Transnational Bonding versus Local Integration

Li-chuan LIUHUANG, Section of Work and Organization, Department of Sociology, KU Leuven, Belgium

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Transnationalism - The Debates

- Is it new?
- What’s new?
- The role of nation-state
- Transnational Chinese
- Chinese nationalism and patriotism
The Overseas Chinese Policies of PRC and ROC (Taiwan)

- Definition – overseas Chinese ‘huaqiao’,
- Chinese overseas ‘huaren’
- Taiwanese overseas ‘taiqiao’
- Who is compatriot ‘tongbao’?
Historical Origin and Transformation

- ROC (Taiwan) overseas compatriot policy – support for Taiwan’s survival and international stature

- The PRC overseas Chinese policy – on behalf of China’s modernization and reunification
Policy Guidelines

- ROC (Taiwan), three periods; post-1949 to 1960s, 1970s-1990s, since 2000
- PRC, two periods; before 1979 and after 1977

- Political bonding
- Social bonding
- Economic bonding
- Cultural bonding
Social Networking - ROC (Taiwan)

Perspective

- Organs: OCAC (Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commission) at cabinet level
- Activities: visits, meetings, annual conferences
- Support: participation, trainings, sponsorship, giving honour
Social Networking – PRC Perspectives

- Organs: Party, Government and semi-official organization or ‘mass organization’

- Activities: visits, sending and receiving delegations, up and down and horizontal networking
第三屆世界廣東同鄉聯誼大會
The 3rd Conference of The World Guangdong Community Federation
Cultural Bonding - Supporting and Promoting Chinese Language Education

- ROC (Taiwan) Perspective – Chinese schools, E-learning, teachers’ training, networking, data bank, returned students

- PRC Perspective – Chinese schools, Confucius college
Incentives for Economic Bonding

- ROC (Taiwan) and PRC Perspectives

- organizing, training, overseas consulting, etc.
- investment privileges; fiscal, financial, and other facilities
Hsinchu Science Park
Building up Imagined Communities through Global Broadcasting and Mass Media


- PRC Central TV, Xinhua News Agency and hundreds of overseas Chinese journals and news agencies
Characterization and Comparison

- Provocative nationalism and patriotism
- Multiple bonding as enforcement of imagined communities
- Continuity, flexibility, diversity and contingency: institutionalization, legislation
- Inclusiveness and exclusiveness
How the Chinese overseas responds to the bonding policies and what are the implications?

A two-levels approach:
- Organizational level and individual level
- What does Chinese organization mean to the overseas Chinese?
- How do individuals respond? Biographical method analysis
Stories of Bomas Yu and Pang

- Bomas, a Teochou born Chinese, being educated in Hong Kong, modern and traditional education
- Came to Belgium as student and part-timer in Horeca sector
- Married a Thai born Chinese, worked in Bangkok for 7 years and then decided to start up his business in Belgium
- A Thai buddhist, speaking Teochou, Cantonese, Thai, Mandarin, English, French, Dutch
- Involved in Chinese Restaurateurs’ organization, member of KMT, supporter of Thai buddhist community
Stories of Bomas Yu and Pang

- Pang, a housewife, came to Belgium as dependent, involved in Horeca since her husband gave up his study.
- She was a Taiwan born Chinese mainlander of Qingtian origin, spoke Qingtian and Mandarin.
- Felt excluded by the ‘new Taiwanese’ discourse and alienated from Taiwanese organization and joined pro-PRC organizations.
- Sense of belonging would be reconstructed when the KMT would win the next presidential election in 2008.
Some remarks

- Constructing individual’s own order of life journey
- Multiple Chinese versus one Chinese identity
- Multicultural Chinese versus homogeneous Chinese
Who is Confucius?
Who is Confucius?
謝謝！Shieh Shieh (Obrigada!)

Li-chuan Liuhuang
liuhuang7@yahoo.com