



International Conference on Migration, Borderlands and Development

organized by the Institute of Ethnic Studies (INR) at Yunnan University and the Interculturalism, Migration and Minorities Research Centre (IMMRC) at the Catholic University Leuven in collaboration with the International Metropolis project, to be held at Yunnan University in Kunming, Yunnan, P.R. China, on April 17-18, 2014

Program

Wednesday April 16, 2014

14:00-18:00 Registration
Lobby, Greenlake View Hotel
222 Renmin Middle Road, Wuhua, Kunming, Yunnan, China, 650031

Thursday April 17, 2014

Excursion to *Da Nuohei* (大糯黑), [Google map link](#)



08:30 The group departs from Greenlake View Hotel to Village *Da Nuohei*.
18:30 Dinner party. In the village of Da Nuohei with Sani ethnic minority People.
21:00 Back to Hotel.

Thursday April 18, 2014

Conference room, 3rd floor, Wumayao Anthropology Museum
Institute of Ethnic Studies (INR), Yunnan University,
NO 2 North Green lake Road, Kunming, Yunnan 650091

08:30 Welcome

08:45 **Opening by Prof. He Ming**, Director of the Institute of Ethnic Studies (INR)

09:00 Short statements by **Prof. Chinglin Pang** (KU Leuven, Belgium) and **Prof. Jan Rath** (International Metropolis and University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

Session 1 Cross-Border Mobility

09:20 - 12:20, Chair **Prof. Jan Rath**

Varieties of Cross-Border Economic Development between China and the Mekong Region

Dr. John Walsh (Shinawatra University, Bangkok, Thailand),

The border region linking China with the Mekong Region countries of Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam is home to various attempts to promote economic development, including border trading, special economic zones, para-statal autonomous zones and tourist resorts. This paper examines the area specified and itemizes the different forms of economic development that may be found. It then analyses the advantages and disadvantages of each approach and then considers the impact on migration and labour market development involved. Finally, consideration is given to the types of social policy that will be required to accommodate these approaches, to meet the challenges provided successfully and to deal with any inequalities caused by uneven development.

Smart Borders for a Smarter Control? A glimpse over the European debate

Dr. Francesca Zampagni (ICMPD, Austria),

Border control has increasingly come to signify mediation between facilitating smooth travel of "bona fide" travellers, while maintaining control over movement of "high risk" travellers, especially potential/actual overstayers. The EU, following the path of the US, is promoting a Smart Borders Package foreseeing an increasing reliance on intelligence technology and risk analysis gathered through various large transnational databases and surveillance, as well as information exchange between different authorities within and between countries. In this framework, the paper deals with the debate over European "smart borders", the use of biometrics and Automated Border Controls in Europe, based on interviews with both political and societal stakeholders at the EU level.

Cross-border ethnic minority: a challenge for the national border control policy

Dr. Ma Yahui (School of Public Security and Border Control, Kunming),

The cross-border ethnic groups which appear because of the boundary adjustment, ethnic migration and other reasons result in the cross-national entry-exit activities, The cross-border ethnic groups have close relationships with the stability, which could cause chaos in border areas. There is a difficulty to reconcile the contradiction between the ethnic identity and the separation in more than two countries, which not only makes entry-exit activities of the same ethnic groups very frequent, but also

brings the severe challenge to the national entry-exit management. At present, the government has no specific policy of cross-border ethnic entry-exit management, so some simple, rough, not mature ideas are putting forward on trial for reference.

10:40 -10:50 Tea Break

The paths of Chinese migrants on the Urals region

Dr. Yakov Samodelkin (Urals State Agrarian University),

The Urals region is the Asian part of Russia historically occupied by Russians. Here after the collapse of Russian empire had become to emerge the Chinese migrants. The Urals region involved in the Civil War (1918-1919) where was a real tragedy. We can read the huge of the documents in local archives about the macabre events but the history of the Civil War in the Ural region is a huge massive of historical information which was not used in educational and bringing up purposes. This information can satisfy needs of local authorities of the region to develop the Urals region. We found out that Chinese migrants recruited in Red Army to fight against "White Army". The troops of "White Army" consisted from Czech, Russian, Hungarian soldiers and "Red Army" - Latvians, Chinese, Russian ones. The Chinese migrants occupied the trade in peacetime in local villages and small towns. In the USSR period Chinese became to get the education and had the practice on the different plants. For example, the son of Chiang Kai-shek was the worker on the Urals mechanical plant in Sverdlovsk. After the collapse of the USSR we come back to the same situation when Chinese migrants occupy the trade and work as the small entrepreneurs. It's necessary to carry out the policy and the politics to use the Chinese migrants for prosperity both the migrants and the territory.

