



Immigrant Ties

Jasmine Yen-Ching Shih

This piece tells the story of how my immigrant experience has shaped my identity over the last decade as well as the dilemmas I constantly face as an immigrant with ties to both Taiwan and the United States. I was born and raised in Taiwan and moved with my mother to the United States when I was 15 years old, while my father and all other relatives still reside in Taiwan. My roots run deep in Taiwan, yet moving to the United States exposed me to new opportunities, people, and ways of thinking that I have become attached to. Which side do I belong more? Where should I settle in the future? These are the questions that I've never stopped thinking about.

I decided to include data for each of the years from 2011, the year I immigrated to the United States, to 2021. I decided to not include the years before 2011 since the piece is focused on my immigrant story. On the timeline at the bottom, for most of the years, I picked one major life event that was related to my immigrant experience or influenced which side I feel closer to, as I feel that this would be enough data to display on the timeline. I also decided to show only the top two factors (represented in the form of threads) that pulled me towards each side in each year because more than two different threads twisted together might be too much to discern. I used uniform spacing between each year on the timeline, but I used non-uniform spacing between the heights of the weights to give the sense that earlier years of my life felt longer than the later ones.

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See close up below

