From Yellow Peril to Model Minority: Can Tiger Moms Teach Us Anything About the Bamboo Ceiling?

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Asians have been in the United States in large numbers for over 160 years. Scorned for decades as the Yellow Peril (threatening to the nation and to white workers), since the 1960s they have been lauded as the Model Minority (hard working, intelligent, and compliant). This talk briefly discusses the history of Asian immigration to the United States, then turns to considering how Asian Americans are represented in the contemporary moment. It asks whether the Tiger Mom of today harks back to either the Yellow Peril or the Model Minority, and if the “Bamboo Ceiling” can be traced to either of those representations.