

Ethnic Diversity Newsletter

Department of Ethnic Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato

109 Morris Hall, Mankato, MN 56001 (507) 389-2798

<http://www.mnsu.edu/dept/ethnic/>

(Volume 4 , No . 2 , summer 2004)

Ethnic Diversity and Harmony in China¹

Yueh-Ting Lee, Ph.D. Chair and Professor

Known as the Central Kingdom for more than 7000 years, China (also known as Zhong Guo) has a long history and rich culture (Lee, McCauley, Moghaddam & Worchel, 2004). Today China has 56 *minzu* (i.e., ethnicities): 55 officially recognized ethnic minorities plus the Han Chinese as a majority group. The Han (1.1 billion) and those 55 minority groups are called *Zhong Hua Minzu*, which is a name for a large Chinese family. These 56 formal *Minzu* groups are identified and recognized as official ones today. With regard to the population distribution of all Chinese ethnic groups, the largest administrative ethnic minorities in China are the Zhuang (16 million) in Guangxi Province in Southern China, the Manchu (10 million) in Northeast China, the Hui (9.8 million) and the Mongols (5.8 million) in Northern China, Tujia (8.0 million), the Yi (7.8 million) in Southwest China, the Miao (8.9 million, also known as the Hmong outside China) who are in Southwest China, the Tibetans (5.4 million) (West of China) and the Uygur (8.4 million) in Xinjiang, Northwest China (Bilik, Lee, Shi, & Phan, 2004, pp. 193-196).



(Picture of the author with three Uygur Friends in Xinjiang, in 2002)

Chinese ethnic relations are different from American ethnic ones. More specifically, Chinese ethnic issues are more cultural than physical. It is culture that makes people different. If one accepts the Han Chinese culture and gets assimilated into it, no one would know whether he or she is a Han Chinese or other Chinese. For example, being an ethnic minority group, the Lee minority (where I came from) has only a quarter million (247,814) people. If I do not claim that I am a member of the Lee ethnic group, no one knows that I am a minority in China. Thus, I do not experience any ethnic discrimination. Obviously I am perceived as an ethnic minority in the

USA (regardless of how well I accept European American culture and get assimilated into it). This is because I look like an Asian American. Physically, almost all Chinese look alike (Lee & Ottati, 1993) except Uygurs who are white or Caucasian. In other words, race or racism is no problem in China.

However Chinese ethnicity has undergone a complex process of change between the central and peripheral groups (Bilik et al, 2004). Though there is no racial problem, this does not mean there is no conflict between different ethnic and cultural groups. Just like any other human history, Chinese history is not free from fighting, killing, and wars between various ethnic groups, especially between those ethnic groups in the peripheral/remote areas and those in the inner/central part of China.



(Picture of the author with a Tibetan Friend on the Buddala Palace, Lhasa, China in 2004)

Fortunately, the current Chinese society is very diverse and harmonious ethnically and culturally. For example, many Westerners who have not been to Tibet (Southwest of China) may have misperceived this area as hell. This is not the case historically or currently. Since the days of Songtsen Gampo, the outstanding king of the Tibetan people (about 650 A.D.), who embraced Buddhist religion, there has been a great interaction (or connection) between the Han people in the East China and the Tibet people in the Southwest of China (see Travel China Guide, 2004). In May 2004, I was invited to lecture at the University of Tibet in China. To my surprise, the ethnic relationship between the Han and Tibetan people is much better than I thought. The living conditions there are also much better than I anticipated. I was told that this occurs primarily due to the effective affirmative action program to support ethnic minorities from the Chinese government. It is also due to the economic reform and interaction or understanding between different groups. The satisfaction of the Tibetan Chinese and the harmonious relationship between the Han and Tibetan Chinese have impressed

¹ Correspondence regarding this essay may be directed to Dr. Lee in the Department of Ethnic Studies, 109 Morris Hall, Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN 56001 (leey@mnsu.edu).

me so much that it is really a good model for the rest of world (especially for the USA) to follow. While affirmative action programs are under attack in the USA, we need to realize that we are NOT equal at all, and many disadvantaged groups (e.g., minority and women in the world) do need different levels of support before they can catch up.

References and Citations

Bilik, N. Lee, Y-T., Phan, H. H. & Shi, K. (2004). The Ethnic and Cultural Processes of Zhongguo (China) as a Central Kingdom. In Y-T. Lee, C. McCauley, F. Moghaddam & S. Worchel (Eds.), *The Psychology of Ethnic and Cultural Conflict* (pp. 193-215). Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers.

