SC 2217 TRAVEL MATTERS

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MARRIAGE& MIGRATION

Love Marriage and Transnational Migration

Feminist and cultural geography – transnational families, gender norms and roles, impacts on urban lives

Anthropologists – changing families, gender norms, desire, transnational social worlds, immigration structures

Sociologists – Integration, citizenship policy, social work/adjustment, immigration policy, law & society

Demographers – Relation of mixed marriages (ethnicity, class, race, nationality) on education, health, marriage & childbirth rates

TODAY

Marriage as migration

Ideas of Love

CONTEXT OF THE BOOK (2003)

- First world/western feminists view rafficking as a type of forced migration, slavery
- Migration as a one-directional flow
- Racialized & restrictive immigration policies
- based on ulturally specific notions of romance and love marriages



PEN PALS, VIRTUAL ETHNOGRAPHY, AND "MAIL ORDER" MARRIAGES

Romance on a Global Stage

NICOLE CONSTABLE



• "The term "mail-order brides" discursively colonizes Third World women. The mail-order bride is a ready symbol of female subordination, male power, and gendered and racialized images of Asian women."

- Nicole Constable, Intro, p 29

CULTURAL LOGICS OF DESIRE

"To say that women express

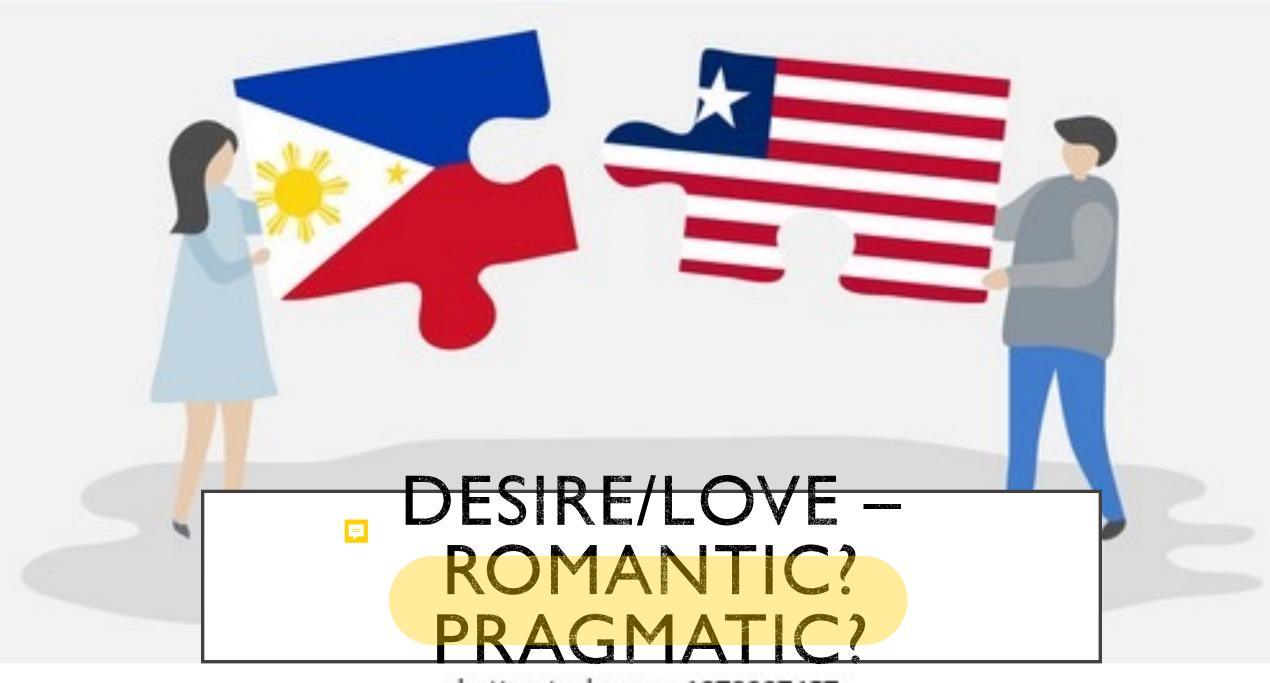
agency – they make choices and negotiate their situations – is not to romanticize or to ignore the structural and ideological factors that constrain their choices."

