

# **Transnational Citizens and Transnational Identities: International Students and their Negotiations between Homeland and Adopted Nation through their Consumption of Entertainment Media and their Social Networks in Australia**

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International students are part of a global circulation of people who face challenges maintaining their national, cultural and ethnic identities. They encounter such challenges while developing new (transnational) identities as they physically cross national boundaries for the purpose of education and seeking migration. In travelling abroad international students become transnational citizens who grow to be adept at maintaining links with their home countries while exploring new cultures similar to or other than their own. By conducting 30 in-depth interviews with international students in Melbourne on their self-perceived identities in Australia, their social networks and their consumption entertainment media, this study suggests that the consumption of entertainment media (film, television and music) and the creation and maintenance of social networks in Australia play pivotal roles in identity maintenance and/or formation which may be permanent (e.g. national and cultural identities through their sense of belonging to home country) or temporary (e.g. identity through status as international students). Entertainment media and social networks are elements that contribute to the links international students have with the homeland while developing of their sense of belonging in Australia. This study also observes that international students have transnational identities before embarking on their educational sojourn due to their exposure to global entertainment media outside of their home country, home culture and home language (e.g. Mainland Chinese consumption of American entertainment media).

## **Key Words**

transnational citizens, transnational identities, entertainment media, social networks, international student