

# How a newspaper article can change your life: doing research with marriage migrants in Taiwan

Lara Momesso, PhD  
LMomesso@uclan.ac.uk  
University of Central Lancashire

2 September 2019  
Masaryk University, Brno

When everything started: MA  
dissertation project, September  
2007



It's not always bad to have  
no ideas...

The world around us is full of  
ideas... but we need to be  
receptive...

# CURIOSITY



"It keeps us moving forward, exploring, experimenting, opening new doors."

*-Walt Disney*

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**The first encounter**



# 嫁到台灣不再風光 不少新娘“回娘家”討生活

2007年12月07日13:09 來源：中國新聞網

【字號大中小】 打印 留言 論壇 網摘 手機點評 糾錯 E-mail推薦:  提交



台大陸配偶今年1月2日在台“移民署”門口抗議遭受歧視。來源：香港文匯報

# 拿不到身分證 柬國配偶外部抗議

記者 林秉儀 / 攝影 謝賢燭 報導  
© 2007/03/03 12:19

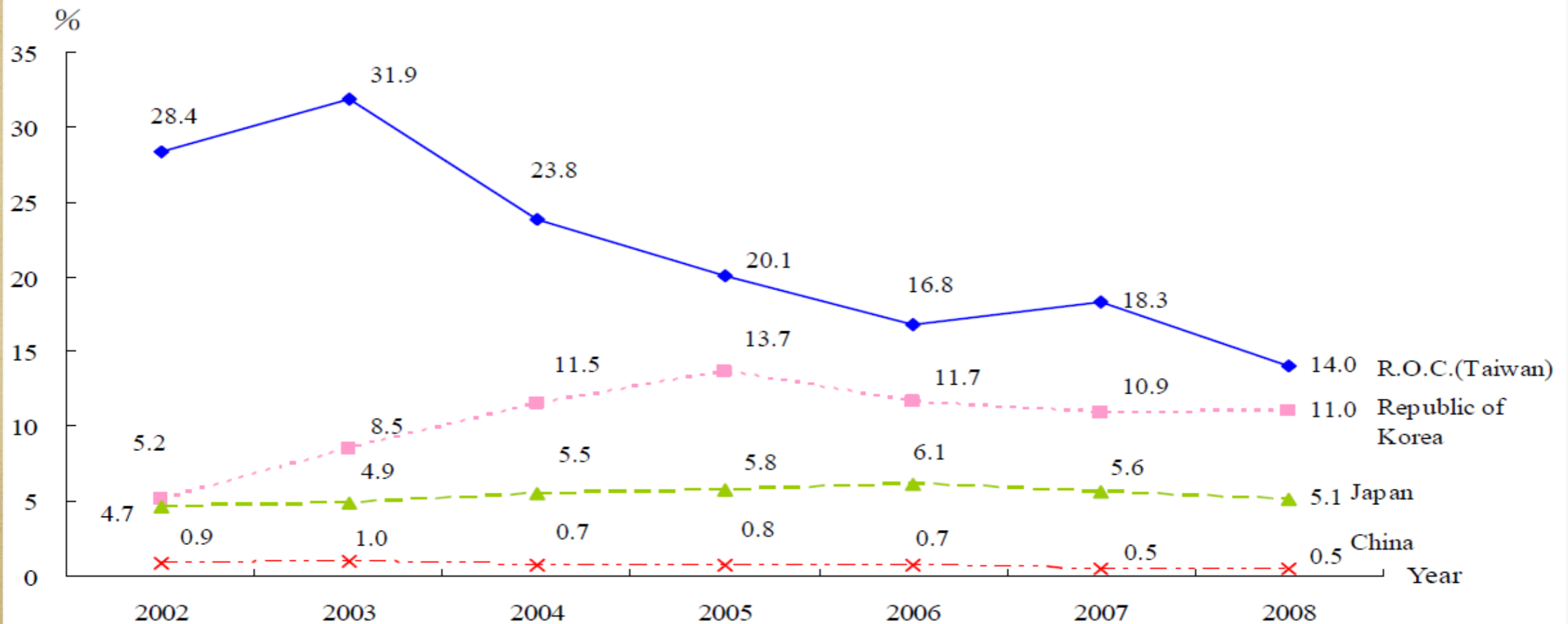
小 中 大



大批外籍配偶今年9月到台“行政院”前陳情，抗議所遭受的不公平的待遇。來源：香港文匯報

Getting to know more

## International marriage rates in major Asian countries



Source: Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics, ROC, February 2011

