

## **Sino-Ethiopian marriage: A South-South cross-border marriage by eventful global China**

### **Abstract**

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This article develops an ideal type of South-South cross-border marriage. Based on an 8-month multi-sited ethnography in Ethiopia and China, I identified the different global forces, connections, and imaginations that facilitate a novel type of cross-border marriage between Chinese men and local women in Ethiopia. With an eventful sociological approach, this study explores the multiple and contingent effects of global China's engagement in Ethiopia, which explains the unique dynamics among Sino-Ethiopian spouses *vis-à-vis* the pervasive image of 'segregated' Chinese in Africa. I found that Sino-Ethiopian cross-border marriages were primarily formed without global hypergamy of locations. Instead, it was shaped by China's incompatible hard and soft power, connected by China's enterprises and accumulated local social networks without the imagination of migrating to China among the Ethiopian wives. Furthermore, this study calls for a paradigm shift on more research to examine cross-border marriages between a developing South and a rising South in the current hypereventful global capitalist system.

**Keywords:** cross-border marriage; China in Africa; eventful global China

### **Author Bio**

**Wei Wang's** research interest is cross-border marriages, specifically on marriage between citizens from China and African countries. He worked on the project of Afro-Chinese interracial marriage in Guangzhou, China. And his ongoing research project, which is also his Ph.D. thesis, focuses on the intermarriage between Chinese men and Ethiopian women who formed their marriage in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, and its neighboring areas.