Lee, Y-T., McCauley, C., Moghaddam, F., & Worchel, S. (2004). *The Psychology of Ethnic and Cultural Conflict*. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers.

Lee, Y-T., & Ottati, V., (1993). Determinants of ingroup and outgroup perception of heterogeneity: An investigation of Chinese-American stereotypes. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 24, 298-318.

Travel China Guide (2004) (see <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/cityguides/tibet.htm>)

Great Graduate Program and Graduate Students in Ethnic and Multicultural Studies at Minnesota State University

Graduate Presentations with the Faculty in Philadelphia: Human/Civil Rights and Social Justice in the Eyes of Junior Scholars

On April 1-3, 2004, we had three presentations by graduate students in the Department of Ethnic Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato at the Annual Conference of National Association for Ethnic Studies. Coordinated by Prof. Lee, their presentations were followed by a brief discussion and comment by Dr. Luis Posas who is a faculty member in the Department of Sociology and in the Department of Ethnic Studies. Specifically, our graduate conference presentations included Mr. Abdulkadir Alasow who talked about the ethnic and geographical patterns of Somali immigrants in the USA. Next, Ms. Charissa Blue focused on Native American Mascots which strips the rights and dignity of Native Americans. Third, Mr. Timothy Gardner addressed the issues related to human rights for homeless sexual minority youth in Minnesota. All these presentations were new and fresh but also scholarly.



(In the picture from left to right are Abdulkadir Alasow, Rosamaria Rosales, Charissa Blue, Timothy Gardner, Luis Posas and Y-T. Lee)

We are very proud of our graduate students in Ethnic and Multicultural Studies. In ethnic and multicultural studies we teach and investigate issues concerning ethnic and racial diversity, and intergroup relations and conflict, both in America and around the world. In today's changing world, studying ethnic and race relations

and conflict in America helps us to better understand the nature and underlying causes of intergroup relations and conflict in the global village.

Faculty and Graduate Retreat in Spring, 2004

On April 6, Ethnic Studies faculty had a retreat with our graduate students. Various guests were invited to talk with our faculty and graduate students during the retreat. Below is a picture of Professor Allen (Graduate Coordinator) and our graduate students during our retreat.



We are preparing our current cohort of graduate students to be leaders in the diversity arena and their enthusiasm and scholarly acumen encourages those of us on the faculty in the Department of Ethnic Studies that we are on the right track. We have more new graduate students coming into the program in Fall 2004.

For more information about our graduate program, please visit: <http://www.mnsu.edu/dept/ethnic/programs.html>, and application materials can be downloaded at the website of the College of Graduate Studies and Research as follows: <http://www2.mnsu.edu/graduate/pstudents/applications.shtml>.

Report on the Ethnic and Cross-Cultural Conference in Spring 2004

Ethnic and Cross-Cultural Studies: Challenges and Opportunities Conference

Timothy Joseph Gardner

On April 24, 2004 the Ethnic Studies Department along with MnSCU put on the Ethnic and Cross-Cultural Studies: Challenges and Opportunities conference. The conference comprised faculty and graduate students of the Minnesota State Colleges and University system (MnSCU) and aimed at the issue of diversity and education.



Picture of Dr. Padilla from Stanford, our keynote speaker

Dr. Amado M. Padilla, professor of education at Stanford University, spoke on how "language is the glue that holds networks together." He discussed issues of acculturation, multilingualism, race, social stigma, and education. One point he made was when a self-identified ethnic group language is oppressed then the result is education in the form of weekend and night classes to preserve their language. One example of this is the Friday and Saturday night classes for Korean and Chinese languages in the San Francisco bay area. Additionally, he spoke on the growing interest and research within the field of heritage language including journals and education. Dr. Padilla stated that subtractive language policy has detrimental effects on children, society, and ethnicity.

Distinguished faculty addressed issues of development and assessment of courses and programs, faculty identity, globalization and global studies, institutional technology and diversity, along with civic engagement and service learning within Tribal, Community and Technical Colleges and Universities.



