

Migration in East Asia: Case studies from Japan, China and Taiwan

Waseda University Doctoral Student Network (WUDSN)

June 20(Friday), 2008 (15:00~18:30)

Dr. David Blake Willis

Professor of Anthropology and Education in the Department of Humanities,
Soai University

Dejima: Legacies of Exclusion and Control

Abstract

Many of the policies with regard to outsiders in Japan are related directly to attempted legal remedies for difference in the expanding and then contracting realm of historical Japan. Artifacts of previous eras hang on and trip up current relations in unexpected and difficult ways. For larger images of difference in the society, few symbols can rival Dejima, the tiny island in Nagasaki harbor where the Dutch, the only Europeans allowed contact with Japan, were historically isolated (1639-1853). Dejima is an especially powerful symbol of the treatment of Others in the Japanese context. While recent research has revealed a far more complex reality on the ground in historical Japan, the grip which Dejima has on the Japanese consciousness with regard to the Other remains potent. Dejima continues to be a special symbol for the Japanese with its images and imaginings, shaping attitudes and policies far out of proportion to the actual numbers of people who actually lived on this small island in Nagasaki Bay.

Profile

DAVID BLAKE WILLIS is Professor of Anthropology and Education in the Department of Humanities, Soai University, Osaka, Japan. He specializes in transnational/transcultural studies, and his writings include over 70 articles and books on a wide variety of topics, most recently *Transcultural Japan: At the Borders of Race, Gender, and Identity* (2008), *Japanese Education in Transition 2001: Radical Perspectives on Cultural and Political Transformation* (2002), and *The Age of Creolization in the Pacific: In Search of Emerging Cultures and Shared Values in the Japan-America Borderlands* (Lead and fifth chapters). He has lived in India (five years), Canada (two years), and Japan (28 years). He received his B.A. from Antioch College (Asian Studies), his M.A. and the first year of his Ph.D. Studies at the University of Chicago (Social Sciences and History/Anthropology), and his Ph.D. in Education (Anthropology, Administration) from the University of Iowa.

Dr. David Chapman

Coordinator of Japanese Studies, the University of South Australia

Sealing Japanese Identity

Abstract

On 22 February 2003 a group of foreign residents of Japan gathered in Yokohama's Nishi Ward next to the Katabira River to protest the awarding of a residency certificate (*juminhyo*) to a seal called Tama-chan. Tama-chan had frequented the river and as such was awarded the certificate because he was "more or less like a fellow resident" (Brophy 2003). The group of foreign residents criticized what they believed to be discrimination by the Japanese state because, whilst a seal is able to gain a residency certificate, foreign residents are legislatively excluded from obtaining one. The Tama-chan protest provides an opportunity for investigating not only the residency registration system but also other population registries such as the Japanese family registration system and alien registration system. In this paper, I argue that a deeper and more informed understanding of the processes of marginalization of foreign residents in Japan can be achieved through a comprehensive investigation of Japan's population registries and their respective histories. I also discuss how these population registries are sites of tension in which contained notions of Japanese citizenship and national identity are being contested by foreign resident populations with vested interests in Japan as a home thus revealing the inadequacies, inconsistencies and ambiguities of these registration systems.

Profile

David Chapman is coordinator of Japanese Studies at the University of South Australia. David has recently returned to Australia after completing a two year JSPS postdoctoral fellowship at Waseda University. He has research interests in Japan's marginalised communities and has recently published a book titled *Zainichi Korean Ethnicity and Identity* with Routledge. His present research investigates the role of the household registration system in Japanese society.

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Dr. Soo Im Lee

Professor at the Department of Business Administration, Ryukoku University

The Underlying Myths, Beliefs and Calculations Reflected in the Naturalization Policy in Japan

Abstract

Despite the persistence of Japan's image as a closed, ethnically homogeneous nation-state, over the past few decades there has been a sharp increase in the number of foreign nationals applying for Japanese citizenship. Given demographic trends in Japan, these numbers are likely to increase. Over 60 percent of all applicants for naturalization in Japan are Korean nationals (Figure 1). Therefore, Japanese naturalization policies are likely to have major implications for both the future of Japanese society and the Korean community in Japan. Yet, despite its importance, relatively little is known about how the Japanese naturalization policy actually functions. The final decision of whether to accept a naturalization application is left largely to the Ministry of Justice, and the procedures and criteria for making a decision remain ambiguous and shrouded in a veil of bureaucratic secrecy. The aim of this paper is to explore the ways in which Japanese naturalization policy is carried out, to trace the ways in which it has evolved, and to shed light on the underlying myths, beliefs and calculations of economic and political interest on which those policies are based.

