

Research Summary

This project is concerned with a comparative analysis of Chinese new migrants (新華僑) -- those who left mainland China after the end of the 1970s and live in Japan and Singapore, which are the two key destinations of migration in Asia. Over the past 18 months, the PI undertook multi-sited field (Japan, Singapore and China) and comparative documentary analysis, with an aim to addressing three closely related questions: 1) what are the patterns of new migrants' socio-cultural and political adaptations in the host countries? How are they organized socially and politically? 2) At the time of China rising, what are characteristics and patterns of new migrants' linkages with China and how these linkages have affected their local identities? 3) How should the governments in both Japan and Singapore formulate effective policies that can facilitate new migrants' integration into the local society and maximize their contributions to the local economy? My research findings have been presented in the following venues: 1) five verbal presentations at international conferences/workshops held in Japan, USA, China and Singapore; 2) two journal articles (and two more are under consideration by journals); 3) one book.

Key arguments of this project include: 1) with respect to the social and political adaptations, Chinese new migrants in both countries tend to be organized according to national, instead of locality, sentiments, and China is seen as a collective site of cultural imaginations and political connections. This new mode of social alignments is a major departure from the traditional Chinese social organizations that tend to be based upon primordial ties. 2) New migrants in both countries have been politically and economically connected with the homeland (China) in a number of ways, including taking part in China's nationalistic and public diplomacy initiatives with an aim to project a positive image of China in the global arena. New Chinese entrepreneurs, especially those in the high-tech sectors, are an important force in China's economic globalization and integration into the global economy. New Chinese migrants have developed multiple identities at the transnational arena. 3) The Chinese state is a key player in engaging with new migrants, the mechanisms range from central state, local government, cultural agencies such as Confucius Institute, and state-owned enterprises. 4) The Singapore and Japanese governments have formulated different strategies with respect to international migration in general and Chinese new migrants in particular. While both countries face the same problem of low fertility rates and ageing population, Singapore has actively pursued a policy of importing foreign talents (especially from China), leading to foreigners accounting for more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total population (and about 600,000 originate from China). New Chinese migrants become a visible segment of local society and economy. In Japan, however, various factors (political, cultural and economic) have prevented the large-scale importation of foreigners including Chinese. While there is some increase of Chinese migrants in the country, they have not played a visible role in the local socio-political discourse and economic arenas. 5) Singapore and Japan face different challenges: the former needs to slow down the pace of immigration and to integrate new comers, as a result of public discontents over the influx of foreigners over the past century; Japan needs to do thorough investigations on the cost-and-benefits (economic, social and cultural) of attracting highly-skilled immigrants and formulate public policies that would enhance the country's economic vibrancy and cultural diversity in the decades to come.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

1. Liu Hong. (March 25, 2011, Honolulu, USA). "Xinshengdai and Resinification: Dynamics and Problematics of Flexible Chinese Identities at a time of China Rising." Paper presented at *International Convention of Asian Studies and Annual Convention of Asian Studies Association*.
2. Liu Hong. (March 13, 2011, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). "Brothers of a Different Kind? The Politics of Differentiating and Integrating Chinese New Immigrants in Singapore and Japan." Paper presented at *International Workshop on the Transformation from Ethnic to National Identification*, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (Under consideration by *Ethnic and Racial Studies* for publication).
3. Liu Hong. (December 14, 2010, Osaka). "The Chinese State and New Diaspora: Changing Dynamics of Homeland Ties and Diplomacy." Paper presented at *International Symposium on Comparative Research on Major Regional Powers in Eurasia*, Osaka University.
4. Liu Hong. (Sept 23, 2010, Xi'an, China). "Toward a Sino-centric Transnational Asia? Contested Historicity, Fluid Structures, Challenging Problematics." Keynote address presented at *Third Annual Conference of the International Forum for Contemporary Chinese Studies, "New Perspectives on China's Development in the Post-Crisis Period"*, Nottingham University and Xian Jiaotong University. (Under consideration for publication by *Asian Survey*).
5. Liu Hong. (May 10, 2010, Singapore). "Migration, Resinification, and the Transformation of Southeast Asia at the Time of China Rising." Paper presented at *International Conference on Overseas Chinese Studies*, Nanyang Technological University.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

1. Liu Hong, "Beyond a Revisionist Turn: Network, State, and the Changing Dynamics of Diasporic Chinese Entrepreneurship," *China: An International Journal*, accepted for publication and forthcoming in vol. 10, no. 1 (April 2012).
2. Liu Hong, "An Emerging China and Diasporic Chinese: Historicity, State, and International Relations," *Journal of Contemporary China*, vol. 20, no. 73 (2011), pp. 813-832.

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

Liu Hong, 《跨界亚洲的理念与实践——中国模式、华人网络、国际关系》. 南京: 南京大学出版社, Jan. 2012. *Transnational Asia : Theory and Practice* (in Chinese). Nanjing: Nanjing University Press, Jan 2012. Especially, chapter 11: 跨国场域下的企业家精神、国家与社会网络: 日本和新加坡的新移民个案分析 (Transnational Entrepreneurship, State and Social Networks: A Comparative Study of New Chinese Immigrants in Japan and Singapore).