

By Patrick So Ph.D.

蘇其寬

金山夢未了

The needs and issues of Chinese communities in North America.

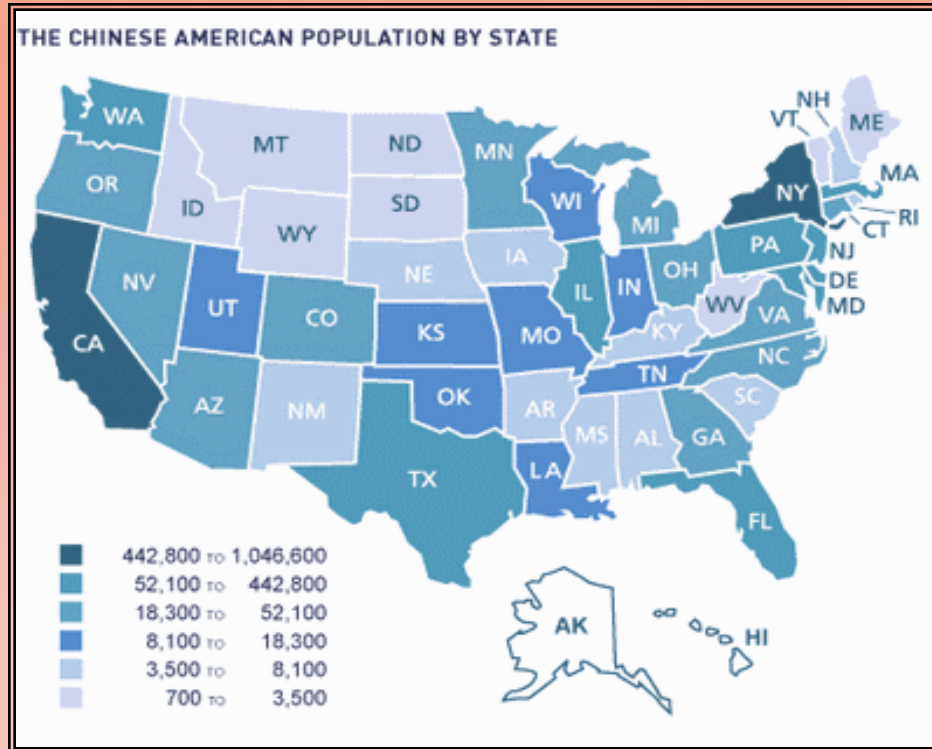




Introduction

1. The distribution of Chinese population and the major Chinese Communities.
2. Interest Stories of “*downtown*” and “*uptown*” Chinese.
3. The basic needs and the related problems in Chinatown.
4. Chinese Community agencies and available resources.
5. **Christian Service Community and Chinese Community Service.**

Distribution



- Population- 3.6 million (2006 U.S. Census)
- 1.2% of total American population.
- Cities with large Chinese North American populations:
 - Boston, Flushing (Queens), New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Houston, Plano, Seattle, Chicago, Portland, and Philadelphia
 - Toronto, Vancouver

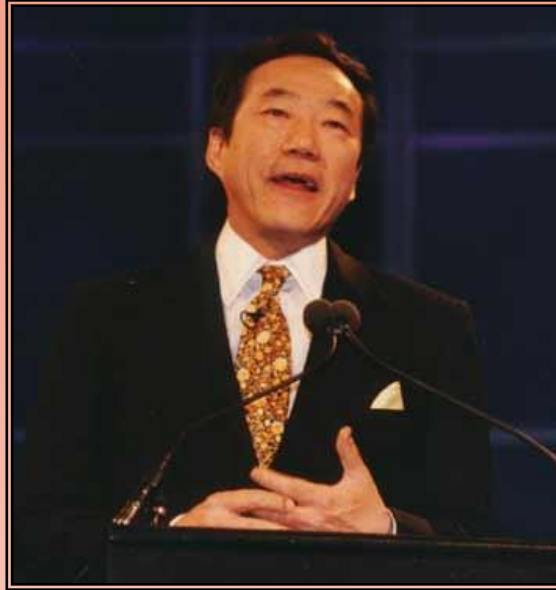
Distribution



I. “Uptown” Chinese

- a. American born and/or Chinese Immigrants with at least secondary education.
- b. Most live outside of Chinese communities and usually in suburbs.
Notable Chinese “ethnoburbs”:
 - a. Monterey Park, CA; San Gabriel, CA; Santa Clara Valley (San Fran Bay Area), CA; Rockville, MD; Princeton, NJ
- c. 1990s- Next “Gum San”- The internet boom transforms image of Chinese from “son of a laundryman” to “future internet millionaire”. (e.g. Jerry Yang of Yahoo)

Distribution



“Uptown” Chinese:

Charles B. Wang

Born: Shanghai, China

Moved to Queens, NY when he was 8 years old.

