

Doctoral dissertation summary

Old-timers, Newcomers, and the Borderless-Integration
— A Research of New Chinese Immigrant in Phitsanulok Province, Northern
Thailand —

オールドタイマー、ニューカマー、ボーダレス・インテグレーション
(タイ北部ピサヌローク県における華人新移民の調査)

Waseda University
Graduate School of Social Sciences

地球社会論 Immigrant; national integration

チョウ イコ
Zhao Weihang

This research uses a qualitative approach to canvass how China's foreign policy was introduced in an attempt to culturally and transnationally integrate overseas Chinese people, including old-timers (ethnic Chinese individuals with Thai nationality) and newcomers (legitimate Chinese immigrants from mainland China who have not yet obtained Thai nationality) in order to strengthen the state's soft power. This borderless integration is chiefly constructed from three facets: culture building, education, and social media. The culture building angle was initially projected by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council (OCAO) based on the state's interest at the beginning of the borderless integration. The education angle is based on the Confucius Institute, which has planted within the local institution a focus on Chinese language education, and more importantly, a place designed to speed up the solidarity among old-timers and newcomers. The social media angle involves the use of social media, especially smartphone applications, as a supervising mechanism for reconsolidating the links between newcomers and the state during the migration process. The case study focuses on the fieldwork we had been doing at the Xingmin School in Phitsanulok based on the information given by different interviewees. What new unexpected, but later found out, was that the old-timers had been using a "neutrality policy" in order to avoid sensitive issues that occurred in the Greater China Region when facing the borderless integration. This helped them not only keep the newcomers' interest but also positive standings for themselves. Finally, I would like to reconsider "guanxi," which is the core communicating principle, in the context of borderless integration from a global perspective.

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