INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



9-10 June, 2017

Room 422 Sino Building CUHK

International Conference

Gender, Migration and Economies

Date: 9-10 June, 2017

Venue: Room 422, Sino Building

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Co-Organizers

CUHK-NCKU Joint Research Centre for Positive Social Science (C-POSS)

Gender Studies Programme, CUHK

Co-Sponsors

Gender Research Centre, CUHK

Department of Sociology & Research Centre on Migration and Mobility, CUHK

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C-POSS

The CUHK-NCKU Joint Research Centre for Positive Social Science (C-POSS) is established with the National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan, with an aim to cultivate and flourish an innovative and integrative positive social science that promotes gender equality, community rebuilding, empowerment and rejuvenation, civic virtues, and personal and collective well-being. It aspires to be a global champion in theoretical, methodological, and applied research in positive social science, as well as a leading institution in the training of thought leaders in the field.

Gender Studies Programme

The Gender Studies Programme at the Chinese University of Hong Kong is the first programme on gender studies in tertiary education in Hong Kong. Established in 1997, the Gender Studies Programme is interdisciplinary in nature, with expertise drawn from different academic departments such as psychology, sociology, cultural studies, anthropology, social work, translation, history and linguistics. It offers coursework and research opportunities with an inter-disciplinary team of faculty members. It provides students with a broadbased education in traditional academic disciplines while specializing in gender studies. The Gender Studies Programme started an undergraduate minor programme in 1997/98, and an MPhil programme in Gender Studies in the following year. Since 2002/03, we took in PhD students. We also started an MA Programme in Gender Studies in the same year.

Conference Schedule

Day 1: 9 June, 2017

Reception & Registration	09:00-09:15
Welcome	09:15-09:30
Prof. Helene FUNG (GRS) & Prof. Susanne YP CHOI (SOC)	
Panel 1:	09:30-10:45
Gendering Migrant Culture and Ethnic Economy	
Chair: Prof. Hsiu-hua SHEN (NTHU)	
Who Demands, Who Supplies?	Maria Siumi TAM
The Cultural Intimacy of Gendered Food Production	(CUHK)
Crossing the Boundary between the Public and Private:	Su-lin YU
The Life Narratives of Immigrant Women in Taiwan	(NCKU)
The Context-dependency of Human Capital and Transnational	Caroline M. SCHÖPF
Logics of Economic and Cultural Power:	&
Comparing the Occupational Trajectories of South Asian and	Matthew M. CHEW
White Migrants in Hong Kong	(HKBU)
Coffee Break	10:45-11:00
Panel 2:	11:00-12:15
Reframing Migrant Motherhood, Marriage and Love	
Chair: Prof. Su-lin YU (NCKU)	
Opt out or Push out? Mothering and Work	Anna Wen-hui TANG
	(NSYSU)
Mother, Wife, or Worker:	Clara Wai-chun TO
Life Course and Motivations of Remarried Mainland Chinese	(EdUHK)
Migrant Women in Hong Kong	

Marriage Satisfaction of Migrant Workers:	Wenrong QIAN
Labor and Love	(ZJU)
	&
	Yu SONG
	(XJTLU)
Lunch (invited only) &	12:15-14:00
Group Photo with Prof. Chi Yue CHIU (Dean of Social Science)	
Venue: Room 502, Wong Foo Yuan Building	
Panel 3:	14:00-15:15
Work, Network and Informal Labour	
Chair: Prof. Sealing Cheng (CUHK)	
The Reluctant Guard:	Susanne YP CHOI
Service Work, Masculinity and Inequality in China	(CUHK)
Gendered Cooperation and Networking:	I-Chieh FANG
A Study of Migrant Workers in Shenzhen	(NTHU)
Feminization and Masculinization of Migration Infrastructure in	Melody Chia-Wen LU
Macau	(UM)
Coffee Break	15:15-15:35
Panel 4:	15:35-16:50
Gendering Migrant Citizenship: Life-making on Borders	
Chair: Yuk Wah CHAN (CityU)	
Resistance and Self-Representation:	Isabelle CHENG
Vietnamese and Filipino Women's Exercising Citizenship in the	(University of
Private and Public Sphere in Taiwan	Portsmouth)
Family Remittances and Citizenship of North Korean Women	Jiyeon LEE
Settlers in South Korea	(Yonsei University)

Beyond the Ethnic Niche:	Jiyeon LEE
Till the Birth of One Skilled Marriage Migrant Woman Manager	&
in South Korea	Grace H. CHUNG
	(SNU)
Coffee Break	16:50-17:10
Panel 5:	17:10-18:25
Moralizing Migrant Economies & Emotions: Debt and Price	
Chair: Prof. Susanne YP CHOI (CUHK)	
Women in Asian Migrations:	Yuk Wah CHAN
A Review and the Emotional Aspects of Migration Economics	(CityU)
Rates, Roses and Donations:	Julie HAM
Naming Your Price in Sex Work	(HKU)
Filial Daughters?	Yang SHEN
Agency and Subjectivity of Rural Migrant Women in Shanghai	(SJTU)
Dinner (invited only): The Harmony	18:25-20:30
Venue: LG2, Lee Woo Sing College	

Note:

The time allocated for each presentation is 15 minutes, with a further 30 minutes allowed for Q & A discussion.

Language: English

Day 2: 10 June, 2017

Panel 6: Gendering Family and Entrepreneurship: Agency and Strategy Chair: Prof. Yiu-tung SUEN (CUHK)	09:30-10:45
The Marriage Bargain from afar: Economical and Moral Exchanges in Transnational Taiwanese Business Families	Hsiu-hua SHEN (NTHU)
Spacious Home and Crowded City: China's Post-90s Rural Women's Circular Migration	Chen CHEN & Yingchung JI (SHU)
Rethinking Motherhood and Entrepreneurship: Migrant Women and Small Businesses in Taiwan	Hsunhui TSENG, Jing SONG & Ben C. LU (CUHK)
Coffee Break	10:45-11:05
Panel 7: Questing Boundaries Between Publicity and Privacy Chair: Dr. Ju-chen CHEN (CUHK)	11:05-12:15
A Localized Ethnoscape of Leisure: A Study of Leisure Activities of New Immigrants Women in Taiwan	Tiffany Shan-Hui HSU (NCKU)
Not at Home: Diaspora, Identity and Creativity in Manini-Wei's Household Trilogy	Mei-tzu TSAI (NCKU)

Legal Non-recognition of Foreign Registered Same-sex	Yiu-tung SUEN
Relationships for Immigration Purposes:	(CUHK)
A Social Policy that Harms the Couple, the Workplace and the	
City	
Closing Discussion	12:15-12:35
Lunch (invited only): Staff Common Room Clubhouse	12:35-15:00
Venue: G/F, Pentecostal Mission Hall Complex High Block	

Note:

The time allocated for each presentation is 15 minutes, with a further 30 minutes allowed for Q & A discussion.

