The New Chinese Immigrants in Japan:
Locating Belonging in an Ethno-National Society

Prof. Gracia Liu-Farrer
Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies,
Waseda University
Date: 09 March, 2017 (Thursday)
Time: 14:00 p.m. – 15:30 p.m.
(Talk & Q&A Session)
Venue: Room 401,
Leung Kau Kui Building, CUHK
Language: English

Abstract:
By the end of 2016, close to 700 thousand Chinese nationals legally resided in Japan and a third of
them were permanent residents. An additional 100,000 Chinese have obtained Japanese
citizenship. Most of these Chinese immigrants arrived in Japan after the mid-1980s. The question
is, while making home there, do Chinese immigrants feel at home in Japan—a non-traditional
immigrant country whose narratives of national identity cling to a myth of ethnic homogeneity and
cultural uniqueness. This presentation uses Chinese immigrants’ narratives to capture their
emotional geographies and to understand their relationships with both Japanese society and the
place where they come from. These narratives convey layered and multidimensional belongings,
communicate their varied emotions toward both places of origin and destination, and underscore
the centrality of intimacy, social inclusion and cultural narratives in shaping people’s senses of
belonging and their articulations of them.

Speaker:
Gracia Liu-Farrer is professor of sociology at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda
University, Japan, and leads the Migration and Citizenship Research Group at Waseda Institute of
Asia-Pacific Studies. Her research examines immigrants’ economic, social and political practices in
Japan. Her interests also include the global mobility of international students and wealthy Chinese.
She has authored the monograph Labor Migration from China to Japan: International Students,
Transnational Migrants (Routledge) and many book chapters and journal articles, the most recent
one being “Migration as Class-based Consumption: the Emigration of the Rich in Contemporary
China” (China Quarterly, 2016).