

# **Media Presentations of Chinese— Foreign Marriage in Reform- Era China**

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## **Certificate of Authorship/Originality**

I certify that the work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

Signature of Student

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## **Abstract**

The growth of Chinese–foreign marriage in the People’s Republic of China (PRC) since 1979 is a largely unexplored phenomenon. This thesis fills part of the gap in the academic literature by examining legal regulations, government statistics and media presentations of Chinese–foreign marriage in the PRC between 1979 and 2011. Legal documents and government statistics are analyzed to identify different types of Chinese–foreign marriages, changing rates of marriage and divorce, and changes in the demographic composition of Chinese–foreign marriages over the last three decades. A discourse analysis of over 500 print and online media reports, 57 television documentaries, and 20 television talk show programs, reveals the changing motivations, mate selection preferences, gender relations, and patterns of marriage-related mobility, that are associated with Chinese–foreign marriages and divorces today. In examining how China’s media have presented the phenomenon of Chinese–foreign marriage in the reform-era, the thesis sheds light on both processes of social change and current imaginings of China’s position in the world.

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‘Media presentations of intercultural marriage and divorce in the People's Republic of China (1979–2010)’, Melbourne Conference on China: The City, the Countryside and the World, Melbourne University, 6–7 August 2011.

‘Media presentations of intercultural marriage in the People's Republic of China (1979–2009)’, Association for Asian Studies (AAS) and International Convention of Asian Scholars (ICAS) Joint Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii, 31 March to 3 April 2011.

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