Language: English

Abstract and Biography

Panel 1: Gendering Migrant Culture and Ethnic Economy

Chair: Prof. Hsiu-hua SHEN (NTHU)

Who Demands, Who Supplies? The Cultural Intimacy of Gendered Food Production

Dr. Maria Siumi TAM (Associate Professor)

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Abstract

This paper seeks to understand the gendered rhetoric and practice of halal food production in Hong Kong. Building on such abstract discourses as: Asia's global city, or a shoppers' or gourmet paradise, Hong Kong as a predominantly Chinese, non-Muslim society has constructed a harmonious façade of a metropolis, effacing the ethnic-related social marginalizations in the city. Using the case of a Muslim Pakistani young man, the paper examines the personal quest to consume halal food and thereby to reinforce a religious identity, which subsequently turned into an online halal meal order website— a business based on the premise that there was a demand for, and supply of, halal food, and that the issue was just to match them. His solution, however, turned out to be highly gendered in both cultural form and content, as halal food was not produced by institutionalized eateries in public space, but rather by home chefs—women who cooked at home, in private space. Borrowing Herzfeld's concept of cultural intimacy, this paper traces the trajectories of fulfilling halal requirements by gendered individuals, and argues that underlying the seemingly homogeneous Hong Kong society are actually fissures of an ethnic, gender and class nature, defined by frameworks of state control over the informal economy.

Bio

Siumi Maria Tam is associate professor of anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her research interests revolve around the construction of cultural identity in

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relation to social transformation, focusing on family and transnational migration, and gender and ethnic relations. Cultural practices such as foodways, religion, and heritage are lenses through which these are examined. Recently she has focused on issues revolving around minoritization and empowerment among South Asian migrant communities in Hong Kong, and on anthropology as intercultural education. She has produced a documentary on Intercultural Hong Kong Series: Feeling South Asian. She is co-editor of Asian Anthropology, and director of the Centre for Urban History, Culture, and Media.

Crossing the Boundary between the Public and Private: The Life Narratives of Immigrant Women in Taiwan

Dr. Su-lin YU (Professor)

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Abstract

Across disciplines including education, anthropology, psychology, law, politics, and sociology, there is a rapidly growing body of scholarship on immigrant women in Taiwan. Yet, the critical study of literary representations of immigrant women is still scant. This paper aims to investigate the production and politics of three representative anthologies of life narratives of immigrant women in Taiwan: Don't Call Me a Foreign Bride, Away, and Lotus in Family Chains. It not only attempts to identify the particular contexts and conditions in which these anthologies are produced, but also demonstrates why these anthologies are specific political objects that produce knowledge and history of immigrant women. By reading these anthologies as political objects, I will emphasize that they are also discursive sites for identity formation, community building, and political practice. First, life narrative has been instrumental to the construction of self-identity, and through this writing strategy, immigrant women can reconstruct their subjectivity. Becoming the subject of one's own story enables the immigrant woman to construct a different subjectivity from the one often constructed within dominant social discourses. Second, the anthology format in which the editors collect their life narratives functions as a literary representation of multiple subjectivities in a coalitional form. These anthologies not only construct discursive/textual communities to foster and support immigrant women, but also show the diversity of life

experiences of immigrant women, thus challenging the misconception of immigrant women as a homogenous group. Finally, for immigrant women in Taiwan, life narrative has been one of the few options to document their lives and their histories. With their commitment to speak against discrimination and oppression, the contributors provide important correctives to the dominant misrepresentations of their lives.

Bio

Su-lin Yu is Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature at National Cheng kung University, Taiwan. She is the author of Mapping Third Wave Feminism and has published numerous essays on third wave feminism, transnational feminism and American ethnic women writers. Her current research interests include disability studies, transnational feminism, and third wave feminism.

The Context-dependency of Human Capital and Transnational Logics of Economic and Cultural Power: Comparing the Occupational Trajectories of South Asian and White Migrants in Hong Kong

Ms. Caroline M. SCHÖPF (Ph.D. Student)

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Dr. Matthew M. CHEW (Associate Professor)

Department of Sociology, Hong Kong Baptist University

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Abstract

Literature examining migrants' labor market integration in the Global North has found that migrants often experience a phase of downward occupational mobility, having to accept occupations with lower status and at lower qualification levels than their pre-migration occupations. The literature interprets this as a general phenomenon of migration, and ascribes it to the presumed context-dependency and limited transferability of human capital. This study questions this interpretation. Based on in-depth interviews with highly skilled South Asian and White migrants in Hong Kong, we show that most South Asians indeed experience

a phase of downward occupational mobility. However, most White migrants can piggy-back on the economic and cultural power of their societies of origin, and the ascribed high social status of their skin color, to achieve stable or upward occupational mobility. For them, the (real or supposed) context-dependency of human capital turns into an asset, not a liability, since it constitutes a scarce resource which allows them to liaison with business partners and customers from their countries of origin, and create highly valued, sought-after 'Western' products and services. However, gender complexifies this privilege, men finding it much easier to navigate Hong Kong workplaces and ride 'glass escalators' than women. The study contributes to the literature on migrants' occupational trajectories by showing that, while human capital indeed may be context-dependent, whether this context-dependency becomes an asset or a liability depends on complex logics of supply in demand, privilege and discrimination embedded in global power structures.

Bio

Caroline M. Schöpf is a PhD student at the Sociology Department of Hong Kong Baptist University, and member of the Joint Research Group on Migration, China, and the Global Context, funded by the Max Weber Foundation. Her PhD project consists of a comparative study of the occupational trajectories of migrants in Hong Kong, which ties to her wider research interest of comparing South-to-North with North-to-South migration. She was born in socialist East Germany and moved to West Germany as a child, holds a M.A. in Japanese and Chinese studies, has lived and worked in Asia (Japan, Hong Kong and China) for 8 years, and speaks fluent Chinese and Japanese. Her own rich migration experience sparked her interest in migration and ethnic inequality. Caroline's work has been presented at international conferences. Her forthcoming projects include conference presentations at the Canadian, European, and American Sociological Association annual meetings.

Matthew M. Chew is an Associate Professor at the Sociology Department of Hong Kong Baptist University. His research interests include cultural sociology, social theory, sociology of knowledge, sociology of consumption, globalization, and popular culture. Most of his recent articles deal with empirical data on the internet, dress, and nightlife in China. He is currently working on a project that develops an alternative critique of neoliberalism and another that explicates the radical sociopolitical meanings of Chinese web novels. He has published in journals including New Media and Society, Current Sociology, International Sociology, Positions, China Information, and The China Quarterly.

Panel 2: Reframing Migrant Motherhood, Marriage and Love

Chair: Prof. Su-lin YU (NCKU)

Opt out or Push out? Mothering and Work

Dr. Anna Wen-hui TANG (Professor)

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Abstract

Adopted institutional ethnography perspective, I explores and compare the identity

construction and the accounts of middle-class Taiwanese mothers when they faced work-care

conflict in Taiwan and in America. I found that mothers identified their choice to opt out

from labor market is a voluntary one, while I argued that it is a choice gap conditioned by

mothering identity and structural constraints. These opt out mothers would practice intensive

mothering to avoid traditional housewife stereotype and win "good mother" social image.

They would also work part-time or as a volunteer which helps establish positive self identity.

