

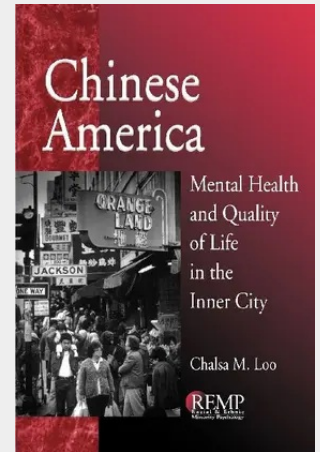
Chinese America

Mental Health and Quality of Life in the Inner City

Descriptions of Asian American communities have typically been either historical or literary. Such approaches leave us uninformed about the current conditions within the community and also leave us empty-handed in regard to knowledge by which to solve contemporary problems. Chinese America sets a new standard for ethnic research. By applying social and psychological issues to the historic U.S. community of Chinatown, this volume breaks the boundaries of community studies by addressing multiple controversial issues today. Author Chalsa M. Loo reaches deep into the vital issues that face most ethnic communities in this country. Through survey research, the delineation of major problems highlight needed changes in public policy and ethnic understanding. The core of the book is based on an in-depth study of residents of San Francisco's Chinatown, the oldest Asian American community in the United States. Through surveys and collected interviews with residents, the author examines the social problems that might exist for all the major life domains of an ethnic minority community. Loo sought to test a number of hypotheses about Chinese Americans, Asian Americans, and immigrants, and found that the study dispelled many of the stereotypes and myths about these groups. Each chapter opens with a vignette and a photograph and is infused with quantitative analyses of survey data and census data. It is one of the few systematic studies of an Asian American community with an empirical and psychological approach, and it gives voice to a population that has been relatively invisible and misunderstood. Chinese American offers a comprehensive and richly informative documentation of text, photographs, and data—a moving portrayal of the most famous Asian American community in the United States.

This systematic study of residents in San Francisco's Chinatown - funded by the National Institute of Mental Health - takes an empirical and psychological approach. Examining the physical health, mental health and general welfare of Chinese Americans, the combination of in-depth surveys and interviews with residents results in a clear picture of the social and psychological problems of this ethnic minority community.

The author also examines various stereotypes and myths about Chinese Americans, Asian Americans and immigrants found in academic literature, and her study dispells most of them.



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