Background Information

- There are 8 students and 2 faculty involved in this research project that took place in Yunnan Province, China.
- Funded by ASIANetwork and CIE International Fellows Program.
- All eight students had their own research topic.
- This trip was conducted for three weeks in the summer of 2012 in 16 Hmong communities.

Methodology Used

- My qualitative research data:
  - Pre-interviews with Hmong elders in the United States about Hmong’s relationships/interactions with Chinese/neighboring minorities in China
  - Interviewed and observed in 10 Hmong communities throughout Yunnan Province.
  - During and after the research in China, I have noted my interviews with Hmong-Chinese about relationships/interactions with Chinese and neighboring minorities.

Findings in The United States

- Hmong and Chinese did not get along due to land and agriculture disagreements.
- Hmong and Chinese had very few relationships due to different religious views and who/what to worship.
- Hmong people would stay in their own community in order to maintain their identity.

Findings in China

- Hmong do get along with Chinese because the Chinese has never threatened to hurt the Hmong.
- Hmong prefers to have more relationships with Chinese because this can help them economically and industrially (Many Hmong communities produces tobacco and corn for business).
- Integrating with Chinese/neighboring minorities is beneficial because this can expand their knowledge about Chinese behavior.

Conclusion

From my research, I was shocked to learn about the relationships in China between Hmong, Chinese, and neighboring tribes. The views of Hmong-American were contrary to the prevailing attitudes of Hmong-Chinese. While all the Hmong-Chinese I’ve interviewed supported inter-ethnic dating and marriage, the Hmong-Americans did not. One of the most common reason for this could be due to fear of losing Hmong identity in a different part of the world.

“When we interact outside our comfort zone, we get to learn more about ourselves.”

- Hmong-Chinese