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## UIS Welcoming Monica Chiu To Campus

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A long standing goal of immigrant children has been to become “Americanized” as a key to their future economic and social success. In the particular case of Lao American youth, “becoming white” is closely associated with performing blackness.

Mae Marie-Noll from the University of Illinois – Springfield explains that author and Associate Professor of English and University Honors Program Director at the University of New Hampshire, Monica Chiu, will share her works with the public April 14th.

[Click here for audio](#)

This talk discusses how Lao American boys' refashion themselves with the blackness inspired by media in order to achieve the so-called social acceptance among their American peers. It also highlights how their efforts to “fit in” are related to their academic struggles.

Noll adds that Chiu is one of many speakers that the university will be welcoming to the school this semester.

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Taking ethnographical and cultural approaches, this talk addresses how this cultural phenomenon reflects the dilemma of social acceptance for adolescents, the perception of community, as well as U.S. immigration history and the relationships between different racial groups.

Noll says that a program like this will bring diversity awareness to many members of the community and show how Western-culture influences Eastern youth.

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Chiu specializes in Asian American Studies, she is the author of *Filthy Fictions: Asian American Literature by Women*, the editor of *Asian Americans in New England Culture and Community*.