**Asian Americans and Discrimination:**
**Predictors and Moderators**

**Background**
The Asian American population from 2000 to 2010 increased by 46% to become the fastest growing racial group in the nation (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012). This demographic change has also occurred outside popular destination areas for Asian Americans, including cities in the South. For instance, the Asian American population in Austin, Texas, increased by more than 60% during the same decade (City of Austin, 2013). Although the Asian American population continues to grow and expand to new regions, concerns about discrimination remain—nearly 20% of Asian Americans report experiencing discrimination in the past year because of their Asian heritage (Pew Report, 2013). These trends indicate that the quality of life for a large population will remain in jeopardy without research that examines what contributes to and mitigates these experiences.

**Project Goals**
The Asian American Quality of Life (AAQoL) survey shows higher levels of self-reported discrimination (30%) among Asians Americans overall and across ethnic subgroups in Austin than at the national level. The main purpose of our proposed project is to examine specific factors that contribute to high levels of discrimination or buffer the risk of discrimination. Based on the AAQoL report and prior research, our first goal is to assess the extent to which two risk factors— English proficiency and length of residence in Austin—explain experiences with discrimination across Asian ethnic subgroups, above and beyond the role of individual characteristics such as income, education level, and birthplace. The second goal is to examine whether protective factors in the form of social ties—social network, religiosity, family solidarity, ethnic community cohesion—moderate the effect of English proficiency and length of residency on perceived discrimination across Asian American ethnic subgroups in Austin. After examining what factors contribute to or mitigate discrimination, the third goal is to examine the extent to which these findings apply to the experiences of Asian American students, a growing population in Austin.

**Project Relevance**
The AAQoL survey was designed to examine the critical needs of Austin's Asian American residents. The richness of the AAQoL data provides a unique opportunity not only to assess trends in discrimination among Asian Americans in a rapidly growing city in the South, but also to identify protective factors that can inform local policy decisions. The findings will also have implications for similar U.S. cities with rapidly growing Asian American populations.

**Researcher Bios**
Dr. North Cooc is an assistant professor of special education and faculty member of the Center for Asian American Studies at the University of Texas. He has published on the experiences of Asian Americans related to special education, school victimization, language identities, and immigration. He received his doctorate in quantitative policy analysis in education from Harvard University.

Dr. Grace MyHyun Kim is an assistant professor of language and literacy studies in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and affiliate faculty in the Department of Asian Studies. She has published on the intersections of multiculturalism, multilingualism, and globalization in and out of school contexts. She received her doctorate in language, literacy, and culture from the University of California, Berkeley.