I explain why and how the migration and social environment influenced mothers' identities,

mothering and employment decisions for Taiwanese women either in Taiwan or in America.

Bio

Anna Wen-hui Tang, Professor in the Center for General Education and Department of

Sociology at the NSYSU, works on Taiwan-Vietnam international marriage, and family -

work balance of the middle class.

Mother, Wife, or Worker: Life Course and Motivations of Remarried Mainland

Chinese Migrant Women in Hong Kong

Dr. Clara Wai-chun TO (Assistant Professor)

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Abstract

A few studies on marriage migrants in Asia and unpublished official statistics on crossborder marriages in Hong Kong have shown a high proportion of remarried women among foreign brides, particularly Mainland Chinese. However, recent studies on transnational marriages examining women's economic and non-economic motivations of marriage and migration mostly focused on women of first marriage, leaving those of remarriage underexamined. This paper highlights the significance of life course and gendered institutions in understanding the marriage and migration decisions of remarried Mainland wives in Hong Kong. Based on in-depth interviews with these women, it argues that their motives of remarriages vary by life course while their life chances are shaped by institutional factors. Older women with adult children aspired for better job opportunities in Hong Kong while middle-aged and young women remarried for children's social mobility through better education, or for intimacy and family life for themselves and their dependent children. Instead of simply being guided by "spatial hypergamy" or a "cultural logic of desire", their marriage decisions are shaped by gendered institutions such as the labor market, local patriarchy, and migration control mechanisms in both the sending and receiving societies, i.e. post-Socialist China and Hong Kong. It contributes to the research on gender and migration by demonstrating the need to appreciate the diversity of marriage migrants in their life course and marital status prior to transnational marriage, as well as the structural/institutional factors which pose constrains on and open up opportunities for these women precipitating in their remarriage decisions.

Bio

Clara Wai-chun To is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Sciences of the Education University of Hong Kong . Her research interests include gender and marriage migration in Hong Kong and Asia, as well as gender, labor, and intergenerational relations in the People's Republic of China. Her ongoing projects include research on cross-border marriages and Mainland Chinese marriage migrants in Hong Kong.

Marriage Satisfaction of Migrant Workers: Labor and Love

Dr. Wenrong QIAN (Professor)

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Dr. Yu SONG (Associate Professor)

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Abstract

The research drew on a questionnaire survey of 904 married migrant workers in Zhejiang province in 2009 to examine the impacts of migration on migrant workers' marriage satisfaction. The results indicated that the majority of migrant workers migrated to cities with their spouses. Although 87.7 per cent of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with their marriage, the marriage satisfaction of migrant workers were affected by various personal and social factors including their gender, employment status, income level, daily working hours, health, distance of migration, local people's attitudes towards migrant workers. Male respondents were more satisfied with their marriage than their female counterparts. Migrant workers with a comparatively stable job, higher income level, fewer daily working hours, better health, shorter distance of migration, and experience of local people's discrimination had higher marriage satisfaction.

Bio

Wenrong Qian is Professor and Associate Dean of China Academy for Rural Development, Zhejiang University. Trained in agricultural economics and management, he teaches Development Economics and Agricultural Economics in Zhejiang University. His research interests include urbanization and migration, land policies, and rural economy and society. He is author of Farmer Households Affected by Population Migration in China (2009, China Social Sciences Press), Protection of Farmland in the Process of Urbanization (2000, China Agricultural Press), coauthor of Migrant Workers in the Transitional Period of China (2007, China Social Sciences Press), coeditor of Life Stories: Interviews with 50 Migrant Workers (2009, Zhejiang University Press), and author/coauthor of journal articles in China Social Sciences, Economic Research, China Rural Economy, Management World and etc.

Yu Song is Associate Professor of the Department of China Studies, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU). Trained in agricultural economics and sociology, she teaches Understanding Gender in China, and China Family and Society in XJTLU. Her research interests include urbanization and migration, gender and social changes, village governance

and politics, and elderly care in China. She is the author of Determinants of rural women's

migration in China (2014, Shanghai Jiaotong University Press), and author/coauthor of

journal articles in Asian Women, Reproductive Health Matters, Health Education, the Social

Science Journal, the China Journal, the Chinese Economy, and several book chapters. She

was visiting fellow at the Center for East Asian Studies of the University of Bristol, the

Department of Political and Social Changes of Australian National University, and the

Institute for Advanced Studies of Central European University.

Panel 3: Work, Network and Informal Labour

Chair: Prof. Sealing Cheng (CUHK)

The Reluctant Guard: Service Work, Masculinity and Inequality in China

Dr. Susanne YP CHOI (Professor)

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Abstract

Relationships between gender, service work and inequality provide a nexus for

understanding how patriarchy and capitalism intersect. Past research in this area has largely

been based on the experiences of western democracies, with the majority of research focusing

on women service workers or male service workers in jobs that are considered feminine. On

the other hand, studies of gender and work in non-Western context have focused on

manufacturing workers or female service workers. This study fills the gap by examining the

experience of male rural-to-urban migrants who are employed as security guards in the so-

called masculine service niche in post-reform China. The paper argues that to grasp the

particular experience of these male service workers, we need to situate their experience

within three cultural and structural dimensions: (1) the rural and urban hegemonic discourses

of masculinity; (2) the growing class and status inequalities between rural migrant workers

and urban middle class; and (3) the subordination of service workers to the new discourse of

consumer supremacy. Based on this analysis, the paper calls for a theorization of gender and

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work that transcends production- or organization-centric paradigms; and incorporates a framework that stresses the importance of the political economy of service work.

Bio

Susanne YP Choi (D.Phil, Oxford University) is Professor at the Department of Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She was a Fulbright scholar at Harvard University in 2013. Her current research interests include gender, family, sexuality, and migration. Her co-authored book Masculine Compromise: Migration, Family and Gender in China was published by University of California Press in February 2016. Her other works were published in journals such as American Journal of Sociology, Journal of Marriage and Family, International Migration Review, The China Quarterly, Social Science and Medicine, Violence against Women, Culture, Health and Sexuality, Journal of Family Issues, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Sociology of Health and Illness, Human Relations, American Behavioural Scientist, and British Journal of Sociology. [email:choiyp@cuhk.edu.hk.] Since 2015 she has been appointed a member of the Hong Kong Equal Opportunities Commission.

Gendered Cooperation and Networking: A Study of Migrant Workers in Shenzhen

Dr. I-Chieh FANG (Assistant Professor)
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Abstract

In this paper, drawing on research among rural migrants who work together in a Shenzhen factory, I want to explore the role of power in cooperative relationships. I will suggest that power should not be ignored in the study of cooperation, perhaps especially in China where network-based cooperation is very prevalent. Further to this, I will be looking specifically at cooperation from a gender perspective. Work typically involves organizing people in order to achieve a task. Cooperation is unavoidable in the work place. Cooperation happening in the factory sometimes is organized officially, through "standard operating procedures", manuals, etc. But cooperation also happens informally, and is organized through hidden rules, norms and implicit agreements, even without individuals knowing it. I am

particularly interested in such informal cooperation and the way in which it unfolds. Formal and informal cooperation are not mutually exclusive. They are often coexisting, overlapping, and complementary or embedded in each other, perhaps especially when seen from a gender perspective. This paper argues that in the factory context, a workable cooperation mechanism is gendered and must be negotiable for all the parties involved.

