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## Outsider or Insider? Exploring the symbolic boundaries between Chinese community and domestic community at Colby College

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# Outsider or insider?

——Exploring Chinese Community  
at Colby College

Yifan Wen

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SO 272

12/5/2014

# Study design

- Research questions:

How do Chinese students react to and deal with disparities based on national and cultural differences?

In what ways are they forced or why do they volunteer to isolate from social communities on campus?

# Study design

- Methods and strategies:

- Self-ethnography*

- ① Interview I

- junior, male, Art History major, board member of ASA

- ② Interview II

- senior, high school in Maine, study abroad in London for a year, Econ major

# Interview I

- -I mean I am not saying I don't feel very connected. It's not like I don't know how to talk to people. It's not like that. It is momentarily I feel like, there is sense of disconnection during interactions. There is something very **momentary but not for a long time.**

# Interview II

- What I ...Ok. I know lots of my fellow Chinese friends students are coming from, like myself, directly coming high school we just concentrated on study. And moving to this college we are **required not just academics**, not just class but more else like I would suggest them to **go talk to people**, starting from talking to the people who sitting next to you. Don't just go to lunch dinner with Chinese people, I'm not saying not to. If there's American if someone who don't speak your language, stop speaking Chinese to each other, be polite to other person, speak English, to improve your English as well.

# My Findings

- Chinese get involved in social community in different ways
  - Longevity of connection
  - Width of involvement
  - The balance between academic and social
- Several structures of the student community bring status power
  - pressure from inside
  - pressure from outside