

Koreans experience downward mobility after coming to America. The contradictions of the Korean American dream are even reflected in religious activities. For instance, Park describes how Christian fundamentalism provides Korean Americans with a source of social support and escape from economic adversity, while simultaneously reinforcing the entrepreneurial ethos embedded in the Korean American community.

Park's narrative adds texture to prior literature. However, in a similar manner to other studies, it falls short of a meaningful discussion of the broader structural factors that generate and sustain the small business orientation of Korean immigrants. Park indicates that underemployment is rampant in the Korean American community, and subsequently, Korean Americans establish small businesses to survive. However, there is no direct examination of why Korean Americans initially encounter obstacles to full incorporation in American society, while their Anglo-American counterparts do not. Granted, Park explores this issue when discussing experiences Korean Americans have with racism and racial discrimination. However, the central role of racial hostility and intolerance in the Korean American experience, and the American experience in general, is suppressed by Park's thesis.

The well developed examination of parochial issues in the Korean American community is not balanced with a discussion of general conditions in society that set the parameters in which this community is confined. For instance, a handful of passages describe how Korean Americans experience racial tension within the context of their businesses, but scant attention is paid to systemic discrimination that initially shackles Korean Americans to the small business sector. Like other studies approaching the Korean American experience from this bent, Park does little to parry the collective denial of legitimized racism in American society.

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Gail Pellet and Stanley Nelson (producers and directors). *Shattering the Silences*. California Newsreel, 149 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. VHS video, 86 minutes. 1997. Rental: \$95; purchase price: \$295; previews; free for two weeks. Phone: (415) 621-6196.

"Our silence will not protect us," poet and feminist Audre Lorde has written, and broken silences recur with startling clarity in *Shattering the Silences*. The video documentary features professors of color from across the nation discussing their experiences as scholars, as people of color in predominantly white institutions, as women of color in predomi-

nantly male departments, and as husbands, mentors, and for some, as the first in their family to pursue a life in academia. Each story is compelling, sometimes painful, and always poignant.

The overarching thesis of *Shattering the Silences* is that scholars of color and ethnic studies programs invigorate the academy. Yet, the teaching of multicultural or alternative perspectives in area studies are often considered threats to the academy. For scholars of color presenting alternative versions of history, literature, political science, etc., their scholarship becomes suspect and ethnic studies programs come under fire. These circumstances fuel the debate over ethnic studies in universities across the nation. For advocates of the multicultural movement in academia, *Shattering the Silences* reiterates familiar language. For opponents, it's uncertain that the video will have much impact.

No documentary can claim impartiality, but *Shattering the Silences* attempts to show the opposing side of the ethnic studies debate with the appearance of Professor John Searle, University of California, Berkeley. His earnest comments about the presence of ethnic studies in the academy are at once insulting and laughable, but his positioning as the "angry white man" does a disservice to the video. One wonders how the interrogation of his conservative rhetoric would be elaborated, had a conservative African American professor been interviewed. Instead, *Shattering the Silences* rests on the standard, two-sided discourse of Us versus Them, Black versus White, Old school versus New school.

As oral history, *Shattering the Silences* is excellent. However, the video offers too much in its inordinately long 86 minutes. Several tangents punctuate the video: a segment with Gloria Cuadraz discussing the choice between the tenure clock and the biological clock; an interview with the effervescent Miguel Algarin and his success in coalescing academic and community work; Robin Kelley's thoughts on the struggle to cultivate a family life and a professional life when the demands on an ethnic minority faculty member are steep and multi-pronged. These and other tangents are engaging, deserving of an entire video in their own right. Yet, for eliciting discussion of the condition of scholars of color and the value of ethnic studies programs in the academy, *Shattering the Silences* is an excellent resource.

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