



Mio HORIE

I received my PhD in Area Studies from Kyoto University. My main research interest is migration and the sense of belonging among the mountainous people on China-Myanmar border. I am currently a designated assistant professor of the Institute for Advanced Research (IAR) at Nagoya University. I authored *A Village Without Daughters: Bride Shortage, Marriage Migration and Women's Belonging among the Lahu of Southwest China* (Kyoto University Press, 2018).

Seeking a Good Land to Live: Changing the Direction of Lahu Migration across the China-Myanmar Border

Abstract:

Yunnan is one of China's most peripheral provinces. It is inhabited by many ethnic groups scattered in the mountains, many of which have historically been highly mobile. Their high mobility is due to their practice of slash and burn agriculture as well as complex political interactions with the government. The Lahu people, one of the ethnic groups living along China-Myanmar border, have always moved south in response to increasing governmental control and population pressure under the Chinese expansion to this area.

The important change that is the apparent reversal of migration direction starting in the late 1980s. In this presentation, I demonstrate how the direction of cross-border migration by the Lahu has changed southward to northward since late 1980s, and how the reason for this change differs by gender. The reversal in direction is due not only to economic growth of China but, also, to China's severe shortage of marriageable women.