



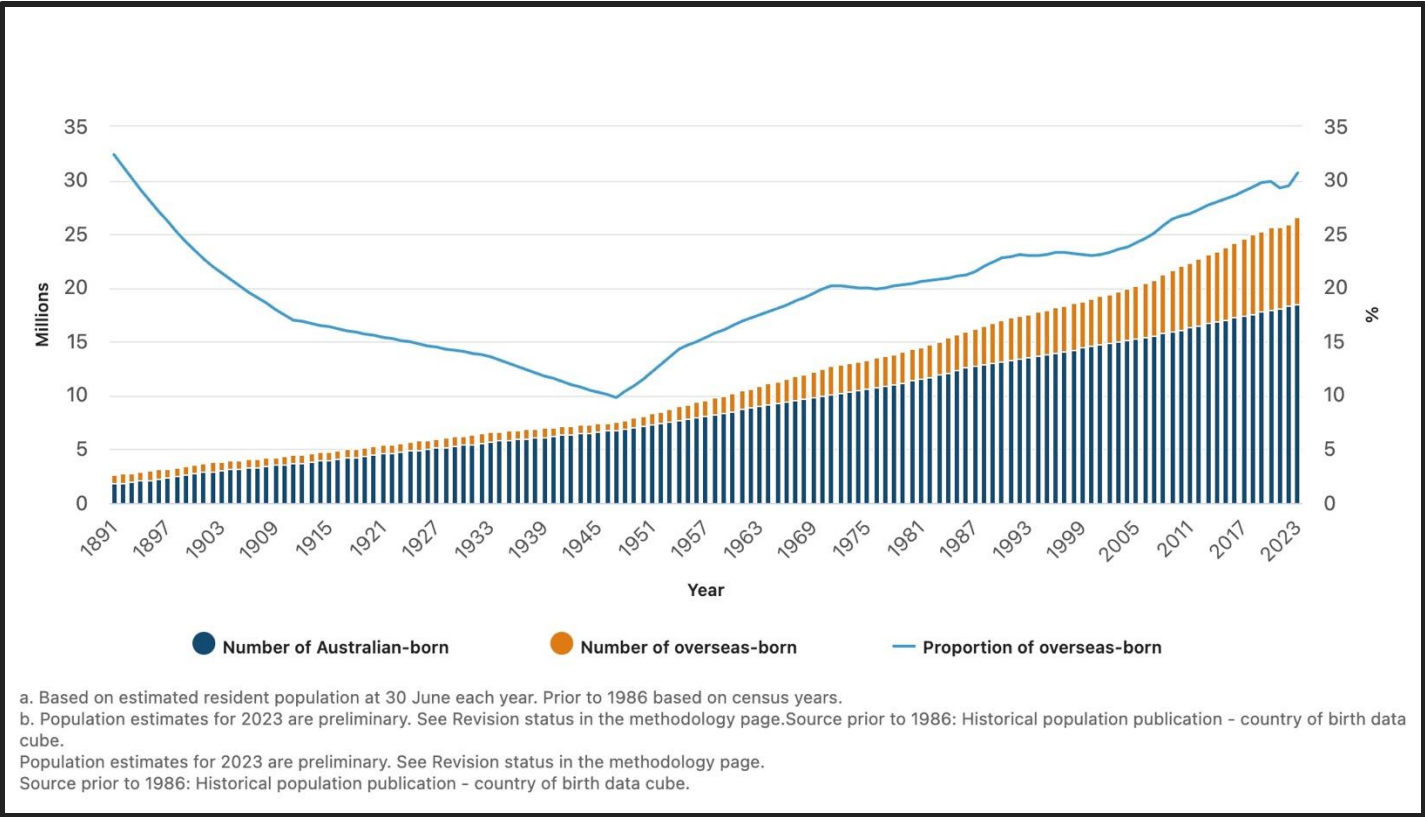
Charles Sturt
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Culture, community and childhood in contemporary award-winning young adult novels by Asian-Australian authors.

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Research Supervisor: Dr Kasey Garrison

Research context: Immigration Nation



(Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2024)

Research focus & purpose:

- Contemporary
- Award-winning
- Australian young adult novels
- Asian-Australian authors
- Investigate family dynamics
- Inter-personal relationships
- Effects of parental expectations

Literature review (Australia & worldwide):

- **Lack of diversity in picture books for children**
(Booth & Lim, 2022; Lo, 2019),
- **Existing misconceptions about cultural minorities**
(Garrison, 2019a; Garrison, 2019b; Garrison et al., 2021),
- **Covert and overt social alienation of Asians due to prevailing racial, and cultural stereotypes**
(Ribas Segura, 2015; Schwegler-Castañer, 2018),
- **Prevalence of tokenism, lack of publisher support and mentorship, and dearth of unbiased reviewers and award nominations**
(Guntarik, 2013; Booth & Narayan, 2021),
- **Negative impact of intergenerational familial conflicts on adolescents' mental health and wellbeing**
(Cheung et al., 2019; Lazarevic, 2017; Lee et al., 2023; Liping et al., 2021; LoBraico et al., 2020; Madhavan et al., 2023; Oliveira et al., 2020; Silva et al., 2020).

