

## Asian American and Pacific Islander Activism: Commemorating 50 Years of Asian American Studies



### Guest Editors

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The Politics of  
Vernacular Activism.

*Hmong Americans Organizing for Social Justice  
in Minnesota*

In 2012, queer Hmong Americans in Minnesota organized to defeat a state-wide ballot initiative that sought to constitutionally amend the definition of marriage in Minnesota to being a union solely between one man and one woman. This article examines a collective called Midwest Solidarity Movement and their strategies of employing a “vernacular activism” to defeat this ballot initiative.

Ultimately, this article argues that queer Hmong Americans used intersectional and race-conscious strategies to engage their own communities around queer and racial justice issues, which ultimately helped the larger queer movement to legalize same-sex marriage in the United States.