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

Organised by: Waseda University Doctoral Student Network

Support by: GIARI & GSAPS

Organizer Supported by	Waseda University Doctoral Student Network Global Institute for Asian Regional Integration (GIARI), GSAPS
Title	Migration in East Asia: Case Studies from Japan, China and Taiwan
Presenters and Discussants	Dr. David Blake Willis, Soai University Dr. Soo im Lee, Ryukoku University Dr. David Chapman, University of South Australia Stephen Robert Nagy, Research Associate, Waseda University Professor Glenda S. Roberts, Waseda University Dr. Gracia Liu Farrer, University of Chicago Pei Chun Han, Phd Candidate, Waseda University Professor Shigeto Sonoda
Date	June 20th, 2008, 15:00 to 16:30
Location	Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, 7F, Rm710
Participants	60 participants from universities in Tokyo and Abroad, see attendance list for full list of participants

Symposium Schedule:

Welcome Address: Prof. Hatsue Shinohara

Session 1 : 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 for speakers: **Prof. Glenda S. Roberts**

Session 2 : 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 for speakers: **Prof. Shigeto Sonoda**

Closing Remarks: Stephen R. Nagy

Symposium Details:

June 20th, 2008

Opening Remarks:

Professor Hatsue Shinohara, Professor at the Graduate School of Asia of Asia-Pacific Studies and team member of the Global Institute for Asian Regional Integration GIARI at Waseda University welcomes the participants.

Welcome address: Stephen Robert Nagy, Research Associate and Phd Candidate, GSAPS gives welcome address focusing on the importance of looking at East Asian integration through the lens of migration

Panel 1: Chaired by Professor Glenda S. Roberts

Transnational Japan: Artifacts of Identity and Contested Spaces of Inclusion/Exclusion

   The existence of the foreign Other in Japan has always tested the essentialised boundaries of Japanese identity and destabilized established cultural and national power. This destabilization and disruption has taken place along many borders and in many spaces, constantly struggling against the mechanisms and forces of inclusion and exclusion that typify the binary of Self and Other. The papers in this panel discuss both contemporary and historical contexts in new ways, dealing with the role of policy, legislation, community and location in maintaining notions of what it is to be Japanese. Migrants have always been a part of the Japanese social landscape and the recent influxes, as have others before, highlight and contest the ambiguities and contradictions of essentialism and express hope of coexistence and a new way forward where new identities in Japan are realised and accepted in place of the artifacts of homogeneity The existence of the foreign Other in Japan has always tested the essentialised boundaries of Japanese identity and destabilized established cultural and national power. This destabilization and disruption has taken place along many borders and in

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1) David Blake Willis, Soai University
   Dejima: Legacies of Exclusion and Control

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.

2) Soo Im Lee, Ryukoku University
   Underlying Myths, Beliefs, and Calculations reflected in Japanese Naturalization Policy

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. 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.

3) David Chapman, University of South Australia/Waseda University

Sealing Japanese Identity

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 migrants 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 migrant populations with vested interests in Japan as home thus revealing the inadequacies, inconsistencies and ambiguities of these registration systems.

4) Stephen Robert Nagy, 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

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.

Discussant: Professor Glenda S. Roberts

Panel 2: Migration in East Asia: Perspectives from China and Taiwan
Chaired by: Professor Shigeto Sonoda

1) Gracia Liu-Farrer, University of Chicago
Creating a Transnational Community: Chinese Newcomers in Japan

In 2006, over seven hundred thousand Chinese-born people resided in Japan. The majority of them, called "newcomers," arrived after mid-1980s. Despite the economic downturns in Japan and the booms in China, the eventful diplomatic relationship between two countries and changing immigration control policies in Japan, the Chinese population has been rapidly growing since 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 adaption as well as their living arrangements, and describes the construction of the identity of "new Overseas Chinese (shin hua qiao)".

2) Peichun Han, PhD candidate, Waseda University.
Hidden "Inbetween-ness": an Exploration of Taiwanese Transnational Identity in Contemporary Japan

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 the contemporary Japanese society. While previous literatures of 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.

Discussant: Professor Shigeto Sonoda

Closing Remarks: Stephen R. Nagy

Summary by Stephen Robert Nagy
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