

*Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations, Colloquium Series
University of Western Ontario
8 December 2011*

Understanding the link between transnationalism and integration

*Immigrant ties to South
Korea and Canada*

Ann H. Kim
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology, York University



Toronto Korean Families Study

토론토 한인 가족 연구



Transnationalism - integration

Two opposing perspectives:

1. Transnationalism and integration fall along a single continuum (*negative association*)

Transnational  Integrated

2. Transnationalism and integration are parallel or independent (*positive or no association*)

Less transnational  More transnational

Less integrated  More integrated

Transnationalism

- **Definition:** *Transnationalism is a process of forging and sustaining multi-stranded social relations that link together societies of origin and settlement* (Basch, Glick Schiller, and Szanton Blanc 1994: 7).
- Recognize the “multiplicity of involvements”: familial, economic, social, organizational, religious, political



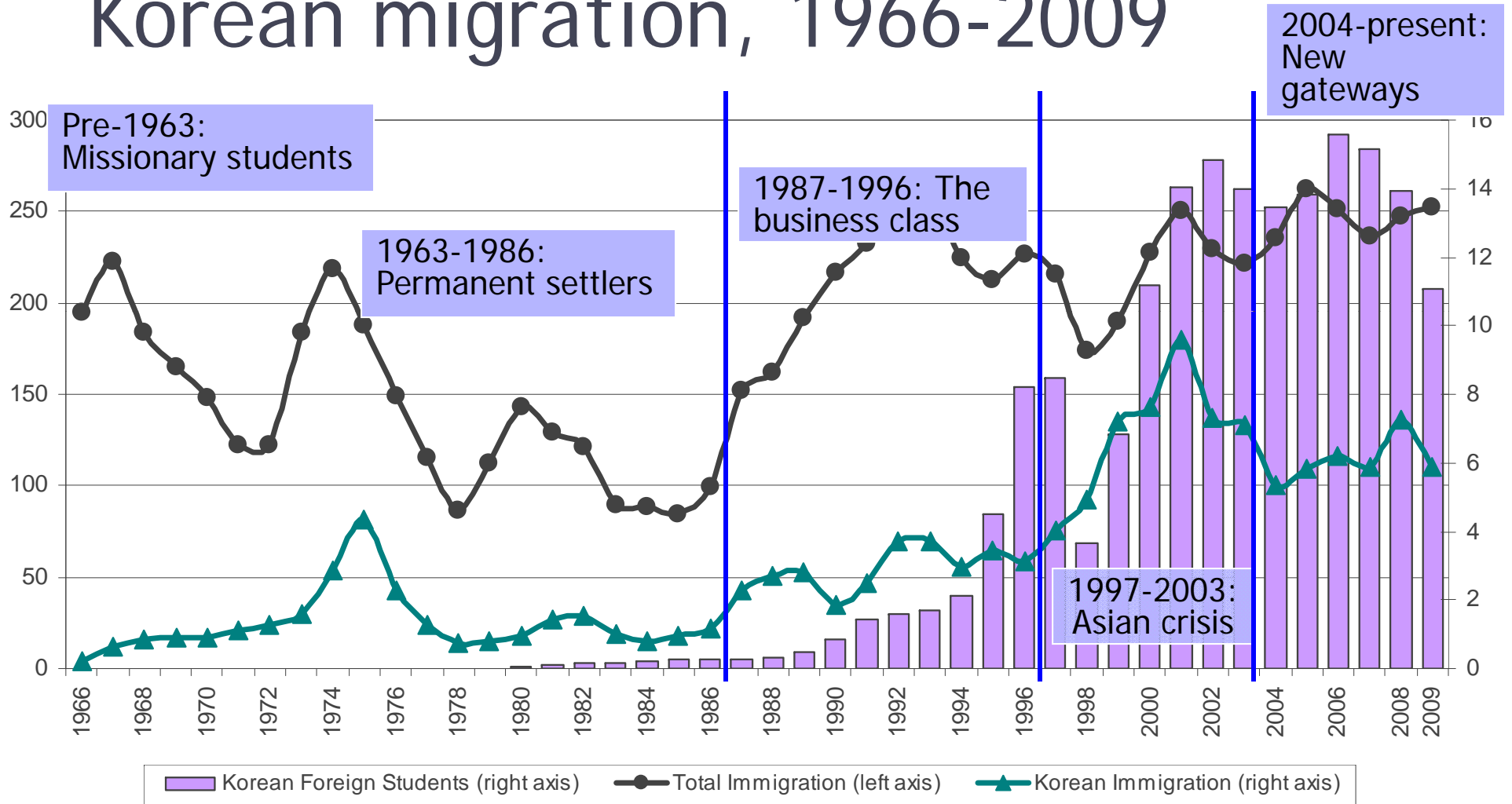
Research questions

- What is the connection between transnationalism and integration among those from a developed context?
- Does the connection between transnationalism and integration depend on the transnational dimension?
Which ones?

