

アジア太平洋研究科 博士学位論文要旨

“Us” and “Others”:

The Chinese diaspora in Japan and the negotiation of their membership in the sphere of Chineseness

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By exploring the online and offline lived experiences among the Chinese diaspora in Japan, this thesis details how this particular population articulates the notion of Chineseness while crossing multiple axes of identification, such as connectivity, mobility, ethnicity, and gender. Consequently, this thesis also investigates the way the Chinese diaspora negotiate their membership in the sphere of Chineseness.

Methodologically, the arguments presented in this thesis are drawn from extensive qualitative data that I have collected from 2018 to 2021, including both the in-depth interview with 69 interviewees and the media ethnographic observation with 26 research participants. In addition, I also used descriptive quantitative data of 413 survey participants to supplement the qualitative findings. Theoretically, I used intersectionality as a framework to connect and analyse dialogues across digital media, human mobility, ethnicity, and gender studies.

The events documented and the analyses presented in this thesis highlight the way digital media have been shaping the daily experience of the Chinese diaspora in Japan as well as how it plays a crucial role in expanding the digital and the ideological territory of the Chinese nation. On the one hand, with the rise of mainland Chinese digital platforms, digital media help facilitate various emotional, cultural, and social ties between the Chinese diaspora in Japan and the homeland. On the other hand, using those platforms also means that the Chinese diaspora continuously experience digital divide post-migration, and their diasporic experiences are still significantly shaped by censored and politicised narratives, discourses, and ideologies circulating on those platforms. In the context where many of those mediated discourses have a nationalistic essence that is based on the Party-state's "Japan as China's ultimate others" ideology, the use of digital media itself can put the Chinese diaspora in a dilemma. While it is an indispensable and integrated part of their lives, using it also puts them in the conflict between the anti-Japanese national identity and the reality as "Chinese living in Japan". This thesis addresses this dilemma uniquely experienced by the Chinese diaspora in Japan, which contributes to illuminate their live experiences in the era of digital media, China's rise, and the escalating Sino-Japanese dispute.

Firstly, taking inspiration from Lefebvre's writing on "the right to the city" (1996), one important aspect that I highlight in this thesis is the formation of a transnationally mediated sphere of Chineseness. By tracing the evolution of the ethnic Chinese mediascape in Japan, I manifest how the shift from print media, then to mass and digital media marks the rise of a transnational but digitally divided Chinese space where the boundary is defined by the notion of Chineseness articulated by the Chinese Party-state. I argue that that this space is suffused with the Chinese Communist Party's "us v.s. others" nationalistic discourses, making it essentially a sphere of Chineseness that

aims to align its members with China's overarching political framework and maintain the CCP's ruling regime.

Secondly, by empirically studying the lived experiences of the Chinese diaspora in Japan, this thesis answers an important but so far insufficiently explored question in the study of the Chinese diaspora in Japan, which is why the Chinese diaspora may or may not claim an identity alignment with the Chinese nation, and why do they do so differently. I manifest that they make complex membership (dis)claiming decisions to both benefit from their privilege of digital connectivity and international mobility as well as to respond to various marginalities emerging from the intersectionality of multiple axes of differentiation.

The value of this thesis is that it provides rich and much needed empirical evidence that contribute to conceptualise the diasporic experiences as well as the identity politics of the Chinese diaspora who live in a crucial era – while we have witnessed China's rise and its transition from a diminishing to a returning power, as a response to this Japan has continuously articulated a "China threat" discourse, which not only further promotes its ethno-nationalistic ideology, but also directing the ethnicity-based marginality toward the Chinese diaspora in Japan. In this context, this thesis contributes to present that while these events create complex Sino-Japanese power dynamics, the presence of digital media means that the Chinese diaspora in Japan are influenced by them in a new way – "new" in the sense that the digital mediation fills those power and forces into every dimension of their lives, making their daily reality a constant identity negotiation.

[主要参考文献]

Lefebvre, H. (1996) *Writings on Cities*. Oxford: Blackwell Oxford.