

A Transnational Study of Chinese-Language Publications in North America (Abstract)

Xiao-huang Yin
emyin@oxy.edu

The birth of Chinese-language publications in North America can be traced to the mid-nineteenth century. On April 22, 1854, San Francisco saw the publication of Kim Shan Jit San Luk (金山日新录) [Golden Hill News] -- the first Chinese-language newspaper to appear in America. As the Chinese American population has grown to more than four millions today, Chinese-language publications in North America have also developed dramatically. What are the characteristics of Chinese-language publications in North America? What roles do they play in Chinese American life? In what ways are they transformed by changes in the Chinese American experience? And how do they differ from their counterparts in other parts of the Chinese world? My paper is an attempt to find some answers to the questions. By examining the roles of Chinese-language publications in North America, my study explores a major source of Chinese American transnationalism and sheds light on critical aspects of the development of trans-Pacific Chinese migration and community networks throughout history.

Biography

Xiao-huang Yin (PhD, Harvard) is Professor and Chair of the American Studies Department at Occidental College and Changjiang Chair Professor at Nanjing University. He has also served as the founding director of Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University. Specializing in transnational studies, Asian Americans, and modern China, Dr. Yin is the author of Chinese American Literature since the 1850s (Illinois, 2000) and co-editor of The Expanding Roles of Chinese Americans in U.S.-China Relations (M.E. Sharpe, 2002). He is also an advisory editor of and a contributor to New Americans: Immigration to the United States since the 1960s (Harvard, 2007) and a contributor to many scholarly books/volumes, including The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Social History (Oxford, 2012), Chinese American Transnationalism (Temple, 2005), Diaspora Philanthropy and Equitable Development: Perspectives on China and India (Harvard, 2004), American Babel: Essays on Language, Immigration and Translation (Harvard, 2003), and Multilingual America: Transnationalism, Ethnicity, and the Languages of American Literature (NYU, 1998) as well as journals such as American Quarterly, American Studies, Journal of American-East Asian Relations, etc. In addition, he has published extensively in Chinese on transcultural studies, including An Anthology of Global and Transnational Studies (co-edited with He Changzhou).