



sounding asian america

EXPLORING ASIAN AMERICAN SONIC RHETORICS

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**What does it mean to
sound asian america?**

ALIIIEEEEE!

AN ANTHOLOGY OF ASIAN-AMERICAN WRITERS



Frank Chin Jeffery Paul Chan Lawson Fusao Inada Shawn Wong

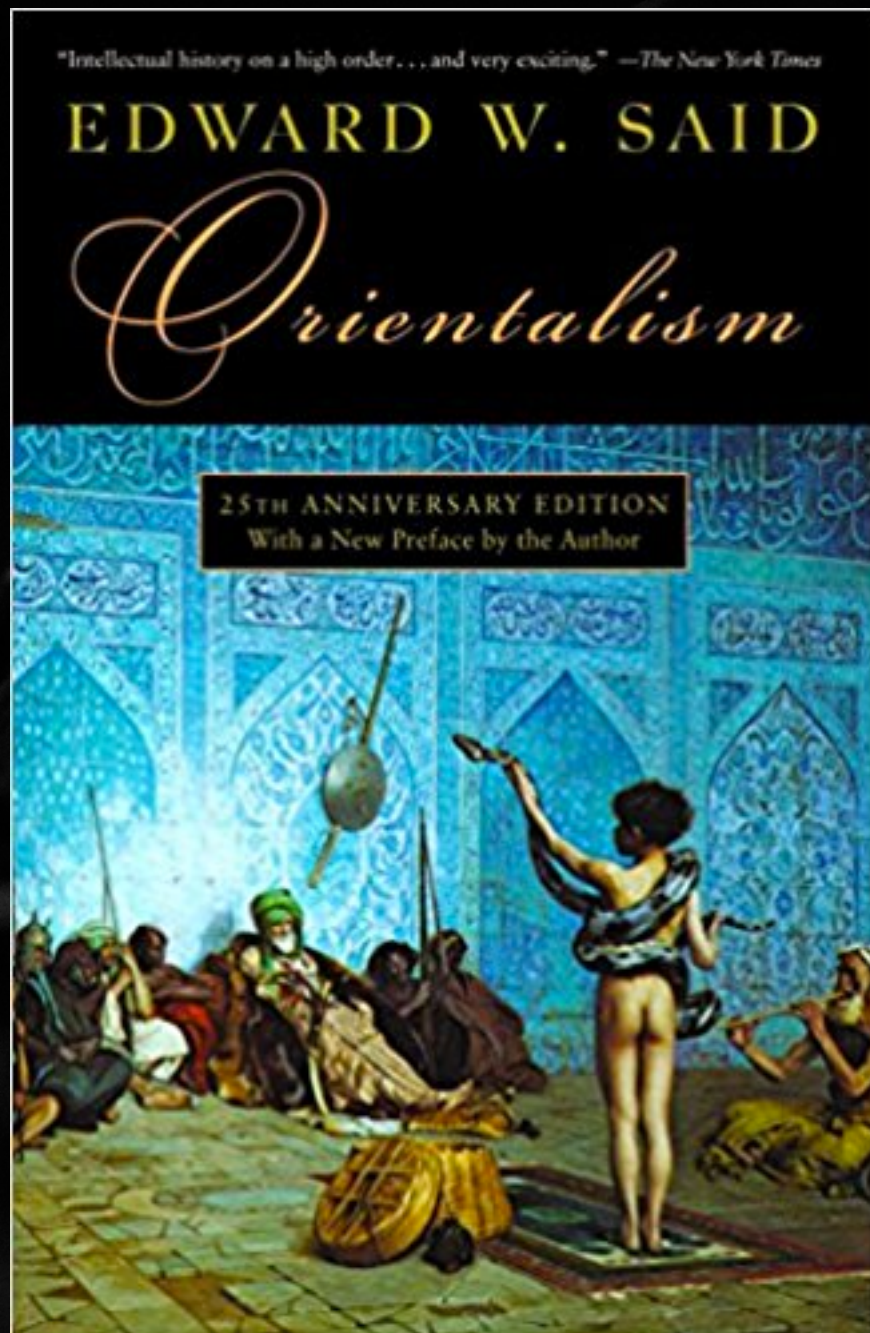


The Sonic Color Line “connects sound with race in American culture, showing how listening operates as an organ of racial discernment, categorization, and resistance” with deep ties to the history of systemic white supremacy in the United States (16).

