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From Chinese Gooseberry to Kiwifruit

The Construction and Reconstruction of Chinesehood in Aotearoa/New Zealand

A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Sociology at Massey University

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ABSTRACT

This thesis presents a Chinese New Zealander's narrative of identity politics. Employing the methodology of self-analysis, the author approaches her own life history reflectively and critically, with a constant focus on the construction and reconstruction of Chinesehood in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Multiplicity and hybridity are the key themes of this work. Through illustrating the depth and width of her cultural heritage, the author challenges the stereotypical images of Chinese created by the Orientalist western gaze. The change and continuity of culture and ethnicity is another recurrent feature throughout the paper. Points of comparison have been given to incorporate the national history of Chinese at home and communal history of Chinese abroad into the personal narrative.

The last comment should be made about the use of visual elements and unconventional presentation style. Pictures, photos, and left and centered alignments are used to supplement and support verbal arguments.
Acknowledgments

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With much gratitude in mind, I hope that this narrative presents a fair analysis of the construction and reconstruction of Chinesehood in Aotearoa/New Zealand.
Contents

Abstract ii
Acknowledgments iii
Contents iv

Illustration 1: *Yanyan and Her Quilt*, Author’s Artwork, 1994  1

Chapter One:
Introduction –
Yanyan and Her Quilt  2

1. The Picture  2
2. The Story  4
3. The Quilt  6
# Chapter Two:

## Theoretical and Methodological Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduction</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The Conventions of Formal Sociology</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1. Sociology as Science</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2. Theory versus Method</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3. Individual versus Society</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The Simmelian Sociology</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1. On Heterogeneity</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2. On the Philosophy of As-If</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3. On Sociological Impressionanism</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4. The Use of Visual Arts</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5. On Time and Space</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The Life History Tradition</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1. Will a Story Suffice?</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2. Will My Story be a Better Story?</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3. Will Any Story Stay the Same?</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cautious Notes</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The Question on Criteria</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1. Fidelity</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2. Empowerment</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. What is the Thing Called Sinology?</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Conclusion</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter Three:
My Youth in Shanghai –
The Territorization of Chinesehood

1. Introduction 42
2. Time 43
  2.1. A Post-Mao Era 43
  2.2. A Post-Colonial Era 44
  2.3. A Post-Confucianism Era 46
3. Space 47
  3.1. The Internationalness of Shanghai 47
  3.2. The Nationalness of Shanghai 47
4. Ethnicity 49
  4.1. Being Han 49
  4.2. The Others in Chinese Civil Life 50
  4.3. The Subei People 52
5. Gender 53
  5.1. An Overview with Lin 53
  5.2. The Shanghai Women 57
  5.3. My Aunt 59
  5.4. My Mother 60
  5.5. Myself 62
6. Conclusion 65
Chapter Four:
The Art of Grafting –
The Re-territorization of Chinesehood

1. The Point of Grafting 68
   1.1. the Home 69
   1.2. the Classroom 74
   1.3. the Workplace 78
   1.4. the Link 88

2. The Greater Field of Cultivation 90
   2.1. the Difficulties 91
   2.2. the Role of Language Learning 94
   2.3. Confucianism 96
   2.4. Taoism 99
   2.5. the Political Incentive 102

3. Conclusion 106
Chapter Five:
The Making of a Chinese Social Scientist—
the de-territorization of Chinesehood

1. Introduction 109
2. Being the Bridge 109
   2.1. the Stage of Naiveté 109
   2.2. Forms of Racism 110
3. The Impotence of Western Social Sciences in Theorizing Chinesehood 113
   3.1. Knowing China 114
   3.2. Wanting to Know China 116
   3.3. Collecting China 117
4. Bicultural Constitution versus Multicultural Reality 120
5. Revisiting the Quilt 122
   5.1. Discovering Han Chauvinism 122
   5.2. Reappreciating Essentialism 125
6. Other Bridges 127
   6.1. the Bridge of Lin, Yu-tang 128
   6.2. the Bridge of Yu, Qiu-yu 132
7. Conclusion 140
Chapter Six:
Conclusion – the Reverse Cultural Shock 142

1. Expectations and Preparation 142
2. The Lack of Shock 144
3. Forms of Shock 147
4. Conclusion 151

References 153
Illustration 1: Yanyan and Her Quilt, Author’s Artwork, 1994

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