Exploring Minor Feelings in ‘The Joy Luck Club’: A Comparative Study

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Minor Feelings and The Joy Luck Club

- Cathy Park Hong
- 2020
- Asian American identity
- The emotions dismissed as minor feelings.

- Amy Tan
- 1989
- cultural heritage
- migration
Objectives

See if the ideas presented in Minor Feelings can be observed in previous novels of the Asian American diaspora and if there has been any kind of conflicts in the evolution of these “minor feelings”.
“the racialized range of emotions that are negative, dysphoric, and therefore untelegenic, built from the sediments of everyday racial experience and the irritant of having one’s perception of reality constantly questioned or dismissed.”

Hong, 2020: 47
Results

- The concept of minor feelings is present in The Joy Luck Club
- Insights into:
  - the complexities of cultural identity
  - intergenerational dynamics
  - the impact of societal expectations
- Minor Feelings are intergenerational
Conclusions

- Shared experiences regardless of
  - Socio-cultural context
  - 1st or 2nd generation
  - Country of origin
- It would be interesting to analyze other novels
Thank you