



# Department of Sociology

## Seminar



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University of Massachusetts, Amherst

**"If I wanted to be around lots of Chinese,  
I would just stay in China":  
Motivations of Chinese students to study in the U.S.**

**Date :** 21 May 2019 (Tuesday)  
**Time :** 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**Venue:** Room 1045, Academic and Administration Bldg.,  
15 Baptist University Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon  
**Language:** English

### Abstract

As multiculturalism and cultural globalization becomes more diffused around the world, the growing presence of Chinese students at U.S. universities represents an increasingly common site of transnational cultural interaction between U.S. and Chinese societies. To better understand this multi-level social dynamic, this talk uses interview data from focus groups of high school and early-college students in Beijing and Shanghai to examine their motivations for wanting to leave China and study in the U.S., expectations and challenges they anticipate in adjusting to U.S. society and interacting with Americans, how they plan to apply their newfound academic knowledge and transnational experiences in their careers, and some possible ways that U.S. college students and administrative programs can support these international Chinese students. Their varied responses illuminate very fascinating intersections of individual identity, group conformity, and national solidarity.

### Biography

C.N. Le is a Senior Lecturer in the Sociology Department and Director of the Asian & Asian American Studies Certificate Program UMass, Amherst. He received his B.A. from the University of California, Irvine and his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University at Albany, SUNY. His research focuses on racial/ethnic relations in the U.S., immigration, and comparisons of socio-demographic outcomes among different Asian American groups, such as small business ownership, characteristics of ethnic enclaves, and interracial and interethnic marriage. He also conducts sociological research and analysis on the experiences of Asian international students at U.S. colleges and universities, and on various aspects of Asian American popular culture and political activism. He is the author of the book *Asian American Assimilation: Ethnicity, Immigration, and Socioeconomic Attainment* (2007, LFB Scholarly Publishing Press).

\*\*\*\*\* ALL ARE WELCOME \*\*\*\*\*

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