Migration from S.Korea to Canada

- Developed country with rapidly growing migrant community across Canada, concentrated in Toronto
- Economic opportunities in S.Korea
- Desire for competitive skills in a global economy
- Access to technology
- Rise of temporary migration (i.e. education migration):
17% of immigrants are TR; students from both Koreas
comprise about 15-20% of foreign student flows

Korean migration, 1966-2009



Source: CIC Canada, custom tabulation, Facts & Figures Reports

Ethnic and immigrant Koreans

	Ethnic	Immigrant	Temporary
Canada	146,545	98,395	20,840
Toronto	39.1	40.5	26.4
Vancouver	31.4	31.5	41.1
Calgary	4.8	4.9	5.3
Montréal	3.3	3.1	3.7
Edmonton	2.6	2.3	4.1

Source: 2006 Census of Population, Total response ethnic origin

Yuhak-saeng (foreign student) families



- aka *kirogi* (wild goose) families or parachute kids
- Early study abroad students:
 - 235 in 1995 to 8,000+ in 2005
- Visits during school holidays
- As high as 45% of CIC visas for students from Korea went to primary to secondary school students

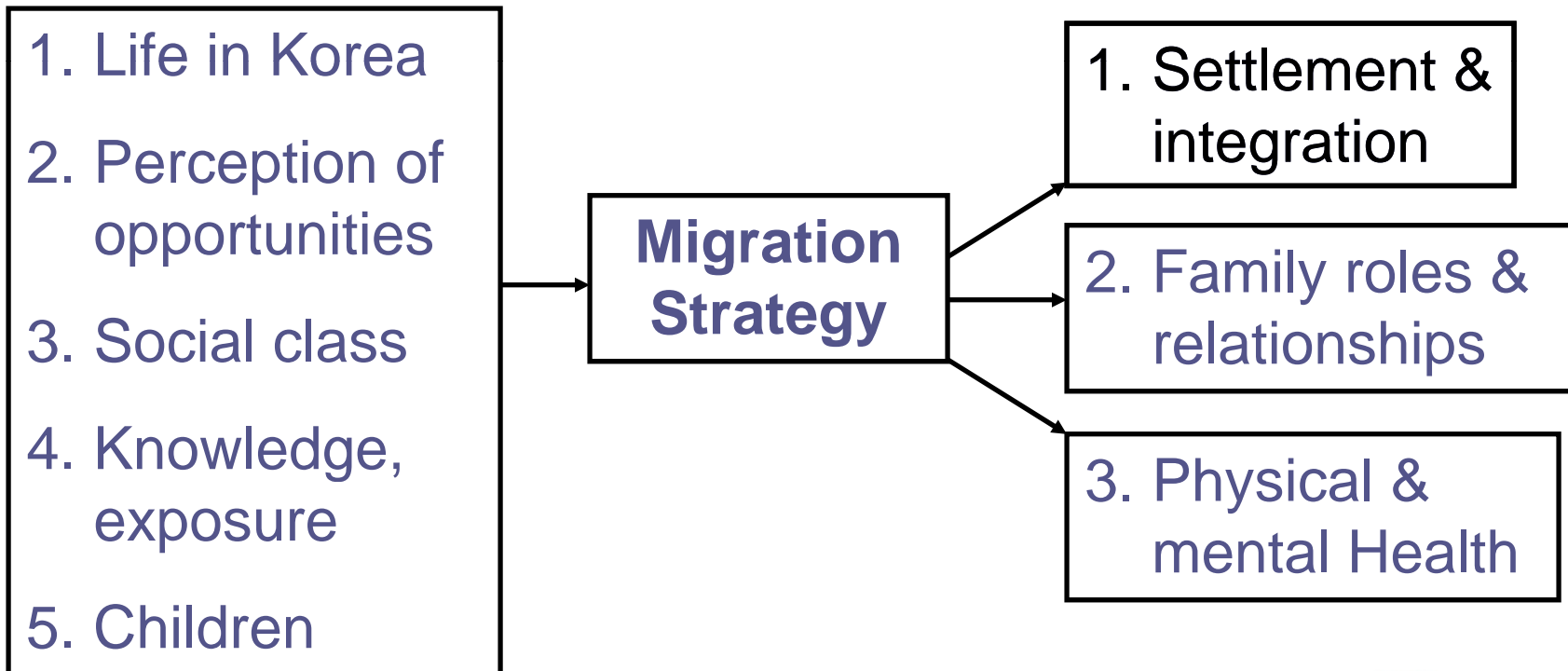


Data & methods

- Toronto Korean Families Study 2011 (TKFS-2011)
- Korean/English language in-person survey of 422 cases
- Non-probability sample:
 - Married couples with 1+ school-aged child
 - Arrived in Canada between 2000 and 2009
 - Greater Toronto Area
 - Targets of 250 (267) intact family migrants and 150 (155) transnational family migrants