Businesses: Started Computer Associates, majority owner of NY Islanders and NY Dragons, real estate tycoon

Philanthropy: Donated \$50 million to SUNY Stony Brook, donated and founded law school in Suzhou University, founded Charles B. Wang Health Center in Chinatown, NY.

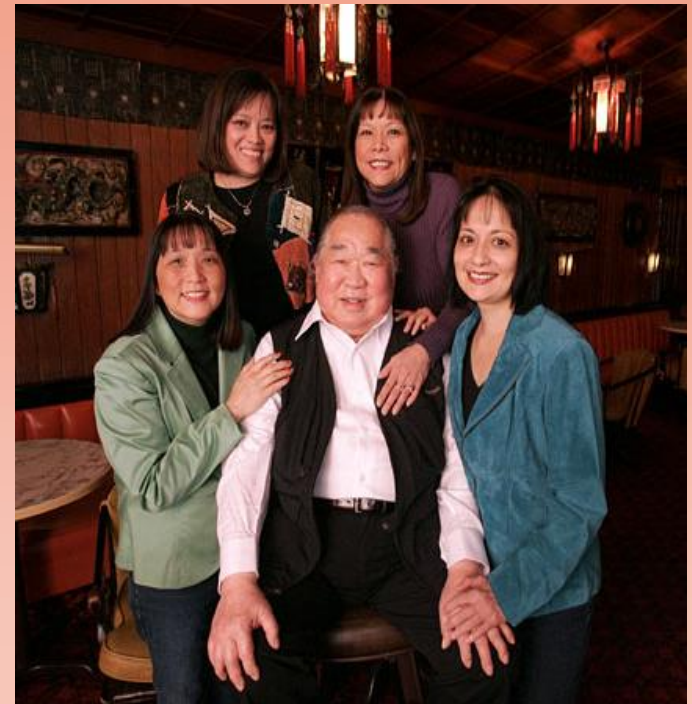
Distribution



2. “Downtown” Chinese

- a. New immigrants mostly from mainland China and Southeast Asia (Chinese speaking countries).
- b. Speak little English and have little or no education.
- c. Live in “Chinatowns”.
- d. Comprised of mostly working class
 - a. Males- Typical waiters
 - b. Females- Seamstress workers
- e. Live in very poor and substandard housing.
- f. Not protected by U.S Labor laws/Lack of American government intervention
- g. Due to constant immigrant influx, are not economically advantaged.

Distribution



Most Fundamental Difference:

The patterns of Chinese American settlement has caused Great Polarization between Chinese working class and Chinese elite.

