

A case study of the culinary life of ethnic Chinese in Hamilton City, New Zealand

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Hamilton is New Zealand's fourth largest city and home to more than 1,000 ethnic Chinese (excluding international students), comprising approximately 1% of New Zealand's total Chinese population in 2001. This ethnic population is relatively small in comparison to other major cities, yet the culinary culture is rich.

This paper is a cross-cultural comparison, based on interviews and observation, of how different ethnic Chinese social units (including international students from mainland China, immigrant families from mainland China and Taiwan, and Chinese in a cross-cultural marriage) adapt their culinary practices and customs to adjust to their host society, including changes in ingredient use, cooking practices and serving customs. Are these changes based on any common attitude, belief, or value?