

MARRIAGE MIGRANTS IN ASIA

ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER

January 2018

SPOTLIGHT

Woman Power Takes Off with Cross-national WUN Project:

“Marriage Migrants in Asia”

Collaborating with 11 female scholars from Hong Kong, Western Australia and Japan, Professor Su-Lin Yu and professors from Center for Gender & Women’s Studies of National Cheng Kung University will launch an interdisciplinary project, “Marriage Migrants in Asia” project, which has been recognized by the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) as one of the 14 most influential projects of 2018.

Team members expect that this project will facilitate positive change in society and challenge public preconceptions and misconceptions of marriage migrants.

---Retrieved from NCKU News Center



Dear project partners and friends,

Welcome to this inaugural *Marriage Migrants in Asia* project newsletter!

This newsletter will be published quarterly, and each edition will highlight project members, events, activities and related research. We intend to make it a regular publication for you to catch up with our project and follow its latest development.

Let me know if you have any feedback or an article you’d be interested in contributing to our next issue. In the meantime, be sure to visit the [project website](#) often to follow our activities.

I also encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues and contacts who may be interested in the information provided.

Sincerely,

Su-lin Yu

National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan

In This Issue...

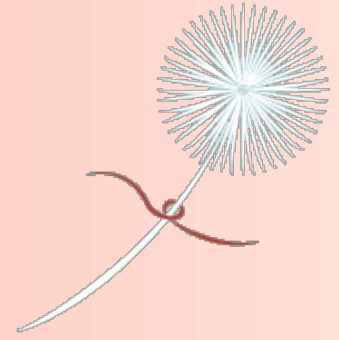
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Visit Our Website: <http://www.wun-mma.org/>

Current Status

Website

The design of our website tells the stories of marriage migrants with the features of dandelions. The red lines with dandelions symbolize marriage across time and space. The project team thanks Ms. Phancy Wu (吳芃欣) for her beautiful design.



Collection of Essays

The team at NCKU is planning a collection of essays on marriage migrants in Asia published by Chuliu Press, Taiwan at the end of 2018. Project team members are welcomed to submit their articles to Su-lin Yu and Le-Kun Tan, the editors of the book.

Su-lin Yu: sulinyu@mail.ncku.edu.tw

Le-Kun Tan: lekun1226@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Workshops

The first workshop will be held by Gender Studies Program at The Chinese University of Hong Kong where participants shall share teaching resources and strategies at the beginning of June, 2018.

The second workshop will be held at Center for Gender and Women's Studies at National Cheng Kung University in early September, 2018. Participants will share their research findings. We will also invite NGO representatives, policy makers and marriage migrants to join us.

Lecture Series

The College of Liberal Arts and Center for Gender and Women's Studies at NCKU will host lecture series on gender and migration in spring 2018. The lecture series will be opened to students and the public to deepen their understanding of marriage migrants. The first talk will be held on March 8th, presented by Professor Hsiao-Chuan Hsia (夏曉鵬) from Shih Hsin University, the leading scholar and activist who inspired marriage migrants to empower themselves.



Related Publication

Gender and Power Dynamics in Transnational Marriage Brokerage: The Ban on Commercial Matchmaking in Taiwan Reconsidered

Hsun-Hui Tseng(曾薰慧), Chinese University of Hong Kong



Taiwan attracted a considerable number of marriage migrants from Southeast Asia and China through brokers in the late 1990s and early 2000s. With widely circulated, sensational news stories about foreign spouses being abused and advertisements of foreign brides as objects for sale, women involved in the business were gradually seen by the public as victims of transnational marriage brokerage. Under pressure from some women's groups in Taiwan and the anti-trafficking campaign in the international community, the Taiwanese government eventually banned transnational commercial matchmaking in 2008.

This article examines the gender politics behind the ban by reviewing the debate over this policy. It also provides an ethnographic study of women's power relationships with other parties involved in the marriage business. By exposing the market and cultural logic that made this business blossom, this article challenges the binaries of perpetrator/victim and exploitation/freedom in the dominant representations of the transnational marriage market. It calls for a transnational and transclass perspective to understand these women's "active submission" to the market and concludes that, without this consideration, the enforcement of the 2008 ban ends up serving only to save the international reputation of the host country and fulfill the liberal middle-class imaginary of moral order of the host society, rather than solving women's problems per se.

Tseng, Hsun-Hui. "Gender and Power Dynamics in Transnational Marriage Brokerage: The Ban on Commercial Matchmaking in Taiwan Reconsidered." *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review* 4.2 (2015): 519-45. Web.

Contact us

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We would be happy to hear from you and welcome your comments and feedback! We also welcome input to our newsletter from project members so if you have something you would like to share with us, please do not hesitate to contact us.