Bio

I-Chieh Fang (PhD London School of Economics), specializes in the anthropology of economy, migration, gender, morality, learning/education and youth. Her doctoral research focused on young migrant workers in south China. To date her work has explored the young migrants and their practice learning in two different migration trajectories: urbanization and counter-urbanization. She is currently an assistant Professor at the Institute of Anthropology, National Tsing Hua University.

Feminization and Masculinization of Migration Infrastructure in Macau

Dr. Melody Chia-Wen LU (Assistant Professor)
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Abstract

In contrast to increasingly rigid migration regimes in receiving countries in East and Southeast Asia, Macau is considered by some migrants as a "secret paradise", in that its laissez faire migration regime renders migrants choices and autonomy, such as options of living-in or staying-out, changing employers, mobility between job sectors (domestic work or service work in hospitality and tourism sectors), and the possibility of moonlighting. Typically they enter Macau with a one-month tourist visa and find a job and an employer during this period. These conditions on the one hand allow migrants to bypass brokering agencies and sending governments' protection regimes; on the other hand, they need to rely heavily on social and kinship networks in gaining knowledge of the migration regime, formal and informal job opportunities and mobility, and arrangements such as housing, health, remittances, and social life. My empirical findings point out the significance of temporality as

a factor affecting whether migrants use the service of commercial brokerage and degree of precarity.

This laissez faire migration system, I argue, is not the result of a "less graduated" regime and weak governance, nor due to the advocacy of migrants' rights. I will illustrate how the actors in the migration industry, i.e. the migrant brokers, the employers, and migrant workers form a strange alliance in resisting government's migration control and bureaucratization. Informalization of migration mediation and of labour market benefits these actors in ways that are sufficient to resolve their antagonism and to maintain a balance of respective power positions and a level of economic gains. Built on Xiang and Lindquist's concepts of migration infrastructure and involution (2014), I further theorize a gendered pattern of migration infrastructure. Masculinized migration infrastructure concerns "rational-technical, ostensibly gender-neutral, control systems.....(cf. Britton 2000: 421) with elaborate and complex bureaucracies putting regulated and administrators alike in dependent and subordinated positions. Feminized migration infrastructure, on the other hand, is characterized by informal arrangements privately negotiated, diffuse power and evading regulatory and commercial institutions (Britton 2000). In this paper, I would like to put forward a bold hypothesis: The masculinized migration infrastructure induces a complex involuted structure, which creates ruptures in the migration process potentially leading migrants into precarity; feminized migration infrastructure, at least in the case of Macau, reduces involution, making migration pathways flow more smoothly, and generating more migration capacities. If this hypothesis is true, feminization and informalization constitute, paradoxically, a more efficient and rational system.

Bio

Trained in anthropology and development sociology, Melody Chia-Wen LU teaches migration and transnationalism, consumption and leisure, gender and sexuality in the Department of Sociology, University of Macau. Her research interests include marriage migration and transnational families, the intersection of care and migration regimes in Asia, and labour mobility in the leisure and gaming industry. She is editor of Asian Cross-border Marriage Migration: Demographic Patterns and Social Issues (2010, with Yang Wen-Shan) and the author/co-author of journal articles in Global Networks, Citizenship Studies, Environment & Planning D and Current Sociology, and several book chapters. Prior to joining the University of Macau, she was Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute

(Asian Migration cluster), National University of Singapore and the International Institute for Asian Studies, the Netherlands.

Panel 4: Gendering Migrant Citizenship: Life-making on Borders Chair: Yuk Wah CHAN (CityU)

Resistance and Self-Representation: Vietnamese and Filipino Women's Exercising Citizenship in the Private and Public Sphere in Taiwan

Dr. Isabelle CHENG (Senior Lecturer)
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Abstract

Challenging the stereotype that women are not seen as citizens of agency, this paper explores how migrant women in Taiwan exercise their citizenship through voting and activism in the private home and public electoral politics. Employing the concepts of controlled voting, sovereign voting and social capital, this paper argues that citizenship is a relationship that is underlined by institutional equality and ethnic and socio-economic stratification.

Rooted in marginalisation, their exercising of citizenship takes place within the unequal power relations between them and their Taiwanese in-laws who dictate their voting decisions. Reacting to their in-laws' intention of controlling their voting, Vietnamese women employ sophisticated strategies with which to protect their independence in the private home. In contrast, Filipino women did not encounter difficulties in practicing sovereign voting, and saw sovereign voting as a protective valve for asserting their equality against other native citizens, including their husbands. Citizenship as a relationship is also evident in migrant women's activism, which enabled them to reach out to the general public for asserting their agency. Seen in the light of reciprocity, they are reconciled with the need for collaborating with Taiwanese elites whilst maintaining vigilance against the latter's self-interest.

By focusing on gender and agency, this paper finds that migrant women's exercising citizenship is a field where the conceptual boundary between the private and public blurs and interacts. These findings suggest that paradoxically, citizenship as a relationship not only

safeguards nominal equality but is also permeated by the unequal power relations prevailing inside and outside of the family.

Bio

Isabelle Cheng is a Senior Lecturer in East Asian and International Development Studies at the School of Languages and Area Studies, University of Portsmouth. She is a Research Associate of the Centre of Taiwan Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies. In the field of migration studies, her research interests include sovereignty, nationalism, migration governance and transnationalism. Her new research focuses on Chiang Kai-shek's war plans of retaking China and the formation of authoritarianism during the Cold War. Her research on migration has been published by Asian Ethnicity and Journal of Current Chinese Affairs, as well as being included in edited volumes focusing on migration to and from Taiwan and social movement in Taiwan.

Family Remittances and Citizenship of North Korean Women Settlers in South Korea

Ms. Jiyeon LEE (Ph.D. Candidate)

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Abstract

After settling as South Korean citizens, more than half of the North Korean women settlers still send remittances to their families in North Korea. The remittance to North Korea is a complicated and risky process: Not only should it involve in transnational networks through brokers crossing South Korea, China, and North Korea, but it is also considered "illegal" or "criminalized" practices that help North Korea. Why, then, despite the risks and stigma of becoming pro-North Korea sympathizer in South Korea, do North Korean women settlers regularly send money to their families to North Korea? Conducting the ethnographic research with life-history interviews of North Korean women settlers, this article interprets the performativity of their remittance in terms of materiality and morality. This paper argues that sending money to their families in North Korea enables North Korean women settlers to restore not only the 'intimacy' but also the damaged 'morality' labeled as the treachery by their defection. The money they remit from South Korea could be used with various meanings for

their family members in North Korea (1) Survival: to buy food and daily necessities in the informal market (jangmadang) (2) Protection: to give a bribe to security officers in order to erase the label of the treacherous family (3) Care: to raise the children left behind with economic support as a long-distance mother. These social meanings of money show that North Korean women settlers strive for responsibility as a long-distance mothers, sisters and daughters. This brings about the contradictory situation, in which they become both moral members in their family in North Korea and suspicious citizen in South Korea. The family remittance of North Korean women settlers challenges the construction of citizenship in South Korea and produces both 'risk' and 'possibility' of crossing the boundaries of two states in the divided nation of the Korean Peninsula.

