

**YELLOW PERILS,
HONORARY WHITES &
DIVERSITY MASCOTS:
EAST ASIANS IN THE
WHITE SETTLER STATE**

**DR TZE MING MOK
ARAHIA HE ARA
PATHWAYS 2019
19 NOVEMBER
MASSEY ALBANY
AUCKLAND**

WHO IS THE PERIL?



THE YELLOW PERIL.

Image credit: National Library of New Zealand, 1907

WHITENESS



HAIL, BRITANNIA!
(OPENING OF THE COLONIAL EXHIBITION, MAY 4.)

Image credit: Punch Limited, 1886

WHITENESS



Image credit: Alexander Turnbull Library, 1937

WHITENESS



Image credit: Christian Lander, Stuff White People Like, 2008

ASIANS ENABLING WHITENESS

Asia:NZ: Perceptions of Asia report

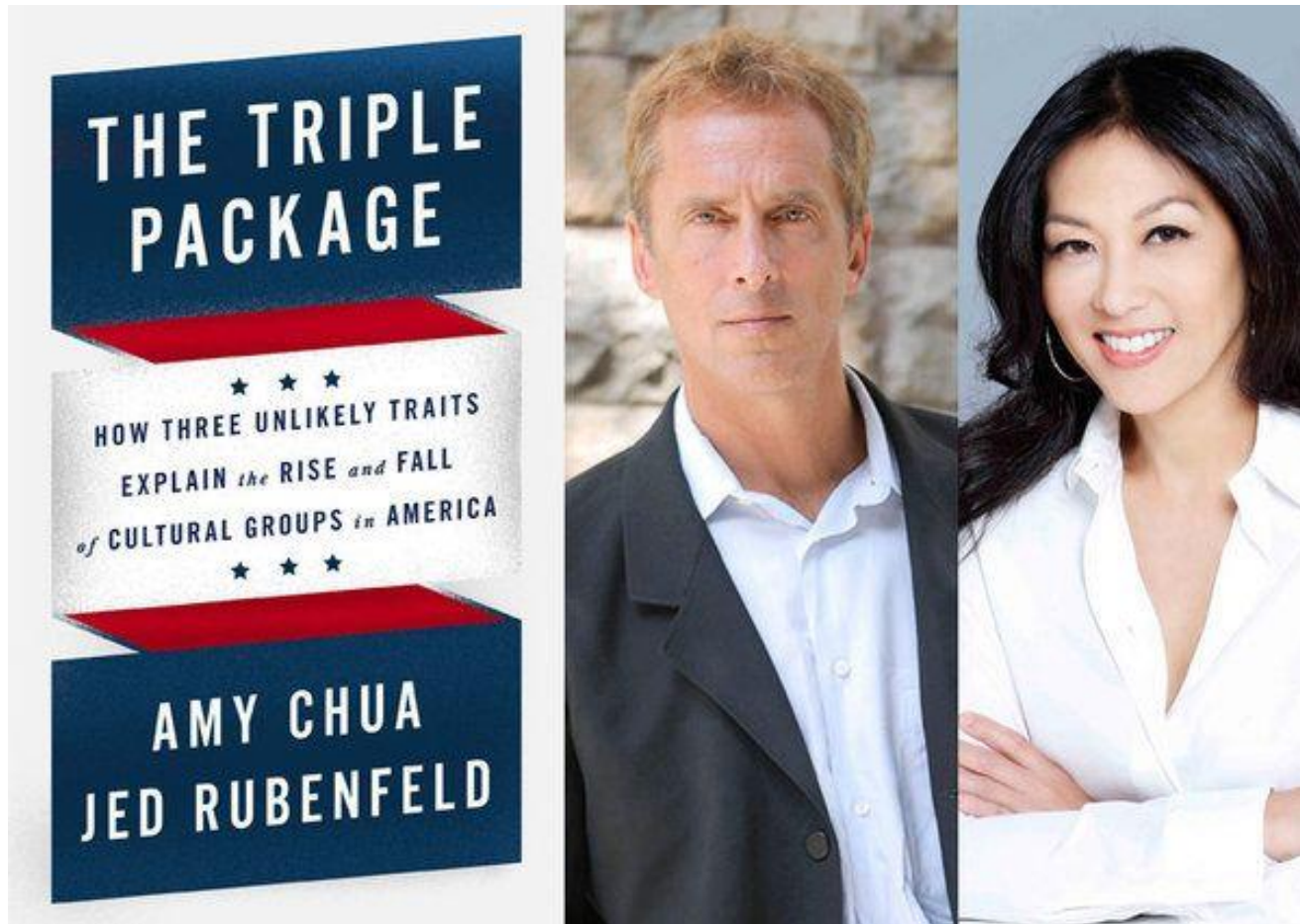
NZers self-report **increasing knowledge** of Asia, centered on:

- Travel and food
- Contact with Asian people via work, eating out, and shopping



Is enough being done to improve Asia-capability for the benefit of the New Zealand economy?

EAST ASIANS & HONORARY WHITENESS



DIVERSITY MASCOTS

“[B]land representatives who are populist, patriarchal, perpetuating the model minority myth and just blurting out the party line... it is only **tokenism.**”



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KANWALJEET BAKSHI, MAHESH BINDRA, PARMJEET PARMAR, JIAN YANG, MELISSA LEE, RAYMOND HUO

– *Dr Sapna Samant, ‘Asian New Zealanders deserve better than Asian MPs chosen by Pākehā bosses’ The Spinoff, 2017*

‘DIVERSITY’ DIVORCED FROM STRUGGLE

“The ‘turn’ to diversity [...] conceals inequalities and neutralises histories of antagonism and struggle. [...] Diversity is increasingly used as a marketing device, or even as an organisational brand”.