NYC Chinatown



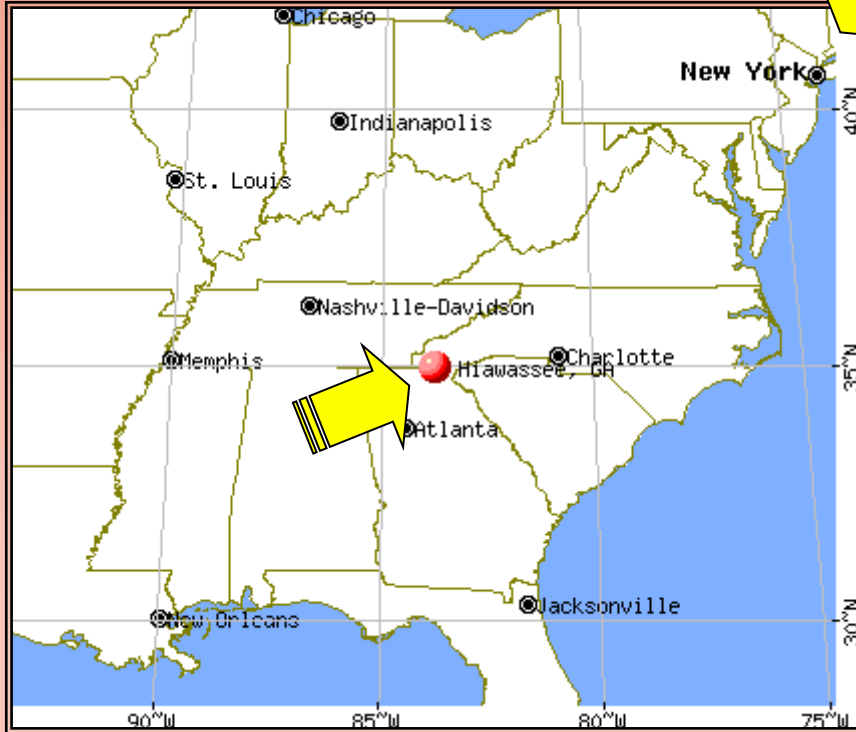
New York City Chinatown (New York, Brooklyn, Flushing) is the sample that will be focused upon in our discussion of “Downtown” Chinese. Largely, because NYC Chinatowns are the epicenters of Chinese illegal immigration and where the majority of lesser educated and poor Chinese immigrate to in the U.S.

Climbing “Gum San”



- “John” and Jenny” are married.
- They are educated illegal Chinese immigrants from Fuzhou, China.
- They have come to NYC for a better life and have spent \$30,000 per person to come to the U.S.
- Their 2 children are cared for by the grandmother in Fuzhou.
- John works as a waiter in a Chinese restaurant
- Jenny is a seamstress worker.
- From a World Journal classified, they have decided to acquire a Chinese take-out restaurant in Georgia for \$60,000.
 - Goals:
 1. Make money
 2. Opportunity for family to be together.

Climbing “Gum San”



Hiawassee, GA is 800 miles and nearly a 14 hour ride from Chinatown, NYC by bus.

- The restaurant is a struggle. Business is slow, there is only so much demand for Chinese food in a town of 850.
- The couple work seven-days-a-week for 14 hours per day.
- Jenny is also pregnant and contemplates having an abortion back in New York. She calculates it would take her 4 weeks to travel there, recover, and get back to Hiawassee to work at the restaurant. IF she gave birth, she would be out of work for 2 weeks. She decides to carry the baby to term.

Climbing “Gum San”



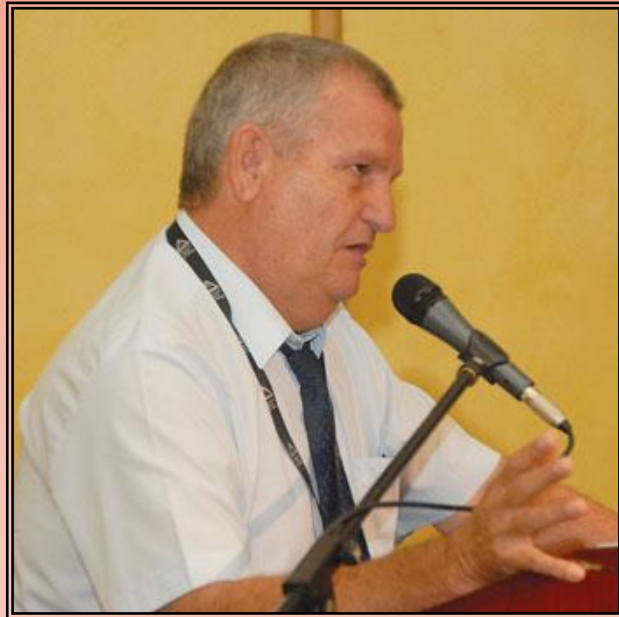
- Jolene, the daughter, hates Hiawasse. She hates working at the restaurant and often argues with the mother.
- Problems: John is arrested for domestic abuse and their 3 children are taken away to Children Services.
 - In fact it was Jenny and her daughter, Jolene, fighting that led to violence.

Climbing “Gum San”



- Rumors of domestic violence” hit town and business worsens.
- The courts mandate John and Jenny to attend counseling classes, forcing them to close the restaurant for the whole day.
- The couple place the restaurant for sale in the Atlanta edition of World Journal. They have a potential buyer.
- There situation slowly improves.