| Year | All Marriages | Spouses Nationality % |             |            |
|------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|
|      |               | Taiwanese             | Mainlanders | Foreigners |
| 1998 | 140,010       | 84.4                  | 8.5         | 7.1        |
| 1999 | 175,905       | 81.4                  | 10.1        | 8.5        |
| 2000 | 183,028       | 75.2                  | 13.0        | 11.8       |
| 2001 | 167,157       | 72.8                  | 16.4        | 10.8       |
| 2002 | 173,343       | 71.6                  | 17.0        | 11.4       |
| 2003 | 173,065       | 68.6                  | 19.9        | 11.5       |
| 2004 | 129,274       | 74.9                  | 9.4         | 15.7       |
| 2005 | 142,082       | 80.5                  | 10.1        | 9.4        |
| 2006 | 135,041       | 83.3                  | 9.8         | 6.9        |
| 2007 | 135,041       | 81.71                 | 10.9        | 7.39       |
| 2008 | 154,866       | 85.7                  | 7.9         | 6.13       |
| 2009 | 119,099       | 81.29                 | 10.7        | 7.97       |

| Country     | Approximate year | All international marriages (%) | International marriages involving different ethnic group (%) |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Singapore   | 2008             | 39                              | 13   |
| Taiwan      | 2003<br>2010     | 32<br>13                        | 10<br>4  |
| South Korea | 2005<br>2010     | 14<br>11                        | 7<br>9   |
| Japan       | 2005<br>2010     | 5<br>5                          | 5<br>5   |
| Philippines | 2009             | 4                               | 4  |
| Vietnam     | 2005             | 3                               | 3  |
| Indonesia   | 2005             | 1                               | 1  |
| China       | 2005             | 0.7                             | 0.4  |

