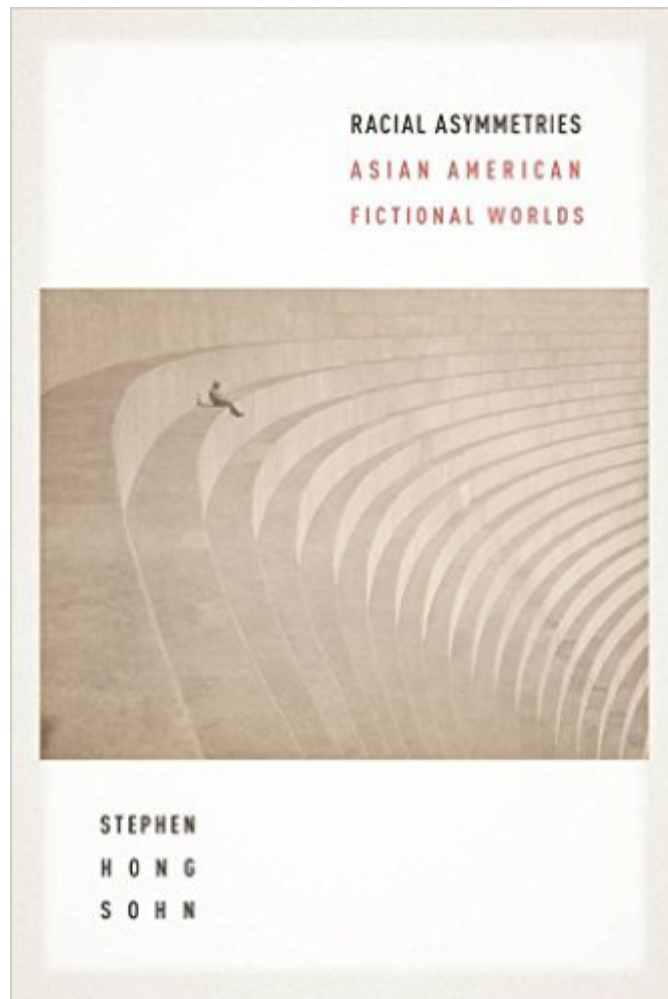


The book was found

Racial Asymmetries: Asian American Fictional Worlds (American Literature Initiative)



Synopsis

Challenging the tidy links among authorial position, narrative perspective, and fictional content, Stephen Hong Sohn argues that Asian American authors have never been limited to writing about Asian American characters or contexts. *Racial Asymmetries* specifically examines the importance of first person narration in Asian American fiction published in the postrace era, focusing on those cultural productions in which the author's ethnoracial makeup does not directly overlap with that of the storytelling perspective. Through rigorous analysis of novels and short fiction, such as Sesshu Foster's *Atomik Aztex*, Sabina Murray's *A Carnivore's Inquiry* and Sigrid Nunez's *The Last of Her Kind*, Sohn reveals how the construction of narrative perspective allows the Asian American writer a flexible aesthetic canvas upon which to engage issues of oppression and inequity, power and subjectivity, and the complicated construction of racial identity. Speaking to concerns running through postcolonial studies and American literature at large, *Racial Asymmetries* employs an interdisciplinary approach to reveal the unbounded nature of fictional worlds.

Book Information

Series: American Literature Initiative

Paperback: 297 pages

Publisher: NYU Press (January 17, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1479800279

ISBN-13: 978-1479800278

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #617,768 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States > Asian American](#) #1071 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Customs & Traditions](#)

Customer Reviews

Racial Asymmetries: Asian American Fictional Worlds (American Literature Initiative)(New York University Press, 2014) by Stephen Hong Sohn, currently an Assistant Professor of English at the University of California, Riverside, is an outstanding book of literary theory. With his profound knowledge of the history of Asian American literature, the author builds up his arguments and

provides sufficient evidence and facts by citing numerous Asian American literary works from 19th century to 21st century to support his viewpoints. Reading this book is quite a brainstorming process, which refreshes the reader's memory and incites new ideas. The book makes the reader think hard about the definition of Asian American literature, and how it is both different from American literature at large, but still necessarily related. Having analyzing several literary works by Asian American writers such as Rattawut Lapcharoensap, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Chang-rae Lee, the author, in the first chapter, presents great details in Lee's novel *Aloft* to support his point that Asian American writers have never been only writing about Asian American characters or contexts, but they are investing in revealing how whiteness become mapped as a literary site as racial, cultural, and spatial normativity. (P. 27) In the second chapter, the author also examines the local history and economy of California as well as the social condition of immigrant groups, and with the analysis of Sesshu Foster's novel *Atomik Aztex*, he explains how Asian American writers' fictional world reflects multiracial groups and their relationships.