Ahmed & Swan (2006), ‘Doing Diversity’, Policy Futures in Education, 2006

EAST ASIANS AS DIVERSITY MASCOTS



© Can Stock Photo

EAST ASIANS AS DIVERSITY MASCOTS



EAST ASIANS AS DIVERSITY MASCOTS



EAST ASIANS AS DIVERSITY MASCOTS



© Can Stock Photo

EAST ASIANS AS DIVERSITY MASCOTS



123RF.com

DIVERSE SEGREGATION?

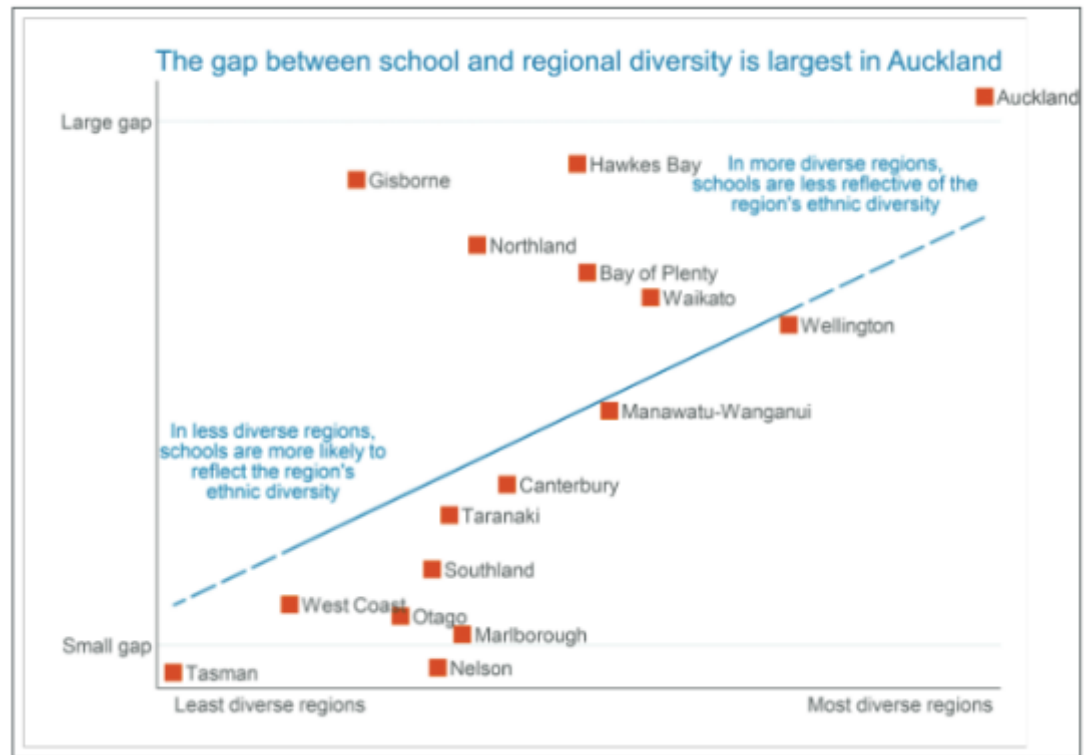
stuff national

Parents' choice driving 'eye-opening' segregation in New Zealand schools

Adele Redmond · 19:00, May 12 2017

f t

Are East Asians participating as honorary white in 'white flight' patterns?



ERO Insights, 2018

REFERENCES

Ahmed, Sara, and Elaine Swan. 2006. "Doing Diversity." *Policy Futures in Education* 4 (2): 96.

Ahmed, Sara. 2007. "A Phenomenology of Whiteness." *Feminist Theory* 8 (2): 149–67. Garner, Steve. 2007. *Whiteness: An Introduction*. Routledge.

Asia New Zealand Foundation. 2019. *New Zealanders' Perceptions of Asia and Asian Peoples: 2018 Annual Survey*.

Asia Media Centre. 2019. *Expert Views: Perceptions of Asia report*. Asia New Zealand Foundation. <https://www.asiamediacentre.org.nz/news/expert-views-perceptions-of-asia-report/>. Accessed 26 September 2019.

Bonnett, Alastair. 1998. "How the British Working Class Became White: The Symbolic (Re)Formation of Racialized Capitalism." *Journal of Historical Sociology* 11 (3): 316–40.

ERO insights Term 1. 2018. 'Ethnic diversity in NZ state schools', <https://www.ero.govt.nz/footer-upper/news/ero-insights-term-1/ethnic-diversity-in-new-zealand-state-schools/> (Accessed 17 November 2019).

Garner, Steve. 2012. "A Moral Economy of Whiteness: Behaviours, Belonging and Britishness." *Ethnicities* 12 (4): 445–64.

Mok, T.M. (2019). 'After a long silence'. *Life on Volcanoes: Contemporary Essays*. Beatnik Press. <https://thespinoff.co.nz/books/03-06-2019/after-a-long-silence-a-letter-to-a-lost-friend-in-xinjiang/>. Accessed 26 September 2019.

Ng, K.E. (2017). *Old Asian, New Asian*. BWWB.

Rata, A. Al-Assad, F. 2019. *Decolonising Diversity - Whanaungatanga as an alternative to state-sponsored multiculturalism* (conference presentation). <https://population.org.nz/2019-conference-presentations/>. Accessed 26 September 2019.

Samant, S. (2017). *Asian New Zealanders deserve better than Asian MPs chosen by Pākehā bosses*. The Spinoff. <https://thespinoff.co.nz/politics/23-08-2017/asian-new-zealanders-deserve-better-than-asian-mps-chosen-by-pakeha-bosses/>. Accessed 26 September 2019.

DIVERSITY MASCOTS SAY THANKS!!!! 😊 😊 😊

