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Beijing · Hong Kong: Sharing the Olympic Spirit? Learning to be Patriotic Chinese Citizens

How do Hong Kong people identify themselves: as Hong Kong people? As Chinese nationals? As Hong Kong Chinese? These are the questions that the government, the academia and the media in HKSAR have been obsessed with since Hong Kong's retrocession. Hong Kong people's "Chineseness," in terms of national and cultural identification, is not a taken-for-granted fact but something that demands constant evaluation, discussion, and more often, "instruction" from the government. The patriotic education that was part of the promotion of the Beijing Olympic Games (BOG) provides a unique case to analyze the struggle for and over identity in Hong Kong. I argue that the process of (re-)sinification is a hegemonic one, an attempt to define Hong Kong people's "Chineseness" so that ruling legitimacy is claimed as a normalized reality; yet, this hegemonic process is one that is met with opposition, contestation and resistance.