Record Nr.
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Titolo
UNINA9910782294003321
Thai Hung Cam <1976->
For better or for worse [[electronic resource]]: Vietnamese

roi better of for worse [[electronic resource]]. Vietnamese

international marriages in the new global economy / / Hung Cam Thai

Pubbl/distr/stampa New Brunswick, N.J., : Rutgers University Press, c2008

ISBN 1-281-39727-X 9786611397272

9786611397272 0-8135-4468-8

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (242 p.)

Disciplina 306.84/508995922073

Soggetti Marriage

Vietnamese diaspora

Globalization - Social aspects

United States Emigration and immigration

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Description based upon print version of record.

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. 187-201) and index.

Nota di contenuto Introduction : marriage and migration in the new global economy --

The gift of modernity -- Convertibility -- Globalization as a gender strategy -- The matchmaker -- Money -- The two unmarriageables -- The highly unmarriageables -- Conclusion : for better or for worse.

Sommario/riassunto Marriage is currently the number-one reason people migrate to the

United States, and women constitute the majority of newcomers joining husbands who already reside here. But little is known about these marriage and migration streams beyond the highly publicized and often sensationalized phenomena of mail-order and military brides. Less commonly known is that most international couples are immigrants of the same ethnicity. In For Better or For Worse, Hung Cam Thai takes a closer look at marriage and migration, with a specific focus on the unions between Vietnamese men living in the United States and the women who marry them. Weaving together a series of personal stories, he underscores the ironies and challenges that these unions face. He includes the voices of working-class immigrant men dealing with marginalization in their adopted country. These men speak about wanting "traditional" wives who they hope will recognize their gendered

authority. Meanwhile, young Vietnamese college-educated women, undesirable to bachelors in their own country who are seeking subservient wives, express a preference for men of the same ethnicity but with a more liberal outlook on gender-men they imagine they will find in the United States. A sense of foreboding pervades the book as Thai captures the incompatible viewpoints of the couples who appear to be separated not only geographically but ideologically.