

Project Title: Othering the Hong Kong Identity: A Study of the Continuing Life Stories of the Right of Abode Claimer

Project Summary:

In my collected life stories of the claimers, it was found that most of their HK identity formations were activated by the social process—They have been waiting for being “HK people” for long time since they all were very young. Their legitimacy of citizenships were firstly recognized by the implementation of Basic Law and then affirmed by the Court of Final Appeal (CFA). After getting some wider support from the Hong Kong activists and establishing their own organizations for fighting their own right of abode in HK but suddenly all their hopes of becoming HK people were destroyed by the act of HKSAR Government that asking the Standing Committee of the National Congress to modify the CFA ruling on the right of abode. Particularly two of our interviewees who fail to ‘grant’ the Hong Kong citizenship fight for their right for almost up to ten years, they prefer to stay in HK to hope for the possible change for their HK identity recognition. They told me they had scarified everything in the Mainland China once they decided to come to Hong Kong many years ago. They gave up their lives, work accomplishment, even the family relationship with son or daughter or spouse. They have no return if no citizenship achieved in HK. If once they gave up their fighting and came back to the Mainland China that means they got a total failure psychologically. Actually they think they are quite difficult to start everything new in China. Their spouse’s family cannot forgive him/her; their friends in Mainland China will tease him/her. They find difficulty to gain social support when start everything new. The worse is that the Mainlanders (most of their friends in Mainland China) are being socially excluded in Hong Kong society because they are identified as the ‘others’ of Hong Kong Identity. But nowadays the economic development in China is seemingly leading the world and HK seems to lag behind that makes the claimers become the first victim or scapegoat of such a political contestation in between the identity of Hong Kongnee or Chinese. Even the claimers who are Hong Kong citizens also feel that they are not identified either as Hong Kong people or Mainlanders when they stay in Hong Kong or Mainland China. People there feel they belong to other identity. However, most of them strive for their lives with their own strategies; for example when one’s right of abode was cancelled by the Hong Kong Government but she

really wants to be Hong Kong citizen, she tried hard to get married with a Hong Kong man that will help her to become Hong Kong people after three to five years.