Probably one of the smartest, analytical books I've read on literature in the past year, *Racial Asymmetries: Asian American Fictional Worlds* by Stephen Hong Sohn nearly caused my brain to explode with so much interesting information. Seriously, I felt my nerves working overtime, but in a good way that challenged me to grow as a writer. As Sohn writes, *Racial Asymmetries* challenges the tidy links between authorial ancestry and fictional content, and between identity and form, to expand what is typically thought of as Asian American culture and criticism. And challenge it does, examining a selection that includes Sesshu Foster's *Atomik Aztex*, Chang-rae Lee's *Aloft*, Sabina Murray's *A Carnivore Inquiry*, and more. Sohn contextualizes all the works in a broader perspective and his inquiry disrupts clichés like a chainsaw to chopsticks. It got me really thinking about what defines Asian-American literature, or for that matter, any cultural brand that constitutes a genre. What stereotypes bind the disparate experiences together? How forced is that chain, and once bound, how can any set of writers either defy, escape, or work within those constraints? In some sense, speculative fictions by Asian American writers push the field the furthest toward expanding its critical lenses, precisely because these narratives are so incredibly whimsical. I especially liked this line because it had me thinking about how capricious and whimsical creativity often is. You'd like to think there's a formula or a methodology behind creation, and though there is a certain extent, it often does come down to whimsy.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Racial Asymmetries: Asian American Fictional Worlds (American Literature Initiative) Indonesian: Cooking for Beginners - Indonesian Cookbook Simple Recipes - South East Asian Recipes (Easy Indonesian Recipes - Southeast Asian Cooking - South Asian Recipes 1) Wok This Way - 50 Asian Style Recipes - Wok Recipes - Stir Fry Recipes - (Asian Stir Fry Cookbook, Asian Wok Cooking, (Recipe Junkies - Wok Recipes) Asian Paleo: 30 Minute Paleo! Your Complete Guide to Delicious, Healthy, and Gluten Free Asian Paleo in 30 Minutes or Less (Asian Paleo Guide - Thai, Japanese, ... Korean, Filipino, and Vietnamese Recipes) Racial Domination, Racial Progress: The Sociology of Race in America Divine Intervention, the Complete Series: Fictional Christian Short Stories Me, Myself, and Them: A Firsthand Account of One Young Person's Experience with Schizophrenia (Adolescent Mental Health Initiative) Privatization: Successes and Failures (Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia: Challenges in Development and Globalization) Raising Mixed Race: Multiracial Asian Children in a Post-Racial World (New Critical Viewpoints on Society) The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature (Modern Asian Literature Series) Recovered Legacies: Authority And Identity In Early Asian Amer Lit (Asian American History & Cultu) America's Asia: Racial Form and American Literature, 1893-1945 This Is All I Choose to Tell: History and Hybridity in Vietnamese American Literature (Asian American History & Cultu) VIETNAMESE VEGETARIAN FOOD - OUR FAMILY VEGETARIAN RECIPES: VEGETARIAN FOOD RECIPES FROM OUR VIETNAMESE HOME - VEGETARIAN FOOD RECIPES VEGAN RECIPES ASIAN ... RECIPES ASIAN VEGAN SERIES Book 1) Best Asian Recipes from Mama Li's Kitchen BookSet - 4 books in 1: Chinese Take-Out Recipes (Vol 1); Wok (Vol 2); Asian Vegetarian and Vegan Recipes (Vol 3); Egg Roll, Spring Roll and Dumpling (Vol 4) Asian Food and Homemade Sauces and Dressings Box Set (5 in 1): Amazing Korean Recipes, Wok Cooking Tips, Salad Dressings, Sauces, Rubs and Marinades (Asian Recipes & Homemade Spices) Asian Cooking: The Best Collection Of Asian Cooking Recipes That You will Love it Sources of East Asian Tradition, Vol. 1: Premodern Asia (Introduction to Asian Civilizations) (Volume 1) AIDS Literature and Gay Identity: The Literature of Loss (Routledge Studies in Twentieth-Century Literature) Guide to Law and Literature for Teachers, Students, and Researchers: Companion Text to Literature and Legal Problem Solving : Law and Literature As Ethical Discourse