Marriage migration in Asia, Jones 2012

# Marriage migration in Taiwan

各縣市外裔、外籍配偶人數與大陸（含港澳）配偶人數按證件分

76年1月至106年12月底

| 區域別 | 總計      | 外裔、外籍配偶 |        |         |          |       |         |        |        |        | 大陸、港澳地區 |        |         |                  |       |        |         |       |         |        |
|-----|---------|---------|--------|---------|----------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|------------------|-------|--------|---------|-------|---------|--------|
|     |         | 合計      |        |         | 歸化(取得)國籍 |       |         | 僑居留外僑居 |        |        | 合計      |        |         | 入境許可證<br>(探親、團聚) |       |        | 居留      |       |         | 依親     |
|     |         | 計       | 男      | 女       | 計        | 男     | 女       | 計      | 男      | 女      | 計       | 男      | 女       | 計                | 男     | 女      | 計       | 男     | 女       |        |
| 總計  | 530,512 | 176,828 | 19,202 | 157,626 | 121,324  | 1,499 | 119,825 | 55,504 | 17,703 | 37,801 | 353,684 | 24,023 | 329,661 | 105,355          | 8,076 | 97,279 | 110,099 | 7,937 | 102,162 | 71,394 |
| 新北市 | 103,180 | 30,848  | 4,217  | 26,631  | 19,048   | 427   | 18,621  | 11,800 | 3,790  | 8,010  | 72,332  | 6,686  | 65,646  | 19,849           | 1,813 | 18,036 | 23,466  | 1,978 | 21,488  | 15,417 |
| 臺北市 | 59,696  | 14,255  | 4,081  | 10,174  | 6,101    | 209   | 5,892   | 8,154  | 3,872  | 4,282  | 45,441  | 4,673  | 40,768  | 12,009           | 1,177 | 10,832 | 15,879  | 1,670 | 14,209  | 10,007 |
| 桃園市 | 58,632  | 21,557  | 2,574  | 18,983  | 13,760   | 338   | 13,422  | 7,797  | 2,236  | 5,561  | 37,075  | 2,659  | 34,416  | 8,874            | 743   | 8,131  | 11,824  | 885   | 10,939  | 7,465  |
| 臺中市 | 55,442  | 17,753  | 2,294  | 15,459  | 11,854   | 143   | 11,711  | 5,899  | 2,151  | 3,748  | 37,689  | 2,010  | 35,679  | 12,389           | 624   | 11,765 | 12,245  | 811   | 11,434  | 8,000  |
| 臺南市 | 33,128  | 11,264  | 1,060  | 10,204  | 8,251    | 44    | 8,207   | 3,013  | 1,016  | 1,997  | 21,864  | 1,189  | 20,675  | 6,215            | 500   | 5,715  | 6,852   | 400   | 6,452   | 4,511  |
| 高雄市 | 60,822  | 17,773  | 1,615  | 16,158  | 12,671   | 90    | 12,581  | 5,102  | 1,525  | 3,577  | 43,049  | 2,352  | 40,697  | 16,425           | 1,087 | 15,338 | 11,321  | 749   | 10,572  | 7,310  |
| 宜蘭縣 | 8,349   | 3,314   | 200    | 3,114   | 2,550    | 14    | 2,536   | 764    | 186    | 578    | 5,035   | 186    | 4,849   | 1,302            | 55    | 1,247  | 1,751   | 83    | 1,668   | 1,174  |
| 新竹縣 | 13,327  | 6,377   | 461    | 5,916   | 4,699    | 44    | 4,655   | 1,678  | 417    | 1,261  | 6,950   | 286    | 6,664   | 1,553            | 102   | 1,451  | 2,349   | 114   | 2,235   | 1,424  |
| 苗栗縣 | 13,939  | 5,787   | 259    | 5,528   | 4,522    | 25    | 4,497   | 1,265  | 234    | 1,031  | 8,152   | 237    | 7,915   | 1,960            | 105   | 1,855  | 2,450   | 96    | 2,354   | 1,619  |
| 彰化縣 | 22,613  | 10,293  | 532    | 9,761   | 8,089    | 37    | 8,052   | 2,204  | 495    | 1,709  | 12,320  | 376    | 11,944  | 3,203            | 108   | 3,095  | 4,328   | 188   | 4,140   | 2,994  |

Falling in love with each other





❧ “A female dominated migration flow whereby the mode of entry is family reunification and not a work contract”

*–Belanger and Linh 2011*

# Traditional principles of marriage and family

- ❖ Exogamy: custom of marrying outside a community
- ❖ Patrilocality: a married couple should reside near the husband's parents
- ❖ Hypergamy: marriage as a way to achieve upward social mobility, "marry-up"
- ❖ Matchmaker

# Modern features of marriage and family

- ❖ Demographic transition, change in family patterns
- ❖ Globalisation
  - ❖ Exogamy: cross-border/transnational marriages
  - ❖ Hypergamy: country's position in the global order
- ❖ Increasing significance of emotional aspects: marrying up VS conjugal intimacy

# Modalities

- ❖ Matchmakers: trade marriages/arranged marriages/agents
- ❖ Introduction by relatives and friends
- ❖ Internet channels
- ❖ Spontaneous encounters
- ❖ Marriages of convenience VS love marriage

# Literature on marriage migration in Taiwan

- ✦ Receiving society
  - ✦ Integration/assimilation
  - ✦ Legal treatment
  - ✦ Media coverage
- ✦ Migrants:
  - ✦ Gendered identities and roles (mothers, daughters-in-law, wives)
  - ✦ Lived experiences in the family (personal/family experiences)
  - ✦ Collective actions/civil society organisations