Diaspora and Identity: Chinese Muslim in Northern Thailand

Dr. Feng Yu (Institute of Ethnic Studies, Yunnan University),

Muslims in Yunnan have a considerable reputation for excelling in long-distance commerce between Yunnan and Southeast Asia, and the caravan trade can be traced back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Since 1850s, many Muslims emigrated from Yunnan to northern Thailand for a variety of reasons and their identity changes from Chinese Trader to Thai-Muslim Middle Class, and to Transnational Muslims. This paper seeks to establish that the assimilation of the Chinese Muslims to their host society is far more complex. Muslims are not a homogenous group, and their identity is divers and heterogeneous.

Global Dimensions of Professionals in Transnational Marriage Migration: Courting, Adjustments and Ties to Homeland

Dr. Stanley D. Brunn (University of Kentucky, USA),

A minor, but significant and emerging dimension of international migration is the marriage of professionals. As part of the network of professionals in education, government and corporations, these women and men have strong transnational linkages before marriage and retain those through international travels and regular use of the internet and skype. I developed a survey and emailed it to approximately 100 women and men; I use the results of 58 women and men who came from 23 different countries. Answers were sought about their meeting, their daily language usage, their social networks and life, their adjustments to their new countries and their

contact with home countries. Among the major findings are: the importance of friends and family members in their meetings, religious and secular variations in the marriage ceremony, multiple language familiarity, familiarity with English, the extent of their pre-marriage and post-marriage international travels, gender differences in social adjustments and retirement decisions. Age, gender and nationality were important in responses. The results suggest the need to investigate further nonprofessionals who migrate, the daily lives of the migrating spouses and the social adjustments of children in transnational marriages in large cities and rural areas.

12:30 - 14:00 **Lunch Break** @银杏苑 (Staff will guiding you to the restaurant)

Session 2 Migration and Development,
14:00 - 17:00, Chair Prof. Chinglin Pang

The Sphere of Illegality: Marginalization and Pauperization of the Migrants

Prof. Imtiaz Ahmed (University of Dhaka, Bangladesh),

In the South Asian context, the term 'illegal migration' is a misnomer. There could be illegality only when there is something legal. In the case of Bangladesh and India, and also Pakistan, save marriage (and that again, a very long cumbersome process), there can be no legal migration. Both Liaquat-Nehru Pact (1950) and two decades later Indira-Mujib Agreement (1974) have territorialized and frozen the issue of citizenship. Migration in South Asia has meaning only in the sphere of illegality. Interestingly, in the case of India there is one novel exception, and that is, the Gurkhas of Nepal who join the Indian Army have the option of claiming Indian citizenship. So much for democracy and people's power over governments and institutions! But then, not to have any movement of people or migration across Indo-Bangladesh border would be unnatural. India and, for that matter, also Bangladesh would turn sterile and die if the flow of people between these two countries ever stopped. And since the door of legality is practically shut off the only option is the hazardous journey across the semi-militarized and semi-constructed barbed-wire fences aided by 'dubious networks and shadowy people' on both sides of the border. In the process, the migrants end up marginalized and pauperized, and ready victims of the state-sponsored push-in/pull-out coercive measures. The paper will examine this issue in detail.

Seeking goals in the urban estuary: How a personal migrant subjectivity is reified into productive strategies and generative social effects.

Peter O'Keefe (University of Witwatersrand, South Africa),

Informed by borderland scholarship in Africa and the author's own time on the Thai/Burmese border, this paper looks at migrants' personal meaning-making projects in Johannesburg's migrant-rich 'urban estuary' social spaces. Estuarial experiences reinforce and extend the borderlands concept into complex urban social environments. Filled with international and domestic migrants, absent a definable 'host,' and with low penetration of state authority, estuarial spaces lack a clear hegemonic force. Individual migrant subjectivities blossom and reify into personal strategies for negotiating the inward migration experience. This micro-level frame of analysis

contrasts with discourses that associate inward migration with ‘belonging’ or an inclusion/exclusion dichotomy

Ontological Citizenship, Migration and Transnationalism in the 21st Century: Realignment of Rights and Responsibilities Between the Individual and State(s)

Dr Saeed A. Khan (Wayne State University, USA),

This paper analyzes the evolving morphology and ethos of the citizen within global space as transnationalism and migration redefine the relationship between the citizen and the state or with multiple states. It will explore and distinguish between single-state citizens and citizens claiming citizenship in multiple states and how the exchange of rights and responsibilities vis-à-vis the state is affected in each category. Finally, this paper will offer a functional definition-ontological citizenship- of these emerging expressions of citizenship that allows for the development of new models of social and cultural engagement, inclusion and integration, in both national and transnational contexts.

