

# The New American Initiative at the Library of Virginia

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In 2023, the Library of Virginia will be an open, inclusive, and empowering force in the life of every Virginian.

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### A Guide to Getting Started

Finding APIDAs in the Library of Virginia Digital Collections

APIDA Archival Resources at the Library of Virginia

APIDA Selected Secondary Resources

APIDA Genealogical Resources

Other APIDA Digital Resources & Archives



Visit: [edu.lva.virginia.gov/apidaresources](http://edu.lva.virginia.gov/apidaresources)

### A Guide to Getting Started



*Pryalal (Prio) Karmakar immigrated from Bangladesh and served in the United States Marine Corps. He was photographed with his family in Woodbridge, Virginia on 2/23/18. Photo by Pat Jarrett/Virginia Humanities.*

The history of Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans (APIDAs) is an important part of the American experience. Works dedicated to APIDAs contribute to a fuller understanding of the history of the United States. Their stories encompass a rich legacy of achievement, along with hardships and sacrifices, that deserve to be explored.

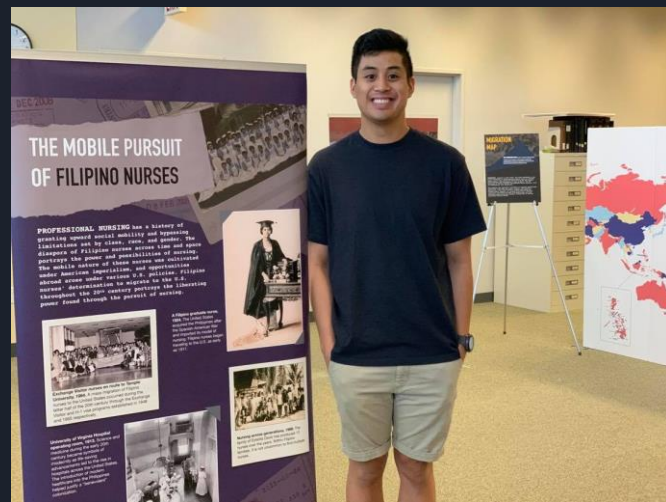
There are a number of terms that are used to denote Asian and Pacific Islander populations, including Asian Pacific American (APA), Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI), and Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI). We use the term **APIDA**, which stands for **Asian Pacific Islander Desi American**, as a pan-ethnic classification that intentionally includes South Asians (Desi) as part of the community. There is a great diversity of identities and ethnicities encompassed under the APIDA umbrella, including East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander. This term ultimately includes all people of Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander ancestry who trace their origins to the countries, states, jurisdictions and/or the diasporic communities of these geographic regions.

Historically, APIDAs were grouped together by government classifications. There are conflicting views on the appropriateness of any classification or reference. While these communities use various names to describe themselves; these groupings are ultimately political and part of a dynamic, continuing process of self-determination and self-identification.

In the 2000 United States Census, the Federal Government defines "Asian American" to include persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander" includes Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Guamanian or Chamorro, Fijian, Tongan, or Marshallese peoples and encompasses the people within the United States jurisdictions of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The previous "Asian and Pacific Islander" (API) category was separated into "Asian Americans" and "Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders" In our references, Desi countries of origin include Afghanistan,

Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

APIDAs are generally grouped by regions, although it is important to note that some of these can be politically controversial. There is tremendous diversity, with Asia having more than 40 countries, and there are more ethnicities than countries (for example, the Hmong are an ethnic group from Laos). Asian diasporas are extremely large and ethnic identity oversimplifications do not apply. For example, people of Japanese origin in Brazil culturally identify as Brazilians, those of Chinese origin in Guatemala identify as Guatemalans; whereas hyphenated identities are more common in the United States as evidenced by terms like Asian American, or Korean American.





Thank you!

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