| 項目   | 民進黨執政 2000-2008年   | 國民黨執政 2008年5月起   | 歷年來的不同   |
|------|--|--|--|
| 居留   | 申請來台團聚滿2年，才可申請依親居留。<br>依親居留滿4年可申請長期居留。<br>長期居留滿2年可申請定居(每年在台居住要逾183天)。<br>最少要8年才可拿到台灣身分證。   | 申請來台團聚，通過面談即可申請依親居留。<br>依親居留滿4年可申請長期居留。<br>長期居留滿2年可申請定居(每年在台居住要逾183天)。<br>最少要6年才可拿到台灣身分證。  | 大陸配偶的權益規劃與外籍配偶一致，4年拿到台灣身分證，讓陸配早日融入台灣社會，不再受歧視。<br>據認陸配在大陸接受教育之學歷及證照。  |
| 政策   | 各階段都有配額限制，各項申請、延期均須由台灣配偶出具保證書保證。<br>每個階段都要面談，問話筆跡，登記隱私，動輒以「無積極事證足認其婚姻為真實」及「無同居事實」等為由，取消居留。   | 新制施行前，在台團聚者，每年在台團聚期間逾183天，得轉換為依親居留或長期居留。<br>長期居留每年15,000名配額限制，各項申請、延期均須由台灣配偶出具保證書保證。   | 取消非在台灣地區設有戶籍滿十年，不得擔任公職之規定。<br>賦與大陸配偶自主權，取消保證書規定。   |
| 策    | 申請身分證須財力證明，有配額限制(每月500人)。<br>強力要求喪失大陸籍。<br>蔡英文任陸委會主委期間，運用職權提案修法，規定將原本已地位不如外配的，陸配取得身分證時間，從8年要延長至11年。<br>申請定居要聯審(國安局、陸委會、內政部、調查局、移民署)。 | 接受面談，可申請輔佐人在場陪同。<br>依親對象死亡，視為依親居留原因消失，可在台繼續居留，並溯及2004年，未再婚者，可申請來台居留。<br>申請身分證不必財力證明，沒有配額限制。<br>強力要求喪失大陸籍。<br>馬英九總統在競選期間曾承諾要將陸、外配的權益規劃一致化。<br>申請定居要聯審(國安局、陸委會、內政部、調查局、移民署)。 | 5、父母來台探親，改回2004年以前政策：「3個月可延期3個月，每年2次，總計6個月」。<br>6、父母來台定居(原定每年60人)、前親生子女定居(原定每年36人)請增加名額，每年120人。<br>陸配繼承遺產，準用中華民國民法規定，不適用兩岸人民關係條例第66條、第67條、第68條各項之限制規定。 |
| 工作權  | 依親居留才可申請工作，有嚴守限制(低收入、台灣配偶年滿65歲等)，長期居留始可自由工作。   | 依親居留即可自由工作「無需申請」※  | 8、長期居留者，能享有與在台定居者同樣的社會福利，可申請父母子女兄弟姊妹來台探親探病。  |
| 探親探病 | 長期居留階段父母可來台探親，每年1次，每次1個月，再延1個月，每年總停留不得逾二個月。70歲以上者，可3個月再延3個月。<br>定居階二等親來台探病   | 依親居留階段父母可來台探親，每年可申請2次，每次3個月，※孕婦當坐月子父母來台3個月可再延3個月※<br>定居可申請三等親來台探病※<br>來台滿4個月可參加健保，※<br>要「按捺指紋」存檔。  | 9、取消已持有居留證者，每次入境都要再按捺指紋的規定。<br>10、要求陸配喪失大陸原籍問題，請納入海峽、海基會兩會協商，暫緩處理。   |
| 其他   | 要「按捺指紋」存檔。<br>要申報流動戶口登記。<br>財產繼承權最多台幣200萬。<br>前親生子女不得來台定居。<br>喪偶者取消居留權強制遣返。<br>撤銷即強制遣返，不給陳訴機會。<br>不承認大陸學歷。                           | 取消申報流動戶口登記。<br>取銷繼承權台幣200萬元上限。<br>長期居留者可繼承不動產。<br>居留期間，陸配前親生14歲以下子女可來台探親，(定居每年60名，)。<br>定居者前親生18歲以下子女，申請來台定居每年120名。  | 11、加強陸配入境前宣導，兩岸對等，開放學歷結婚前來台了解台灣配偶情況。<br>12、喪偶陸配在台灣逾期，請基於人道，從寬處理，免留置，盡快讓當事人順利離境。  |



# Final output

- ❖ MA dissertation: Chinese Spouses' Empowerment through Community Communication: A Case Study of CARES (supervisor: Prof Sun Man Ping)
- ❖ Role of community communication in empowering a group of marriage migrants from the PRC
- ❖ Community communication in a hierarchical organisation
- ❖ Marriage migrants' own understanding/use of offered media



**More recent research  
directions**

Is marriage migration just a  
women's issue?









