Subethnic Relationship among Chinese Immigrants

Abstract

Chinese immigrants form the largest ethnic minority group in Canada. Often they are seen as a homogenous group of people sharing the same cultural and historical heritage in the public discourse. The internal dynamics among Chinese immigrants who came from different regions with unique historical-political-social characteristics are dismissed. Using the concept of subethnicity, Dr Miu will share the findings of a recent study of intra-group dynamics Chinese immigrants in Vancouver. While differences in language use and transnational politics have generated a strong subethnic boundary among Chinese immigrants from different regions, they sometimes, voluntarily and involuntarily, blur the boundary to form ethnic solidarity among themselves as strategic responses to the shared oppressive conditions.