Picture of our panelists at the conference from left to right: Dolores Fridge, Raymond Lou, Elden Lawrence, and Scott Olson

Throughout the day discussions headed towards the idea that more conferences like these need to be created. Dolores Fridge, Associate Vice Chancellor of MnSCU, discussed that one person maybe heard but when groups go up against an issue more people listen. Dr. Raymond Lou, Provost of Southwest Minnesota State University, discussed looking for areas of tension and invisibility on campus and to begin working on them. Dr. Elden Lawrence, former president of Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribal College in South Dakota, discussed how the Anglo university system was not working within his university. This brought him to incorporate a pre-contact Native American system of education. This included bravery, fortitude, knowledge, and wisdom. With these elements he worked to integrate native culture within his university thus increasing the number of graduating students and quality faculty.

In closing, one small group discussed that faculty across all disciplines need to understand one another and respect one another if we are to move diversity and our universities forward.

There were 150 participants for this conference. It was well received. We hope this kind of conference continues every year.

Ethnic Studies Student Organization (ESSO)

ESSO is an organization of students from MSU, Mankato who believe in the rights of all individuals. ESSO is NOT only for Ethnic Studies students but is an all-encompassing group who accepts members from anywhere. Our group is very diverse and we are

always welcoming to new members. If you have any questions or would like to join a meeting please e-mail ESSO at mnsuesso@yahoo.com.

Ronald E. McNair Program

Minnesota State University, Mankato is in the middle of implementing the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program on campus. Dr. Joann Quinones, a faculty member of the Department of Ethnic Studies, is working for this program. Several of

our students (e.g., Sandy Vue, Mohammed Omar) were accepted into this program. Dr. Lee is also a faculty mentor for students in this program. For more information, please call 507-389-6903 or email mcnair@mnsu.edu.

Professional Events and Research Activities

(January 15 —June 15, 2004)

Cross-Cultural/Ethnic Scholarship

Dr. Louis Schwartzkopf, Physics, and **Wayne Allen**, keynote speakers at the Sustainability Conference at MSU March 17-18, presented their research findings and new theory of social involution, as well as the relevance to current issues of sustainability.

Wayne Allen (2004) presented on “Diversity in the Classroom,” at MSU Ethnic Culture Day in February.

Slocum, F. & Lee, Y-T. (in press). Racism, Racial Stereotypes and American Politics. In J. L. Chin (ed.), *The Psychology of Prejudice and Discrimination* (a four-volume set). Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers.

Lee, Y-T., McCauley, C., Moghaddam, F., & Worchel, S. (2004). *The Psychology of Ethnic and Cultural Conflict*. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers.

Lee, Y-T. (2004). What can chairs learn from Daoistic/Taoistic Leadership? An Eastern perspective. *The Department Chair*, 14(4), 25-32.

Lee, Y-T. (2004). Credentials and Strategies of Developing and Improving Ethnic Studies Program. Paper presented at the 32nd Annual Conference by National Association for Ethnic Studies on April 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Lee, Y-T. (Feb. 19-20, 2004) was invited to give a colloquium entitled “Cultural Stereotype Accuracy and Epistemology” at the University of Chicago, Illinois.

Wayne Allen was a panel facilitator on Somali Culture Day and at the Pan African Conference, February 2004.

Wayne Allen & Napoleon Chagnon’s chapter, “The Tragedy of the Commons revisited: The Role of Kinship and Co residence in the Establishment and Maintenance of Corporate in-group Boundaries in Commons Dilemmas,” was published in *The Psychology of Ethnic and Cultural Conflict* (2004), **Yueh-Ting Lee**, Clark McCauley, Fathali Moghaddam, & Stephen Worchel, editors. Westport, CN: Praeger.

Lee, Y-T. (May 11-23).was invited to give lectures on Education, Psychology, and Ethnic Culture, Ancient Native American and Chinese Civilizations, and Ethnic and Cultural Conflict around the World at the University of Tibet in Lhasa, at Sichuan Normal University, Chengdu, and at the Central South University, Changsha, China.

The *Ethnic Graduate Organization* held an Ethnic Culture Day, February 5 and 6, 2004. Presentations by SBS faculty included, “Why a Strategic Program to Combat AIDS in Latin America is Not a Bad Idea,” by **Luis Posas**, Sociology & Ethnic Studies; and “Balancing Diversity and Democracy with Meritocracy in the Classroom,” by **Wayne Allen**, Ethnic Studies.

