

July 12, 2021

DSA Anti-Asian Violence Statement of Action

The following action statement succeeds DSA's Statement on Anti-Asian Violence, issued March 22, 2021. Following the March 22nd statement, Board members Emily Wilcox & Angela Ahlgren convened a group of DSA members (including members of the Asian and Asian Diaspora Dance Studies Working Group) and delivered recommended actions and requests to the DSA Board of Directors. The following statement is in response to that work and is authored collectively.

As DSA continues to expand its anti-racist agenda, the organization draws the membership's attention to the historic and continued effects of anti-Asian violence in the world and in our field. We issue this list of action items to demonstrate our commitment to our Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), and Asian diaspora members and scholars:

- DSA will program ongoing events, provide public resources, and develop new initiatives that center, make space for, and empower Asian, AAPI, and Asian diaspora scholars, students, and artists in our organization and in the field of dance studies at large;
- DSA will continue to facilitate conversations on systemic racism, and will be more attentive to and nuanced about the multiplicity of experiences within BIPOC communities and Asian, AAPI, and Asian diaspora communities more specifically, so as not to generalize the effects of systemic racist violence as a totalizing force similarly experienced.
- DSA will create safe space inter-ethnic dialogues at the 2021 annual conference and subsequent conferences thereafter. DSA will continue to examine its governance structures and processes, budgetary decision-making, communications and working culture as an association fundamentally committed to the full flourishing of its Asian, AAPI, and Asian diaspora communities so that their concerns are equitably considered and engaged with.
- DSA will continue ongoing conversations to recognize and dismantle the white, anglo-centered, heteronormative, and ableist culture of our organization that has contributed

to the precarity and significant underrepresentation of BIPOC colleagues in our field. DSA will develop initiatives and material support towards centering historically marginalized groups in the field and organization, understanding that anti-racist commitments ought to also benefit and enhance access for otherwise marginalized members, including those in non-English speaking countries, non-continuing faculty, differently-abled/disabled members, LGBTQIA+, elderly, neurodiverse and others whom our programming has thus far not prioritized.

- DSA will examine the ways it can become a more explicit advocate for combating anti-Asian violence through a sustained commitment to advocacy work. This will require a reconceptualization of its current mission statement by the Board at the 2021 Rutgers Board meeting in October with a goal of sharing it for approval by the membership.

Additionally, the DSA [Asian and Asian Diaspora Dance Studies Working Group](#), a subset of DSA members whose work centers dance in Asia and the Asian diaspora and who have taken the lead on addressing anti-Asian violence in DSA, issues the following action items:

Asian and Asian Diaspora Dance Studies Working Group Response to Anti-Asian Violence

In response to ongoing anti-Asian violence both in US and global contexts; in support of the Dance Studies Association's statement condemning anti-Asian violence; and as a concrete step toward creating a DSA committed to anti-racist work, members of the Asian and Asian Diaspora Dance Studies Working Group propose to take on the following projects as part of the ongoing work of the AADDS Working Group:

- Create a comprehensive working group mission statement at or by the Rutgers Conference;
- Host regular meetings for the Working Group at the annual DSA conference, ideally at times that do not re-create marginalization;
- Create an Asian/Asian Diaspora/Asian American Resource List modeled after the [#CiteBlackDanceScholars](#) list already on the DSA website;
- Create a mentorship program within DSA for Asian/Asian Diaspora/AAPI faculty focusing on hiring, retention, advancement, and navigating field/institutions;

- Explore opportunities for collective and or co-edited publications on anti-Asian violence and Asian/Asian Diaspora/AAPI dance;

Build transdisciplinary collaborations and conversations between DSA and scholarly organizations dedicated to Asian and Asian diaspora studies, such as the Association for Asian Studies, the Association for Asian American Studies, etc.