



The Department of Anthropology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

presents a seminar

by

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on

Migrant Youth Navigating Education and Identity in Hong Kong

Friday, 27 Oct 2017

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Room 11 Humanities Building
New Asia College, CUHK

A light lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. First come first served.

Abstract:

What are migrant students' opportunities and challenges in Hong Kong's education system? How do they negotiate their identities and belonging? These are the questions that this seminar will explore. From 2008 to 2012, I did ethnographic research to investigate the academic trajectories and identity formation of two incoming teenage groups to Hong Kong – from mainland China and from South Asia (predominantly India, Pakistan, and Nepal). These two distinct cultural groups, with the Chinese group sharing cultural similarities with Hong Kong locals and the South Asian group being fundamentally different, provide insightful comparisons. My study then focused on the first year upon arrival of these young people. In 2016, I decided that it was time to revisit them to keep track of their transformations, in particular the promises and obstacles along their academic pathway and the complex process of identity construction. This seminar will focus on a particular group at a particular moment – Secondary Six migrant candidates preparing for the HKDSE (Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination), the public examination for university entrance in Hong Kong. These young people's aspirations, opportunities and challenges, as well as experiences of success and failure illuminate how migrant students fare in the education system of Hong Kong, and how they forage their identities.

Bio:

Wai-chi Chee is Assistant Professor at the Department of Education Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University. She received her PhD in Anthropology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her research interests include migration, education, youth, globalization, religion, and culture and identity. She has published in *Mobilities*, *Social Indicators Research*, *Asian Anthropology*, *Taiwan Journal of Anthropology*, *Ethnography and Education*, and *Multicultural Education Review*. She has also contributed chapters to *Refugees, Immigrants, and Education in Global South* (2013 Routledge; Winner of 2014 Jackie Kirk Outstanding Book Award), *Religious Pluralism, State and Society in Asia* (2014 Routledge), *Detaining the Immigrant Other: Global and Transnational Issues* (2016 Oxford University Press), and *Hong Kong Culture and Society in the New Millennium* (2017 Springer).

ALL INTERESTED ARE WELCOME