Climbing “Gum San”



- Jim Crawford, a local land developer, hears the story of this family’s troubles from an encounter with them at their Baptist church.
- Jim, touched by their story decides to help.
- On behalf of the couple, he makes an impassioned plea, to the church for help.
- Church members and eventually the local D.A write letters to the Family Court. Eventually, the parents are slowly allowed to gain custody of their kids.
- On their first day back, the town throws a “Welcome Back” party for family.

Climbing “Gum San”



- With the family reunited, the family decides to move back home to NY. John is offered a restaurant position in Long Island.
- Eventually the family’s fortune rises and a few years later have a house in Philadelphia.

Climbing “Gum San”



- What problems as illegal immigrants did John and Jenny face?
- How can we have intervened to have helped John and Jenny?

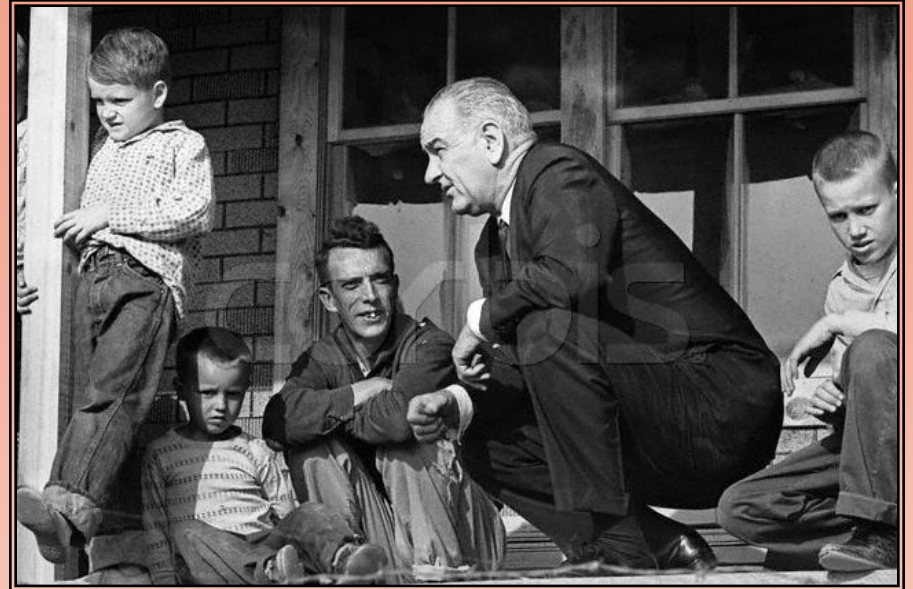
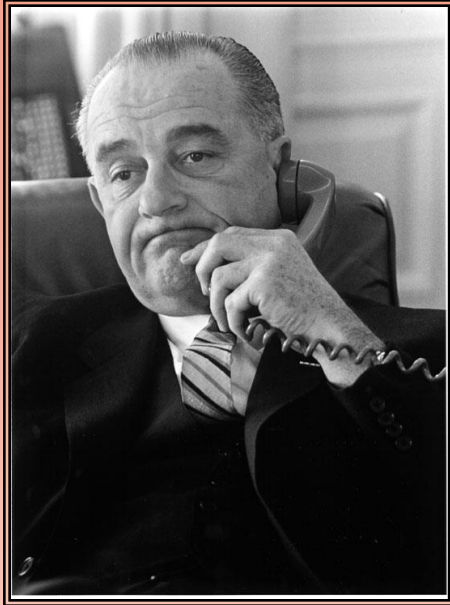
“Downtown” Chinese



Current Issues:

1. Poverty
2. Immigration debts, fear of violence to family (illegal immigrants)
3. English barriers
4. Lack of resources.
5. Mistreatment, lack of rights with employers.
6. Lack of government representation and intervention.
7. Family Separation.

The Forgotten Chinese



Lyndon Johnson's Great Society's antipoverty relief programs targeted mainly African American communities. And as a result, bypassed many poor Chinese communities.

