

# Framing Subjectivity, Identities & Multiple Modernities: The Life History Narratives and Migratory Experiences of a National Cadre in Southeastern Guizhou

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日時：2020.1.27(Mon) 15:30-17:00

会場：名古屋大学文系総合館307号室

アクセス：地下鉄名城線「名古屋大学」

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参加無料・事前申し込み不要



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## Abstract

Mass migration from rural to urban areas is one of the most visible and significant aspects of the “rise of China.” Personal experiences both describe and help us interpret such macro phenomena. This paper is an ethnography that draws on the author’s ongoing ethnographic fieldwork in Hmub (Hmong/Miao) villages in the highlands of southeastern Guizhou since 1997, in particular, field trips in 2011 and 2014. It aims to explore identity, mobility, marginality, and multiple modernities through personal histories and narratives that deal with the cross-regional movement of Hmub-speaking individuals and families, and the villages and counties they inhabit. Life history narratives not only help us to reconstruct and interpret the lives of real people through empirical methodology, but also relate to concepts of performance, existence and linguistic practice. In particular, this paper focuses on the life history of one individual, a national cadre called Deik Bok, and his experiences of rural-urban migration in southeastern Guizhou (*Qiandongnan*). Through this case study, this paper describes and discusses personal experiences and social transformation from the 1950s to 2010s, showing how Hmub migrants frame their own subjectivity, identity, and multiple modernities through *narrating* their own life histories. The paper is based on empirical data gathered through in-depth interviews, participant observation and historical research.

**Keywords:** life history, narratives, rural-urban migration, subjectivity, identity, multiple modernities, Hmub (Hmong/Miao), southeastern Guizhou

**Mei-ling Chien** is Professor of Cultural Anthropology at National Chiao Tung University. Her special fields include kinship, gender and the anthropology of emotions among the Hmub (Miao/Hmong) in Southwest China. She is the author of the book, *Sentiment and Marriage among the Hmub in Eastern Guizhou* (Guiyang: Guizhou University Press, 2009) and the co-editor of the book, *the Hakka: Formation and Transformation* (Hsinchu: National Chiao Tung University Press, 2010). She is now staying at CSEAS of Kyoto University as a visiting research scholar in August 2019-January 2020.

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主催：名古屋大学高等研究院YLC共同研究採択課題「移動と共生—移民・難民をめぐるグローバル・スタディーズ」