Post-Soviet Brides in the China Dream

This is the first interdisciplinary work on marriage migration from the former Soviet Union to Reform-era China, almost invariably involving a Slavic bride and a Chinese husband. To understand China better as a destination for marriage migration, Elena Barabantseva delves into the politics and lived experiences of desire, marriage and race, all within China's pursuit of national rejuvenation. She brings together diverse sources, including immigration policies, migration patterns, TV portrayals, life stories, visual and digital ethnography, to present an embodied analysis of intimate geopolitics. Barabantseva argues that this particularly gendered and racialised model of international marriage is revealing of China's relations within the global world order, in which white femininity embodies the perceived success of Chinese masculinity and nationhood. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Elena Barabantseva is Professor in Chinese International Politics at the University of Manchester.

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Post-Soviet Brides in the China Dream

Migration, Marriage, and Geopolitics Across Borders

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University of Manchester

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Cover image: Bridegroom Zhang Lan (R) and his Russian bride Ren Niya. Image by Imago / Alamy Stock Images.

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