Bio

Jiyeon Lee is a Ph.D. Candidate of the department of Sociology at Yonsei University in South Korea. Her broad research interests include sociology of gender, citizenship, governmentality, transnationalism, postcolonialism, and East Asia. She is currently working on her Ph.D. Dissertation on the construction of citizenship of North Korean Women settlers and governmentality in South Korea.

Beyond the Ethnic Niche: Till the Birth of One Skilled Marriage Migrant Woman Manager in South Korea

Ms. Jiyeon LEE (Ph.D. Candidate)

Department of Child Development and Family Studies, Seoul National University jibbog2@snu.ac.kr

Dr. Grace H. CHUNG (Associate Professor)

Department of Child Development and Family Studies, Seoul National University gracechung@snu.ac.kr

Abstract

This paper explores the importance of subjecthood that marriage migrant women could acquire through skilled job experiences despite their minority status in South Korean society. In reality, marriage migrant women workers undergo multiple oppressions and difficulties

due to their marginalized social positions, intersecting among ethnic minorities, low skilled laborers, and female. Their job market is very limited to the ethnic niche in South Korea such as manual or service work. However, since their migration route is not labor but marriage, few studies identified marriage migrant women as laborers and explored their job experiences. In this context, this study sought to identify ways to diversify job opportunities for them by investigating a single institution that hired marriage migrant women as supervisors/skilled workers. Through archives and in-depth interviews, we explored how one marriage migrant woman became a skilled manager in one institution. First, the process that how an institution trains marriage migrant women with cumulative disadvantages was examined: case profile, before being employed, process of hiring, adjustment process, and leadership development. Second, four important issues and themes that emerge in the employing process from the employer-centered perspective were identified: 1) Promotion factors (institution's management philosophy focused on party concerned participation; member's interaction based on unique relationships between superiors and subordinates; individual efforts of marriage migrant women to become an agent instead of beneficiary), 2) Barrier factors (dispensation of welfare system in Korean society; contradictory attitudes of the public toward multicultural family; individual limits of marriage migrant women on job training), 3) Job evolution, and 4)The meaning of skilled marriage migrant women workers. Thorough this intrinsic case study, we could confirm the importance of efforts by employer as well as by employee or government. This study suggests that an employer perspective should be considered when we discuss employment issues for marriage migrant women.

Bio

Jiyeon Lee is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Child Development and Family Studies (CDFS), Seoul National University. She is preparing her doctoral dissertation on parenting and ethnic socialization of marriage migrant women from Vietnam to South Korea. As a scholar, her research interests include multicultural families, family relations, class and discrimination. Her works were published in journals such as Korean Journal of Sociology, Health and Social Welfare Review, Journal of Korean Home Management Association. She enjoys co-working with international student at her laboratory, and she is preparing some journal article with them. She won several prestigious competitions and grants including Best Paper Award at International Association for Time Use Research, Best Student Paper Award at National Youth Policy Institute, Best Research Award at the Seoul Institute, and Best Research Award at Korean Home Economics Association. She is also won Outstanding

Graduate Student Accomplishment Award at Korean Government Brain Korea 21 Plus 5C CDFS team in Seoul National University. Since 2015, as an activist, she is volunteering at NPO which is established to support migrant women and protect their human rights. She is also interested in educating the public to reduce social prejudice and discrimination.

Grace H. Chung received her Ph.D. in Human and Community Development from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in 2006. She is currently an associate professor in the Department of Child Development & Family Studies at Seoul National University in South Korea. Her primary research interests include various developmental outcomes of Korean and multicultural adolescents, multicultural families, adaptation of marriage immigrant women, and family relations. Her recent published study examined how marriage immigrant mothers' experience of discrimination affected their adolescent children's depression and self-esteem. In another study, she used a daily diary method to examine how daily experiences of parental intimacy were linked to Korean adolescents' daily happiness.

Panel 5: Moralizing Migrant Economies & Emotions: Debt and Price

Chair: Prof. Susanne YP CHOI (CUHK)

Women in Asian Migrations: A Review and the Emotional Aspects of Migration Economics

Dr. Yuk Wah CHAN (Associate Professor)

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Abstract

This paper provides a review of the various trends of female migration in Asia and academic debates in the abundant literature on the feminization of migration. It will discuss various discourses of the structural traps, estranged plights, and agency of female migrants. Through exploring selected cases of female migration in Asia, the paper will examine the emotional aspects of migration economics and highlight a genre of transnational femininity developed within the migration landscape in Asia. The author seeks to bring attention to research gaps to be filled and provide prospective research agenda on women and migration.

Bio

Yuk Wah Chan is Associate Professor in the Department of Asian and International Studies at City University of Hong Kong. She has published a few volumes on Asian migration and is Editor of the Routledge Series on Asian Migration. Her areas of research cover international migration, borderland, tourism, heritage, food and identity. A link to her publication:

http://www.cityu.edu.hk/ais/OurTeam_StaffProfile_Grid.aspx?username=yukchan

Rates, Roses and Donations: Naming Your Price in Sex Work

Dr. Julie HAM (Assistant Professor)

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Abstract

The study of payment has remained interestingly under-theorized in sex work research, despite a growing body of scholars employing a labour rights framework to studies of the sex industry. This paper addresses this gap by employing an intersectional lens to analyse workers' decisions and perspectives on pricing practices in sex work. This is based on an empirical study conducted in 2013-2014 with 65 immigrant, migrant and racialized sex workers in Vancouver, Canada and Melbourne, Australia. Although analyses of pricing practices has been relatively under-examined in the sex work research literature (which has traditionally tended to focus on other topics such as sexual health, laws and regulation, vulnerability and risk, and working conditions), interviews with sex workers revealed decisions about pricing, rates, 'roses' and 'donations' to be a crucial site for constructing work personas, safety practices, and professional knowledge. Determining one's prices or rates in the sex industry is not a neutral, market-driven decision for many workers, but are infused with strong ideas about safety, character and industry that intersect with ideas about race, class and gender (of both workers and clients). This paper examines these dimensions before concluding with a discussion of the implications for sex work research and sex workers' rights efforts.

Bio

Dr. Julie Ham is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Hong Kong. Julie's recent book, *Sex Work, Immigration and Social Difference* (2016) explores the impact of contrasting regulatory frameworks on the experiences of immigrant, migrant, and racialized sex workers in Vancouver, Canada and Melbourne, Australia. Her research on the criminology of mobility, intersectionality, gender and the use of social difference in migration has been published in *Critical Social Policy; Work, Employment and Society; Sexualities; British Journal of Criminology; Criminology and Criminal Justice; Anti-Trafficking Review* and a co-edited volume *The Routledge Handbook on Crime and International Migration* (2014). Julie's work on the criminology of mobility is complemented by her extensive international engagement with networks such as the Asia-Pacific Mission for Migrants, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women and the Border Crossing Observatory at Monash University.

