

《移動之民：海外華人研究的新視野》(**I'm Migrant: New Perspectives in the Studies of Oversea Chinese**), by Chiung-Huei Chang and I-ping Liang (eds.), Taipei, National Taiwan Normal University Press, 2nd ed., 2018, 526 pp., NT\$550 (paperback), ISBN 978-986-5624-40-8

I'm Migrant: New Perspectives in the Studies of Oversea Chinese (移動之民：海外華人研究的新視野) is an interdisciplinary achievement by scholars from various geographical regions on the study of overseas Chinese. Here, “new perspectives” mark the possibility of “paradigm shift” by redefining or repositioning the connotation of “overseas Chinese.” “Overseas Chinese” (in this book) may refer to “Chinese immigrants to America” (Hu De-Hart), “overseas Chinese in Europe” (Li Minghuan), “Taiwan immigrants in Los Angeles” (Hsu Jung-Chung), “early Hong Kong professional immigrants in Taiwan” (Lin Ping & Lan-Hung Chiang), “children of Taiwan businessmen in China” (Wu Jian-hua), “Dachen refugees in Taiwan” (Su Shew-Jiuan), “Hong Kong people in the 19th century” (Chau Ching-Wai), etc. This book helps the reader to rethink the meaning and nature of “overseas Chinese.” Published in Taiwan, this compilation demonstrates scholarly efforts of Taiwan academia in the examination of overseas Chinese so as to communicate, to make dialogue and to exchange observations on overseas Chinese with scholars from all over the world.

The book adopts a postmodern deconstructionist understanding of the overseas Chinese, and emphasizes “diversity, difference and boundary crossing” of their research. This book asserts that “Chinese immigrants”

should not be preconditioned and thereby defined by national borders; instead, “motivations, migratory locations, flow patterns, cultural inheritance of the Chinese diaspora and even the construction of the Nation” should be put under consideration (p.14). The title of the book, “I’m Migrant,” connotes both immigration crossing national borders and migration crossing borders in cultural, societal, historical, educational, or political sense. This book intends to remove the boundary—should it be national, geographical, cultural, or societal—for investigating Chinese diaspora. The authors of this book are from different disciplines, including political science, education, sociology, architecture, history, geography, literature, etc.; and belong to different institutes in the United States, China, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Quemoy, and Taiwan, collaborating altogether to showcase viewpoints of Taiwan initiatives.

I’m Migrant: New Perspectives in the Studies of Overseas Chinese adds to the multidisciplinary literature on overseas Chinese, focusing on a range of historical and contemporary issues confronting this diasporic community, from the historical migrations to the implications of such mobility on ethnicity, religious beliefs, literary conventions to political involvements. The volume of 19 essays is impressive in its reach, covering diverse geographical locations to which Chinese people have migrated, from Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand) to US, Europe, and even Panama. Theoretically, it is framed by perspectives such as identity politics and identity negotiations, the politics of ethnicity, the meaning of diaspora, the impacts of globalization, and more. This book is structured by six themes: “Historical Contexts,” “Society & Culture,” “Economic Development,” “Education Policy,” “Identity Politics,” and “Literature.”

The volume comes out of the National Taiwan Normal University Overseas Chinese Studies Research Network, which was established

in 2008. The interdisciplinary, inter-university community of scholars in this network have both local Taiwanese roots as well as international collaborations in Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, Macau, and elsewhere. This book holds promise in providing valuable insights on overseas Chinese. Their efforts are to be applauded and supported.

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