Abstract
This research centers around the narratives of the Vietnamese diaspora and their experience living in America. Asians living in America have a very diverse culture. There are many ways people can connect to being both Asian and American. We are exploring the ideas of how sports and physical activities can relate to their identity of being Vietnamese Americans through qualitative methods.

Research Questions
To what ways and extend do Vietnamese people in the US understand their Vietnamese and American identity through sport and physical activity?

Project Activities or Findings
- Conducted reviews of literature that is relevant for the research
- Semi-structured interviews that focused on each individual’s experience and how it relate to sports
- Transcribing interviews and analyzing information that is gathered from the participants
- Reflexing and comparing how the interviewees’ experience differs from each other

Quotes From Participant 3:
Participant 3: Right, right so there’s a lot of imposter syndrome that happens right and we do know that imposter syndrome happens a lot with women, with people of color. I am a woman of color and age right and so called like white traditional professionalism appearances.

Participant 3: The cool thing was our kindergarten class had like a Vietnamese student-teacher person and she was there cause I think they knew that the incoming class had a lot of Vietnamese students. So she asked me what my name was. I told her my family nickname cause I thought that was my name and so I knew my name was. So they wrote that down in my cubby and sort of fast forward months later, I learned my English and learned that my name was Tammy and so I was so embarrassed that my cubby had my Vietnamese name on it. So embarrassed, so like I went to my teacher, I was like Ma. Brenden I want to change my name and she was like a hicky-dicky, like prairie shirt-wearing with the turquoise. She was a very like a 60’s love child right. She was like, “no, your name is beautiful, lets keep it” and I was like, “no, that’s not my name, I know my real name now!” She eventually changed it for me, but it was a source of embarrassment.

Participant 3: Vietnamese norms and it was a weird tension for me because I was very proud of the fact that I took Vietnamese close to fluently, I was very proud of knowing Vietnamese food and having being able to go to Vietnam and live there. I was all of that and just understanding Vietnamese music like old school music right and being able to read through the music, great, but still I was very proud of that but I rejected like ABC’s Vietnamese norms because it’s very much like I’m not that Vietnamese person you know (..)

Quotes From Participant 6:
Participant 6: Yeah, it’s a long time so I mean I’ve been an atrocity my whole life and then you know my dad’s side, my mom’s side. So. I think my mom said she was like 2 during the fall of Saigon or something like that. So that’s just it, it’s always interesting cause I always want to learn something new about my family and off that and I just want to know what I know heard about the research thing so I always want to come out and talk about it because I do research in the past for classes about Vietnamese American. The only real attainable that I could find that like identified as Vietnamese is her been Del Nguyen you know from Texas, A&M and then he played for the Cowboys. That’s the only one I could ever find really that is in professional sports.

Participant 6: So I feel pretty strongly so I still celebrate New Year’s, I still do some things that you like you know if I’m eating with my grandparents or like my elder aunts and uncles all with them you know have the first bite. You know you love me and first and then I get to go and proceed instead. So that practice kinds logs at my household because my dad is white and he wasn’t raised that way but when I’m up here I tried my best to like oh hey wait for them to eat or get their food first and then I get to go.

Participant 6: I could understand sometimes so yeah whenever I hear it always brings me back to the place I used to go to back home or like whenever I’m back home I’m always promised oh I’m in San Jose because of how my room interfaced with the water and stuff like that and how we had to pay. It always brings me up on up here New Year’s with just me being with my family.

Citations