Profile

Soo im Lee received her Ed. D in Education, Curriculum, Instruction and Technology in Education from Temple University. She is actively working to improve the human rights of foreign residents in Japan and she currently serves as a member of the Osaka City Committee for Policies on Foreign Residents. In 2007, she was chosen as Global Scholar by English Testing Service, NJ, USA, and her past research on the importance of fairness in language testing was globally esteemed. She is a naturalized citizen of Korean descent in Japan and she is tackling actively an exploration of diversity in the Japanese society as examined in her book, Japan's Diversity Dilemmas: Ethnicity, Citizenship, and Education. Lee has explored the decades-long experience of Koreans in Japan: the early migration during the colonial period; the loss of Japanese nationality at the end of World War II; and the current efforts to promote naturalization and the recovery of ethnic names. She is also looking at how the forces of globalization undercut the notion of homogeneity and give rise to new notions of diversity and multiculturalism in Japan.

Stephen Robert Nagy

Research Associate, Institute of Asia Pacific Studies, Waseda University

Examining the Role of Local Governments in Social Integration: A Comparative Examination of Social Integration Practices at the Local Government Level in Japan

Abstract

Japan has seen the population of foreign residents increase 50% since the 1990s. In large urban areas such as the Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA) this increase has occurred in concert with a distinct settlement pattern in which various ethnic groups conglomerate in specific municipalities with previously established ethnic communities. This settlement pattern has prompted local governments to develop social integration policies under the rubric of multicultural coexistence which represents their particular ethnic concentration. These policies revolve around fomenting inclusionism and pluralism in these municipalities; however this stops short of full political suffrage for eligible foreign residents. This paper will compare the social integration practices of two municipalities, one in the TMA and the other in Kanagawa Prefecture in order to explain how ethnic communities contribute to the formation of local government led social integration practices. Through understanding how ethnic communities influence and attenuate social integration practices, local governments will be better able to mitigate the challenges of the ethnicisation of Japanese municipalities, furthering the social integration of various ethnic groups while diminishing the inevitable friction that is precipitated when new ethnic groups settle in urban settings.

Profile

Stephen R. Nagy is a Research Associate at Waseda University's Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies. Educated at the University of Calgary, Canada and Waseda University, Tokyo, he is currently serving as President of the Waseda University Doctoral Student Network (WUDSN), VP of Communications for the Association of Pacific Rim's Doctoral Student Network and a PhD Candidate at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS). His research is centered on the implications of migration to Japan, the manner integration will take place and future constructs of Japanese identity, nationality, citizenship and Japan's ability to navigate through this process.

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Dr. Gracia Liu-Farrer

Lecturer of Sociology at the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Sophia University

Creating a Transnational Community: Chinese Newcomers in Japan

Abstract

In 2006, over seven hundred thousand Chinese-born people resided in Japan. The majority of them, called “newcomers,” arrived after the mid-1980s. Despite the economic downturns in Japan and the booms in China, the eventful diplomatic relationship between the two countries and changing immigration control policies in Japan, the Chinese population has been rapidly growing since the mid-1980s, showing no sign of slowing down. Transnational practices and outlooks characterize the Chinese newcomer community in Japan. In a country reluctant to become an immigrant country despite surging immigration and a society widely (even if falsely) perceived as racially homogeneous, maintaining economic and social ties with the home country and making transnational living arrangements have become strategies Chinese immigrants have adopted both to circumvent their marginal social positions and to gain socioeconomic mobility in Japan. Beginning with a brief history of the Chinese in Japan, this chapter introduces the patterns of contemporary migration and the characteristics of the Chinese newcomers in this country. It categorizes their transnational modes of social and economic adaptation as well as their living arrangements, and describes the construction of the identity of “new Overseas Chinese (shin hua qiao).”

Profile

Gracia Liu-Farrer (PhD) is currently a lecturer of Sociology at the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Sophia University, Japan, and at the International Center, Keio University. Her dissertation, titled *Educationally Channeled International Labor Migration: Post-1978 Student Mobility from China to Japan* (University of Chicago, 2007), examines the diverse labor market outcomes of contemporary Chinese student migrants in Japan. She has written articles and book chapters about the economic, social and emotional lives of the Chinese in Japan in both English and Japanese. She is currently investigating Chinese migrants' transnational labor market practices, career mobility, and the issues of racial and gender stratifications emerging in the transnational labor market between Japan and China.

Peichun Han

PhD Candidate, Waseda University.

