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## **Transnational Korean Family and Digital life in UK**

The proposed paper focuses on how new dimensions of digital culture led transnational Korean family to construct their identities and how digital life plays a role in transforming family relationship in the transnational context. This new form of family is increasingly growing trends amongst temporal immigrant Korean families in Britain. Finally, how the gender roles and concepts of masculinity and femininities are changing by the so-called transnational family relationship.

During the last five years, a phenomenon of temporal separated family called “Gi-ruh-gi (meaning Wild Goose) family” becomes a mainstream trend among the South Korean middle class families. This phenomenon can be discussed as transnational diasporic family, in which fathers are staying in Korea and providing economic supports for wives and children who are settling down in Britain as temporal immigrants for the purpose of educating their children. As importance of educational qualifications in western countries, mainly Britain and America and language skills (particularly, English) becomes pivotal fact for success in social mobility in South Korean, many families decided to sacrifice their normal family life and send their children under their mother’s guidance to English speaking countries. This results in temporal split and transnational family structure. In this situation, mothers are responsible for everyday life and education of children in English speaking countries. On the other hand, fathers are regularly visiting their children once or twice a year as wild geese have a seasonal migration. The driving force of this extra-ordinary phenomenon is that South Korean families are eager to give better opportunities to their children at the cost of their conjugal relationship in the flexible globalised society. The desire for upward social mobility is a major mechanism which works with Korean families to adopt global split families.

The transnational families are increasingly dependent upon on-line network and digital assemblages crossed border to maintain normal family relationship. In particular, the real-time video-link, blog and internet chatting play an important role in communicating and maintaining their relationships. This research focuses on how the wild-geese families are using new communication methods to maintain their remote family relationships on the basis of observations and in-depth interviews with wild-geese families living in London, Birmingham and Coventry.