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Bi-cultural identity of Chinese Women Immigrants Living in Bristol – A Narrative Inquiry

An immigrant is not a person lacking a social and psychological past allowing them to adjust and acculturate with ease to a new society. Researchers often pay little attention to the implications of this reality for adjustment.

Chinese migrants may experience certain psychological responses as a result of the migration process. For example, there may be changes in language, cognitive styles, personality, identity, attitudes, cultural beliefs, practices and acculturative stress (Berry, 1980). There are documents suggesting that several factors may enhance the stability and maintenance of traditional cultural values, such as: family socialization practices (ibid.); native language fluency (ibid) and discrimination (Ruggiero, et al. 1996).

This study intends to explore the cultural retention component of a bicultural identity, and to gain an understanding of the background of Chinese women emigrants from Hong Kong / People Republic of China to Britain.