15:30 -15:40 Tea Break

Investigation and Research on the Formation Mechanism of Hemp Products Cross-Border Trade by Hmong People Living in Mekong River Basin

Dr. Li Xin (Institute of Ethnic Studies, Yunnan University),

China, Laos, Thailand and Burma Miao nationality (Hmong people) distributed along the Mekong river conducted cross-border trade of linen and old clothing of Miao nationality, this paper discussed the reasons for forming the cross-border trade with more folk transaction nature: except for geographic advantages; With the same origin of Miao ethnic (Hmong people), the generic feature of culture also serves as the necessary guarantee of this trade success; while the reason why the prosperity and blooming of hemp products and old clothes trade are centered in the Hmong people in northern Thailand is closely related to the market condition of Thailand and its domestic policies. In a word, the prosperity of Hmong people's cross-border gunny products trade is wisdom for Hmong to get ground between millstones, and brings the core of Hmong(costume) culture to the whole world.

Chinatown in Johannesburg: How Boundaries Become a Meeting Point.

Katarína Čavojská (Department of East Asian Studies, Comenius University, Bratislava),

Chinatown in Johannesburg with its decorated archways constitutes a symbolic ethnic space carved out for Chinese migrants. This cluster of Chinese restaurants, shops, service providers, and associations, can thus be understood as a heart of community’s social life, symbolically and partly physically divided from the host society. However, the concentration of Chinese element in a clearly defined space did not lock the community within these borders but constituted a platform for communication with and integration within host society and its institutions. Thus it contributes to overcoming imagined boundaries and creating acceptance.

Policy advisors TBC

17:00 Closing remarks by **Prof. Patrick Devlieger**

17:45 Adjourn

18:00 **Dinner** @原农新村 (Staff will guiding you to the restaurant)

Conference aims and objectives

We are seeking critical and creative contributions focusing on the topics of migration, borderlands and development from a wide range of disciplines in social sciences and humanities. Within the migration/mobility contexts, borderlands and development are central interrelated concepts. Borderlands refer to both physical as well as imagined places. Borderlands emerge with border crossings by voluntary migrants in search of a better life. Contrarily, its emergence might also be the unplanned outcome of political and economic crisis, securitization of borders, and restrictive migration and integration policies of nation states and changing into a temporary in-between buffer zone. Moreover, as imaginary places borderlands refer to the creative and political responses of people who are positioned in the margins of well-established majorities, and therefore in search of recognition. Therefore, an understanding of borderlands must incorporate a link between the emergence, flexibility, and changeability of borders and boundaries (constituting the borderlands), the mechanisms of maintenance and change, and processes of resistance, hybridization, and creativity. It must equally incorporate the variety of linkages between space, body, and objects. The nexus development and borderlands can lead to both human and regional development in both material and nonmaterial forms as a result of border crossings and borderland dynamics. These might lead to increased marginalization, but under particular circumstances it might also lead to new economic opportunities, such as transnational investments, transnational entrepreneurship, niche developments, etc. Such developmental dynamics evidently impact the well-being or the lack thereof of migrants. The conference will address these issues, but will also interrogate local, regional and national policy interventions. Which policies at whatever side of the border, help foster the proliferation of economic opportunities? How do local, regional and national authorities channel transborder mobilities? What ethnic and national diversities are at play in these borderlands and which policies contributes to the creation of a 'diversity dividend' of sorts?

Location

Institute of Ethnic Studies (INR), Yunnan University,
NO 2 North Green Lake Road, Kunming,
Yunnan 650091, China

([Google Map Link](#))

Convenors

- Prof. He Ming, Yunnan University, PR China
- Prof. Ching Lin Pang, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Prof. Jan Rath, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Dr. Liu Yongqing, Yunnan University, PR China

Further information

INR, <http://www.xbzx.ynu.edu.cn/>

IMMRC, <http://soc.kuleuven.be/web/home/3/7/eng>

International Metropolis, <http://www.metropoliseurope.org/> and

<http://www6.carleton.ca/metropolis/>

Contact

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