ABSTRACT

This article focuses on the Chinese emigrating from Jinmen, Fujian Province, between the 1850s and 1942. It examines how Chinese migrants in colonial Singapore responded to their displacement in the various spatial and temporal stands with special reference to migrants from the Jinmen Islands in close proximity to Xiamen, Fujian. Jinmen men jumped on the bandwagon to migrate to colonial Singapore and found themselves uprooted in a situation of neither here nor there. This piece of research illustrates the role of social organizations in which workers and traders were involved and the significance of these organizations and their activities in influencing the way Jinmen migrants sought to create a sense of belonging in placing themselves across borders. In the process it was the class differentiation within the Jinmen diaspora that led to the various agenda and ways of living in their negotiation of a sense of belonging.