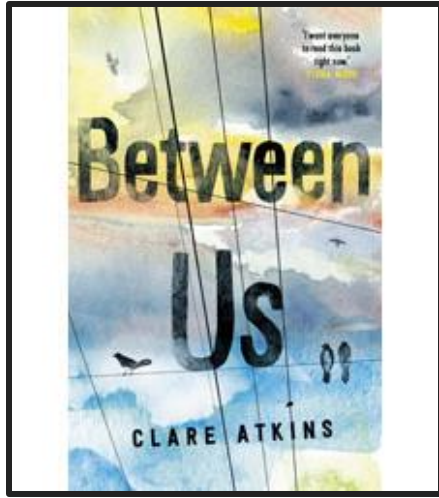
Gaps & opportunities:

- ✓ **Gap: Lack of scholarship in Australia**
(Booth & Narayan, 2018; Brooks & Cueto, 2018; Schwegler-Castañer, 2018)
- ✓ **Opportunity 1: Reader benefits**
(Booth & Narayan, 2018; Doll & Garrison, 2013)
- ✓ **Opportunity 2: Mental health and wellbeing awareness**
(Lazaravic, 2017; Wali & Renzaho, 2018)
- ✓ **Opportunity 3: Connection to curriculum**
(Davies, 2019; Mathur, 2020; Yang, 2022)
- ✓ **Opportunity 4: Publicity and award nominations**
(Davies, 2019; Garrison & Carroll, 2019; Booth & Lim, 2022)

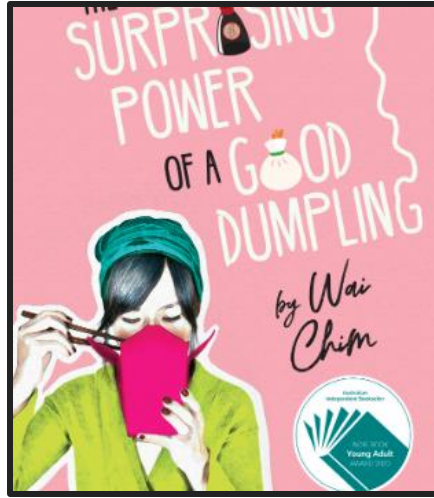
Research Questions:

- How are inter-personal relationships in Asian immigrant families portrayed in contemporary award-winning Australian young adult novels written by Asian-Australian authors?
- What kind of parental expectations do the protagonists encounter in these novels?
- How do those expectations affect the protagonists' mental health and wellbeing?

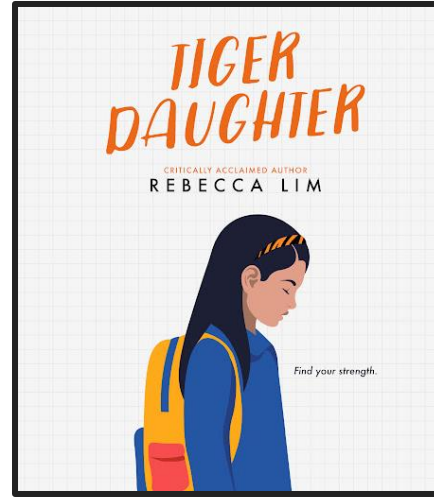
Selected novels:



(Atkins, 2018)

