Purpose of Research
This research was based on the roots and background history about the Hmong identity. In general, the origin of the Hmong is said to be China; however, there is little documentation. Base on these information I went to China to figure out the historical and contemporary differences and/or similarities between the Hmong and Miao, as well as broader questions about Hmong social life in general.

Research Question
- Main focus:
  - Migration and mobility of the Hmong-Miao families/people
- Sub-questions asked:
  - Where did peoples’ grandparents live?
  - When and where do people think their ancestors lived?
  - If they lived in other places, then why did they migrate, and how?
  - Where specifically, and in what kinds of regions, did they settle?

Methodology
- Participant Observation
  - Observing and participating in the activities of the Hmong-Miao families visited/commuted to
  - Interview
    - One on one interviews with villagers/local people
    - Discussions with elders and other local people on different aspects of village and city tradition, history and social life
- Identifying/Coding Data
  - Communication was mostly in Hmong with villagers/local people
  - Debrief with mentors and colleagues to help understand and code data

Findings
- Reasons why Hmong-Miao families stayed in their villages
  - Government funding
  - The Chinese government would give a sum of money to minorities to improve their habitat or surroundings to make their living more modern and stable
- Plantation/Traditions
  - Many Hmong-Miao stay in their villages because of farming and to keep their livestock’s available to them instead of traveling far away for food
  - Many Hmong-Miao also stay because they are used to farm life
  - Many also want to keep the closeness of families together by helping each other out and maintaining the family name
- Reasons as to why Hmong-Miao families moved away from their villages
  - Water/food
    - Because of the poor water quality, villagers moved to different areas to find cleaner water and more food to keep families from starvation
  - Bad habitat
    - Construction of roads are poor in China
    - Many Hmong-Miao families live in the mountainous areas of China and the roads are mainly dirt roads
    - Its gets harder for families to travel because of dirt roads

Implications
Hmong-Miao families want to stay in their villages, but because the Chinese government wants to modernize minorities, Hmong-Miao families are moving towards a more structured city life. In addition, Hmong-Miao families send their children to the cities to go to school while the older family members stay back and work on the plantations. Hmong-Miao families want to keep their tradition and embrace their culture while trying to keep up with the modernized world.

Acknowledgements
I would like to give my thanks to AsiaNetwork for funding this research and for making this a dream come true. If not for their funding this research would not have been a reality. In addition, my thanks also goes out to Ezra Zeitler and Kelly Wonder for their patience, effort, and their hard work for being such great mentors. Furthermore, I would also like to acknowledge An Anand, Christin DePouw, Charles Vue, and Ka Vang in making this research possible.

Photo References
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