

Belonging

Belonging across generations.
- Older gen.: "stealing jobs", go back to your country.
"you're very lucky you're here"

Structural/Institutional
↳ Histories that weren't taught in class.

↳ not reciprocated.
↳ "sorry no Indians"
↳ expanding ideas of being a HKer
↳ landlords not willing to negotiate w/ EMs.

What are the challenges to belonging?

- Racial microaggressions
↳ Public transport.
- Language barrier. (no second language curriculum)
- Stereotypes amongst EMs (refugee, domestic workers, etc.).
- In employment: "I don't need you" | jobs as "helping" EMs | "uplifting" | condescending
- Contributions are not valued.
- EMS vs. Expats.
↳ "taking" vs "contributing" to society.

"everyday is a performance."
↳ Major Cantonese/local communities refuse to "come out of comfort zone"

How do you understand belonging in HK?

- Some are more comfortable not talking about it.
e.g. Anish's father
- some don't want to / don't need to.
- difference between local and non-local cultures.
↳ has not lessened despite ↑ of EM communities (28%).
↳ whites have been given more professional opportunities.
- Before 1997 vs. After 1997.
↳ Indian/Nepalese soldiers have been here for ages, but sense of belonging is still vague.
- Racial microaggressions
- Belonging to city vs. society. (inability to belong w/ locals)
↳ safety, knowing one's way around.
↳ language (switching depending on who is present.).

"stagnant" upward social mobility. IS stagnant.

under crisis: values questioned
↳ belonging.

demands and requirements of belonging are always increasing
Locals always find ways to ask more of EMs

assumption that they eventually will go back to home country.

Proving Chinese-ness
- speaking Eng / Chinese lowers the tension.
- you made the effort to learn Chinese.
- locals are unaware of structural issues.
↳ Been though how others see me? Is that English they cannot speak?

Protest
- "They never fought for us"
- "How about us?"
- should we join the protest.

generalising stereotyping judging you for what others do
↳ racism among landlords

even belonging to HK by local Chinese is not given, after the political movement

- having a permanent place or renting out

(dis)trust in the Govt.
- Can I buy a property here or should I invest in India, Pakistan?

Korean/Thai!
v/s
Jamaican/Indonesian!
↳ all positives left in this term.
↳ price vs. slow.
↳ social mobility not happening.

EM v/s Expats
↳ why one an expat, another an EM?
↳ taking v/s contributing.
↳ Don't feel secure.
↳ OBTAIN us at any cost.
↳ if you are willing to pay skill.
↳ if you are not willing to pay skill.
↳ if you are not willing to pay skill.
↳ if you are not willing to pay skill.

That being born here doesn't automatically know it.
↳ Younger generation different.

Q. Understanding belonging in H.K.?
 - Tokenisation of multiculturalism.

(Landscape vs. population)

- Belonging to a city vs. Belonging to a society.
 - STAGNANT?

- Socio-Political CHANGES
 ① CORE VALUES make you a HK-ER

"Hyphenated"

① Others seeing me?
 OR me seeing myself?
 E.g. (Cemetery clean-up)
 - (tracing the history)

"Singapore gets it right in terms of multiculturalism."

(~~Monoculturalism~~ being imposed)

- Lost after 1977 -
 H.K. Govt. Lost track of language policy.

Challenges to Belonging:

- A.K. changes.
- Coexistence in a fraught political situation. (PTU, Serial work) is it possible to be apolitical.
- Background of immigration:
 - ① Differences in behavior b/w different groups - start choosing your friends.

① Difficult to belong here /
 "Not familiar"
 "Being careful"
 UK

② Diff (HK > Singapore)
 Language (English first)

Hong Kong Government
 Steps: Embracing English, Cantonese

Fear of speaking English
 Hong HK people

Indian-Hong Konger

used to be in a box or being resisted to being called that
 The Hong Konger has different cards and very different cultural background.
 Asian centres on punned in a negative way about accents, etc. options

Freedom of speech.
 Put feel like a part of belonging to the
 social interest

Challenges
 Make friends for your own community
 Being stuck in a "bubble"
 Singapore is relatively friendly for diverse backgrounds.

Parents?
 Children?
 Still a Hong Konger elsewhere?
 - Tracking Ethnic School
 - Parents
 - Children
 - Parents?
 - Children?