

COVID-19: Dialogue on Racism and Bias

April 6 2020, Monday

We are saddened and alarmed to hear of increasing instances taking place in our city, our country, and around the world of anti-Chinese and anti-Asian scapegoating and xenophobic reactions, including fear, exclusion, microaggressions, and other racist behaviors related to COVID-19.

There is no tolerance for this behavior in our community. We are writing to express our deep and unwavering support for each and every one of our students, staff, faculty, and patients, and ask that you take a moment to reach out to your friends and colleagues with a word of support or encouragement during these unprecedented times. The biggest comfort in times like these is often the support we receive from family, friends, or other loved ones.

All of our community is under a lot of stress right now, but some bear disproportionate burdens. The COVID-19 pandemic has reawakened old racist tropes against Chinese people in particular, and presents an excuse to be racist. This is a critical time to have a dialogue about this as a community.

In response, we are conducting a special-edition virtual series of discussions called ***Racism and Bias Initiative: Chats for Change in the Time of COVID-19*** to engage in an intentional dialogue to reflect and spark action. The series will take place on the Zoom platform in April and May and will address: ***Racism in the Time of COVID-19; Developing an Anti-Racist Crisis Response; How to Respond to COVID-19 Racism; Privilege and COVID-19***. It will include an ***In the News*** mini-series to reflect how media messages and images powerfully socialize us to harbor and perpetuate racism and bias.

The COVID-19 Special Edition series is open to everyone. Join the conversation and help spark action [here](#).

We are committed to providing everyone with a safe, healthy, and productive work and learning environment. If you are ever subjected to discrimination based on race, religion, gender, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, or ability please let us know.

There are a number of ways you can report an incident. If it has happened on our campuses and involves another student, faculty or staff member, report it to your program director, department chair, or ombudsperson, or use the [mistreatment reporting form](#). If an incident occurs off campus and does not involve another member of our community, you can reach out to Mount Sinai Security for assistance (212-241-

6068). They can provide a number of resources, including escort services between campus and your home. And of course, if necessary, don't hesitate to dial 911 for police assistance.

In such a trying time, it is OK to not be OK. If you need help, please reach out.

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