

## This Inflammatory Ad Reveals Why Republican Women of Color Have a Hard Time Getting Elected

Catherine Wineinger, Western Washington University

During the September 13 Democratic debate, ABC aired a 30-second ad that showed a burning picture of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, equating her policies to those of the Khmer Rouge. The ad features Elizabeth Heng, a Cambodian-American woman and former Republican congressional candidate who lost her 2018 race against incumbent Rep. Jim Costa of California.

"Mine is a face of freedom," Heng says in the ad, contrasting herself to Ocasio-Cortez, "My skin is not white. I'm not outrageous, racist, nor socialist. I'm a Republican."

October 4, 2019 https://scholars.org