is to provide those spaces for individual stories. Our brains have a hard time comprehending those really large numbers, but can start focusing in on individual stories. So that's something that I have been doing too, is really relying on my village just to say, "Hey", which is how I describe whether it be my family or my chosen family.

[00:17:40.11] I feel super-- and I'm not saying this just because Aaron's on the call. But I am very lucky to have amazing work colleagues who just step in. And I've only been in this role-- so I started a new role in the middle of this pandemic because that's how we do it.

[00:17:55.56] And oftentimes, in a span of seven months, they've understood what I need even before I say it. So I feel very privileged and lucky that way. And, I think, that has been an amazing part of just being here.

[00:18:11.75] And I have a small number, but a very near and dear to my heart number of friends who I connect with for different things. And that's something that I have been very intentional about. I have the one friend that's like my hang out buddy. I have another friend that's like my racial justice warrior buddy. These are all different ways that I have tried to feed my soul.

[00:18:36.20] And I also feel being able to take advantage of outside. So being on a live-on position, not left Cornell since March, 2020. So I'm looking forward to being able to travel after my husband is fully vaccinated whether it's just being able to get away

from Ithaca, as much as I love this town and love this campus. And making plans for summer has also been-- again, I feel like, it's a privilege. And it's also been what's been keeping me going.

[00:19:05.36] TORAL PATEL: Yeah. So, Aaron, if you want to talk a little bit about what it means to you to be in the space that we're in from a Cornell perspective or in the larger United States perspective with what's happening within the Asian community and then just how you have taken care of yourself through the trauma.

[00:19:22.46] AARON KING: Yeah, thank you. That's a small question, right. Yeah, I think, a few things if we combine COVID, we combine a lot of the racial incidents that have been ongoing for many different communities. And they've just overlapped and come more to the forefront for other folks too.

[00:19:48.38] What Perdita said on compartmentalizing sometimes, I want to be in some conversations and stay in those. And then, sometimes, I want to talk about nothing related to anything important whatsoever. I want to talk about something just ridiculous and irrelevant. I need to have that too and also have spaces of sharing joy and these pieces.

[00:20:15.56] And not saying, only look on the bright side, not that. I think I used to live in that. I'm saying, have both. Both is important, and being able to take that rest, and not feeling like we have to do this.

[00:20:32.48] Any time that I see this stuff now that says, you have to do this thing, even if it's from a good place, I'm not about that. So, me, I've slowly begun being OK with, I will work on my own terms. I will hear folks out because if they're critiquing something I'm doing, I need to listen to that.

[00:20:56.31] But even something as small as, sometimes, I leave my video off for some meetings, I didn't want to be rude at some points. But I realized, hey, I just need this. I need to not look at the screen. I need to be able to eat my food or whatever.

[00:21:13.67] And I'm OK with that. I'm not trying to be rude. But that's really small. But doing things like that and being OK because it's what I need has been helpful.

[00:21:25.46] And getting outside and making sure that I'm still taking time to run even though I need to do these other things because that's something important to me. And reaching out and connecting with folks beyond all these emails that we do. And that's something I'm trying to do because the human connection is important.

[00:21:45.41] This space even, I know it's for the podcast and stuff, but just even being in this space. I'm not in this space very much. This is great, right? We need this. So those are some of the things I'm doing.

[00:21:59.39] TORAL PATEL: Yeah, I think, I agree with a little bit of what everybody said, right? And it's taking care of myself first so that I can take care of others around me. I think that's an important component for me whether that's to, Aaron, your point, whether it's finding joy where I can. And it's OK for me to enjoy an afternoon with my kids somewhere. Whether if we go hiking, or whatever it is, go to the waterfalls, or even just go get ice cream for a half an hour, it's OK to do that and, at the same time, acknowledge what's happening in this country and know that people are hurting.

[00:22:31.30] I think you have to hold both truths. It just can't be about one or the other. So I agree with a little bit of what all of you said. So just as we wrap up this conversation and just knowing what each of us is facing right now, how do you find the inspiration or where do you find the inspiration to keep this conversation in this momentum, to keep it going?

[00:22:53.66] PERDITA DAS-HUMPHREY: This is going to sound very cliched, but my students. I will say this, I think, we have this role. For me, having the student affairs, student-focused kind of role or even being at Cornell even when we don't directly interact with students, ultimately we're trying to create the space for students to learn, grow, be challenged, and get the support that they need in and outside of the classroom. That's essentially what all of us are doing.