Survey framework

Macro Context: Korea / Canada



Variables of interest

- **Dimensions of transnationalism (IVs):**
 - Cultural (watch Korean TV and read print media, 2)
 - Social (contact with parents/sibs, friends, extended relatives, 4)
 - Civic (donated or involved with organization in S.Korea, 2)
 - Economic (property or investments in S.Korea, 2)
 - Emotional (rarely-frequently wish living in S.Korea, 4)
 - Familial/transnational familyhood (intact/transnational, 2)
- **Integration indicators (DV):**
 - Sense of belonging to Canada (weak/strong, 2)
 - Sense of belonging to S.Korea (weak/strong, 2)

Sample characteristics (391)

Mean age in years	46.4
Mean years of residence	6.4
Percent female	89.8
Education:	
Highschool	7.9%
Trades/Community college	14.3
Bachelor's degree	66.2
Postgraduate degree	11.5
Employment:	
Full-time salary	18.7%
Part-time salary	18.4
Self-employed	12.5
Unemployed	50.4

Cultural (both TV & print media)	91.0%
Social (parents/sibs, extended, friends):	
Contact less than 5x in the last 6 months	10.9%
Contact with at least 1 type 2x/month	30.8
Contact with 1 type weekly	46.9
Contact with 2-3 types weekly	11.4
Civic (donations and/or involvement)	15.6%
Economic (property and/or investments)	68.8%
Emotional (wish living in S.Korea):	
Never	12.0%
Rarely	27.1
Sometimes	43.2
Frequently/all the time	17.7
Transnational familyhood	35.3%

