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Understanding the link between transnationalism and integration

Immigrant ties to South Korea and Canada

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Transnationalism - integration

Two opposing perspectives:

1. Transnationalism and integration fall along a single continuum (negative association)

Transnational ← → Integrated

2. Transnationalism and integration are parallel or independent (positive or no association)

Less transnational ← → More transnational Less integrated ← → More integrated

Transnationalism

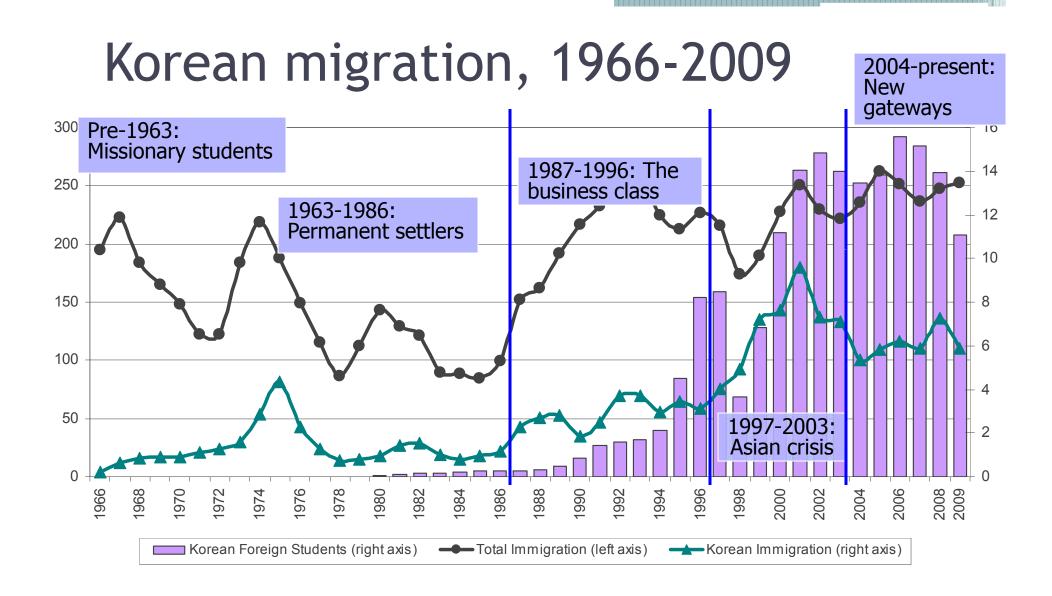
- **Definition**: Transnationalism is a process of forging and sustaining multi-stranded social relations that link together societies of origin and settlement (Basch, Glick Schiller, and Szanton Blanc 1994: 7).
- Recognize the "multiplicity of involvements": familial, economic, social, organizational, religious, political

Research questions

- What is the connection between transnationalism and integration among those from a developed context?
- Does the connection between transnationalism and integration depend on the transnational dimension? Which ones?

Migration from S.Korea to Canada

- Developed country with rapidly growing migrant community across Canada, concentrated in Toronto
- Economic opportunities in S.Korea
- Desire for competitive skills in a global economy
- Access to technology
- Rise of temporary migration (i.e. education migration):
 17% of immigrants are TR; students from both Koreas comprise about 15-20% of foreign student flows



Source: CIC Canada, custom tabulation, Facts & Figures Reports

Ethnic and immigrant Koreans

	Ethnic	Immigrant	Temporary
Canada	146,545	98,395	20,840
Toronto	39.1	40.5	26.4
Vancouver	31.4	31.5	41.1
Calgary	4.8	4.9	5.3
Montréal	3.3	3.1	3.7
Edmonton	2.6	2.3	4.1

Source: 2006 Census of Population, Total response ethnic origin

Yuhak-saeng (foreign student) families



- aka kirogi (wild goose) families or parachute kids
- Early study abroad students:
 - 235 in 1995 to 8,000+ in 2005
- Visits during school holidays
- As high as 45% of CIC visas for students from Korea went to primary to secondary school students





Data & methods

- Toronto Korean Families Study 2011 (TKFS-2011)
- Korean/English language in-person survey of 422 cases
- Non-probability sample:
 - Married couples with 1+ school-aged child
 - Arrived in Canada between 2000 and 2009
 - Greater Toronto Area
 - Targets of 250 (267) intact family migrants and 150 (155) transnational family migrants

Survey framework

Macro Context: Korea / Canada

Migration

Strategy

- 1. Life in Korea
- 2. Perception of opportunities
- 3. Social class
- 4. Knowledge, exposure
- 5. Children

1. Settlement & integration

2. Family roles & relationships

3. Physical & mental Health



Variables of interest

- Dimensions of transnationalism (IVs):
 - Cultural (watch Korean TV and read print media, 2)
 - Social (contact with parents/sibs, friends, extended relatives, 4)
 - Civic (donated or involved with organization in S.Korea, 2)
 - Economic (property or investments in S.Korea, 2)
 - Emotional (rarely-frequently wish living in S.Korea, 4)
 - Familial/transnational familyhood (intact/transnational, 2)
- Integration indicators (DV):
 - Sense of belonging to Canada (weak/strong, 2)
 - Sense of belonging to S.Korea (weak/strong, 2)

Sample characteristics (391)

