

Pál NYÍRI

Global Modernizers or Local Subalterns? Parallel Perceptions of Chinese Transnationals in Hungary

The article was originally published in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 31(4), July 2005, pp:659-674.
For the whole text see: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/>.

Abstract: This paper describes a situation in which an economically successful group of recent migrants (from the People's Republic of China) with strong transnational practices faces a hostile receiving state (Hungary) that makes no attempt to 'integrate' migrants and deals with them purely as a matter of restriction and control. This situation has given rise to two parallel narratives of the social position of Chinese in Hungary, each with the opposite content: one produced by Hungarian officials and media of the migrants as semi-criminal marginals and one engaged in by Chinese officials and media of the migrants as pioneering global modernizers. The paper juxtaposes the two narratives and asks how they can be produced and sustained without a clash.