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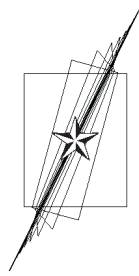
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ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW

Table of Contents

EDITOR'S NOTES

ARTICLES

China's One-Child Policy and Implementation <i>Xiaofei Li</i>	1
Marriage Immigration and Gender in South Korea: Accounting for Gender Disparities in International Marriages <i>Junmo Kim, Seung-Bum Yang & Ador Revelar Torneo</i>	14
Perceived Discrimination in Ancestral Homeland: Filipino <i>Nikkeijins</i> and the Dynamics of Migrant Resistance <i>Ron Bridget Vilog</i>	33
State Behavior and Regional Identity: The Case of China and East Asia <i>Alex Littlefield</i>	50
Exploring Cybercultures: Critical and Constructivist Studies on the Internet <i>Rhoderick Nuncio</i>	62

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the Asia Pacific Social Science Review (APSSR) presents articles that tackle the regional implications of domestic social and cultural policies. The first article entitled “*China’s One-Child Policy and Implementation*”, written by Xiaofei Li, examines the negative effects of the “coercive population control” (CPC) measure popularly known as “one-child policy” in China. His paper argues that policy has contributed to the reduction of China’s huge population, it has proven to be far from ideal through the years given “the harsh nature of CPC, the disparate gender ratio that has developed, the imminent aging of China’s population, and a number of other critical enforcement concerns”. In the end, Li proposes an alternative policy that will “address the impacts of the socioeconomic and demographic phenomenon, instead of focusing on maintaining fertility reduction”.

The increasing number of migration associated with marriage is the focus of the article entitled “*Marriage Immigration and Gender in South Korea: Accounting for Gender Disparities in International Marriages*” co-authored by Junmo Kim, Seung-Bum Yang, and Ador Revelar Torneo. Aside from female marriage immigration or “the migration of large numbers of women from developing countries to marry men from industrialized countries like South Korea”, the article takes a look at the little explored phenomenon of foreign husbands in such union. It veers away from the dominant trend in the literature by disaggregating “the trends for both genders, exploring the similarities and differences in the trends and drivers of such marriages. Among the major findings of the study is that marriages involving foreign brides, compared to marriages involving foreign grooms, do not have the characteristics of marriage migration and have less clear driving factors.

The third article entitled “*Perceived Discrimination in Ancestral Homeland: Filipino Nikkeijins and the Dynamics of Migrant Resistance*”, written by Ron Bridget Vilog, also addresses the topic of migration but from the perspective of the Filipino *nikkeijins* or “the descendants of Japanese nationals who were born in foreign countries”. Vilog argues that “the fluidity of ethnic self-identification is often shaped by the conflicting perceptions of positive ethnic attribution and negative ethnic discrimination.” His findings demonstrate that unlike their Latin American counterparts, the “case of the Filipino *nikkeijins* shows that there is an absence of the ethnic element, considering that they were raised without the consciousness of being a descendant.”

The last two articles apply the constructivist approach to two different regional issues: regional identity and cyberculture. The paper authored by Alex Littlefield entitled “*State Behavior and Regional Identity: The Case of China and East Asia*” critically examines Asian regionalism using the language of social constructivism and not political realism. In particular, the author argues that “China’s behavior will have the greatest impact, rather than current regional norms, on the viability of East Asian regionalization.” China is in a position to shape regional norm as a rising regional power. However, “how it behaves and monitors its great power ambitions is essential for future cooperation in East Asia.”

This issue closes with the article “*Exploring Cybercultures: Critical and Constructivist Studies on the Internet*” by Rhoderick Nuncio. Taking off from constructivist and critical studies literature, the author lays the sociological grounds in understanding the phenomenon of cyberculture in the age of information and communication technology. Lamenting the dearth of material on the subject matter, the author then “examines the debate on defining Internet culture and the many possible worlds and spaces it occupy in the lives of Internet users.” Consequently, the paper recommends exploring other domains of interrogating the Internet as it evolves and matures through the years.

Julio C. Teehankee
Editor, APSSR December 2012 issue