聯合 尊嚴 台灣新住民

台灣 聯合

台灣新住民聯合會

台灣新住民聯合會

聯合 尊嚴 台灣新住民

# What do we know about Taiwanese partners?

- ❏ Working class (labourers, farmers) and veterans
- ❏ Low educated
- ❏ Low social classes
- ❏ Old (age gap)
- ❏ Traditional thinking
- ❏ Disadvantaged in the marriage market



2010 國際移民日  
International Migrants Day  
移民 歸國 · 國際合作

集章處

# 中華兩岸婚姻協調促進會

The Marriage Association Of The Two Sides Of China



嘉年華 百花齊放 美麗台灣

我們來投票 傾吐心聲

(三點鐘開票 抽出十名送好禮)

## 投票箱

中華兩岸婚姻協調促進會





# Theoretical framework

- ❖ Bargaining with patriarchy (Kandiyoti 1988):
  - ❖ Women, in order to maximise security and optimise life options, may decide to bargain with male domination
  - ❖ Contradictions: resistance VS accommodation
- ❖ By looking at how women negotiate with pattern of oppression, I will shed light on men's contributions/roles/narratives

Bargaining with patriarchy

# Structural constraints

- ❖ Forbidden to establish organisations as non-Taiwanese citizens
- ❖ Pattern of exclusion within Taiwanese civil society
  - ❖ Women's groups: politicisation of PRC marriage migrants' interests
  - ❖ Marriage migrant groups: different needs from Southeast Asian "sisters"

“[...] you need time, you need knowledge and a network. How do they find the money? Do you think that their husbands will give them the money to create an organisation? It is much better if local people create this organisation. We need people that are very powerful to support us! Do you think that there are any women amongst us with this kind of power? If so, we would not really need to create our own organisation! It wouldn't change much if we had our own organisation! And actually I believe that it is much better to have locals who support us!”

– Liwei, 1 July 2011

“Because we are familiar with the legal system of this government, we, Taiwanese husbands, can deal with this legal system more easily by opposing it, for example. Obviously, mainland spouses can support us and they can gradually begin to understand matters by following us. A person new to a country needs time to understand how a legal system works. But if they come here, we can help them to understand”

–MATSC’s Chair of the Board, 2 March 2011

# Explaining limited participation

- ❏ As women they are busy with their families
- ❏ As citizens from the PRC mainland spouses are not used to the democratic model of Taiwan
- ❏ As citizens from the PRC they are not used to think in collective terms
- ❏ As citizens from the PRC they lack knowledge about the legal system of Taiwan
- ❏ As citizens from the PRC they lack experience in civil society organisations and leadership skills

“I think that it is important for our husbands to support these activities. If they oppose them, we don’t have the chance to go out and protest”

– (Linuo, 22 June 2011)



What did migrant women  
gained from this bargain?

# Migrant women's perspectives

- ❏ Organisations as homes, safe and secure places
- ❏ Protecting from institutionalised patriarchy
- ❏ Separate spaces only for women to carry out their activities
- ❏ Autonomous actions in response to lack of freedom/restrictions
- ❏ From bargain with patriarchy to rupture and alliance with other sisters

**From bargain to alliance**

“If your wife is discriminated you are also  
discriminated”

– MATSC President, 28 July 2011

# Conclusions

- ✧ Research subject: academic background, personal interest, surrounding environment, life encounters
- ✧ Research with marriage migrants in Taiwan:
  - ✧ Language skills
  - ✧ Phenomenon of interest in Taiwan (and for myself)
  - ✧ Academic discipline (methodological approach)

# Conclusions

- ✦ From dissertation project to long-term research project: increasing depth of analysis + evolution of the phenomenon
- ✦ Research theme: from lived experiences, to civic organisations, to husband roles, to political participation
- ✦ Informants: from migrants, to citizens, to mothers, to widows
- ✦ Contributions:
  - ✦ empirical: migration in Taiwan, Asian migrations, gendered migrations, transnational migration
  - ✦ theoretical: feminist debates on patriarchy/agency (“bargaining with patriarchy”)

Thanks!