

EP8-John Outsider_Marija

00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:03.440

(upbeat music)

Marija

00:00:03.440 --> 00:00:15.760

-Hi, and welcome to Untold Hong Kong Stories,

00:00:15.760 --> 00:00:18.800

multimedia narratives from the margins.

00:00:18.800 --> 00:00:20.440

This is a podcast series where we

00:00:20.440 --> 00:00:23.240

hear the stories of people in our community,

00:00:23.240 --> 00:00:25.280

from Hong Kong's non-Chinese locals

00:00:25.280 --> 00:00:28.200

to marginalized members of our community.

00:00:28.200 --> 00:00:30.240

We hope their stories will make us

00:00:30.240 --> 00:00:32.320

think about the way we live ours,

00:00:32.320 --> 00:00:35.400

creating a more inclusive and diverse society.

00:00:35.400 --> 00:00:38.520

My name is Marija Todorova from the Department of Translation,

00:00:38.520 --> 00:00:40.840

Interpreting, and Intercultural Studies.

00:00:40.840 --> 00:00:43.040

And our guest for today's podcast

00:00:43.040 --> 00:00:45.960

is John Outsider, an asylum seeker who's

00:00:45.960 --> 00:00:48.240

lived in Hong Kong for nine years.

00:00:48.240 --> 00:00:50.040

Here, he shares his story.

00:00:50.040 --> 00:00:53.520

[MUSIC PLAYING]

John Outsider

00:00:53.520 --> 00:00:58.720

-I was born in 1982 in Iran.

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Due to political problems, I ran away.

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I ended up in Hong Kong 2012.

00:01:07.440 --> 00:01:09.840

I like to be called John Outsider,

00:01:09.840 --> 00:01:14.040

as my pen and my stage name.

Marija

00:01:14.040 --> 00:01:20.560

- You made Hong Kong your home for this 10 years,

00:01:20.560 --> 00:01:22.800

if I can call it that way.

00:01:22.800 --> 00:01:27.560

So I would like to ask you, what does home mean to you?

00:01:27.560 --> 00:01:29.720

Do you feel you belong in Hong Kong?

00:01:29.720 --> 00:01:32.560

Do you feel Hong Kong is your home?

John Outsider

00:01:32.560 --> 00:01:36.240

- This is not accurate in my case, because I ran away,

00:01:36.240 --> 00:01:40.760

and then I stuck in Hong Kong.

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It wasn't my intention to stay here.

00:01:43.800 --> 00:01:47.920

And because I couldn't go back or forward, I stuck here.

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So Hong Kong is more like a detention.

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And my identification that is issued by immigration

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also says that, OK, detained under Section A37

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or something of immigration.

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So basically, I'm detained here, even

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though I'm walking around the city.

00:02:09.600 --> 00:02:11.560

So that's one of the things.

00:02:11.560 --> 00:02:17.160

It's basically legally I'm detained, not living here.

00:02:17.160 --> 00:02:21.680

And if you look at it psychologically

00:02:21.680 --> 00:02:26.360

through society's perspective, again, I cannot call it home.

00:02:26.360 --> 00:02:29.760

And that's not something just because Hong Kong

00:02:29.760 --> 00:02:32.320

being a special place.

00:02:32.320 --> 00:02:33.600

Hong Kong is part of China.

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And this East Asian mindset calls

00:02:40.080 --> 00:02:46.280

people who look like them, like brothers or country people,

00:02:46.280 --> 00:02:48.960

it's happening in Japan.

00:02:48.960 --> 00:02:51.640

It happens in Hong Kong, even some parts of Korea.

00:02:51.640 --> 00:02:54.440

If you don't look like them, it doesn't matter.

00:02:54.440 --> 00:02:57.520

Even if you speak the language, or you are there for a long

00:02:57.520 --> 00:02:59.440

time, or you are even born there,

00:02:59.440 --> 00:03:04.080

if you don't look like them, they don't call you one of them.

00:03:04.080 --> 00:03:06.800

I see a person that has been born and raised

00:03:06.800 --> 00:03:08.440

and speak the language here.

00:03:08.440 --> 00:03:11.400

But because looks white, they call him “guai lo”(westerner).

