

Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Family
and Intimate Life

‘The Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Family and Intimate Life series is impressive and contemporary in its themes and approaches’- Professor Deborah Chambers, Newcastle University, UK, and author of *New Social Ties*.

The remit of the Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Family and Intimate Life series is to publish major texts, monographs and edited collections focusing broadly on the sociological exploration of intimate relationships and family organization. The series covers a wide range of topics such as partnership, marriage, parenting, domestic arrangements, kinship, demographic change, intergenerational ties, life course transitions, step-families, gay and lesbian relationships, lone-parent households, and also non-familial intimate relationships such as friendships and includes works by leading figures in the field, in the UK and internationally, and aims to contribute to continue publishing influential and prize-winning research.

More information about this series at
<http://www.springer.com/series/14676>

Yang Hu

Chinese-British Intermarriage

Disentangling Gender and Ethnicity

palgrave
macmillan

Yang Hu
Department of Sociology
University of Essex
United Kingdom

Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Family and Intimate Life
ISBN 978-3-319-29280-9 ISBN 978-3-319-29281-6 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-29281-6

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016942700

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s) 2016

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made.

Printed on acid-free paper

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by Springer Nature
The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG Switzerland

Acknowledgements

The journey of conducting this research and writing this book only becomes utterly enjoyable because of the people about whom, with whom and for whom I write. For this sheer joy, I am sincerely grateful.

First and foremost, I want to thank Jacqueline Scott for her guidance, patience and encouragement. I am grateful to Bing Feng, for kindling the sociologist in me in the first place. I thank Sarah Franklin and Perveez Mody for reading my work and providing valuable insights. I also want to thank David Lehmann, Miri Song, Louise Ryan, Bryan Roberts, Pnina Werbner, Katherine Charsley, Harriet Zurndorder and Rhacel Parreñas for their encouraging and helpful comments on my work, which contributed greatly to the formation of ideas behind this book. I would also like to express my gratitude to Arlie Hochschild, Matthew Desmond and Allison Pugh. Their writings have intellectually enlightened me, and I always found myself engaged in inspiring conversations when reading their books. The ‘Individual in the Labour Market’ reading group at Cambridge led by Brendan Burchell has always been a valued forum for the exchange of insightful ideas.

My gratitude also goes to Amelia Derkatsch, Harriet Barker, the editorial team and anonymous reviewers at Palgrave Macmillan for believing in this project. I am thankful to the series editors of the Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Family and Intimate Life for their support. I gratefully acknowledge the financial support from the Gates Cambridge Trust.

Through the course of this research, I have been constantly amazed and graced by people's generosity and hospitality in warmly welcoming me into their homes, intimate lives and personal past times. This book is about them and for them. Much as I fear my words cannot do their lives justice, I am truly humbled by the trust, friendship and encouragement they have bestowed upon me.

This book would not have been possible without the many significant others in my life. To Yen-Chun, Sandy, Xiao, Zhitian, Falcon, Fangsheng, Yu, Sujuan, Ruohai, Queenie, Louise and Rory—there are no better people than them to share the emotional rollercoaster ride of writing a book. I would like to thank Ying for her friendship readily reachable across a speed-dial 24/7. I thank Heyi for always being there since my formative years. I am grateful for Tim's unwavering support. I am indebted to my parents. Although their upbringing instilled in them the ideal that 'one has to master math, physics and chemistry to be truly knowledgeable', which might have prevented them from appreciating the value of sociological inquiry, their unconditional support and boundless love transcend any confinement of social structure and ideology.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Happy Families Alike?	25
3	Disentangling Gender and Ethnicity in Ethnic Intermarriage	55
4	‘The Chinese Virtue’ and ‘The Good Old Days’	87
5	The Anatomy of the ‘Superwoman’	123
6	The Road Less Travelled—Negotiating ‘Change’	157
7	A World Inverted	191
8	Conclusion: Gender and Ethnicity Disentangled	211

Appendix A: Studying Family Life in an Inter-Ethnic Context	239
Appendix B: List of Informants	259
Index	263

List of Figures

Fig. 1.1	Number of entries on 'Intermarriage' in the Google Scholar Citation Index	4
Fig. 1.2	Chinese population in England and Wales from 1991 to 2011	14
Fig. 2.1	Pathways of Chinese-British inter-ethnic families in the UK	48
Fig. 3.1	A life-story model of identity	75
Fig. 4.1	Ethno-racial hierarchy drawn by respondents	90
Fig. 4.2	Chinese and British attitudes to women's work-family orientation across time	116
Fig. 4.3	Chinese and British attitudes to gender division of labour across time	117
Fig. 6.1	Marriage and divorce rates in England and Wales from 1970 to 2010	158

List of Tables

Table 4.1	Profiles of Chinese-British families with homemaking Chinese marriage-migrant wives	93
Table 5.1	Profiles of Chinese-British families with working Chinese professional migrant wives	133
Table 6.1	Profiles of 'off-tracker' Chinese-British families	162
Table 7.1	Profiles of Chinese-British families with Chinese husbands	193
Table A.1	Data collection instruments	248

List of Boxes

Box A.1	Summary of research design	241
Box A.2	Summary of sample selection	241