

# THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME: TAIWANESE MARRIED WOMEN IN HONG KONG

## 不如歸去：香港的臺灣人

3 APRIL 2019

2:00-3:30

ROOM 422, 4/F,  
SINO BUILDING, CUHK

### About the Seminar

This study examines patterns of return migration in order to understand the intention among marriage migrants to return to their homeland. In a five-year period beginning in 2014, the author conducted qualitative interviews with Taiwanese immigrant women in Hong Kong who had married Hong Kong men and had arrived between 1965 and 2013, to understand major aspects of their adaptation. Despite successful efforts in developing careers, establishing families, and planting new roots by becoming Hong Kongers over the last few decades, a majority of the immigrants wanted to return to Taiwan to *luò yè guī gēn* (落葉歸根). Apart from regarding Taiwan as homeland and retaining a strong sense of belonging, their desire to re-migrate to a more hospitable environment, to enjoy a better quality of life compared to that of Hong Kong, has been spelled out with narratives. Return migration remains a paradox with regard to married women who have accepted patrilocal residence at the start. Whether returns do take place remains to be seen, as return migration in essence also suggests that migration is impermanent and transnational in nature. This study reveals the complexity and variety of migration involved, and efforts will be taken in the future to study various types of Taiwanese migrants, apart from women married to Hong Kong men.

Keywords: Return migration, patrilocal residence, *luò yè guī gēn*, home, Taiwan.

### About the speaker

Lan-hung Nora CHIANG is Professor Emerita of Geography. Her research has been published in many well-recognized international journals on the subjects of transnational migration, feminist geography, sustainable tourism, and urban and regional development in China. She has published close to 140 papers and seven special issues and books: *The Challenges of Globalization: Cultures in Transition in the Pacific-Asia Region* (2006), a special issue for the *Journal of Geographical Science* on *Asian Women: Gender, Migration, and Work* (2010), a special issue for *The China Review* on *Chinese Migrants and Circular Mobility* (2011), *Immigrant Adaptation in Multi-Ethnic Societies: Canada, Taiwan, and the United States* (2013) with Eric Fong and Nancy Denton. She is on the editorial board of several international journals.



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