Hidden “In between-ness”: an Exploration of Taiwanese Transnational Identity in Contemporary Japan

Abstract

This article offers an analysis of the dynamic interplay of endogenous and exogenous forces that create the complexity of immigrant identity. It examines cultural identity and the related discourse of one particular immigrant group, the “post-war comer” Taiwanese, in contemporary Japan. This group came to Japan after the end of WWII. They have experienced complex transitions in both legal statuses and self-identifications. Constituted from the legacies of Japanese colonialism and Chinese nationalism, the post-war comer Taiwanese constantly negotiate and redefine their “neither here, nor there” identities and thus constitute a distinct case within the population of overseas ethnic Chinese.

Japan, widely considered to be a society of racial and cultural homogeneity, faces an increasing influx of migrants, in particular those from East Asia in recent years. Immigration thus leads to a broad range of concerns in contemporary Japanese society. While previous literatures on the Chinese and Korean Diaspora are widely researched, there is a vacuum on Taiwanese Diaspora in the associated scholarship. This study investigates the Taiwanese migrants' cultural adaptation and socialization under the Japanese discourse through literature reviews and field study. This paper argues that the post-war comer Taiwanese have constructed a transnational identity hidden in between two cultures of Japanese and Chinese. In other words, this paper attempts to offer a perspective on Taiwanese under Japanese colonialism and Chinese nationalism that transcends the “identity struggle” commonly experienced by immigrants around the world.

This group of Taiwanese migrants in postwar Japan struggle with surveillance, assimilation, resistance, and identity confusions. To balance between a survival strategy overseas and a primordial attachment to the motherland, their identification with group boundaries may shift in accordance with a variety of situations.

Profile

Peichun Han is a PhD candidate of International Relations at Waseda University. She received her B.A. in International Relations from the National Taiwan University in 2002, and M.A. in Public Policy from Georgetown University in Washington DC in 2004. She is currently working as a TA at the Department of International Liberal Studies, Waseda University. Her research interests focus on East Asia and migration studies, particularly those related to identity and cultural comparison. Her working dissertation researches Taiwanese Diaspora. She examines the unique traits of Taiwanese migrants in Japan through comparative approaches. In addition to a number of editorial articles in newspapers, her paper “China Studies in Japan” was published in the *Quarterly of Mainland China Studies* (National Taiwan University Press, 2005). Her latest paper, “Hidden in between-ness” is expected to be published by *Asian Ethnicity* Vol.8 No.2 (Taylor and Francis Group Press, June 2008).

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Discussants:

Prof. Glenda S. Roberts

Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University

Ph.D. in Anthropology, Cornell University

Field of Specialization :

Socio-cultural Anthropology

Prof. Shigeto Sonoda

Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University

MA in Comparative Sociology, Tokyo University

Field of Specialization :

Comparative Sociology, Social Change and Cultural Transformation in Asian Societies



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please visit the website:

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<http://www.waseda.jp/gsaps/WUDSN/WUDSNindex.htm>

**Application not necessary however organizers would appreciate
an email confirming your attendance,
please include name, affiliation, research area.
s.nagy@aoni.waseda.jp**

Welcome Address : Prof. Satoshi Amako

Session I : 15:00 to 17:00

“Dejima: Legacies of Exclusion and Control”

- Dr. David Blake Willis (Soai University)

“Sealing Japanese Identity”

- Dr. David Chapman (University of South Australia)

“The Underlying Myths, Beliefs and Calculations Reflected in the Naturalization Policy in Japan”

- Dr. Soo Im Lee (Ryukoku University)

“Examining the Role of Local Governments in Social Integration: A Comparative Examination of Social Integration Practices at the Local Government Level in Japan”

- Stephen R. Nagy Research Associate (Waseda University)

Discussant: Prof. Glenda S. Roberts

Session II : 17:15 to 18:30

“Creating a Transnational Community: Chinese Newcomers in Japan”

- Dr. Gracia Liu-Farrer (Sophia University)

“Hidden “In between-ness”: an Exploration of Taiwanese Transnational Identity in Contemporary Japan”

- Peichun Han PhD Candidate (Waseda University)

Discussant: Prof. Shigeto Sonoda

Closing Remarks : Stephen R. Nagy

日時 : 2008年 6月 20日(金) 15:00 ~ 18:30

Date : Friday June 20th 15:00 ~ 18:30

会場 : 西早稲田ビル 19号館 710号室

Venue : Sodal-Nishiwaseda Bldg. 19, Room 710

主催 / Organized by : Waseda University Doctoral Student Network

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