



**Smitha Radhakrishnan**  
**Luella LaMer Professor of Women's Studies and**  
**Professor of Sociology**

*Asian American Visibility and Diverse Books: From  
Biography to History*

**Post-lecture Discussion Guide**

1. What were your favorite books growing up? Why did you love them? How did they impact your self-image and worldview?

2. Pick one of the following books to explore further:

- a. [Fish for Jimmy](#), by Katie Yamasaki
- b. [Step up to the plate, Maria Singh](#), by Uma Krishnaswami
- c. [Inside out and back again](#), by Thanhà Lại

How do you think reading one of these books as a child or young person might have changed your perspective/identity/cultural understanding?

3. Although books on race were targeted in the last few years for book bans and challenges, currently books on LGBTQ+ identities are at the center of this campaign. How and why does Asian American visibility go hand-in-hand with visibility for LGBTQ+ communities? What would you say to members of your

community who might approve of books about, say, Japanese internment, but support book bans that affirm non-gender-conforming experiences (i.e. [Gender Queer](#), by Maia Kobabe)?

4. Do you live in a state where there is legislation or local movements within school districts to restrict what students read? If you don't know one way or another, find out! Here are a couple of organizations doing amazing work to fight book bans nationally:
  - a. African American Policy Forum's [Books Unbanned](#) Tour
  - b. [Unite Against Book Bans](#) (check out their toolkit for local activism)