In doing so, Stoevers shows how “Willful white mishearing and auditory imaginings of blackness—often state-sanctioned—have long been a matter of life and death in the United States” (1).

1. multimodal orientalism

Centers the rhetorical process by which orientalist tropes are constructed across digital modalities in the current technological and digital composing context.



Orientalism is “a way of coming to terms with the Orient that is based on the Orient’s special place in European Western experience” (1).

“The Orient is not only adjacent to Europe; it is also the place of Europe's greatest and richest and oldest colonies, the source of its civilizations and languages, its cultural contestant, and one of its deepest and most recurring images of the Other. Moreover, the Orient has helped to define Europe (or the West) as its contrasting image, idea, personality, experience” (1).

2. aural stereotyping

The sonic re-inscription of old, essentialized, and racialized tropes (such as the Asian riff or the sound of a gong) in a multimodal context.



Moderato

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3. aural othering

The use of sound to create the sensibility of racialized others as alien, strange, foreign, odd, or otherworldly.



“It’s 3 am on Monday night, and I’m shopping. And so is everybody else. Everything you can see around here is open. Nobody’s drunk, nothing’s weird, it’s the same as during the day, it’s just dark.

“This is an underground station, but as you can see it also takes you to the underground shopping center.

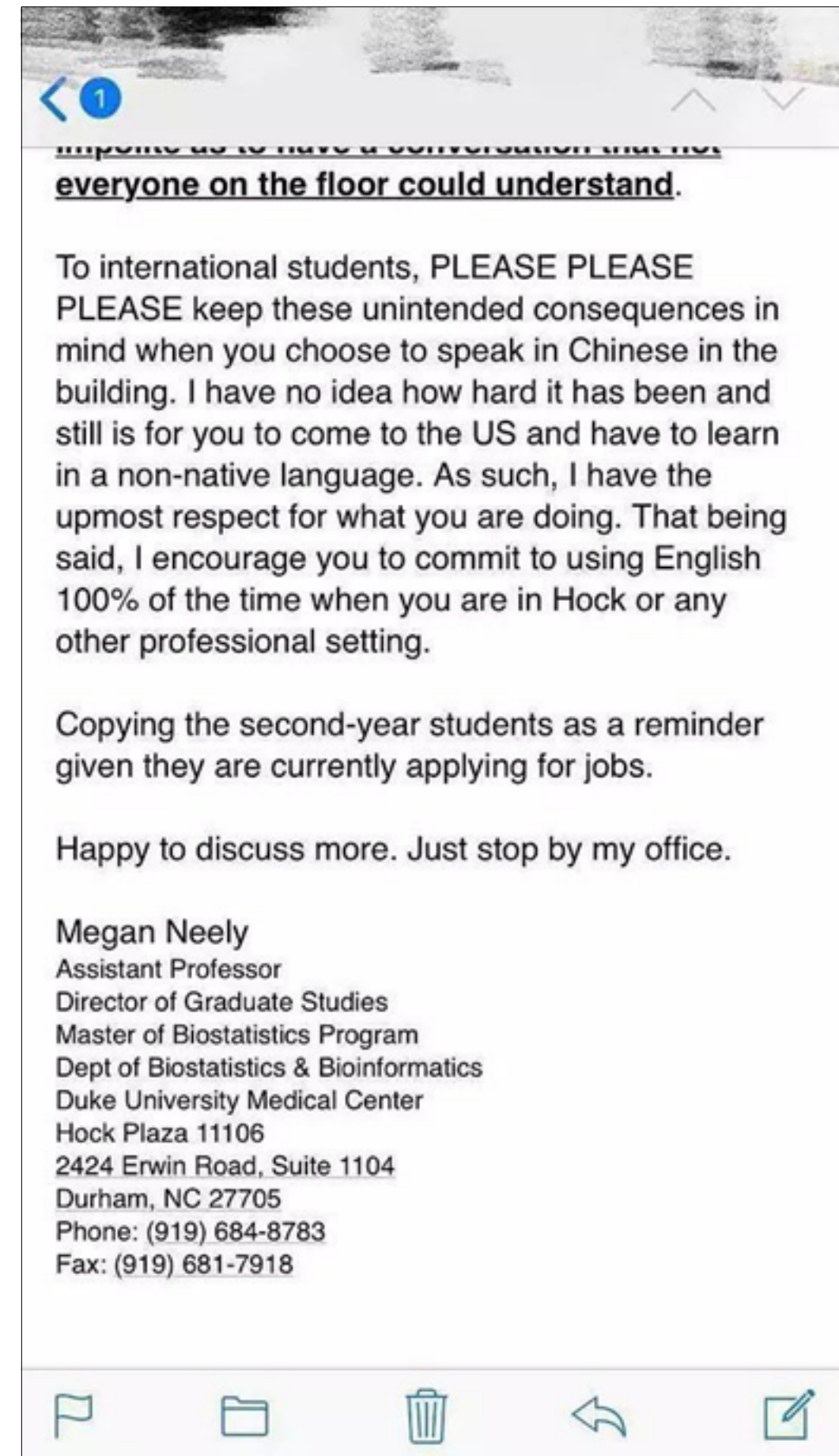
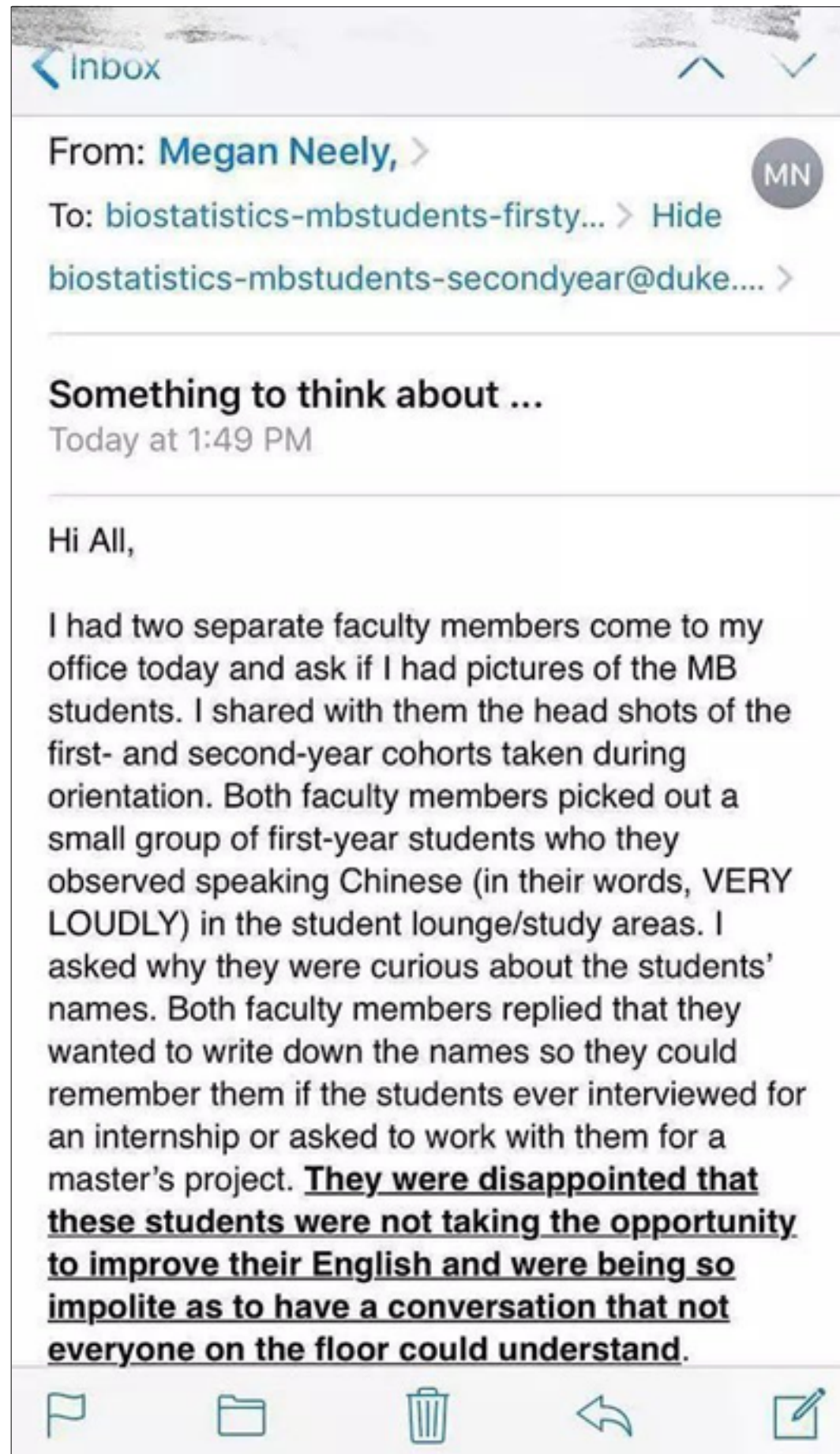
“It doesn’t feel real, it’s like a weird post-apocalyptic underground world. Why is it open? Why aren’t people in bed? We’re definitely gonna come back at a more civil hour.”