- Constable, p. 30



Asian Brides for Sale", 101 East

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CULTURAL STEREOTYPES YOU SEE OPERATING?



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"Traditional" women & "Modern" men?

Traditional American men blamed

feminist movts. for marital

disappointments → longed for

"traditional" division of labor within

the family while also desiring "modern" love

Men's ideas about power, dominance, and "care" are assumed to preclude women's power and authority and desires for control ...



Why you should choose single Chinese women for marriage

Why choose Chinese women



Beauty



Loyalty



Traditional values



Minimalist Living Queen



https://www.europeanbusinessreview.com/meeting-chinese-mail-order-bride-where-and-how-to-get-a-wife-from-china/



"Traditional" women & "Modern" men?

Attraction to America, potential for greater wealth and social freedom are attractive to Chinese and

□Filipinas (& their kin in Asia) → but do they cancel out the possibility of romantic love and other emotions?

HOW DOES POLITICAL ECONOMY HELP US UNDERSTAND THE CULTURAL LOGICS OF DESIRE?

I. Gendered expectations and ideals of masculinity/femininity are shaped by real historical relations between the US, China, and the Philippines.

2. Acceptance of couples and households socially must resist cultural stereotyping (at both ends) - the national community reproducing itself

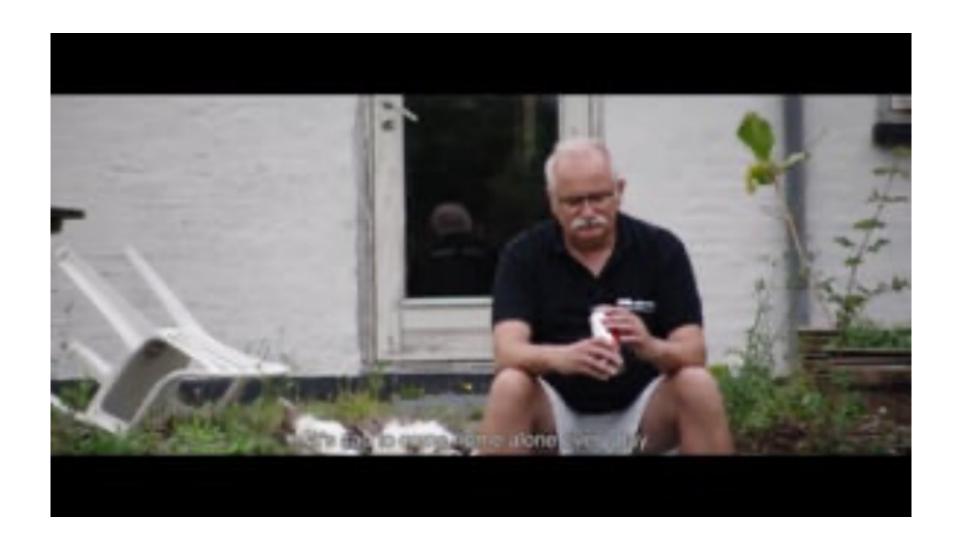
LOVE VS ARRANGED MARRIAGE

ROMANCE VS MATERIAL/PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Marriage as migrations are often based on desires for romantic love

It is important to consider how and why love, romance, and marriage are linked to money, class, and power as embodied in nationality, race, gender, and place.

E.g. Simon and Xiaoli



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Transnational marriage migrations bring out the coexistence of practical concerns and romantic desire in ALL marriages

Marriages, love, traditional, modern are all culturally mediated

Representations – gender, race, nationality, class – play a key role in shaping desire AND social perceptions of that desire

Marriage migrations are the intimate scale at which social reproductions of geopolitical relations and national community occurs

THANK YOU!