

The Agency of Filipina Women/Japanese Identity and Alternative Education

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AIU-UCB PBL Course

Introduction: The Agency and Identity formation of Filipina Women

- My research focuses on the Filipina Women living in the Akita Prefecture of Japan, specifically Yokote, and most of them are married to Japanese men.
- I am focusing on how these women form their identities and how they are altered after they began living in Japan
- I also focus on gender roles, workplace conditions, and how these women empower themselves in their local communities.

Major Research Questions

- Is nationality a central part of a persons identity?
- What makes someone Japanese?
- What conditions and difficulties do Filipino women face when living in Japan?
- Why does identity need to be fixed into one category when in reality we all share different identities even within the same nationalities?
- What helps immigrants adapt to a new society is it the language, social norms, or building relationships?

Key Terms

- Queer Theory
- Practice Theory
- Agency
- Multiculturalism
- Identity Formation

Identity Formation among Filipino Women

-Filipina women that I interviewed thought of themselves mostly as both Filipino and Japanese.

-Interestingly many of them stated that they changed the way they acted and represented themselves based on who they were with, enforcing my idea that identity is on a continuum and is altered in daily interactions and practices.

-Identity is not a set notion it is changing through daily life experiences and the women I met expressed it was more important to be accepted as individuals and to be themselves than it was to belong to a particular nationality

Introduction: Japanese Identity and Alternative Education

- Identity formation in regards to education
- Alternative education as a defining point for minority group
- Research conducted to see how people of alternative education view themselves and are viewed in Japanese society

Key Terms

- Alternative education
- Japanese identity
- Culture and language
- Transnational family

Major Research Questions

- What does it mean to be “Japanese” and how does one obtain it?
- How strongly does language correlate with national identity in Japan for residents and foreigners?
- Does having an alternative education in Japan ultimately exclude one from society?

Conclusion

In order to obtain a truly multicultural Japan people need to be seen as individuals and not categorized by their race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, class, gender, education, or sexuality. This needs to happen in order for equality to be possible and for others to accept foreign residents as a part of Japan.