Stronger sense of belonging to Korea

Sense of belonging to Canada

Somewhat-very strong

None-weak

35.0%

65.0

Sense of belonging to Korea

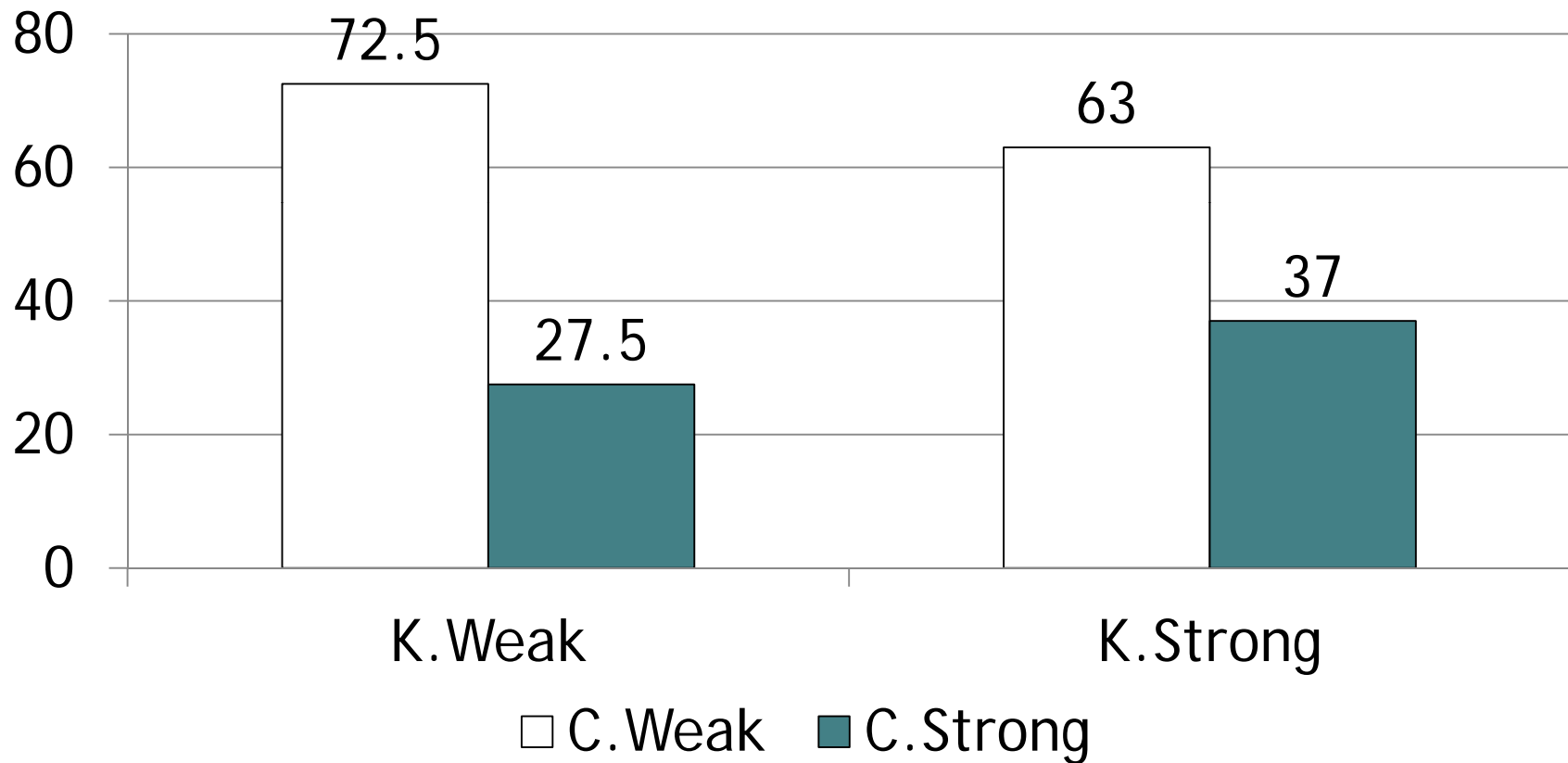
Somewhat-very strong

None-weak

79.5%

20.5

A trade-off?



