

**Ryan Woodard**

**CRJS 310: Cybercriminology Foundations**

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## **The Influence Hate Speech Has on Society**

In the lecture titled, “Cyberviolence,” we talked about the different types of violent crime that takes place online and the effects of this violence.

The lecture started off by discussing the different categories that fall under Cyberviolence. The categories that we focused on were Cyberbullying, Hate Speech, Cyberstalking, Online shaming, and Cancel Culture. The lecture defined each of these terms and gave examples of the definitions. In part one, we talked about Cyberbullying which is described as “Any behavior that repeatedly communicates hostile or aggressive messages intended to inflict harm on others.” Along with that, the lecture discusses some of the myths associated with Cyberbullying. We then went on to discuss what Hate Speech online is, which is Speech targeted at specific groups that suffer from oppression. The lecture also explored the four concepts that define Hate Speech which include, Harm Based speech, Content, Intrinsic Properties, Dignity, along with the harmful effects that Hate Speech has on those targeted groups. The lecture then went on to part two, where we discussed Cyberstalking and how stalking someone online can leave a damaging impact on that individual and cause PTSD. In addition to that, the lecture defined Online Shaming, which is referred to as “ A group subjecting an individual or the entities associated with that individual to harassment, bullying, and condemnation because of some real or perceived transgression.” Lastly, while discussing Online Shaming, we talked about

something that is very relevant in today's society, Cancel Culture. Cancel Culture is the response to Cultural Transgression. However, we should ask ourselves if Cancel Culture is justifiable.

## Hate Speech and the Asian Community

When talking about Hate Speech, the lecture talked about the four bases that define Hate Speech. One of those being Harm Based Speech. The lecture cited the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy when outlining the specific definitions of Hate Speech. In the Encyclopedia, Susan Brison defined Harm Based Hate Speech as “ Speech that vilifies individuals or groups on the basis of such characteristics as race, sex, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation, which (1) constitutes face-to-face vilifications, (2) creates a hostile or intimidating environment, or (3) is a kind of group libel.” One of the examples provided in the lecture was something that recently happened and is still a discussion today, the attacks on the Asian community during the COVID-19 Pandemic. At the peak of the Pandemic, there was lots of misinformation circulating online, basically placing blame on the Asian community for the cause of COVID. Unfortunately, this rhetoric caused Anti-Asian Hate Crimes to increase in the United States. I read an article entitled “ COVID hate crimes against Asian Americans on rise,” written by Sam Cabral where he discusses the different hate crimes that have been reported and the impact that this leaves on the Asian Community. A key point he brings up is the negative rhetoric against the Asian Community that Donald Trump has used. He referred to COVID as “Kung Flu” and the “China Virus”. Trump, who was the President of the United States and obviously has a huge following, contributed to the Anti-Asian movement and although he didn't say to attack that community, he incited the violence.

## What kinds of discrimination have been reported?

Percentage of 2,808 reported incidents from March-December 2020

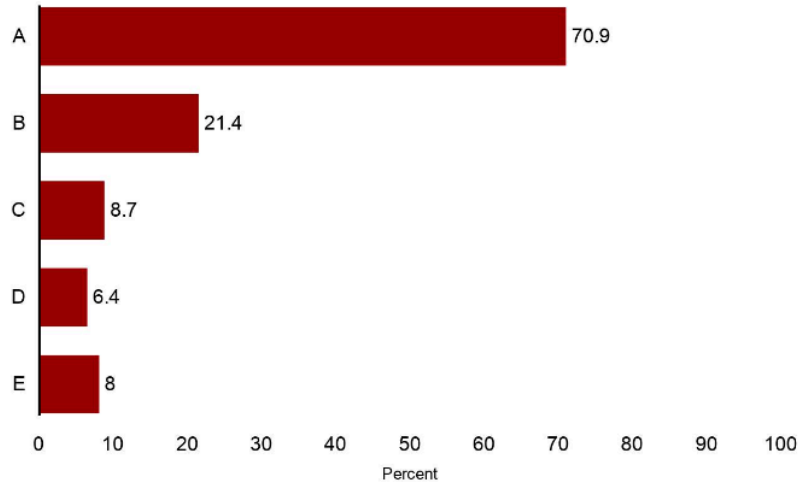
A - Verbal harassment

B - Shunning

C - Physical assault

D - Coughed/spat on

E - Workplace discrimination or refusal of service



## Impact of Harm Based Speech

When defining Harm Based Speech in the lecture, it helped me understand how the linguistic violence on the internet against Asian Americans during the Pandemic, created a confrontational environment. So, although the people spreading misinformation on the internet are not directly saying to attack the Asian community, it puts a target on that group which leads to these violent attacks, this is what Harm Based Speech is. The image shown above is from the article I mentioned earlier by Sam Cabral. As you can see, most Asian Americans reported being verbally harassed, while some experienced physical assault, workplace discrimination/refusal of service, shunning, or even being spat on. This brutality then prompted President Joe Biden to pursue the “COVID 19 Hate Crimes Act,” in efforts to deteriorate the attacks on the Asian Community.

In the lecture titled, “Cyberviolence,” we talked about the different types of violent crime that takes place online and the effects of this violence. In the lecture we talked about Hate Speech, which was defined as “Speech aimed at historically oppressed or subordinate groups, implying that the group is inferior, and is intended to be harmful.” We then discussed the four categories of Hate Speech and I focused on Harm Based speech in this response. I related this type of speech to the very recent attacks that have been happening across the United States against the Asian Community. These attacks stem from the negative rhetoric they received online as it relates to COVID. Harm Based speech is defined as speech that creates a “hostile environment” and the verbal aggression online encouraged the Anti-Asian movement and violence amongst this community.

## Works Cited

Cabral, Sam. “*Covid hate crimes against Asian Americans on rise.*” BBC News, May. 2021.

Web, 22 Oct. 2022.

Anderson, Luvell and Michael Barnes. “*Hate Speech,*” The Stanford Encyclopedia of

Philosophy, Mar. 2022. Web, 22 Oct. 2022.