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# **Whose Paradise Is New Zealand, Female or Male?**

**An Investigation into the Different Perspectives  
of the Immigration Experience  
between Professional Chinese Females and Males**

A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of Master of Arts in Social Policy  
at Massey University, Albany, Auckland, New Zealand

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## Perhaps

### —To an author in isolation

Perhaps what we can think to say

Will never have readers.

Perhaps our journey was already wrong in the beginning,

and therefore ends wrong, too.

Perhaps the lamps we light one by one

are blown out by the winds one by one.

Perhaps we shall have exerted ourselves to the utmost to

light the darkness

and have no fire extra to keep ourselves warm.

Perhaps the tears we wept till we couldn't

did make the land more fertile.

Perhaps the sun we sang into being

also sings us to life.

Perhaps the more weight on our shoulders,

the grander the faith we had.

Perhaps we cried out vigorously on the sufferings of others

but had to be still on our own misfortunes.

Perhaps

Ours was a call that wouldn't be resisted;

we had (and have) no other choice.

— Shu Ting (1994) *Shu Ting: Selected Poems*.  
Hong Kong: Renditions Paperbacks

## Abstract

This thesis presents a different investigation for the study of professional Chinese immigrants in New Zealand. The significant difference is that it focuses on the impact of gender differences on immigration experiences since the new wave of immigrants from Mainland China in the early 1990s. In terms of the research objective, this thesis provides a critical review of the theoretical perspective of relationships between gender and immigration, and highlights the major studies of Chinese immigrants in New Zealand.

This research employs phenomenological methodology and biographical life story to narrate the participants' immigration experiences. Based on in-depth interviews with six professional Chinese immigrants, this thesis critically discusses their immigration experiences in depth, focusing on key themes: the participants' background, transition, settlement, and identity.

Utilising a thematic analysis, this thesis illustrates that, apart from social and cultural factors, gendered perspectives have affected the diverse immigration experiences of Chinese females and males. The study also explores the fact that both societies, China and New Zealand, have shaped immigrants' cultural and gender identities. Implications for policy and directions in future research arising from this study for improving Chinese immigrants' settlement and integration are briefly suggested.

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