Filial Daughters? Agency and Subjectivity of Rural Migrant Women in Shanghai

Dr. Yang SHEN (Assistant Professor)
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Abstract

In China, continuous rural—urban migration on a massive scale disrupts the traditional rural patriarchal society and makes the temporary non-patrilocal way of residence possible. This new residential pattern has brought profound changes to the lives of migrants. Based on participant observation and interviewing, this article intends to explore the exercise of agency and the representation of subjectivity of female migrant workers in intimate relations after migration. The article primarily focuses on life experiences of Waitress Ru Nan and Waitress Yue. By supporting her younger brother's tuition fees and attending a series of matches arranged by her parents, Ru Nan maintained the image of a filial daughter. Yue eloped with her partner, regardless her parents' opposition to their relationship. But she left all her savings to them before elopement. And she was on her parents' side when it came to bridewealth negotiation with her partner's family before marriage, which demonstrates the complexity and contradiction of her practices of filial piety. By emphasizing the intergenerational

relationship and partner relationships of both unmarried and married women, I demonstrate a complicated picture regarding the changing status of rural migrant women and show how these women both conform and challenge the social norm of filial obligations, through which their agency is exerted and subjectivity is crafted.

Bio

Yang Shen did her PhD in Gender Studies at the London School of Economics. She is an assistant professor in the School of International and Public Affairs at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Her PhD thesis looks at gendered experiences of migrant workers in the service sector in China. Her current research focuses on housing choices and intimate relationships. Her research interests lie in feminist theories, qualitative research methods, contemporary China studies, migration studies, and urban informal settlements. Her academic articles appeared in China Quarterly, and Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies. Dr. Shen is also a script consultant and a freelancer writer for various media both in Chinese and in English.

Panel 6: Gendering Family and Entrepreneurship: Agency and Strategy Chair: Prof. Yiu-tung SUEN (CUHK)

"The Marriage Bargain" from afar: Economical and Moral Exchanges in Transnational Taiwanese Business Families

Dr. Hsiu-Hua SHEN (Associate Professor)
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Abstract

This paper introduces the concept of marriage bargain from afar to catch the material, emotional, and moral dynamics in making and keeping heterosexual marriages and families from distance. Borrowing from the concept of patriarchal bargain, marriage bargain is defined here as a tactic in which a married woman or man takes to accommodate the patriarchal institution of marriage that is at the expense of gender equality but increases her or his deployment of marriage dividends for personal or family sake. To take advantage of

China's cheap labor and huge domestic market since the country opened its doors to global capital in 1978, thousands of Taiwanese business owners and managers—mainly married men—have worked and lived in China for extended periods. Many of their spouses and children have remained in Taiwan. Numerous transnational Taiwanese marriages and families have endured despite the fact of long separation across the Taiwan Strait. Marriage as a globally recognized institution in allocating resources and protecting privileges makes it an attractive or a comprised option to uphold security, keep social status, and optimize life opportunity in the midst of changes and insecurities incurred from migration. This study of transnational Taiwanese business marriages and families finds that physical or emotional labor and economic activities based on gender, and moral meanings generated around those gendered labor and activities are central to the practice of marriage bargain. While bargaining with the patriarchal marriage is not unique in long-distance intimacy, without the face-to-face daily exchanges, the practice of marriage bargain from afar is much relied on gendered labor, material activities and moral discourses to keep heterosexual relationships accountable. Marriage bargain is a gendered concept and it helps us to identify how migration shapes marriages and families and how certain gender norms, labor, and exchanges are reinforced (or may be loosed) in the migratory process.

Bio

Hsiu-hua Shen is an associate professor at the institute of sociology at the National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan. Her research and teaching interests include gender studies (masculinities), migration studies, and sociology of intimacy. Her current research projects focus on transnational Taiwanese business marriages and families across Taiwan and China and relationships between homeownership and marriage in contemporary urban China.

Spacious Home and Crowded City: China's Post-90s Rural Women's Circular Migration

Dr. Chen CHEN (Post-doc Fellow)

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Dr. Yingchun JI (Professor)

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Abstract

With rapid urbanization and the relaxation of the hukou policy, much research on China's migrant population is increasingly focused on how the post-90s (born between 1990 and 1999) migrant workers will eventually become assimilated to the city where they work. Yet, this research has discovered that although the post-90s rural women work and spend most of their time in cities, their sense of home is deeply rooted in the rural and more or less anchored at the spacious house in the village which was acquired as part of the marriage package.

Conducting participant observation and semi-structured interviews, we studied a group of post-90s rural-urban migrants in a typical migrant sending village (Lao Jia) in Anhui province. We have found that the imbalanced sex ratio induced by the state family planning policy and rural women's out-migration have both contributed to a better bargaining power of rural young women in the marriage market; and a big house as part of an attractive bride price has become a new tradition in the rural village. Although working in cities is common for the rural young generation, female migrants have to go back to the countryside to give birth and raise children due to the lack of maternity leave and affordable child-care facilities for them in the urban area. Therefore, the geographical separation between the working citythe public sphere, and the home village—the ultimate private sphere make the work-family conflict even more severe for these rural women than their urban counterparts. Large rural houses thus provide young female migrants comfortable places to live, and enough privacy when they live with their mother-in-laws, who are major helpers in birth and child-raising. More importantly, the new-generation of migrant workers have never engaged in and are not interested in agricultural production. Yet, the rural area is still central to their sense of home: affordable housing, birthgiving and caring, and family support. We, therefore, expect this circular migration to continue for long if the geographic separation between the two spheres to be remained in the future.

Bio

Chen Chen is a post-doc fellow in Asian Demographic Research Institute (ADRI) at Shanghai University. She received her Ph.D in Geography from the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) in 2015. Her teaching and research interests include population migration, regional development, China and the application of mixed methods.

Chen is interested in the processes of population migration. Her research uses both quantitative and qualitative methods to study how people circulate and why the patterns of circulation differ by gender, generation, and across time and place. Her empirical work began with analyzing individual migration history panel data of 300 rural households from two major migrant-sending provinces in China to explore how rural-urban circularity has changed between 1980 and 2009. Her ongoing work expands the migration history panel data to 2014 to learn how rural-urban migrants in China move among different destination cities and how permanent settlement in the urban area is achieved. Chen has published two book chapters and one journal article (in China Rural Economics), concerning new-generation migration workers in China and the effects of rural-urban migration on left-behinds.

Yingchun Ji is the Eastern Scholar Professor in the School of Sociology and Political Science at the Shanghai University. Dr. Ji obtained her Ph.D. in the sociology department at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She has served as Guest Editor for *Journal of Marriage and Family* and *Chinese Sociological Review* in recent years. She was a visiting fellow in the School of Demography, Australian National University, and the School of Social and Behavioral Science, Nanjing University. Her research interests include family sociology, social demography, gender, health studies, quantitative and mixed methods. Dr. Ji has published in journals of multiple disciplines, such as *Journal of Marriage and Family, Sex Roles, Population Studies, BMC Public Health,* and *Chinese Journal of Sociology*. Much of her research is dedicated to family and gender issues in the Asian institutional and cultural context. Through empirical studies, she further seeks to conceptualize and theorize family and gender dynamics in transitional society such as China. Currently, she is writing a book with Routledge on reinstitution of marriage in contemporary China.

