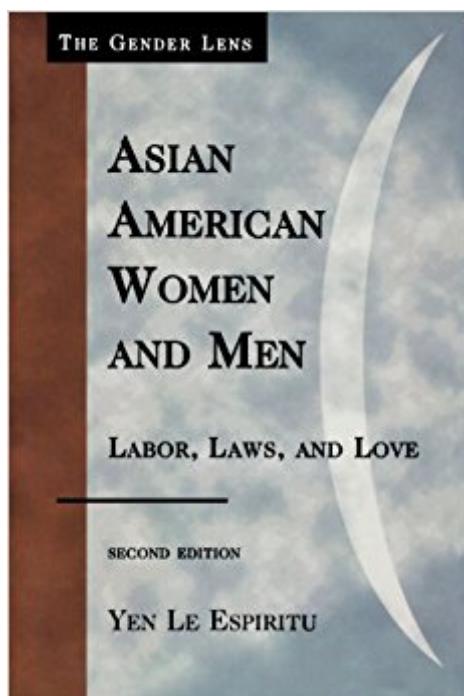


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# Asian American Women And Men: Labor, Laws, And Love (Gender Lens)



## **Synopsis**

Labor, laws, and love. Yen Le Espiritu explores how racist and gendered labor conditions and immigration laws have affected relations between and among Asian American women and men. Asian American Men and Women documents how the historical and contemporary oppression of Asians in the United States has (re)structured the balance of power between Asian American women and men and shaped their struggles to create and maintain social institutions and systems of meaning. Espiritu emphasizes how race, gender, and class, as categories of difference, do not parallel but instead intersect and confirm one other.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Espiritu examines the historical and contemporary experiences of Asian American women and men—both with each other and with the dominant white society—from a gendered perspective. Locating gender in its intersection with race and class, this is one of the few works in ethnic studies or women's/gender studies that actually discusses the matrix of race/gender/class structures of oppression within a specific racial-ethnic community, i.e., Asian Americans, one that is also largely an immigrant community. Espiritu lends support to charges by women of color that traditional feminist theory falsely universalizes the category of 'women,' and overlooks the positions that white men and white women occupy over men of color. She also admits that this work does not disrupt the 'male-centered' framework of Asian American studies. The historical oppression of Asian

Americans is explored along material and cultural lines, e.g., the formal and informal labor markets, including prostitution; family and small businesses; Japanese American internment; marriage and family; refugee resettlement; racist stereotyping. Theoretically, Espiritu advances the concept of 'racialized patriarchy.' She concludes with a call to create an 'imagined community' of cross-gender, cross-cultural, (Evelyn Hu-DeHart, University of Colorado, Boulder CHOICE)Asian American Women and Men by Yen Le Espiritu offers a piercing and sensitive account of the experiences of first- and second-generation Asian American women and men, showing that gender differentiation and disadvantage is not a universal experience but is structured distinctly depending on its intersections with race and class. Drawing heavily on cultural theory, Espiritu exposes the binary oppositions that underlie representations of Asian American gender and sexuality. (Verta Taylor, Professor, University of California at Santa Barbara)Espiritu examines the historical and contemporary experiences of Asian American women and men with each other and with the dominant white society from a gendered perspective. Locating gender in its intersection with race and class, this is one of the few works in ethnic studies or women's/gender studies that actually discusses the matrix of race/gender/class structures of oppression within a specific racial-ethnic community, i.e., Asian Americans, one that is also largely an immigrant community. Espiritu lends support to charges by women of color that traditional feminist theory falsely universalizes the category of 'women,' and overlooks the positions that white men and white women occupy over men of color. She also admits that this work does not disrupt the 'male-centered' framework of Asian American studies. The historical oppression of Asian Americans is explored along material and cultural lines, e.g., the formal and informal labor markets, including prostitution; family and small businesses; Japanese American internment; marriage and family; refugee resettlement; racist stereotyping. Theoretically, Espiritu advances the concept of 'racialized patriarchy.' She concludes with a call to create an 'imagined community' of cross-gender, cross-cultural, and cross-class coalitions bound together by the common struggle against all pervasive forms of structured domination. (Evelyn Hu-DeHart, University of Colorado, Boulder CHOICE)

Yen Le Espiritu, is professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, San Diego, has written on ethnicity, immigration and race relations. Originally from Vietnam, she is the author of Asian American Panethnicity: Bridging Institutions and Identities and Filipino American Lives.

I really enjoyed reading this book. Even though, I "knew" the political and societal situations of Asian

Americans in the United States, it still was an eye opener. This book gave me an opportunity to understand some of my beliefs and how they were formed. I think it is a must read for everyone who is from Asian decent and who would like to understand the Asian American experiences. The author did a wonderful job of integrating all aspects of Asian culture. I highly recommend this book.

Once again Professor Espiritu has written a book that not only conveys the Asian American experience but more importantly the human experience. This book is for those of us who live the Asian American experience and for those willing to educate themselves about our country's racial hierarchy compounded by the disparity between genders.

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