

燦基等不勝雀躍、敬承承虔為謹告

85年4月10日·星洲

附註：

1. 廈村是香港新界西北平原的一個村落群。主要的住民姓鄧。友恭堂鄧氏宗祠為廈村鄧氏一族的總祠，據祠內碑記，建成於1750年。關於廈村鄧氏的研究，可參考 Rubie Watson (1985), Inequality

among Brothers: Class and Kinship in South China,
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

2. 原額註：皆新慶圍人也。
3. 據祠內之《鼎建贊惠二公祠配享碑》，配享主共48位，為建祠時「…兩房子姓，祠主人祠配享者，每主捐銀貳拾兩…。」
4. 廈村市在祠堂之西側。雜姓，有關帝廟。

研究計劃

Ethnic Marginality, Regional Development, and Transnational Politics: Identity Change among the Jing People in Fangcheng, Guangxi Province

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Research Objective

In this proposed research, I intend to study the constitution of transnational identity and its dialectical interaction with social change among the Jing people (京族) in Fangcheng (防城), Guangxi Province, close to the Sino-Vietnamese border. The Jing are a small Vietnamese-speaking ethnic minority group in China's "nationality" (*minzu* 民族) system, with a population of less than twenty-thousand people, mainly concentrated on three small islands along the coast of Fangcheng County. Their ancestors were fishermen who migrated from the coastal areas of northern Vietnam to Fangcheng starting from the early sixteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. This research will trace the history of local ethnic interaction in the context of national and transnational politics to explicate the dynamics of identity change among this group in the regional development of Southwest China and Vietnam in recent years.

With their subsistence specializing in fishing and supplemented by subsidiary agricultural and salt production, the Jing people were subjected to domination throughout history by the overlords of other strong local ethnic groups, including the Yao (瑤), Zhuang (壯), and Han (漢). Since 1958, Fangcheng County was

established as an "autonomous county of multi-nationalities" (*gezu zizhixian* 各族自治縣), with the Jing people largely being a marginalized ethnic component in terms of demographic, economic, and political strength. A part of this research will focus on the emergence of a new generation of native elite within the Chinese national framework of minority institutions, such as the various academic and administrative state organizations at the county and provincial levels, and the development of ethnic identity in terms of the official minority system.

The group's transnational identity centers around several socio-historical aspects: their kinship network spanning the Sino-Vietnamese border; their collective memory in oral tradition of a native hero fighting against the French in the Sino-French wars over the vassalage of Vietnam during the late Qing period; and a part of the group's conversion to Catholicism during the presence of the French power and the revival of church activities in the recent decade. In this research, I will investigate the Jing's positions during the Indo-Chinese War when China assisted North Vietnam to fight against the United States and South Vietnam in the 1960s till the mid-1970s, and the Sino-Vietnamese War in the late 1970s. The group's fluid transnational identity in terms of their

mobility in fishing production and their role in cross-border trade promoted in recent years will also be explored.

Since the mid-1980s, the port facilities in Fangcheng and Beihai (北海), an adjacent county, have become a pivotal component in the regional development program of Southwest China. Huge highway projects have been initiated by a Hong Kong based development corporation to link inland provinces, including Guizhou, Sichuan, and Yunnan, to this coastal area for sea outlets. The development of the port of Fangcheng and the related infrastructure will have significant impact upon the regional economy, which will be further compounded by the rise of Vietnam as a regional economic power. In this research I will investigate how the Jing people take the economic and political opportunities in this regional development involving Southwest China and Vietnam, and how their maneuvering contributes to the construction of their transnational identity in a new historical context.

Research Methodology

In the first stage of this research, I will visit academic and state institutions in Nanning (the provincial capital), Qinzhou (the prefectural capital), and Fangcheng (the county seat) to collect archival and documentary materials on the Jing people and the development project in Fangcheng. I will also interview Jing elite members holding positions in the academic and state institutions at the various administrative levels.

In the second stage, I will visit the major Jing communities on the three islands along the coast of Fangcheng. Participant-observation will be undertaken in economic production and during local festivals. Interviews will be conducted with local leaders and villagers on social memory of national and transnational politics and local connections across the Sino-Vietnamese border.

In the third stage, I will visit the Jing Catholic community, particularly in some multiethnic areas outside the three islands, where the whole Jing village was converted to the religion. Observation and interviews will focus on historical and contemporary situations of church activities and multiethnic interaction.

In the last stage, I will synthesize all the collected data from different sources and put forth my analysis in a report on the change of Jing identity in terms of ethnic marginality in national and transnational politics in the context of regional development.

Significance

The study of the ethnic minorities in contemporary China has long focused on the role of the Chinese party-state in the construction of the non-Han others as part of its nation-building project through establishing minority institutions within the impermeable national boundary. In fact, many of these non-Han groups have their transnational connections, either as minority groups straddling the border between China and its neighboring nations, or as extension of neighboring nations across the border into China. The study of the Vietnamese-speaking Jing people will open a new vista for the understanding of the formation and transformation of ethnic identity in the history of transnational politics.

Situated in a strategic site of regional development at the interface between Southwest China and Southeast Asia, Fangcheng as a multiethnic area will undergo significant sociocultural changes. This research will better our understanding of the magnitude and direction of the impact of regional development upon local communities in economically disadvantaged Southwest China in a development program in accordance with the newly proposed ninth five-year national economic plan, which suggests to alleviate the imbalance between the rapidly developing coastal regions and the stagnant inland provinces. It is the starting point of my long-range project on the sociocultural impact of development projects upon minority areas located along the impending highway system linking the coastal ports in Guangxi Province and Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou Province, where I have undertaken extensive research before. The focus on the development along the Gulf of Tonking (Beibu Gulf 北部灣), including the coastal regions of Guangxi and northern Vietnam, and its expanding sociocultural impact upon the minority areas in inland Southwest China, will allow me to fulfill my academic commitment to the understanding of the constitution and transformation of human subjectivity under particular historical and politico-economic conditions.