

Abstract of the Dissertation

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学 位 論 文

Dissertation

論 文 題 目

Dissertation Title

“We’ll never be one of them”: The Impacts of Acculturation Strategies on a Sense of Self-continuity among Highly Skilled Thai Workers in Japan

This research was conducted to explore the acculturation strategies applied by 18 highly skilled Thai migrant workers in Japan and to investigate the impact of acculturation on the sense of self-continuity among participants. The combination of autobiographical meaning-making and Multiethnic Identity Measure (MEIM) survey results in a mixed-method research design for data collection and analysis of this research. Drawing from the narrative analysis depicted by life-line drawings, this research suggested that integration prevails as the most advantageous acculturation strategy because it can help Thai workers adapt to Japanese society on the one hand and safeguard their self-continuity on the other. This research makes three significant contributions. First, it recommends that Japanese policy-makers take into account how to foster cultural exchange and mutual cultural understanding in the context of multicultural coexistence policy. Second, with the increasing population of economic migrants in the work society of Japan, this research indicates how the promotion of cultural rights in the workplace can benefit the migrant workers’ well-being and productivity. Therefore, executives and decision-makers in Japanese workplaces employing migrant workers are encouraged to implement policies and express initiatives to foster respect for cultural diversity in the workplace. Finally, this research takes an interdisciplinary approach that incorporates a sociopsychological and sociocultural lens to conduct the study and opens up a new research avenue for future acculturation and self-continuity studies in other contexts.