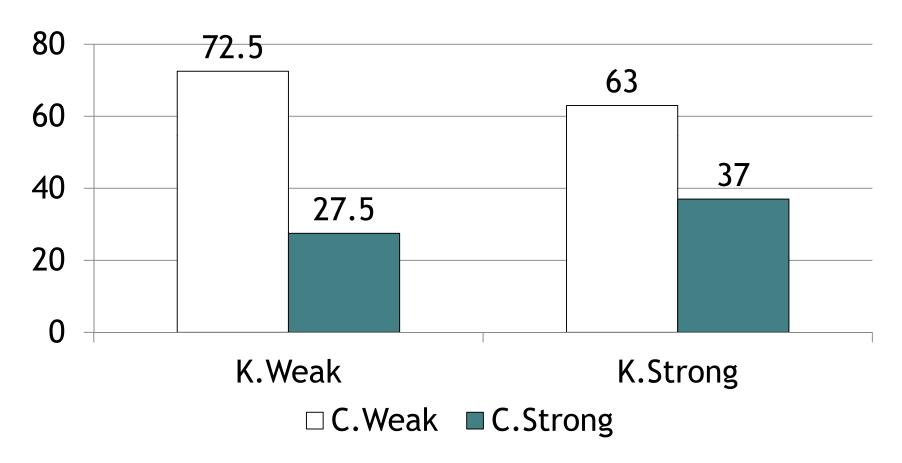
Mean age in years	46.4
Mean years of residence	6.4
Percent female	89.8
Education:	
Highschool	7.9%
Trades/Community college	14.3
Bachelor's degree	66.2
Postgraduate degree	11.5
Employment:	
Full-time salary	18.7%
Part-time salary	18.4
Self-employed	12.5
Unemployed	50.4

Cultural (both TV & print media)	91.0%
Social (parents/sibs, extended, friends): Contact less than 5x in the last 6 months Contact with at least 1 type 2x/month Contact with 1 type weekly Contact with 2-3 types weekly	10.9% 30.8 46.9 11.4
Civic (donations and/or involvement)	15.6%
Economic (property and/or investments)	68.8%
Emotional (wish living in S.Korea): Never Rarely Sometimes Frequently/all the time	12.0% 27.1 43.2 17.7
Transnational familyhood	35.3%

Stronger sense of belonging to Korea

Sense of belonging to Canada Somewhat-very strong None-weak	35.0 % 65.0
Sense of belonging to Korea Somewhat-very strong None-weak	79.5 % 20.5

A trade-off?



*p=.113, chi-squared test

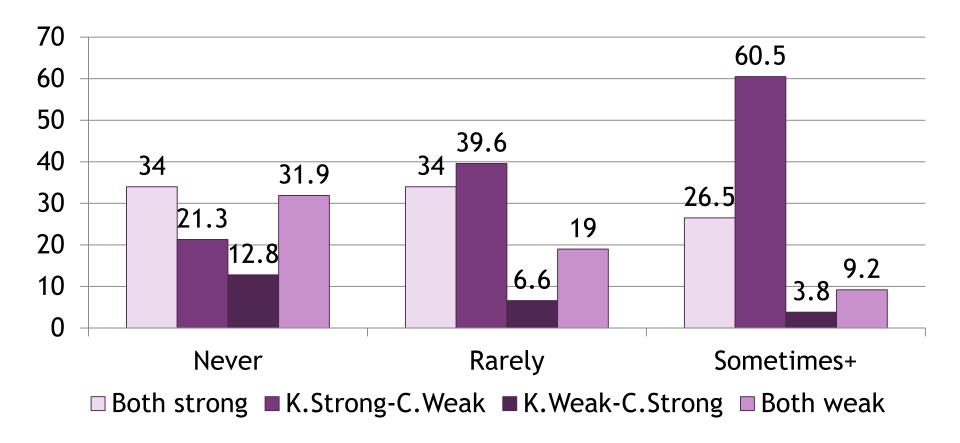
Belonging by property in S.Korea

Belonging	New	Property in Korea	
	Percent	No	Yes
Both strong	29.4	33.6	27.5
K.Strong-C.Weak	50.1	40.2	54.7
K.Weak-C.Strong	5.6	9.8	3.7
Both weak	14.8	16.4	14.1

^{*}p=.015, chi-squared test

^{**} People who owned homes in Canada were more likely to have strong sense of belonging to both countries and less likely to have strong sense of belonging to just S.Korea but not significant (p=.15).

Belonging by wishing in S.Korea



^{*}p<.001, chi-squared test

Multinomial logistic models

 Control variables: age, gender, education, employment, length of residence in Canada, trans family structure

2 separate models on sense of belonging

- Model 1, effect of property with covariates
- Model 2, effect of wishing with covariates
- Reference category = Strong Korea & Weak Canada

Model 1 - property on belonging



But differences were **not** statistically significant. For those with property, on feeling...

- □ Both strong, rrr = .78 (p=.41)
- Only Canada strong, rrr = .43 (p=.12)
- Both weak, rrr = .91 (p=.80)

Model 2 - belonging & wishing



These differences were statistically significant.

For those who wish more, on feeling...

- Both strong, rrr = .25 (p<.01)
- Only Canada strong, rrr = .10 (p < .001)
- Both weak, rrr = .10 (*p*<.001)</p>

Some additional findings...

• Length of residence:







Age:



On belonging

- Cultural, social, civic, economic and structural ties to S.Korea do **not** appear to affect a migrant's sense of belonging.
- But, emotional transnationalism does.
- Time (length of residence) also important for belonging.
- The link between transnationalism and integration depends on the dimension of transnationalism (and likewise of integration), but generally, they appear to be parallel/independent processes, at least for migrants from S.Korea.
- Possible to have a strong sense of belonging to more than 1 place.
- Important to understand why people maintain strong emotional ties to places of origin.



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