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University 香港 Hong Kong

LUIAS Distinguished Lecture

BORDER CROSSING: HOW TRADITIONAL NETWORKS AND DIGITAL TIES POWER THE JOURNEY OF UNDOCUMENTED CHINESE MIGRANTS TO THE UNITED STATES

Speaker

Professor Min ZHOU

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Sociology & Asian American Studies
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Date: 9 September 2025 Time: 2:15PM - 3:15PM
(Registration starts at 2:00PM)

Venue: MBG01, Patrick Lee Wan Keung
Academic Building



Abstract

Historically, undocumented immigrants relied heavily on closely knit, kinship-based networks and embedded migration institutions to cross borders. However, the internet and social media have ushered in an era of digitally-sourced support, fundamentally transforming these networks. Using two contrasting case studies—the "snake people" from Fuzhou in the 1990s and the "zouxian people" from different parts of China in the 2020s—this talk analyzes how the shift from collectively-centered networks to networked individualism has facilitated border crossing. We explore how reliance on these different network types has created vastly different integration outcomes, revealing how technology reshapes not just the journey, but also how new lives are built.

Biography

Prof Min Zhou is an academican of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is currently Distinguished Professor of Sociology & Asian American Studies and Director of the Asia Pacific Center at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Prof Zhou's research focuses on migration and development, Chinese diasporas, Asian American studies, and urban sociology. She has authored or coauthored 21 books and more than 230 journal articles and book chapters, with notable works including *Chinatown*, *The Asian American Achievement Paradox*, and *The Rise of the New Second Generation*. Her academic influence is reflected in her Google Scholar profile, which amassed over 39,700 citations as of August 10, 2025. She is a recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Career Award and the 2020 Contribution to the Field Award from the American Sociological Association. She was also named among the world's top 2% of scientists.

ALL ARE WELCOME

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