up next

Michelle Kim on Asian American use of AAVE and issues of cultural appropriation.

Maggie Fernandes on Asian American women in indie rock.

Jon Adams on Asian accents in the American university.



Megan Neely, Ph.D.

Inbox - Duke February 28, 2018 at 8:35 PM



To Speak English or To Not Speak English ...

[Details](#)

To: biostatistics-mbstudents-firstyear@duke.edu, & 5 more

Reply-To: Megan Neely, Ph.D.

Hi All,

I don't like being the language police, but I have gotten these comments enough times in the past few weeks that I feel like I should share them with you. The most recent report is from the Chair of the Department ...

Many faculty have noticed international students not speaking in English in the break rooms in the department. While I completely understand the desire to speak with friends in your native language, I wanted to provide a different viewpoint on why this might not be the best choice while you are in the department. Beyond the obvious opportunity to practice and perfect your English, speaking in your native language in the department may give faculty the impression that you are not trying to improve your English skills and that you are not taking this opportunity seriously. As a result, they may be more hesitant to hire or work with international students because communication is such an important part of what we do as biostatisticians. Bottom line: Continuing this practice may make it harder for you and future international students to get research opportunities while in the program.

Please keep these potential downstream effects in mind when you choose to or choose not to speak in English outside of the classroom. That being said, I have tremendous respect for what the international students are doing by enrolling in a graduate program in a foreign country – it is a tremendous undertaking.

These same faculty also mentioned that the talking in the break rooms is at times VERY loud. Regardless of the language being used, carrying on loudly during normal business hours is just plain rude. It is especially rude when you are in the main department kitchen that is so close to faculty and staff offices. When in a shared space, please be courteous of others around you. Also, I would be curious to know why students are choosing to eat in the main kitchen as opposed to the kitchen and lounge areas we have set up in the student space? If there is a reason that you prefer to eat in the main kitchen over the student areas, I would appreciate that feedback so we can help mitigate these issues moving forward.

Megan Neely

Assistant Professor

Director of Graduate Studies