

# When the Model Minority Fails: A Discussion of *Pedagogies of Woundedness & Passing for Perfect*

Wednesday, March 29  
1:00 PM-2:30 PM  
Wang Center Lecture Hall 1

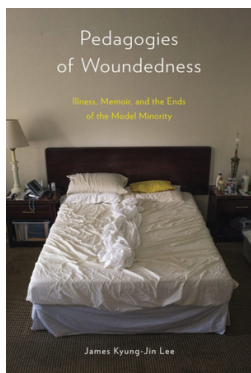


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This event is part of the Center for Korean Studies speaker series, *Emerging Directions in Korean/American Cultural Studies*, curated by IDEA Fellow Dr. Sandra So Hee Chi Kim and co-sponsored by the Asian American Justice + Innovation Lab. The slash at the center of “Korean/American” is inspired by David Palumbo-Liu’s theorization of “Asian/American,” in which the solidus inserts an “and/or” register of meaning that indexes the simultaneously inclusionary and exclusionary relation between “Asian” and “American.” Korean/American falls within the rubric of Asian/American in important ways while also encompassing its own rich sphere of histories, geographies, experiences, and cultures. How can we think of the slash as signifying the distinction between the two terms – “Korean” and “American”— and, at the same time, the complex ways they slide one into the other from historical, material, social, psychological, and cultural perspectives? As such, this series not only highlights exciting emerging work in Korean American studies and cultural productions, but also new directions in Asian American studies of relevance to those of Korean descent, and critical Korean studies of relevance to Asian American studies.

## Pedagogies of Woundedness

### Illness, Memoir, and the Ends of the Model Minority



The pressures Asian Americans feel to be socially and economically exceptional include an unspoken mandate to always be healthy. Nowhere is this more evident than in the expectation for Asian Americans to enter the field of medicine, principally as providers of care rather than those who require care. *Pedagogies of Woundedness* explores what happens when those considered model minorities critically engage with illness and medicine whether as patients or physicians.

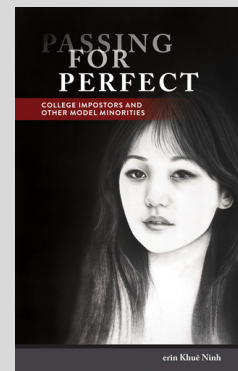


Click/scan to view the full description of the book!

## Passing for Perfect

### College Imposters and Other Model Minorities

In her engaging study, *Passing for Perfect*, erin Khuê Ninh considers the factors that drove college imposters such as Azia Kim—who pretended to be a Stanford freshman—and Jennifer Pan—who hired a hitman to kill her parents before they found out she had never received her high school diploma—to extreme lengths to appear successful. Why would someone make such an illogical choice? And how do they stage these lies so convincingly, and for so long?



Click/scan to view the full description of the book!



### James Kyung-Jin Lee

The Director of the Center for Medical Humanities, at the University of California, Irvine

He is the author of *Pedagogies of Woundedness: Illness, Memoir, and the Ends of the Model Minority* (Temple UP, 2022), which *Choice* selected as one of its Outstanding Academic Titles in 2022. Lee also wrote *Urban Triage: Race and the Fictions of Multiculturalism* (U of Minnesota Press, 2004), and was a co-guest editor (with Jennifer Ho) of a special issue of *Amerasia Journal* titled the “State of Illness and Disability in Asian America.”



### erin Khuê Ninh

Associate professor in Asian American Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara

She writes about the model minority as racialization and subject formation (not myth). *Passing for Perfect: College Imposters and Other Model Minorities* (2021) asks how it feels to be model minority—and how that might drive some to truly desperate lies. *Ingratitude: The Debt-Bound Daughter in Asian American Literature* (2011; awarded Best Literary Criticism by AAAS) centers on intergenerational conflict in immigrant families.