**p=.113, chi-squared test*

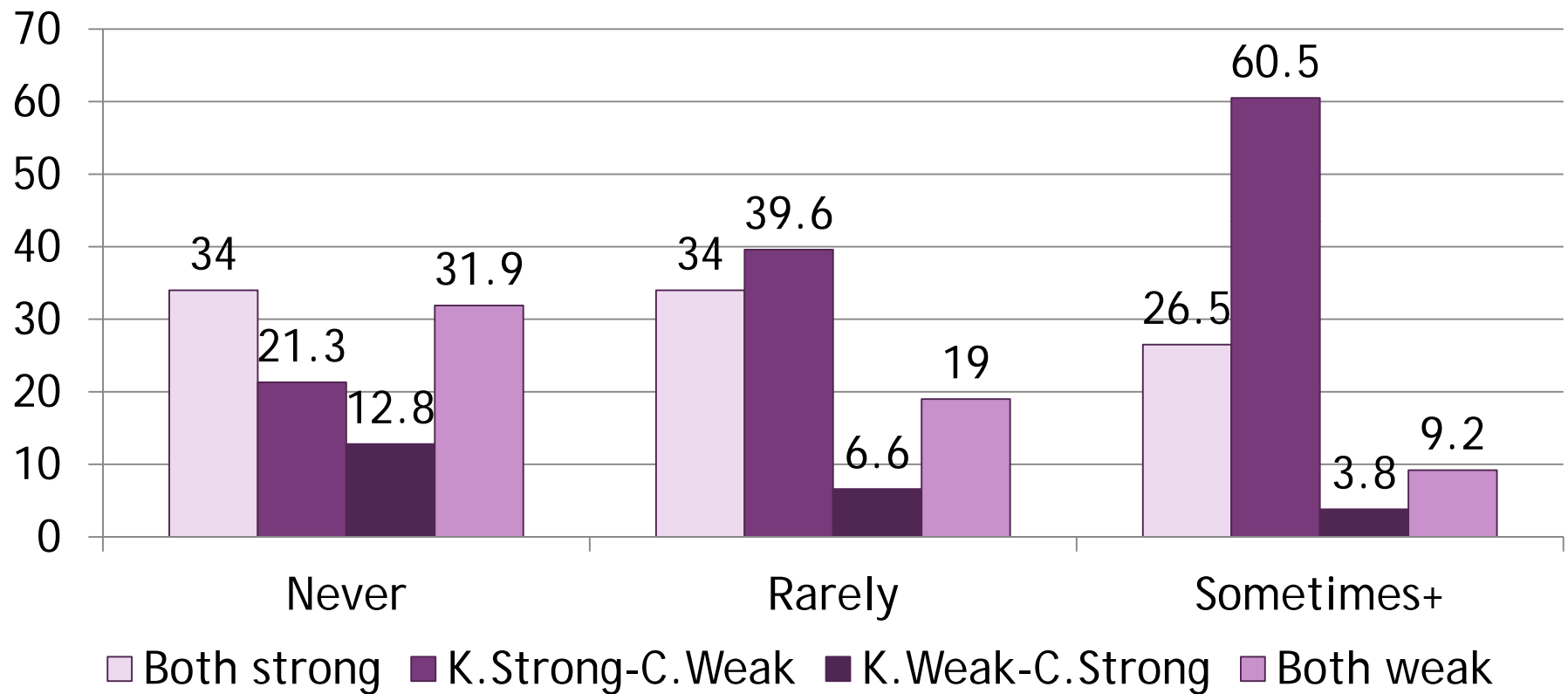
Belonging by property in S.Korea

Belonging	New Percent	Property in Korea	
		No	Yes
Both strong	29.4	33.6	27.5
K.Strong-C.Weak	50.1	40.2	54.7
K.Weak-C.Strong	5.6	9.8	3.7
Both weak	14.8	16.4	14.1

**p=.015, chi-squared test*

*** People who owned homes in Canada were more likely to have strong sense of belonging to both countries and less likely to have strong sense of belonging to just S.Korea but not significant (p=.15).*

Belonging by wishing in S.Korea



**p<.001, chi-squared test*

Multinomial logistic models

- Control variables: age, gender, education, employment, length of residence in Canada, trans family structure
- 2 separate models on **sense of belonging**
- Model 1, effect of **property** with covariates
 - Model 2, effect of **wishing** with covariates
 - Reference category = Strong Korea & Weak Canada

Model 1 - property on belonging



But differences were **not** statistically significant.
For those with property, on feeling...

- Both strong, $rrr = .78$ ($p=.41$)
- Only Canada strong, $rrr = .43$ ($p=.12$)
- Both weak, $rrr = .91$ ($p=.80$)

Model 2 - belonging & wishing



These differences were **statistically significant**.
For those who wish more, on feeling...

- Both strong, $rrr = .25$ ($p < .01$)
- Only Canada strong, $rrr = .10$ ($p < .001$)
- Both weak, $rrr = .10$ ($p < .001$)

Some additional findings...

- Length of residence:



- Age:



On belonging

- Cultural, social, civic, economic and structural ties to S.Korea do **not** appear to affect a migrant's sense of belonging.
- But, **emotional transnationalism** does.
- **Time** (length of residence) also important for belonging.
- The link between transnationalism and integration **depends** on the dimension of transnationalism (and likewise of integration), but generally, they appear to be **parallel/independent processes**, at least for migrants from S.Korea.
- Possible to have a strong sense of belonging to more than 1 place.
- Important to understand why people maintain strong emotional ties to places of origin.

Acknowledgements

- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), 2009-2012
- Young Ah Kim, Research Coordinator
- Choong Ho Park, Research Assistant
- Co-investigators:
 - *Min-Jung Kwak, University of Toronto*
 - *Eunjung Lee, University of Toronto*
 - *Samuel Noh, University of Toronto*
 - *Wansoo Park, University of Windsor*
 - *Sung Hyun Yun, University of Windsor*
 - *Jeeseon Park, Ohio State University*