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Young Asian Dutch constructing Asianness

Understanding the role of Asian popular culture

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This PhD thesis is not simply the outcome of five years of research undertaken in isolation. I have been fortunate enough to have been surrounded, inspired, and supported by quite a few wonderful people during the course of my PhD research. Furthermore, my PhD research is not a stand-alone project disconnected from my private, public and professional past; rather, it is a continuation thereof. Thus, there are many people – past and present – who I would like to thank for their support and contributions to my PhD project.

I would like to start by thanking my supervisor Ed Tan. Ed, you were the sole reason for me to take my project to the Amsterdam School of Communication Research. You have given me unconditional support and indispensable guidance from the very beginning, when I was writing my first research proposal and only few others in the department showed any interest or confidence in me and my research project, till the very end. In particular, I would like to thank you for guiding me through difficult times during the final stages of the project. I especially enjoyed our meetings that would more often than not turn into talks about our families and our upbringings, having a cup of coffee, dim sum or dinner with you, and catching Asian movies together. To me you were not ‘just’ an outstanding supervisor, but, in line with a theme that emerged from the research, I have come to regard you as family. I look forward to more talks over coffee or dim sum in Amsterdam, Copenhagen or, who knows, London.

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During the course of my PhD project, the Transasia Cultural Studies reading group at the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis was my academic shelter. I very much enjoyed the discussions, food and drinks I had with the group's members including Gladys Chong, Bram Hendrawan, Penn Ip, Svetlana Kharchenkova, David Kloos, Lena Scheen, Ian Yang, Guohua Zeng and aforementioned Yiu Fai Chow and Jeroen de Kloet. And especially Leonie Schmidt, it is always a joy to talk about all things Asia(n) with you. I look

forward to meet up with you in London and check out one of the city's many wonderful Asian restaurants.

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Last year I started to work as a lecturer at the department of Media and Culture Studies at Utrecht University. After having spent almost fifteen years at the University of Amsterdam, my new workplace could have felt strange and I could have felt out of place. Thanks to outstanding colleagues who have given me a warm welcome, it did not take long for me to feel at home. I thank my new colleagues, and in particular Vincent Crone and Hanna Surma.

During the course of my PhD project I have visited several international conferences. It was always nice to meet and mingle with colleagues from other countries, and one international colleague in particular: Andrew Loo Hong Chuang, whom I met at a conference in Kuala Lumpur and with whom I later set up a short-term collaboration between our colleges in Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur. Andrew, I enjoyed working with you on our program a lot, you have been an exceptional counterpart in the project. But more so, I value our friendship that grew out of this project. I hope to see you sometime soon in KL or Amsterdam, I will bring you stroopwafels!

A lot of people were involved in this research project in one way or another. First of all many participants filled out the online survey for the first study and I interviewed many participants for the studies on Asian parties and Japanese and South Korean film and television. I thank all participants for their time and effort. Your contributions to this research project have been invaluable. Secondly, several people have helped me to recruit participants for the three studies, in particular Urwin Sluisdom, Melvin Tiao, and Rienk Su. Many thanks for your help! Thirdly, a number of people assisted with transcribing the interviews: Rachel Kaersenhout, Lieneke Leep, Sherice Hudson, Jessica de Graaf, Siu Liën, Debby van Adrichem, and Désirée Oldenhuis. Thank you for all the work you have done and for your valuable feedback on the project.

In a way this research project is a continuation of my previous involvement with the Asian scene in the Netherlands and in particular my involvement with Asian Dutch online community VeryAzN.nl. So I also thank all the people who have contributed to my involvement with the Asian scene. The people who I co-founded VeryAzN with: my cousin Quint Hudson, Bryan Mendean and Jacques Nanlohy who introduced me to many aspects of the Asian scene in the Netherlands. And then there are the many people

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Why work in an office room, when you can do your reading and writing and have a good cup of coffee in one of the cool coffee shops in Amsterdam and London? So that is what I did. Quite regularly. In Amsterdam I spent a lot of time in CC Nieuwe Doelen, CC Oosterdok, CC Westerdok, Espressofabriek Westergas, Filter, and Il Memento. Fix Whitecross street, Hackney Bureau, Timberyard Old Street, Department of Coffee and Social Affairs, and Foyles were my favorite workplaces in London. A shout out to all the baristas for their hospitality and their nice coffees.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Authors' initials

Reza Kartosen-Wong (RK)

Ed Tan (ET)

Chapter 2

Articulating Asianness: Young Asian Dutch and Asian/Asian Dutch popular culture

RK performed the literature review, ET provided input. RK and ET developed the outline, research design, and online questionnaire. RK recruited research participants and conducted the online survey. RK and ET analyzed the survey data. RK wrote several concept versions and the final version of the manuscript. ET provided input for revisions of the manuscript. RK presented preliminary results at several conferences and submitted the manuscript to *International Communication Gazette*. RK and ET revised the manuscript for resubmission. Both authors reviewed and edited the final manuscript.

Chapter 3

Asian Parties in the Netherlands: (Re)producing Asianness in Dutch Nightlife

RK performed the literature review, developed the outline and research design, designed a semi-structured topic list, recruited research participants, conducted participatory observations and in depth interviews, analysed the data, and wrote several concept versions and the final version of the manuscript. ET reviewed all analyses and all versions of the manuscript and provided input for revisions. RK presented preliminary results at several conferences and submitted the manuscript to *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Both authors reviewed and edited the final manuscript.

Chapter 4

Imagining Asianness: Young Asian Dutch and Japanese/South Korean Film and Television

RK performed the literature review, ET provided input. RK and ET developed the outline and research design. RK designed a semi-structured topic list and short questionnaire, recruited research participants, and conducted focus group interviews. RK and ET analyzed the data. RK wrote several concept versions and the final version of the manuscript. ET provided input for revisions. RK presented preliminary results at several conferences and submitted the manuscript to *Journal of Communication*. Both authors reviewed and edited the final manuscript.