00:03:11.400 --> 00:03:13.440

They don't call him “Pan yo”(friends).

00:03:13.440 --> 00:03:18.720

And this tells me as a guy that absolutely have

00:03:18.720 --> 00:03:23.560

a different feature from them, I would never be one of them.

00:03:23.560 --> 00:03:28.040

And the other problem would be the mind.

00:03:28.040 --> 00:03:29.960

My mind doesn't work like them.

00:03:29.960 --> 00:03:32.480

I don't speak the local language.

00:03:32.480 --> 00:03:35.960

And I don't think like them.

00:03:35.960 --> 00:03:42.200

The whole idea of the identity of Hong Kong, identity,

00:03:42.200 --> 00:03:46.560

doesn't work for me as a person who doesn't believe in country

00:03:46.560 --> 00:03:47.080

at all.

00:03:47.080 --> 00:03:50.440

I don't believe on borders.

00:03:50.440 --> 00:03:55.040

To me, the identity comes to as a human being.

00:03:55.040 --> 00:03:59.120

And the home is Earth.

00:03:59.120 --> 00:04:04.240

People divide the home too much.

00:04:04.240 --> 00:04:07.000

That doesn't seem natural to me.

00:04:07.000 --> 00:04:09.200

So I can't call... not Hong Kong.

00:04:09.200 --> 00:04:13.360

But I feel like nowhere else home.

00:04:13.360 --> 00:04:16.720

And it comes with my name, outsider.

00:04:16.720 --> 00:04:17.720

I'm never in.

00:04:17.720 --> 00:04:19.240

I'm always out.

Marija

00:04:19.240 --> 00:04:22.600

- Yeah, I do agree with you.

00:04:22.600 --> 00:04:24.240

We are all human beings.

00:04:24.240 --> 00:04:26.200

And the Earth is our home.

00:04:26.200 --> 00:04:31.520

So borders do create differences, right?

00:04:31.520 --> 00:04:34.480

But then you said, at least for the time being,

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you can walk freely around Hong Kong.

00:04:37.680 --> 00:04:40.520

Is there any place in Hong Kong where

00:04:40.520 --> 00:04:43.880

you feel more included or more welcome?

00:04:43.880 --> 00:04:48.440

Or on the contrary, are there any places within Hong Kong

00:04:48.440 --> 00:04:52.800

that you feel less included or less welcomed?

JohnOutsider

00:04:52.800 --> 00:04:55.240

-I wish I could give you a simple answer.

00:04:55.240 --> 00:05:02.200

But we have to see what means to be welcomed.

00:05:02.200 --> 00:05:06.720

And welcoming-- yeah, I experienced family

00:05:06.720 --> 00:05:07.480

back in Iran.

00:05:07.480 --> 00:05:10.200

And that was to be welcomed.

00:05:10.200 --> 00:05:15.400

It didn't matter what I've done or how I think.

00:05:15.400 --> 00:05:16.880

We had a connection by blood.

00:05:16.880 --> 00:05:21.240

And then I could always go back to my family.

00:05:21.240 --> 00:05:26.720

And that feeling of being welcomed,

00:05:26.720 --> 00:05:30.320

it never occurs to me in Hong Kong.

00:05:30.320 --> 00:05:32.080

In the paper that says you're a detainee,

00:05:32.080 --> 00:05:33.640

you have to get out of here.

00:05:33.640 --> 00:05:38.440

It doesn't matter how much you do, how you think,

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how great you act.

00:05:40.640 --> 00:05:43.960

You can't be part of this.

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And when I'm aware of that, I have that in my subconscious

00:05:48.120 --> 00:05:53.400

or in the consciousness, in the proof by document,

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there is no feeling welcome anywhere.

00:05:56.440 --> 00:05:58.720

I can't because of the legal issues.

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I can't because of the whole ethnic

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being part of the ethnicity, the whole chain of behaviors

00:06:08.520 --> 00:06:12.080

and acts that happens around me.

00:06:12.080 --> 00:06:17.360

So when I arrived in Hong Kong, it was very bizarre to me

00:06:17.360 --> 00:06:21.480

that, OK, when I sit somewhere, people sit far away from me.

