

In a Different Land – Here and Now

*Ms LIN Lizi, BSc (Hons) in Multimedia Technology and Innovation,
Department of Digital Innovation and Technology*

Supervisor: Dr CHEONG Kai Yuen, Head of Department

Background

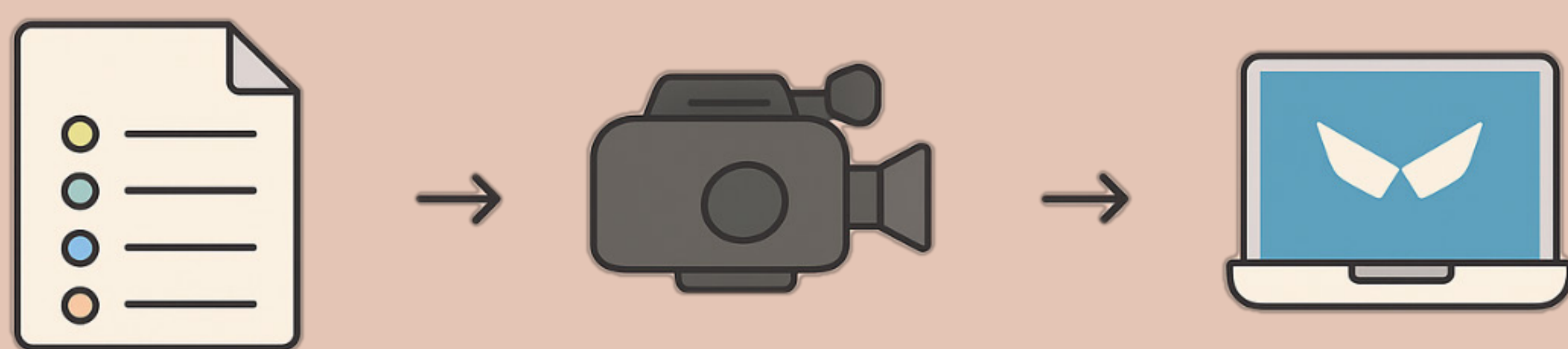


“In a Different Land – Here and Now” is a documentary that examines the experiences of mainland Chinese immigrants as they adapt to life in Hong Kong. Through the authentic stories of three individuals, the project explores their struggles with cultural differences, identity, and a sense of belonging.

Subjects include:

- Xiao Ming, an elementary student
- Hong Hong, a college student
- Jun Jun, a professional

Methodology



Employing a documentary style with interviews, observational shots, and synchronized audio, the film immerses viewers in the characters’ lives. Techniques like close-ups and natural lighting enhance emotional intimacy, while ambient sounds and a muted color palette underscore the subjects’ emotional journeys.

The director aims to challenge stereotypes and foster empathy, offering a nuanced perspective on immigration. This documentary not only highlights personal growth but also prompts broader discussions on cultural integration and social acceptance.

Research Objectives

- To document the personal journeys of Chinese immigrants in Hong Kong
- To examine the cultural, emotional, and social challenges they encounter during integration
- To explore how identity and belonging are shaped in a cross-border context
- To challenge public stereotypes through immersive visual storytelling
- To promote empathy, cross-cultural understanding, and inclusion
- To raise awareness of the complexity of migrant experiences
- To encourage dialogue between local and migrant communities
- To highlight the role of education, media, and family in the adaptation process



Findings

Preliminary findings reveal that migrants face multiple psychological and social barriers, including language difficulties, discrimination, and feelings of cultural alienation. The **elementary school** student gradually adapts through peer interaction and supportive school environments. The college student struggles with identity ambiguity and social disconnect, but also expresses hope through creative self-expression and campus involvement. The **professional** confronts resistance in the workplace but also discovers opportunities for growth. These stories demonstrate that adaptation is deeply personal and influenced by both individual effort and societal response.

Conclusion

The project offers a nuanced and humanizing lens on immigration. It seeks not only to document personal transformation but also to spark dialogue on acceptance, empathy, and multicultural coexistence in contemporary Hong Kong. The documentary aims to foster social awareness and encourage inclusive dialogue in Hong Kong.