[00:23:20.16] And as cliched as that sounds, I think, that's where I find my motivation just even if it's one out of my 300 who comes to the processing space I host or the one person that writes in their application that, I was with Perdita in Balch. And I feel empowered to be a woman. And this is why I'm applying for this job. So when I read little things like that, they're not little for me.

[00:23:50.47] And, I think, it's really important that, I think, as Aaron said, there aren't a lot of these spaces. And there aren't a lot of us who are in these roles. And, I think, oftentimes when I feel discouraged, I know that what keeps me going, what actually motivates me to take care of myself so I can keep going is to show the next person who is immigrating from Bangladesh to be like, hey, you can get to wherever you want to get to. And I want to make sure that I am creating this rich space for you and giving you all the tools or as many tools as I can to help you navigate this wacky world at times. And, I think, honestly that's what keeps me going.

[00:24:34.05] You will hear me say, yeah, I can't wait for you all to go home. And then in the middle of July, I'll be like, come back. It's quiet. Please come back. So, yeah, I think, it's my students.

[00:24:44.13] And on a personal note, I have a 10-year-old nephew and a six-year-old niece. And my niece sent me a picture of her wearing a sari for Bengali New Year. And that's also what motivates me.

[00:24:57.84] I think it's just passing on-- or when she says things like feminist and when she says, you know, you can't call these Band-Aids nude colored because they don't



match my skin. And so when she recognizes stuff like that, I just feel so proud. And again, those are the moments that make me go, yeah, that's why I do what I do.

[00:25:20.13] JAMIE HOM: I think going off that, it's finding-- the words that come to my head is balance and duality. That, to keep going, it's knowing, for myself, it's like, OK, when am I depleted and I just need to zone out or step away? Shut off my Zoom screen, as Aaron noted before and be like, hey, I just can't be on social media. I just can't be on this video and fully engaged because the news has just impacted me. Again, it's that trauma, that racism is trauma that I'm dealing with. So, I think, it's that duality that there are times that when I'm struggling, and giving myself that space to replenish.

[00:26:04.38] But, I also think, what keeps me going is being engaged, and listening to the news, and being informed whether it's the negative news. But also, I think, there's also news out there that's uplifting and empowering and hearing people's stories. So being engaged that way and just feeding off that energy keeps me going.

[00:26:25.09] I would say, especially at Cornell, for me, representation is really big. And especially as a staff member, I know, compared to the student population, there is not as many staff members who are representative to the amount of students we have on campus. And I have seen this with some students that I've engaged with in different spaces that I have been part of and have the opportunity to be part of at Cornell.

[00:26:50.76] And them just talking to me and hearing their stories. And them reaching out to me, coming by and just dropping to my office just because, just because they want to get to know me as a human person. But then also, culture does come up in their stories.

[00:27:05.53] And that is also really empowering for me to be like, wow, that representation of, I guess, me just being me, that we're able to connect with something that I'm saying, something that I'm doing as a professional staff member within student affairs. And being in a student-facing role, and helping students see that about myself, and how I hold myself. And maybe stories and things that I'm sharing with them that they can relate to. And them confiding in me or wanting to know more and sharing with me their own stories, especially if they also identify as Asian American.

[00:27:38.28] So that, I would say, is echoing what Perdita says. It's those stories that keep you going. And it's exciting, as much as, sometimes, you're just like, I need to step away from, sometimes, students because I'm exhausted and tired. But at the same time, engaging with them and getting to know them as humans is beautiful.

[00:27:57.21] CAROLYN CHOW: Jamie and Perdita, it's so awesome hearing you talk about your student services roles. I was in a student services role before I came to Cornell. But now being in human resources, I have to say, part of what's really kept me going and keeping that momentum going is because the HR community has really taken this.

[00:28:18.20] Mary Opperman has really been an incredible leader in, we need to have these conversations and not only these conversations, but also the HR community actually gets together as a community regularly. And we've gone, thanks to Anthony and Toral, really talking about each of those CU Learn modules, the advancing DE&I at Cornell, right?

[00:28:43.59] And, actually, witnessing and seeing people in the HR community that I work very closely with really engaging because the reality is, yeah, I'm pretty exhausted talking about it a lot. It's one thing to connect with people around the story who really get the story, but then also just being exhausted from, OK, here's the story. And then being asked, why? Those community gatherings, even though they're over Zoom, y'all do such a great job in engaging people in that conversation such that there have been times that I've just stepped back and been like, I don't have the energy to do this today. But I'm so glad this is going on.

