Asianfail and the Myth of the Model Minority

Prof. Eleanor Ty
Wilfrid Laurier University

While the hashtag #Asianfail on Tumblr, Instagram, and Twitter features humorous pictures and anecdotes of Asians who “fail” at doing what they are supposed to be good at – cooking rice, using chopsticks, excelling in Math, playing the violin – they are poignant reminders of the ideological power of stereotypes. The myth of the model minority, with its stress on economic and professional success continues to influence the way Asian North Americans see themselves and are perceived by others. In her lecture, Professor Ty will provide a brief socio-historical context of the model minority myth and look at some examples from recent texts produced by Asian North Americans which contest such normative scripts of ethnic identity.