Posas, Luis, (2004). The Pedagogy of the Oppressed: The Role of the Teacher of Minority Issues for a Nearly All White Audience, Paper presented at the 32nd Annual Conference by National Association for Ethnic Studies on April 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

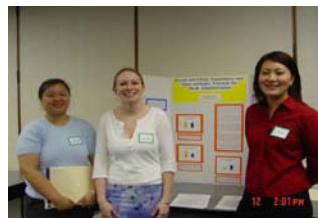
Ethnic Studies Junior Scholars’ Presentations

Abdulkadir Ahmed Alasow (2004). *Ethno-Geographical Patterns of Somali Immigrants in the USA*, Paper presented at the 32nd Annual Conference by National Association for Ethnic Studies on April 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Charissa Blue (2004). *Native American Mascots: An American Tradition of Stripping the Rights and Dignity of Native Americans* Paper presented at the 32nd Annual Conference by National Association for Ethnic Studies on April 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Timothy Gardner (2004). *Human Rights for Homeless Sexual Minority Youth*. Paper presented at the 32nd Annual Conference by National Association for Ethnic Studies on April 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Supervised by Y-T. Lee, **Amber Elzen, Mai Inoue, and Julianna Koomen** presented a paper entitled “*Political Attitudes Towards the Bush Administration by Ethnic and Racial Groups*” at the annual undergraduate research conference at Minnesota State University, Mankato, on April 12-13 (see the picture here).



Supervised by H. H. Phan, **Mohammed Omar** presented a paper entitled “*Effects of September 11 Tragedy on Muslim Students at MSU, Mankato*” at the annual

undergraduate research conference at Minnesota State University, Mankato, on April 12-13.

Accomplishments of ES Program Faculty

The 25th annual Frontier Forum lecture, “The Geography of Police Malpractice,” was presented by Dr. **Jose Javier Lopez**, Geography and **Dr. Pedro Thomas**, Sociology and Corrections, March 16, 2004, to a packed Ostrander Auditorium.

Our program faculty and students participated in the Pan African Conference held at MSU February 25-28. The faculty who introduced speakers included **Wayne Allen**, Ethnic Studies and **Avra Johnson**, Political Science/Law Enforcement. Faculty members who chaired panels were **Edison Perdomo**, Psychology, “Black Psychologists-Social and Psychological Imperative on the Pan African Community,” and **Avra Johnson**, Political Science/Law Enforcement, “Impact of Affirmative Action or Lack of on the Pan African Community.”

Fred Slocum presented a paper, “Attitudinal Antecedents of Racial Hostility: An Investigation Employing Overtly and Implicitly Racial Stimuli,” at the Southern Political Science Association meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 8-11, 2004. **Slocum** also served as chairperson for the panel, “*Race and Politics in the South*.”

Fred Slocum was interviewed by the *Clarion-Ledger* (Jackson, Mississippi) on Republican efforts to win black support and racial conflict in Southern politics. The article, “Barbour hoping to attract record black vote,” (on Republican gubernatorial candidate Haley Barbour) was published Nov. 1, 2003.

Fred Slocum chaired a panel on “*Intra Race Relations: Cooperation and Conflict*” at the Midwest Political Science Association Convention in Chicago, April 14-17.

Support and Sponsorship of Ethnic and Cross-Cultural Events/Activities

In January, 2004, Ethnic Studies Department co-sponsored the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday.

On February 9, Luis Posas (from Sociology and Ethnic Studies) organized a diversity workshop with Eddie Moore as a keynote speaker.

In February, Prof. H. H. Phan in the Ethnic Studies Department organized the celebration of Vietnamese New Year and the Department also participated in and supported the Black History month and the Pan African conference.

On February 13, Prof. H. Z. Yang, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Wuhan University of Technology in Central China, met with **Dean Susan Coultrap-McQuin**, discussing the possibility of the future student or faculty exchanges between the two universities. Prof. Yang also met and talked with Ethnic Studies faculty and graduate students and gave a guest lecture on Chinese higher education and Chinese culture in the class of ETHN 150 (*Multi-Cultural and Ethnic Experience*).

On April 2, the Ethnic Studies Department co-sponsored “the Culture of Poverty” workshop with the College of Education and many other offices.

On April 24, the Ethnic Studies Department organized a one-day workshop for MNSCU faculty/staff and students.



The UMN Humanities Institute and Department of Ethnic Studies at MSU, Mankato co-sponsored the following lectures by two stellar individuals, Dr. Randall Kennedy (Harvard University—see the middle person in the picture above) who talked on “The Race Line in American Life” on April 12 and Dr. Ronald Takaki (UC Berkeley).