[00:29:24.40] The other thing too is-- this is totally not-- full on truth here. When we talked about doing this recording, I mean, I've just spent the last couple of weekends totally catching up on all of the Inclusive Excellence Podcast episodes. I mean, and, seriously, just really even hearing about other people's experiences and what they do, how they get through, how do they have that inspiration?

[00:29:54.36] And constantly, hearing those stories in a way that's just-- I shared with Anthony that I was listening to an episode, actually. And I was in my garden, doing fist pumps and being like, preach, yes. Yeah, there was just so much alignment, I think, with what I've been feeling and experiencing. That's been really helpful for me to want to keep the conversation going. And it full on made me really interested in being on one of the podcast episodes too because I was like, maybe I can help with others whose voices aren't being given the opportunity to be heard.

[00:30:31.24] And so that's really helped me is just the momentum that the community has been able to keep moving. And that's in the HR realm because I'm not really involved in student services even though student services is always in my heart, the student experience. But staff, we are a giant part of this Cornell community. And we're a giant part in being given this wonderful, amazing opportunity to share our stories and to have a positive impact on each other such that we can give that positive impact to students, to faculty, to the research, to the work. I mean, it is all very much culminates in positivity when we can depend on each other to keep it going.

[00:31:17.97] And not once have I ever felt like, oh, Carolyn, what's your opinion about this? And speak for everybody on that. That's just not been the case here.

[00:31:26.16] It's really been like, what do you think? What's your perspective? OK, you don't want to talk about it now. Let's figure out how to bring it back into the conversation later.

[00:31:33.81] There's a lot of room that's given there. And I really appreciate that, not just around my racial ethnic identity but also as somebody who's out as lesbian. And that's just been a really positive experience to think about voices are being shared and given the opportunity to be heard. So being able to actually access that and other people's stories has been just tremendously meaningful.

[00:32:00.60] AARON KING: Yeah, a lot of the things mentioned, absolutely. The little glimpse of growth or the little glimpse of being able to be a part of someone's story, helping them succeed, those sorts of things whether students or, sometimes, even if there's a way to help staff or even folks outside of campus. I've really enjoyed connecting to folks outside of this higher ed space that we're in because we're in these conversations so often that often it's the whole choir sort of thing.

[00:32:37.44] And then whenever I'm in a related conversation outside, it's like, yeah, there are people at all levels. And you feel like you can really speak into that space. And again, I have to make the choice for myself how much I'm going to be willing to just listen and also understand where someone's coming at, meeting someone where they're at.

[00:32:58.54] But I try to have that patience because I remember where I was at and I still am that on a lot of things because no person knows all the things. We're always continually learning. So, I think, that's so important to be able to have that patience and recognize we have a privilege of being in this space.

[00:33:21.24] Even though we have our challenges from our different identities, we're in this space, talking on a podcast right now with a job at Cornell, right? We have to own that and say, even the ability to have the language that I use and think about all of these frameworks, et cetera, I had to learn that somewhere. Even if I had experienced it before, I had to learn how to even talk about it and think about it.

[00:33:47.92] And so, sometimes, I'd get frustrated with something that I would see on social media. And I've try to get a little bit more rid of some social media in my life, talking about the self-care. But I was like, how could you say that? That's stupid, et cetera.

[00:34:03.21] But then I'm like, I disagree, but I get it. The culture is very strong. I actually lived in that. So that's important to me.

[00:34:12.21] And also, a little bit to what Perdita had said earlier on her nieces and nephews, for me, two daughters growing up. And just seeing them and trying to pay attention. How am I taking part in socializing them?

[00:34:29.13] What are they learning just default? How do they talk about race, and identity, and just difference in general? Being a woman, being mixed race, all of these, how are we having that conversation? And just teaching them to be caring, have empathy for other folks, right?

Episode 41: AAPI at Cornell, Part II  
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[00:34:46.01] TORAL PATEL: Yeah, what a great message to end our conversation on, empathy for other folks, right? And, I think, that applies to everyone beyond just the kids that we're teaching, but all of us individually as well. So I want to thank each of you for joining me today in this amazing, fabulous conversation. Thank you for being vulnerable and sharing your stories.

[00:35:06.28] That's it for part two of this four-part special series. For the latest updates on diversity, equity, and inclusion at Cornell as well as resources to honor and celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, be sure to visit [diversity.cornell.edu](https://diversity.cornell.edu). My name is Toral Patel.

[00:35:25.42] ANTHONY SIS: My name is Anthony Sis. Thank you for listening to AAPI at Cornell.

[00:35:30.01] [MUSIC PLAYING]