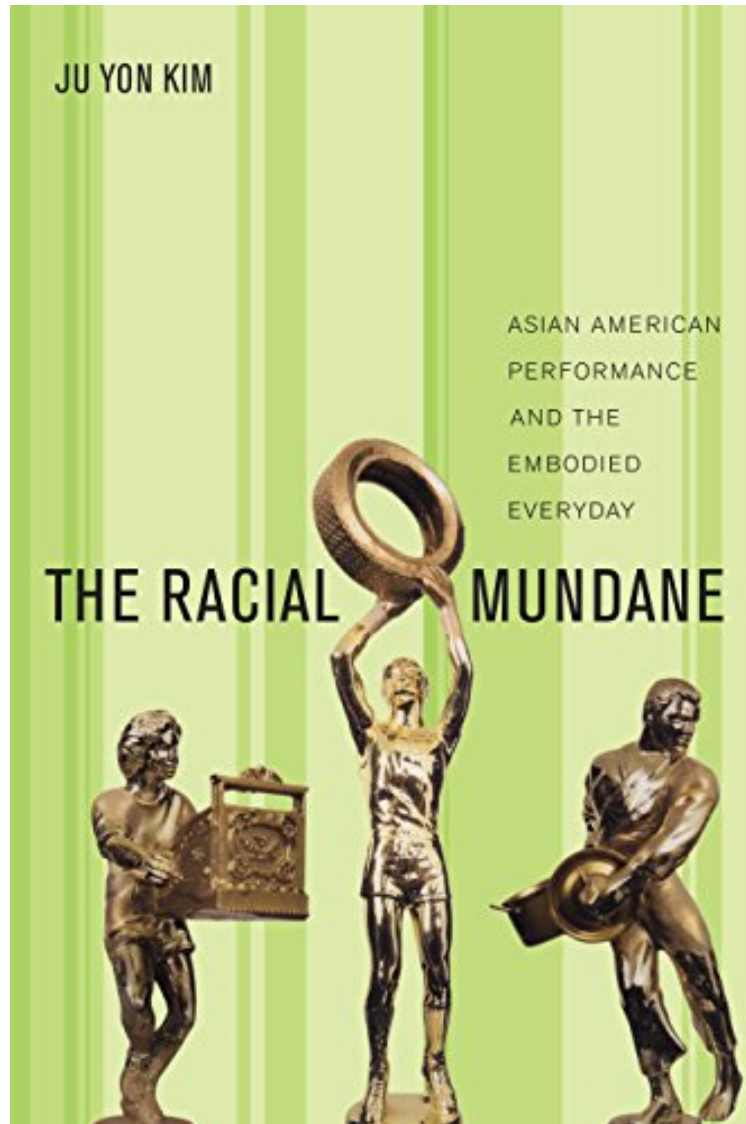


[Download] The Racial Mundane: Asian American Performance and the Embodied Everyday

The Racial Mundane: Asian American Performance and the Embodied Everyday

Ju Yon Kim

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Ju Yon Kim : The Racial Mundane: Asian American Performance and the Embodied Everyday before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Racial Mundane: Asian American Performance and the Embodied Everyday:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An amazing amount of research and analysis By John Matlock Dr. Ju Yon Kim has approached her study of the Asian minority in the United States and Canada in the somewhat unexpected analysis of how Asians have been depicted in the theater, in commercial movies and fictional writing. The history of

Asian and American race relations has a long and checkered past. This past is reflected in that 90% of the workers building the transcontinental railroad were Chinese who were paid less, worked harder, cooked their own food and were healthier. At the same time, plays and stories such as Bret Hartersquo;s *The Heathen Chinese* were being published. And in 1882 Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, preventing immigration from China. In some instances she calls attention to the differences in the two countries. For instance, Japanese-Americans were interred in both the US and in Canada. But after the end of interment in the US, they were released as American citizens who could live where they wanted. In Canada they were forced to live east of the Rockies. Likewise she looks at the acceptance of Japanese War Brides who fit into the American culture and basically disappeared as they fit into standard American society and did not form specialized racial groups. Dr. Kimrsquo;s research and analysis the Asian experience in literature is surprisingly deep, discussing works that just to identify them must have taken an amazing amount of research.

Winner, Lois P. Rudnick Book Prize presented by the New England American Studies Association Across the twentieth century, national controversies involving Asian Americans have drawn attention to such seemingly unremarkable activities as eating rice, greeting customers, and studying for exams. While public debates about Asian Americans have invoked quotidian practices to support inconsistent claims about racial difference, diverse aesthetic projects have tested these claims by experimenting with the relationships among habit, body, and identity. In *The Racial Mundane*, Ju Yon Kim argues that the ambiguous relationship between behavioral tendencies and the body has sustained paradoxical characterizations of Asian Americans as ideal and impossible Americans. The bodyrsquo;s uncertain attachment to its routine motions promises alternately to materialize racial distinctions and to dissolve them. Kimrsquo;s study focuses on works of theater, fiction, and film that explore the interface between racialized bodies and everyday enactments to reveal new and latent affiliations. The various modes of performance developed in these works not only encourage audiences to see habitual behaviors differently, but also reveal the stakes of noticing such behaviors at all. Integrating studies of race, performance, and the everyday, *The Racial Mundane* invites readers to reflect on how and to what effect perfunctory behaviors become objects of public scrutiny.

ldquo;A beautifully written and original discussion of Asian American performance and the politics of the everyday. *The Racial Mundane* illustrates how Asian Americans, whether historically marginalized or celebrated as model minorities, have come into the public eye, and will surely open up important new dialogues on Asian American culture and racial representation. rdquo;-Josephine Lee, author of *Performing Asian America: Race and Ethnicity on the Contemporary Stage* Kimrsquo;s methodology throughout reminds us that scholarship is its own practice and the 'theoretical elasticity' demonstrated in these studies highlights the complexity of Asian American cultural works and their unfolding critical praxis."-American Literature ldquo;Impressive and compelling, *The Racial Mundane* defamiliarizes everyday behaviors in order to expose the racial formation of Asian Americans. In this beautifully rendered, standout book, Ju Yon Kim breaks new ground, opening the theoretical framework of race and performance in original and exciting ways. rdquo;-Shannon Steen, author of *Racial Geometries of The Black Atlantic, Asian Pacific, and American Theatre* About the Author Ju Yon Kim is an Associate Professor of English at Harvard University.