Rethinking Motherhood and Entrepreneurship: Migrant Women and Small Businesses in Taiwan

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Abstract

Since the late 1980s, the burgeoning transnational marriage brokerage in Taiwan has led to an influx of marriage migrants from China and Southeast Asia, these women are widely portrayed as a drain on social resources, social trouble-makers, or victims of domestic violence by the mass media. To challenges these stereotypes, this research aims to explore the moral economy of marriage migrants from China and Southeast Asia engaging in entrepreneurship in Taiwan. It seeks to understand how these migrant women adopt and narrate neo-liberal values and how motherhood plays out in their pursuit of business success.

Much early feminist scholarship emphasized motherhood as an obstacle to women's liberation, arguing that women are confined to the family as unpaid labor and only when they get out of the trap of being a mother and a housewife can they realize the real self. In this paper, however, we look into how these migrant women's pursuing entrepreneurship hinges on their conforming to traditional familism. Based on our interviews with 103 migrant women in Taiwan, we found that in most cases, motherhood is not so much about self-sacrifice but more about the way in which migrant women pursue their self-development that they cannot obtain otherwise. It is this moral value that legitimates migrant women's economic activities outside the household.

Recent western feminist has criticized that contemporary feminism should self-criticize its comradeship with neo-liberalism (Fraser 2014). However, we argue that this critique can be complicated through a more intricate migrant politics in Asia. By examining moral economy exercises and exchanges, such as motherhood, we conclude that it is necessary to look at how female migrants reframe or rebuild their life or family through their new economy-making before noting them as neo-liberal victims or comrades.

Bio

Hsunhui Tseng is an assistant professor in the Gender Studies Programme of CUHK. Her main research interest is women's transnational migration in East and Southeast Asia. She is particularly interested in how Asian women's lives in the local communities are connected to global dynamics through transnational market mechanisms. Her previous

research dealt with transnational marriage brokerage in Taiwan and her current research looks

into the lives and work of foreign spouses engaged in sex and entertainment business in

Taiwan. In addition to marriage migration, she also starts a new project on student

mobility/migration between Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Jing Song is an Assistant Professor in Gender Studies Programme at The Chinese

University of Hong Kong. Her research interests include gender and family, work and

employment, migration and urbanization, and market transition in China. She has published

in China Quarterly, Urban Studies, Eurasian Geography and Economics, Housing Studies,

Population, Space and Place, Journal of Sociology, Journal of Comparative Family Studies,

Chinese Journal of Sociology etc.

Ben C. Lu is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Gender Studies Programme at The Chinese

University of Hong Kong. He holds a PhD Sociology from Goldsmiths College, University of

London. He was also an adjunct Assistant Professor at National Tsing Hua University,

Taiwan. His research interests include sexualities, migration, class, value, global ethnography,

neo-liberal cultures in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. His PhD was an empirical study on

Male-male sex workers in Shanghai which examines the class and sexual intersection in post-

socialist milieu. He is planning new research projects on Queer Taiwan and middle class

spiritual selfhood in urban China.

Panel 7: Questing Boundaries Between Publicity and Privacy

Chair: Dr. Ju-chen CHEN (CUHK)

A Localized Ethnoscape of Leisure: A Study of Leisure Activities of New Immigrants

Women in Taiwan

Dr. Tiffany Shan-Hui HSU (Associate Professor)

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Abstract

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Leisure activities can be classified and diversified according to one's occupation, gender, class, education. Taiwan's new immigrant women, who were brought into Taiwan resulting from the boom of transnational marriage and labor shortage for an aging society, apparently changed and transformed the ethnoscape of local leisure industry. New immigrants women in Taiwan were considered obligated to take care of their parents-in-law, in addition to other housework; they also played key labor roles for small family business, mostly related to leisure industry (Wang, 2001).

With a focus on the leisure activities of new immigrants women in Taiwan, the purpose of this study was twofold: first, to examine the pattern of their leisure activities on a daily basis, and second, to investigate their roles in local leisure industry. In order to obtain a better understanding of both the private and public dimensions of their leisure activities, surveys and in-depth interviews were adopted. 78 immigrants women from southeast Asia were targeted in the study, in which such issues as education level, leisure activities, and working condition were emphasized. Demographic data showed that 64% of targeted participants graduated from junior and senior high schools while 60% of their spouses received diploma from either senior high or college diploma. 99% of them have at least one child and a paid job. 67% of immigrants' women ran restaurant business; 87% of them committed to work at least 8 to 16 hours a day. Also, they admitted that they played multiple roles in their daily lives, including being wives and mothers at home and business owners/workers in the working place. These factors are also indicators as to their leisure activities; 64% of the immigrants women participated in leisure activities regularly, and approximately half of them (25 out of 49) spent leisure time with their spouses.

At least three major themes emerged in the study: 1) a particular power structure that underpinned their marriage and leisure activities; 2) these new immigrants women that functioned as labor force reshaped local leisure industry; 3) a new ethnoscape could be found regarding the relationship between work and leisure. No doubt, the patterns of leisure activities of new immigrants women in Taiwan revealed a habitual mode of life, which might empower themselves for being women in Taiwan while transforming the operation of local leisure business.

Bio

Dr. Shan-Hui (Tiffany) Hsu, PhD is Associate Professor of Physical Education in the Office of Physical Education & Institute of Physical Education, Health, and Leisure Studies at National Cheng-Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan. Recently she is both Director of Center

for Gender and Women Studies and Director of teaching division, Center for General Education, NCKU. She received her PhD degree from The University of Georgia, United States. Her teaching and research interests center on issues of globalization in sport, technology, gender issues, and preservice teacher education in physical education, popular culture in media technology, as well as physical education and sport pedagogy. She is the author of, among others, Identity, Difference and Voicing: Pedagogical Praxis in Gender Studies (認同、差異與發聲: 性別教學演練) and Global Perspectives on Physical Education and After-School Sport Programs.

Not at Home: Diaspora, Identity and Creativity in Manini-Wei's Household Trilogy

Dr. Mei-Tzu TSAI (Associate Professor)

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Abstract

Manini-Wei (Lin Wan-Wen) was born in Muar of Johor, Malaysia. She graduated from the Department of Fine Arts at National Taiwan Normal University and the Graduate Program in Fine Arts at National Taiwan University of Arts. She married to a Taiwanese man and has a son. After ten years as a housewife, she regarded herself as a creative mother. She published a series of three picture books, "Oblique family" through internet fundraising; the series included "The sea hotel", "Old face cat", and "After". This article will discuss Manini-Wei's writing motivation with highly hatred, awkward but exquisite texts, arbitrarily cutting and pasting mixed with a color block in graphic structure style. It is under limited and struggling creative circumstances by explaining its new model of using the Internet to raise money. Her current residence is not only a foreign land, but also new residents' dilemma with a long-forsaken place lacking human networking. Therefore, it brings the birth of sensible aesthetics in her writing and the graphic style with the prominent image.

