The Success Frame and the Achievement Paradox: The Children of Chinese Immigrants and Vietnamese Refugees in Los Angeles, USA

Speaker: Prof. Zhou Min  
Nanyang Technological University

Chair: Prof. Wei-Jun Jean Yeung  
National University of Singapore

Date: 07 November 2014, Friday

Time: 12.00pm - 1.30pm

Venue: FASS Executive Seminar Room AS7 01-07  
The Shaw Foundation Building (AS7)

Abstract

This talk is based on my co-authored book manuscript, entitled *The Success Frame and Model Minority Paradox: De-Constructing Asian American Exceptionalism* (with Jennifer Lee, forthcoming in Russell Sage Foundation Press). In this study, we adopt an emergent approach to the role of culture in influencing socioeconomic outcomes among children of immigrants. More concretely, we posit that an immigrant group’s culture—-institutions, frames, and mindsets—emerges and continually reforms as a result of unique historical, legal, institutional, and social psychological processes. By unveiling the ways in which these processes are linked, we show how the children of Chinese immigrants and Vietnamese refugees are able to overcome their ethnoracial and/or class disadvantages in ways that defy the traditional status attainment model to attain exceptional educational outcomes. We highlight the roles of immigrant educational selectivity, ethnic community organization, and host-society reception in affecting the development of group-specific cultural frames and practices, group-based stereotypes, and mindsets about achievement and success. We also discuss the achievement paradox of Asian Americans.

About the speaker

Dr. ZHOU Min is Tan Lark Sye Chair Professor of Sociology, Head of the Division of Sociology, and Director of the Chinese Heritage Centre, Nanyang Technological University. Her main areas of research include international migration, immigrant integration/adaptation, the new second generation, ethnic/racial relations, ethnic entrepreneurship, Chinese Diaspora, and Asia and Asian America, and she has published widely in these areas, including 14 books and more than 160 journal articles and book chapters. She is the author of *Chinatown* (1992), *Contemporary Chinese America* (2003), *The Accidental Sociologist in Asian American Studies* (2011); co-author of *Growing up American* (with Bankston, 1998); and co-editor of *Asian American Youth* (with Lee, 2004).

All are welcome. Kindly RSVP to fasplim@nus.edu.sg by 06 Nov 2014.