

# CFPR SEMINAR SERIES



January 16, 2026  
12:00 – 1:30PM



Chairperson:  
Mu Zheng  
CFPR Deputy Director  
CFPR Steering Committee Member  
Sociology & Anthropology



NUS AS7  
The Shaw Foundation Building  
Level 6 Seminar Room, 5 Arts Link  
Singapore 117570



<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/cfpr/seminars-workshops>

## Matching Across Social Boundaries: Interethnic and Interracial Marriage in Asian America

In 2020, nearly 20 million people in the United States identified as Asian alone; including those identifying as Asian in combination with another racial group, the population reached 24 million (7.2%). Asian Americans are diverse in national origin, education, and immigration history, yet share common social environments and experiences of discrimination. Who do they marry—within national origins, across Asian ethnic groups, or across racial lines? Using the American Community Survey (2008–2023), we apply log-linear and conditional logit models to examine ethnic and racial assortative mating among Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Southeast Asian, Filipino, and South Asian Americans, considering national origin, multiethnic/racial identification, education, nativity, and union history. Interethnic marriage is more common than interracial marriage, revealing a hierarchy of social boundaries in which ethnic boundaries—often highly rigid in Asian societies—are more permeable than racial ones. These patterns highlight how intimate partnerships reproduce and negotiate social hierarchies in Asian America.

### Speaker

Professor Zhenchao Qian  
Brown University

Zhenchao Qian is Professor of Sociology and Faculty Associate of Population Studies and Training Center at Brown University. His research explores partner availabilities, assortative mating, patterns and trends of marital and cohabiting unions, with a focus on gender, race, social class, and nativity differences and health and well-being.