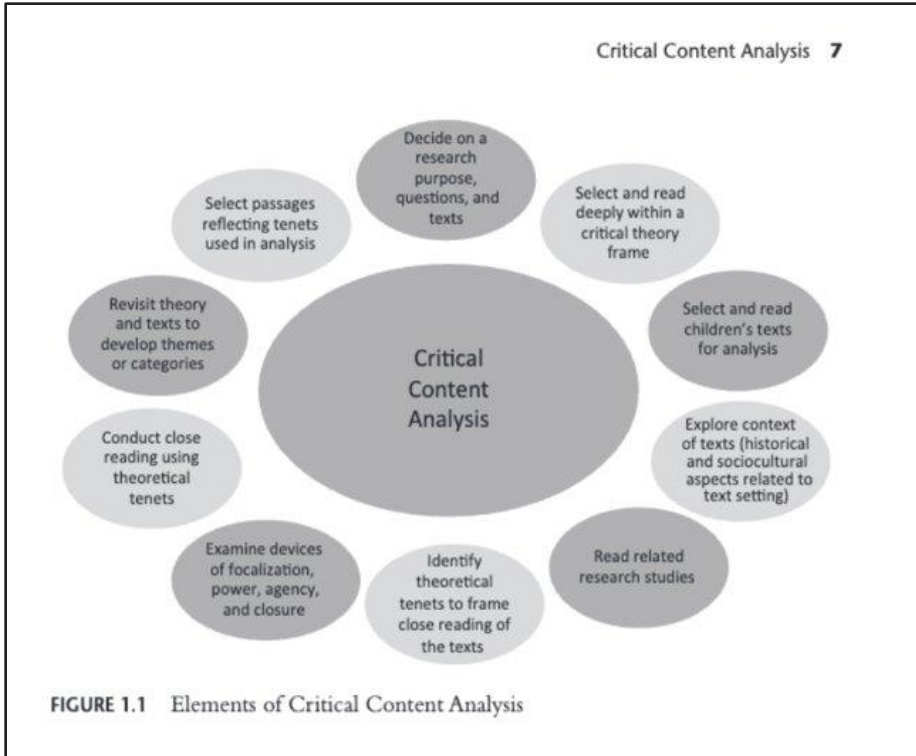


(Chim, 2019)



(Lim, 2021)

Methodology:



(Short, 2017, p. 7)

Critical Content Analysis

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Trauma theory:

examine how the protagonists navigate the unique emotional and psychological challenges of being part of an immigrant family

(Balaev, 2014; Crownshaw, 2013).

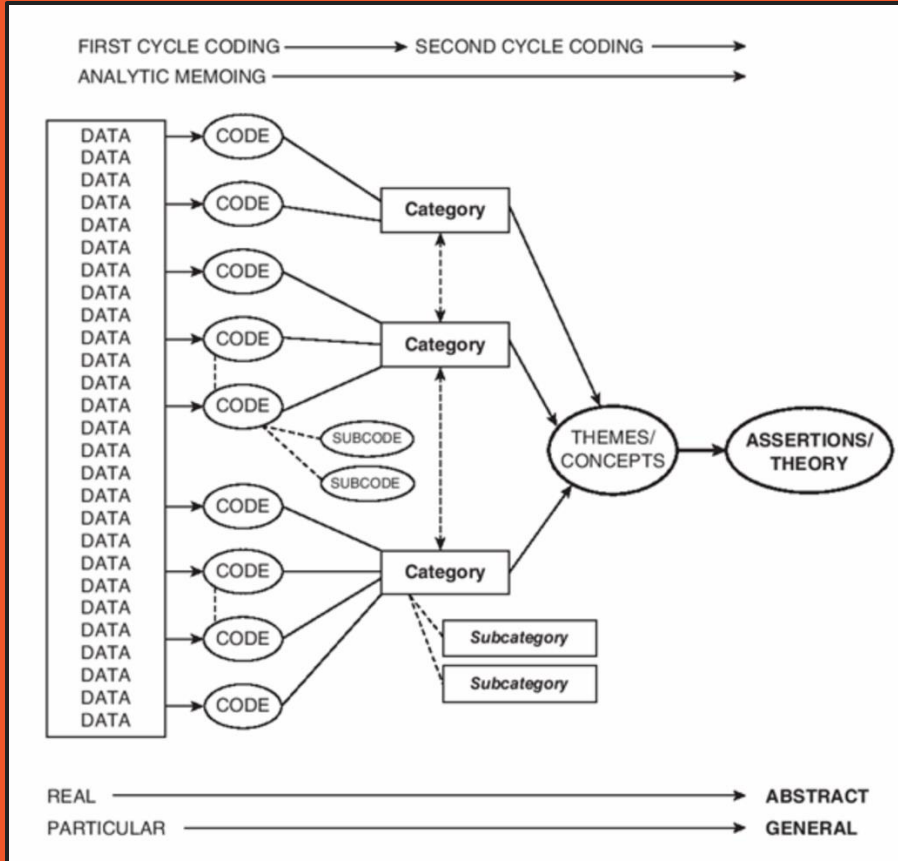
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Youth lens:

Enables critical exploration of how adolescents are represented

(Borsheim-Black, 2015; Sarigianides et al., 2015; Wilson, 2017).

Data collection & procedure:



Language features & Narrative strategies:

- ❖ Focalisation
- ❖ Symbolism
- ❖ Dialogue
- ❖ Challenge dominant notions of age, race, class & gender
- ❖ Challenging filial piety (Cheung et al., 2019; Sun et al., 2021)
- ❖ Renegotiating identity
- ❖ Counter stereotypical representations of:
 - ❖ Youth (Cueto, 2015)
 - ❖ Asian culture
 - ❖ Refugee families

Analysis & ethical considerations:

- ✓ Novels will be analysed individually, as well as intertextually.
 - ✓ My positionality
 - ✓ Thematic Coding
 - ✓ Etic & emic coding
 - ✓ No human participants
 - ✓ Cautious & mindful of *not* generalising
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- ❖ Reflexive approach + critical perspective
 - ❖ Thorough and nuanced analysis
 - ❖ Broader understanding of immigrant experiences in contemporary Australian young adult literature.

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