

National Identity and Social Integration of Overseas Chinese in the Czech Republic: An Empirical and Comparative Study

International immigration already becomes a hot and always a sensitive issue as well in Europe. Actually different parts of Europe present different kinds of immigration cases. The Central and Eastern Europe first played as a transit of immigrants and then soon became a destination of immigrants mainly for those who come from the former communist countries, such as Ukraine, Vietnamese, Chinese and so on. After 1989, the Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs) became democratized and opened their society to outside world. From this moment, this area became a new destination for Chinese and other peoples' immigration. I use the empirical and comparative methodologies to explore my research problematic. As for the empirical approach, I conduct questionnaire surveys and in-depth interviews, and as for the comparative methodology, I compare Chinese and Vietnamese immigrants because of their similar cultural, political and economical backgrounds. In addition, the effect of generation is another vital concern. In other words, due to the longer term of their living in the immigration country since their birth or the time of their coming to the CEECs or the Czech Republic, I make the research hypothesis that they differ from their parents or the first generation of immigration regarding the cultural or national identity. I conduct the sampling survey for four groups of interviewees, including the first generation of Chinese, the first generation of Vietnamese, the second generation of Chinese and the second generation of Vietnamese. I choose the Central and Eastern European Countries as my area of research interest, because first this is a new adventure land for Chinese emigrants since 1990s, and secondly recently or after twenty first century the CEECs and China are getting in the rise of their national power in the regional and global field. Among the Central and Eastern Countries, I take Czech Republic as my case study.