

**Pregnant Mainland Women and the Cultural Politics of Birthright Citizenship:  
Toward Feminist Geopolitics**

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This essay starts off with an explication of feminist geopolitics as an analytical approach and a theoretical context of the discussion of cross-border births. Guided by feminist geopolitical scholarship that aims to problematize dominant narratives by situating knowledge and looking at security at multiple scales, this essay focuses on pregnant Mainland women in Hong Kong. It seeks to spur a reconceptualization of geopolitical concepts, such as security, borders, and citizenship, by closely examining the narrative devices and implications of the representative geopolitical discourse in Hong Kong that characterize Mainlanders as accidental visitors with Janus-faced natures who bring in economic benefits but cause havoc in terms of social relations for the local populace. The second part seeks to demonstrate that both the government's discriminatory population policy in governing these accidental citizens and the discourse of "Mainlanders-as-locusts" tell only partial stories of Mainland pregnant women. It does so by examining *It Is Her, but It Is Also You and Me: Interviews of Women with Two-ways Permit* (2008), a collection of interviews conducted with Mainland spouses. We argue that these interviews present an alternative account of cross-border marriages and birthright citizenship that enables us to see not only the effects of the dominant geopolitical discourses surrounding Mainland spouses but also the possible forms of social recognition and bonds that can form in Hong Kong now, however fragile, contingent, and compromised they may be. An equally important task for us is to suggest some challenges to this compassionate feminist project that seeks to recognize the marginal subject in Hong Kong society and create trust between locals and Mainland migrants.

Biographical Note

Professor Huang's recent work focuses on two main concerns: a critical examination of the cultural governance mobilized by developmentalism and the cultural politics of representing cross-border subjects in south China and Taiwan. Her research emphasizes the significance of discovering cultural factors in fashioning social identities under conditions of rapid globalization, exploring the experiences and implications of trans-scaled mobility of gendered and classed subjects. By analyzing timely and significant issues of urbanites' social climbing and border crossing, her representative works contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the

complexity of urban/regional development in East Asia. Professor Huang is the author of *Walking Between Slums and Skyscrapers: Illusions of Open Space in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Shanghai* (2004) and *Articulating New Cultural Identities: Self-Writing of East Asian Global City-Regions* (2011, in Chinese). Her current research focuses on Hong Kong people's lifestyle migration to Taiwan.