

# Mixed metaphors: Descriptive representations for transnational students



Donna M Velliaris & Luis J Frenzel  
ISANA: International Education Association Inc. Conference  
5 December 2014, Adelaide Hilton Hotel, South Australia

## International Students & Transnational Students



## Metaphors for Internationally-Mobile Youth / Students

advanced tourist  
 airport hopper  
 astronaut child  
 boomerang kid  
 boundary layer people  
 citizen of the world  
 complex multicultural childhood  
 composite self  
 cosmopolitan intellectual  
 crazy quilt childhood  
 cross cultural fusion  
 cross cultural kid  
 cultural bridge  
 cultural chameleon  
 cultural entrepreneur  
 cultural nomad  
 cultural translator  
 culturally calibrated  
 culturally marginal  
 culturally mixed  
 diplomatically immune  
 disciple of life

don't-fit student  
 global chameleon  
 global citizen  
 global educational mediator  
 global nomad  
 global patriot  
 global soul  
 hidden immigrant  
 homeless VIP  
 hybrid child  
 hyphenated  
 impermanent resident  
 interactive cosmopolitan  
 intercontinental wanderer  
 intercultural entrepreneur  
 intercultural kid  
 intercultural translator  
 international beacon  
 multicultural composite  
 multi-faceted life  
 multinational soul  
 new elite  
 new world fusion

nomadic child  
 parachute kid  
 perpetual outsider  
 perpetual traveller  
 portable identity  
 privileged homeless  
 professional correspondent  
 prototype citizen  
 resident alien  
 rolling stone  
 rubber-band nationality  
 satellite kid  
 sociocultural interpreter  
 third culture children  
 third culture kid  
 touring aristocrat  
 transit lounge  
 transitional cosmopolitan  
 transnational youth  
 unaccompanied minor  
 world fusion  
 world wanderer

## Lifestyle = positive or negative?

[positive] global + nomad [negative]  
 [positive] intercontinental + wanderer [negative]  
 [positive] multicultural + composite [negative]  
 [positive] privileged + homeless [negative]  
 [positive] resident + alien [negative]

[negative] homeless + VIP [positive]  
 [negative] impermanent + resident [positive]  
 [negative] hybrid + child [positive]  
 [negative] rubber-band + nationality [positive]  
 [negative] hidden + immigrant [positive]



## 1. Third Culture Kids (TCKs)

- expression 'Third Culture Kid' (TCK) was introduced when two social scientists travelled to India in the 1950s to study Americans deployed;
- TCKs integrated aspects of their birth culture—*first culture*, and their new culture—*second culture*, and created a personally blended 'other' culture—*third culture* unique to them as individuals; and
- more comfortable occupying the *space* between the practices of *home* and *host* cultures, otherwise known as the cultural 'third place'.



## 2. Global Nomads (GNs)

- a person of any age or ethnicity who has lived a significant part of his/her developmental years in one or more countries outside their passport country because of a parent's occupation; and
- paired *global* emphasising the individual's 'global awareness, skills of adaptation, appreciation of cultural diversity, adventuresome spirit and willingness to risk change' + *nomad* emphasising the 'sense of belonging everywhere and nowhere, indecisiveness, uncertain cultural identity and difficulty with commitment which can be the legacy of high mobility'.



### 3. Cross Cultural Kids (CCKs)

- individuals who identified themselves as TCKs, but who were concerned that they did not fit the original model; and
- CCK term was set-up to be more encompassing of all the children who could be experiencing a transient TCK-type lifestyle, including: (1) traditional TCKs; (2) domestic TCKs; (3) international adoptees; (4) immigrant children; (5) refugee children; (6) intercultural children; and (7) other children of cultural minorities.



### 4. Kikokushijo [Japan]

- children of Japanese parents who were transferred overseas and since repatriated are considered to be 'returnees';
- term was first used in the late 1960s by the Japanese Ministry (MEXT), for the purpose of establishing policies to deal with the rising number of predominantly 'elite' Japanese children returning home after several years abroad, and the problems associated with their social and education development; and
- over time, the perceived negative attributes of these 'educational refugees' has been exchanged for positive perceptions.



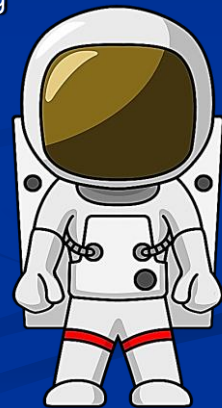
## 5. Parachute Kids

- this 'new' trend involves minors from several Asian countries immigrating overseas and who may reside: (a) alone; (b) with a relative; (c) with a family friend; and/or (d) with an unrelated paid caregiver;
- as young as 8 years, but the majority are between the ages of 13-17 years; and
- majority come from Taiwan, followed by South Korea, Hong Kong, and China, while smaller numbers come from Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.



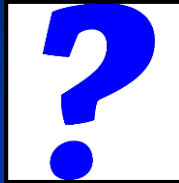
## 6. Satellite Kids

- families whose head of household—usually the father—is living and working in the country of origin to pursue economic advantages, while the remaining family members settle in a host country;
- absent parent is the 'astronaut' which is a derivative of the Chinese word '*taikongren*' meaning 'a person who spends time in space' and the children are termed 'satellite children' or 'satellite kids'; and
- stem from Cantonese-speaking immigrants from Hong Kong, while a second and smaller group of Mandarin-speaking immigrants originate from Taiwan.



## Interesting / Favourite Metaphors...

*airport hopper*  
*cultural entrepreneur*  
*cultural translator*  
*homeless VIP*  
*new world fusion*  
*privileged homeless*  
*resident alien*  
*rolling stone*  
*rubber-band nationality*



**Mixed metaphors:  
Descriptive  
representations for  
transnational students**



Donna M Velliaris & Luis J Frenzel  
ISANA: International Education Association Inc. Conference  
5 December 2014, Adelaide Hilton Hotel, South Australia