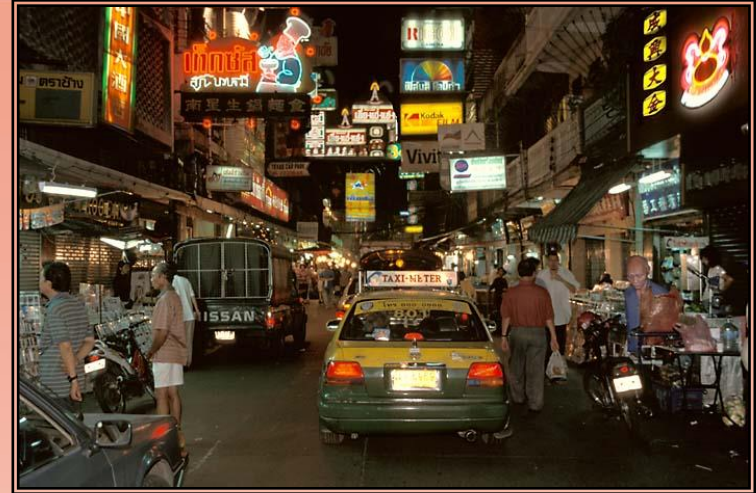
The Forgotten Chinese



1974- Mr. Mun Bun Lee, Chairman of Chinatown Manpower Project, testified to New York State Advisory Committee to U.S. Committee on Civil Rights:

“Whenever Asian Americans apply for employment, minority scholarships, and community service funds, we are told we cannot apply because we are not a minority.”

The Forgotten Chinese



- Chinatowns in actuality are closer to African American ghetto models.
 - i.e. New York City Chinatown is home to unskilled and poorly educated immigrants employed in manual and service jobs. Living conditions are overcrowded and the Chinese receive inadequate health care, education, and social services.
 - San Francisco Chinatown is reportedly not much better.

Chinese Americans' social services

- Tang 堂
- Founded- 1870
 - Location: NYC Chinatown
 - Origins: 堂口是一種氏族性的公所，執政範圍包括同鄉會、政治同盟（國民黨對中國共產黨）和一些秘密的非法活動。堂口慢慢的開始照顧被種族歧視而受騷擾會員，給他們反騷擾保護。堂口也與街頭幫派結盟。堂口也幫助新移民起身：如出借、幫助創業、等等。
 - 這些堂口建立了理事會稱為中華公所。



Chinese Americans' social services

- Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association
中華公所

- Founded- 1883

- Location: NYC Chinatown
- Origins: 代表紐約華僑，為華僑爭取應得的福利和權益。在歷史上，特別是在美國排華法案實施期間，中華公所在海外華人社群中扮演著一個類似政府的角色。
- 今日，中華公所在26個城市有它的辦事處，服務著廣大的美國海外華人。在紐約，中華公所是由60個代表紐約各方面的團體所組成的組織。



Chinese Americans' social services

- **Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)**, Case Model formerly Chinatown Planning Council.:
 - Founded- 1965
 - Location: NYC Chinatown
 - Origins: Grassroots community-based organization responded to the tremendous influx of Chinese immigrants after the change in immigration laws, and in the midst of the Great Society movement.



Chinese Americans' social services



- Services:
 1. Job training,
 2. Employment
 3. Legal aid
 4. Mental health services
 5. Education (English classes, daycare)
 6. Youth and senior citizen facilities,
 7. Sponsors low income housing projects and develops income-generating non-profit services.

Chinese Americans' social services



Limitations:

1. CPC is not an agent for change. It can only aid Chinese-Americans in the community. It cannot affect social policy.
2. CPC cannot challenge Chinatown elite economically or politically.
3. CPC has little or no influence on crime, housing, low wages and sweatshop conditions.

Chinese Americans' social services

- Chinese Americans Citizens Alliance
 - Founded: 1895
 - Location: San Francisco Chinatown and expanded to Chinese communities in CA all the way to Washington D.C.
 - Origins: A small group of American born Chinese assembled in San Francisco and decided that they would have to take matters into their own hands if they were going to combat racist U.S sentiment and accelerate the process of assimilation.
 - Goals: Fight for Chinese American civil rights, aid in accelerating transition into American mainstream and promote Chinese cultural programming.



Chinese Americans' social services

- Immigrant Social Services
 - Founded in 1977
 - Location: NYC Chinatown
 - Origins: Founded by two devout Chinese Catholics (**one of them was CSC member Francis Wan**) during the beginnings of early Chinese immigration boom in late 70s and early 80s.
 - Goal: Improve conditions and promote welfare of immigrants and other persons seeking services living Lower East Side and Chinatown communities.



