

THE CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PRESENTS:

THE MARGINS IN THE MAINSTREAM

Asian Americans' Identity Management at Work



by

DR. PAWAN DHINGRA

Assistant Professor of Sociology at Oberlin College

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4:00PM

PAR 301

Dr. Dhingra's lecture will focus on Korean American and Indian American professionals exhibit their multiple identities in each realm of their lives. Rather than frame ethnic minorities as inherently at odds with the mainstream, this presentation argues that they are better understood as the "margins in the mainstream." This means that they do not simply segregate their ethnic, racial, and American identities to distinct spaces (e.g. American at work, ethnic at home, etc.) as often expected. With a focus on the white-collar workplace, these second generation Asian Americans express their marginal statuses in ways that still construct them as proper employees. They construct a hybridity in daily life rather than rely on the consumption of creative arts or on elusive "third spaces" to bring their identities together. The result is a rethinking of how we assess immigrant adaptation and stratification.

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email Barbara Jann at bjann@mail.utexas.edu or
call 512-232-6427

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