

Overview

[The Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard University](#) (GHELI) supports interdisciplinary education about world health through the production, curation, and dissemination of educational public goods. This exemplar work was a final project for “World Health: Challenges and Opportunities,” a General Education course at Harvard College taught by GHELI Faculty Director Sue J. Goldie. For this creative assessment designed with support from GHELI, students systematically analyze a societal health challenge they care about and create a “real world” product intended to influence policy or motivate change.

Abstract

A series of three digital artworks communicates the harmful impacts of sex-selective abortion bans, especially on Asian Americans.

Artist

Patricia Liu (2020)

Caption

In the United States, abortion has increasingly become a politicized issue, with Republican-led states seeking to limit access to abortion. Sex-selective abortion bans are one type of restriction that prevents doctors from performing abortions if they believe the abortion is motivated by preference for the fetus’s sex. Such bans are justified using racist stereotypes associating Asian Americans with sex-selective practices, even though no evidence of this occurrence exists. This series of digital artworks show how sex-selective abortion bans unfairly target Asian Americans, misleadingly pit gender equality against abortion access, and violate the privacy between doctor and patient.

Artist Lens

My multimedia campaign product includes three pieces of digital artwork that seeks to communicate the impact of sex-selective abortion bans on Asian Americans. “Target” is intended to convey how sex-selective abortion bans target Asian Americans by relying on stereotypes about Asian cultures that aren’t applicable in the United States. “False Binary” is intended to convey how the proponents of sex-selective abortion bans attempt to force people into a false binary of choosing between gender equality and abortion rights—when in reality, they are not mutually exclusive. “Law Enforcement” is intended to convey how sex-selective abortion bans force doctors to act as law enforcement in reporting whether or not patients are seeking a sex-selective abortion. The intended audience is the general public, who may not know much about abortion bans in general, much less sex-selective abortion bans.

The three pieces of digital artwork are intended to spark emotions in the viewers, emotions that will hopefully motivate them to learn more about sex-selective abortion bans. In order to combat sex-selective abortion bans, we must challenge misinformation, improve abortion access overall, and promote societal norms of gender

equality. Hopefully, viewers will leave with a better understanding of and a desire to learn more about the structures that limit women's ability to exercise their right to make decisions about their own bodies.

Media

Digital Illustrations