華僑社會福利社
IMMIGRANT SOCIAL SERVICE, INC.

Chinese Americans' social services



Services:

1. Education (After school, summer-school, daycare)
2. Youth employment
3. Recreational activities (Basketball, handball, etc...)
4. Cultural Programming
5. Drug Prevention

Chinese Americans' social services

Services:

6. Individual and Family Counseling
7. Social Concerns/Advocacy
8. Community
Education/Organizing

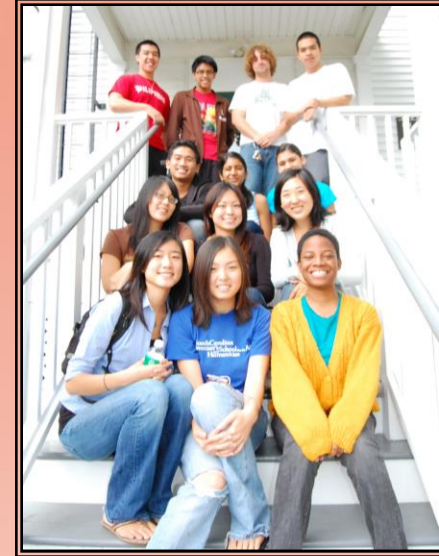
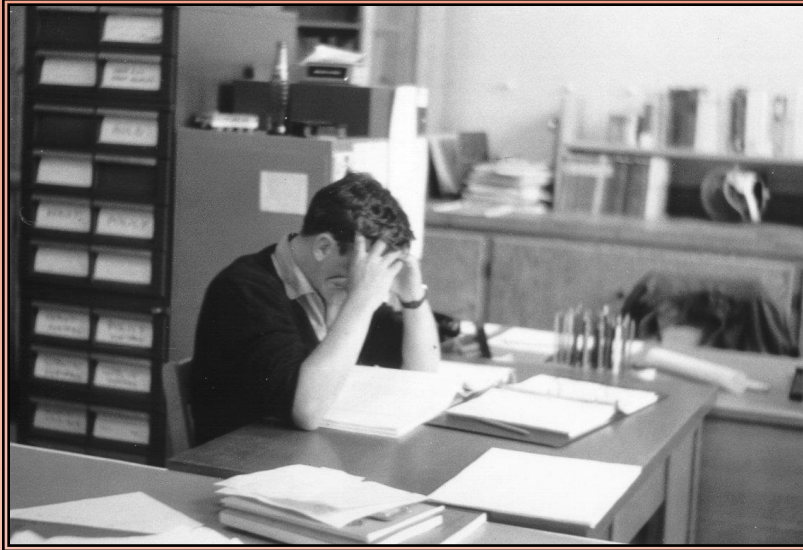
安得廣廈千萬間，
大庇天下寒士俱歡顏，
風雨不動安如山！

"If I could get a mansion with a thousand, ten thousand rooms,
I'd give all needed joy and shelter from cold.
Solid as a mountain, the elements could not move it."
By Du, Fu (712-770, A.D.)

Salute to
Father Gigante and Sister Thomas S.C.
For their heroic achievements
In fulfilling
Our least brothers' and sisters' needs.

From Patrick So and Joan Chen

Chinese Americans' social services



Limitations:

1. As a result of funding and manpower, I.S.S has been limited to the scope of its original mission. Today, the emphasis of services is placed on serving Chinese-American youth in education, employment, and social services.

Today's Discussion:



Chinese Americans, specifically “downtown Chinese” have been ignored and underrepresented in the national and local discussion.

There is a need for greater accountability from:

1. U.S government.
2. Social services and non-profits.
3. “Uptown” Chinese to help uplift their people.



Today's Discussion:

- What do “downtown Chinese” need?
- Legal Chinese immigrants?
 - Illegal Chinese immigrants?
- How can CSC serve?
- What have we done right in the past?
- Where can we improve?
- What is our blueprint for the future?
- What resources does CSC have?
 - Education?
 - Financial?
 - Manpower?
 - Social/political status?
 - The Catholic Church?



Today's Discussion:

Most importantly, how does CSC help and improve the lives of impoverished Chinese living in America??