

The Henry Rutgers Chair in Comparative Sexuality, Gender and Race and
The Graduate Program in Women's and Gender Studies

present :

David Eng

Thursday,
October 12th
@ 4 pm



RDJC Conference
Room
162 Ryders Lane
(C/D)

(Gay) Panic Attack

This talk comes from my book co-authored with New York-based psychotherapist Shinhee Han, *A Dialogue on Racial Melancholia and Racial Dissociation: On the Social and Psychic Lives of Asian Americans* (Duke, forthcoming 2018) which presents a series of case histories and commentaries on academically accomplished parachute children, all of whom are male and identify as gay. ("Parachute children" refers to adolescents and children as young as eight who migrate, typically on their own, from different parts of Asia to countries in the West for educational opportunities.) All sought therapy because of panic attacks—debilitating levels of anxiety and stress that rendered them incapacitated, depressed, and dissociated. Strikingly, while they view sexual orientation as key factor in their desires to immigrate, they do not regard homophobia—or racism—as significant sites of conflict or related to their panic attacks. What, then, is all the panic about? To answer this question, my talk explores among other things the psychic structures of colorblindness among millennials today.

David L. Eng is Richard L. Fisher Professor and Graduate Chair of the Department of English at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is also Professor in the Program in Asian American Studies, the Program in Comparative Literature & Literary Theory, and the Program in Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies. Eng is author *The Feeling of Kinship: Queer Liberalism and the Racialization of Intimacy* (Duke, 2010), and *Racial Castration: Managing Masculinity in Asian America* (Duke, 2001).

2:30 p.m.

Grad Student Seminar
@ RDJC Seminar Room

4 p.m.

Reception
@ RDJC Lobby

4:30 p.m.

Talk @ RDJC
Conference Room

pre-registration for the seminar: edcohen@womenstudies.rutgers.edu