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Transnationalism and Ethnic Chinese

Transnationalism, with its focus on migration and transnational business networks, is a vogue concept in much of the literature on ethnic minorities. This essay is a critique of transnational studies, which in our view diminish ethnic minorities’ claim on national identity by reinforcing the indigenous communities’ stereotyped belief that these minorities have little sense of belonging or of loyalty to the country they live in. Such studies dangerously distort the process of identity formation, particularly the emergence of national identity in immigrants and their descendants.