00:06:21.480 --> 00:06:26.320

And then I realized that, OK, it's not only about me.

00:06:26.320 --> 00:06:29.160

People, even they don't sit around each other.

00:06:29.160 --> 00:06:33.440

I see that the whole idea of being welcome

00:06:33.440 --> 00:06:39.120

is being taken away from people generally.

00:06:39.120 --> 00:06:46.880

Now, you're welcome if you have something for someone else.

00:06:46.880 --> 00:06:49.120

And usually by something, we mean money.

00:06:49.120 --> 00:06:56.400

And in this upside-down world, when I don't have the rights

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and I cannot be extremely rich, it

00:06:59.640 --> 00:07:04.000

becomes impossible to be part of Hong Kong.

00:07:04.000 --> 00:07:05.920

It didn't stop me from trying.

00:07:05.920 --> 00:07:10.320

I donated my blood as much as I could.

00:07:10.320 --> 00:07:14.120

I tried to join activities such as this,

00:07:14.120 --> 00:07:20.360

and even charity activities, helping in NGOs

00:07:20.360 --> 00:07:22.520

when I thought they are good.

00:07:22.520 --> 00:07:28.360

And even when corona started and people were running away

00:07:28.360 --> 00:07:31.240

from Hong Kong, I offered my help to the government.

00:07:31.240 --> 00:07:33.160

I wrote the letter.

00:07:33.160 --> 00:07:35.880

And unfortunately, they denied.

00:07:35.880 --> 00:07:41.760

They didn't even want my volunteering, my help.

00:07:41.760 --> 00:07:44.120

Then you get to a point that you see that, OK, they

00:07:44.120 --> 00:07:46.520

don't want your good deeds.

00:07:46.520 --> 00:07:51.720

But if you are absolute criminal from some countries,

00:07:51.720 --> 00:07:55.720

or you have millions of dollars from somewhere else,

00:07:55.720 --> 00:07:58.760

and you're welcome, then it doesn't bother me

00:07:58.760 --> 00:08:03.360

that I'm not welcome, because the measures of being welcome

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has been changed.

00:08:04.400 --> 00:08:07.960

So the only place that I feel welcome

00:08:07.960 --> 00:08:14.720

is by the beach, near the animals, buffaloes, mosquitoes.

00:08:14.720 --> 00:08:15.720

Mosquitoes are fair.

00:08:15.720 --> 00:08:18.160

They bite everyone the same way.

00:08:18.160 --> 00:08:21.400

So I would say I'm welcome when there

00:08:21.400 --> 00:08:22.080

are no people.

Marija

00:08:22.080 --> 00:08:27.760

- I know you are a very creative person.

00:08:27.760 --> 00:08:31.320

And you do like to express yourself creatively.

00:08:31.320 --> 00:08:35.080

And you want to express everything

00:08:35.080 --> 00:08:38.920

that happens in your life and around you in a creative way.

00:08:38.920 --> 00:08:43.120

And you've tried different modes of creativity, let's say.

00:08:43.120 --> 00:08:45.080

So you've written a book.

00:08:45.080 --> 00:08:47.160

You've done a film.

00:08:47.160 --> 00:08:51.800

So can you tell us a little bit more about your creativity?

00:08:51.800 --> 00:08:56.360

I also wanted to ask whether Hong Kong, the city,

00:08:56.360 --> 00:09:00.120

and its people, have they influenced

00:09:00.120 --> 00:09:02.640

your creative work in a way?

John Outsider

00:09:02.640 --> 00:09:04.000

I think everyone is creative.

00:09:04.000 --> 00:09:08.120

Everyone who does-- you make--

00:09:08.120 --> 00:09:12.200

you get an egg and then turn it to omelet.

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And then you already created something out

00:09:14.840 --> 00:09:17.400

of something else.

00:09:17.400 --> 00:09:20.080

And I know it's unfortunate that people

00:09:20.080 --> 00:09:24.280

try to even limit creativity to some category.

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Maybe for easier understanding, but this sort of limitation

00:09:28.520 --> 00:09:35.880

kind of goes against the creativity.