Dr. Takaki talked on “America in a Different Mirror: Revisiting Our Nation’s Past” on April 28, 2004. Above is the picture of Dr. Takaki (middle front) with our graduate students and faculty members.

Grants and Awards

Dr. Lee received a research grant from the University. This grant will focus on experimental studies on racial profiling and stereotyping.

Dr. Allen received a Faculty and Staff Appreciation Award from the Sigma Sigma Sigma.

Prof. H. H. Phan received a Teaching Excellence Award from the Student Advisory Committee of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Ms. Lul Ahmed (Ethnic Studies Graduate Student) and Mr. Mohammed Omar (Ethnic Studies Undergraduate Student) received Community Service Award from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at MSU, Mankato. Congratulations!

Graduation and Good News from our Alumni

We congratulate Chris Trong, Mai Inoue, Julianna Koomen, and many other E.S. undergraduate students for having graduated in May, 2004!



Mr. Eric Roslanky is in Akita, Japan teaching ESL. He is a member of the Class of 2003 and a major in Ethnic Studies. "I am now the proud owner of a delightful digital camera, and I thought I'd send over a few pictures. These photos are from my Tuesday Kindergarten classes. In Japanese Kindergartens, they put preschoolers and Kindergartners together, to make it a bit of a 3 year school. Three year olds, 4 year olds, and 5 year olds all in different classes. So, here are some pictures. Enjoy!" Eric

Ethnic Department Faculty: Personnel News

Dr. Joann Quinones leaves us soon. We appreciate her past work and service for the Department and the University. We will miss her and also wish her good luck in her new position in Indiana.

In the meanwhile, we have hired **Dr. Kebba Darboe** to replace Joann. Coming from St. Cloud State University, Dr. Darboe has excellent training in sociology with many publications and much teaching experience.

Ethnic Studies Scholarships

The Department of Ethnic Studies provides special opportunities and recognition for our Ethnic Studies students. We have the ES Academic Excellence Scholarship/Award for an ES student with the highest GPA, and the E.S. Achievement Scholarship/Award for an ES student who overcomes a great difficulty and maintains a very good GPA and the "Timothy Price Scholarship" for two outstanding students who are in great academic standing and also have demonstrated excellent leadership skills and community experiences. This year Gregory Lessard received the ES

Academic Excellence Scholarship/Award: Sandy Vue received the ES Achievement Scholarship/Award: Mohammed Omar and Tristina Brown received the "Timothy Price Scholarship." Congratulations!

In order to continue providing our students with scholarships and interactive multi-cultural experiences, we need continuous support from colleagues and friends. Please consider a contribution to the Ethnic Studies Department's foundation account

for scholarships (Acct # 335814). For more information, please contact Dr. Lee (leey@mnsu.edu or 507-389-6319). Thank you for

your active support and contribution to our students and program.

Thanks to the ES Faculty Subcommittee for their Services

We appreciate the following faculty members who expressed their willingness to serve on the ES Subcommittee for us: Johnson Afolayan (Education), Derek Catsam (History), Julie Carlson (Education), Bill Dyer (Humanities), Martine Harvey (Speech Communication—Arts and Humanities), Avra Johnson (Political

Science and Law Enforcement), Song Kim (Business), Glen Peterson (Rehab Counseling at Allied Health and Nursing), Louis Schwartzkopf (Physics), Fred Slocum (Political Science), and Betty Young (Family Consumer Science).

Fall 2004's Schedule

For the schedule of Fall, 2004, please visit our website:

<http://www.mnsu.edu/dept/ethnic/class.html>

MSU-Mankato Spring Break to China



March 11-20, 2005
Led by
Dr. Li Zhang
Dr. Yueh-Ting Lee



Please see the following websites for more information:

- www.business.mnsu.edu/lizhang
- www.intech.mnsu.edu/leey

Mission Statement

Our mission statement states, “**The Department of Ethnic Studies, an interdisciplinary program, is academically committed to promoting multicultural and ethnic knowledge, skills and values both within and outside the United States and to preparing our students for effective functioning across the culturally diverse and global community.**” For more information about the Ethnic Studies undergraduate or graduate programs, please call the Department of Ethnic Studies at (507)-389-2798 or visit our website (<http://www.mnsu.edu/ethnic>).

Have a Great Summer!

Ethnic Diversity

Department of Ethnic Studies

Minnesota State University

109 Morris Hall

Mankato, MN 56001