Bio

Ph.D. Department of Chinese Literature, National Tsing Hua University, 2005. More than twelve years of service as assistant professor in the Department of Chinese Literature at

National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan. An exchange scholar on a year program at University of California, Berkeley(2013-2014), an eight-month program at the Center for East Asian Studies, University of Texas, Austin(2003-2004). One year of service as vice editor for the Journal of Chinese Literature of National Cheng Kung University. Four published books including one novel ,Women body map; one volume of reportage, Outside the Classroom: Cultural Landscape in NCKU reportage (2010)and two academic research reports: Reading Specifically Categorized Literature from Gender Perspectives(2009), aims to observe how gender issues influence modern literature, and shows how considering them can enrich one's understanding of such works. Visiting Alien Places: Literary Phenomena Constituted by the Multinational Experiences of the May-Fourth Writers(2010), produced with the aid of a subsidy from the National Science Council, which examines May-Fourth writers with regard to border-crossing, travel, wandering and alienation.

Legal Non-recognition of Foreign Registered Same-sex Relationships for Immigration Purposes: A Social Policy that Harms the Couple, the Workplace and the City

Dr. Yiu-tung SUEN (Assistant Professor)

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Abstract

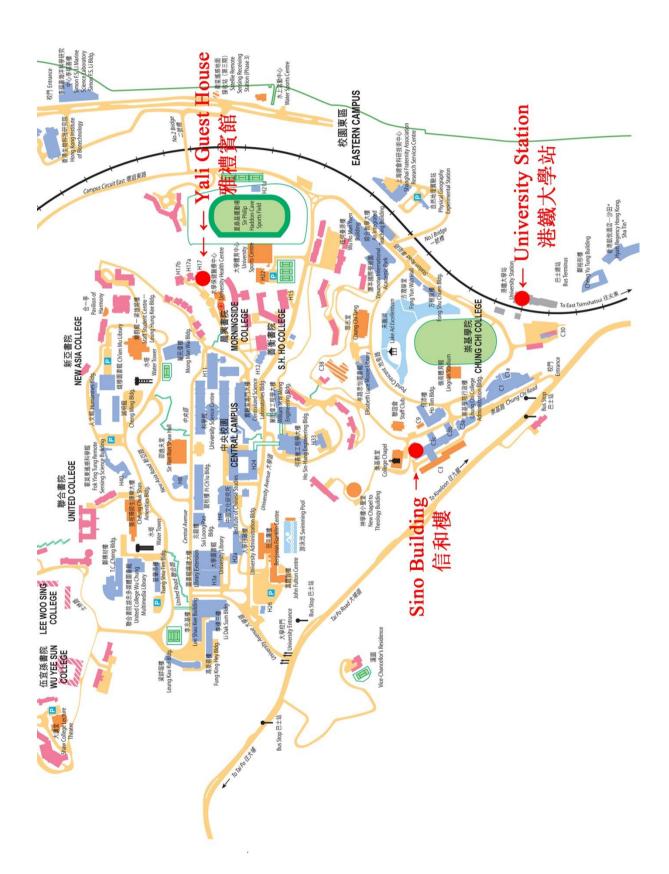
Social and legal recognition of same-sex relationships has been growing rapidly. However, globally such development has been highly uneven. This paper empirically examines the consequences when same-sex couples migrate from places where their relationship is legally recognized to where it is not. This paper draws on Hong Kong as a useful case study, where there is neither marriage nor civil partnership for same-sex couples and foreign registered same-sex relationships are not legally recognized for immigration purposes; yet at the same time same-sex couples do migrate to Hong Kong because of its status as a regional financial hub. This paper qualitatively analyzes the experiences of six same-sex couples who have migrated from US, UK, the Netherlands and Australia to Hong Kong. Inductive thematic analysis of the in-depth interviews explores their experiences before and after migration. In particular, this paper focuses on the material and mental consequences of the social policy for the couple, the workplace, and the city. The findings

bear both theoretical and policy implications. Theoretically, this paper intersects migration, sexuality and globalization, and expands the currently heated discussion on same-sex couples' rights into a cross-national context. In terms of policy and legal implications, this paper calls for the social policy of non-recognition for immigration purposes of same-sex relationships, which harms all stakeholders involved, to be changed. Meanwhile, it argues for more legal and social support to be provided to same-sex couples who face

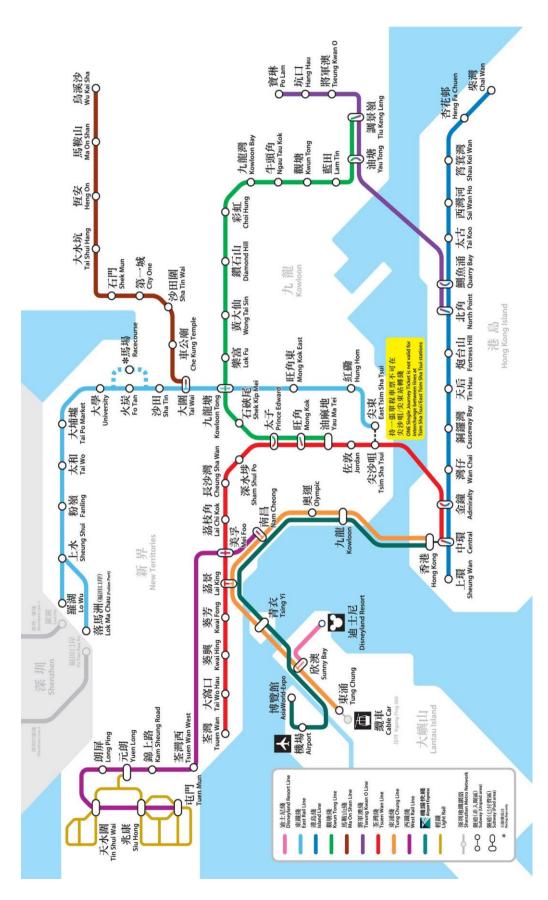
Bio

Yiu-tung SUEN (D.Phil. in Sociology, St. Antony's College, University of Oxford) is Assistant Professor of Gender Studies, and Associate Director of the Gender Research Centre, Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Prof. Suen is the Founding Director of the Sexualities Research Programme, the first research programme in Hong Kong dedicated to conducting rigorous, independent research on sexuality issues, with a particular focus on sexual orientation, gender identity, law and social policy. Internationally, he serves as a consultant for the United Nations Development Programme Being LGBTI in Asia initiative, and a global advisor for the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Association for its Global Social Attitudes Survey. He was the Principal Investigator of the 'Study on Legislation against Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status in Hong Kong' commissioned by the Equal Opportunities Commission, which was awarded the Hong Kong Community Business LGBT Advocacy Award 2016. Prof. Suen is the Vice-chairperson of AIDS Concern Hong Kong. He has been frequently invited to speak internationally in conferences and events on LGBT issues addressing a wide range of audiences including policy makers, business leaders, lawyers, health care professionals, service providers, secondary school and university students, and social activists.

Campus Map



MRT Map



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