

导读:当今社会，人们对亚洲人还是有许多的偏见。最近BBC一段爆红视频中，妈妈被当成保姆的事就引起了热议。



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The video has been viewed hundreds of million times - and delighted hundreds of thousands of people on social media.

Conscious - or unconscious bias, does happen sometimes.

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When I was at university in London, most people I met assumed that I (as a British Chinese student) was studying either medicine or economics - when I was actually studying English literature.

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It was a little annoying, but not a huge deal. But sometimes assumptions can be more hurtful.

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One journalist of Indian descent says when she went to work at a regional newspaper, the receptionist mistook her for a cleaner, and asked her: "Are you here to clean the kitchen?"

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And Kumiko Toda, an academic of Japanese descent, says a majority of people who meet her for the first time ask her where she's from - despite her growing up in the UK and having a British accent.

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It also seems to have affected how some strangers interact with her.

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"I was surprised when chatting about street harassment with my friends who are white - they had quite different experiences," she says.

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"They said they did not experience nearly as much as I did and the comments tended to be less patronising, although just as bothersome in other ways.

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"I wonder whether my ethnicity and the perception of East Asian women as being submissive has something to do with the frequency and the nature of the harassment I experience."

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Are people still surprised by mixed-race couples?

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Another factor that may have led to the assumptions that Ms Kim was a nanny, is the fact that many still assume, consciously or unconsciously, that people tend to date others from the same ethnic group.

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Once, I was at a concert with three male friends – two white English, and one British Chinese - and everyone I spoke to assumed that I was dating the Chinese guy.

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Tiffany Wong and Jonathan Smith, a couple in the UK, say they experienced some discrimination from strangers when they started dating, although it was very much the exception rather than the norm.

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"We have had people shout stuff at us - once, when we were walking down the street, a guy yelled 'it's so sad you're going with an Asian girl' to John," Tiffany says.

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Some of their colleagues and family were also initially surprised when they realised they were dating someone of another race.

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"When I mention my fiancée at work, people normally just assume she's Caucasian, and they might be surprised to learn she's not. It's not offensive - it's just that their first thought is that you date someone from your own race," John says.

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Some have argued that assuming that Ms Kim was the nanny is a sign of white-centric bias.

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But others have argued it's a chance for people to revisit their assumptions.

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And assumptions about race can be a two-way street.

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Helen (not her real name), a Filipina nanny working in South Korea, says she has noticed that some "Koreans are very particular about skin colour" and appear to discriminate against some people with darker skin.

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Meanwhile, Andrew Wood, a BBC journalist who worked in South Korea for two years, says he was often mistaken for a US soldier while he was there.

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"Taxi drivers would rarely **stop for white men** on Friday or Saturday night as they allegedly assumed white men were drunk soldiers who would vomit in the **back** of their cabs."

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