

Expert Spotlight: Atlanta Spa Shootings Anniversary

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A year ago this Wednesday, a gunman killed eight people—most of them women of Asian descent—in a series of shootings across three Atlanta-area spas. The shootings were feared to be racially motivated, reflecting a wider crisis of anti-Asian discrimination and attacks across the United States in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. To provide analysis and perspective on the first anniversary of these attacks, Professor Pawan Dhingra is available to comment.

Dr. Dhingra is the President-elect of the Association for Asian American Studies. He has co-authored the book, [*Asian America: Sociological and Interdisciplinary Perspectives*](#). He is a sociologist and professor of American Studies who has taught and published on Asian America for over 20 years. Last year, he penned opinion pieces on [the racism behind anti-Asian violence](#) and [how to fight back](#).

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"Anti-Asian American racism is on the rise again, and it shows that it can not be blamed on political rhetoric alone. To combat it, we need to go beyond the current calls for greater attention to hate crimes."