00:09:35.880 --> 00:09:37.880

Creativity should have the liberty

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of just making something new without having a label.

00:09:44.400 --> 00:09:51.720

In my case, I think I was a bit creative even back in Iran.

00:09:51.720 --> 00:09:53.960

I did a lot of poetry in Persian language.

00:09:53.960 --> 00:09:57.840

I am a decent poet.

00:09:57.840 --> 00:09:59.520

And at that time, I was in love.

00:09:59.520 --> 00:10:05.600

So of course, how I miss you, my heart is like this,

00:10:05.600 --> 00:10:08.160

my blood pumping out of my ear.

00:10:08.160 --> 00:10:10.040

I don't know, this sort of stuff I would write.

00:10:12.720 --> 00:10:19.160

And I had a sense of humor, kind of my psychological way

00:10:19.160 --> 00:10:23.720

of defending myself or getting out of awkward situation

00:10:23.720 --> 00:10:24.880

or grab attention.

00:10:24.880 --> 00:10:31.720

I was a humorous guy until some stuff happened to me

00:10:31.720 --> 00:10:32.480

back in Iran.

00:10:32.480 --> 00:10:38.760

And I lost a big touch with my creative side.

00:10:38.760 --> 00:10:43.480

But when I come to Hong Kong, I had illegal entry

00:10:43.480 --> 00:10:48.360

because I couldn't travel by my own passport to run from Iran.

00:10:48.360 --> 00:10:52.160

Unfortunately, we cannot do immigrating

00:10:52.160 --> 00:10:56.160

because you don't have the right passport.

00:10:56.160 --> 00:11:03.640

And most of the procedures are very lengthy and very difficult.

00:11:03.640 --> 00:11:06.480

So I had to use a legal passport.

00:11:06.480 --> 00:11:11.800

And when I come here, they put me in prison.

00:11:11.800 --> 00:11:14.360

And the funny thing in prison was that everyone

00:11:14.360 --> 00:11:17.160

had some ideas about Iran.

00:11:17.160 --> 00:11:20.440

Some thought that, OK, I have four wives.

00:11:20.440 --> 00:11:25.240

I didn't understand where that is coming from.

00:11:25.240 --> 00:11:28.920

Like some, they thought that, OK, the country is against--

00:11:28.920 --> 00:11:34.440

like country people are against US and this sort of thing.

00:11:34.440 --> 00:11:36.040

A lot of stereotypes that I faced.

00:11:36.040 --> 00:11:38.440

And I knew the facts.

00:11:38.440 --> 00:11:40.360

I knew that, OK, these are not true.

00:11:40.360 --> 00:11:46.720

Like no one likes four wives or four mother-in-law.

00:11:46.720 --> 00:11:50.120

Jesus Christ, that would be too much.

00:11:50.120 --> 00:11:52.080

But somehow, they still believe in it.

00:11:52.080 --> 00:11:53.240

So I stopped writing.

00:11:53.240 --> 00:11:56.800

I stopped writing to express my knowledge

00:11:56.800 --> 00:11:58.160

against these stereotypes.

00:11:58.160 --> 00:12:02.440

And also because of things that happened to me in Iran

00:12:02.440 --> 00:12:05.240

and I couldn't talk about it, writing

00:12:05.240 --> 00:12:06.960

was sort of a healing.

00:12:06.960 --> 00:12:10.560

I could process my thinking by writing them.

00:12:10.560 --> 00:12:14.240

Instead of them swirling around in my head

00:12:14.240 --> 00:12:17.960

and make me more anxious and paranoid.

00:12:17.960 --> 00:12:21.800

So it wasn't for sake of creativity.

00:12:21.800 --> 00:12:27.760

It was like survival way for me to start writing.

00:12:27.760 --> 00:12:32.240

And after that, it become sort of a habit.

00:12:32.240 --> 00:12:36.080

I wrote around 12, 13 books.

00:12:36.080 --> 00:12:40.720

I managed to publish 6, I think.

00:12:40.720 --> 00:12:43.400

6 or 7 of them.

00:12:43.400 --> 00:12:45.920

And I wrote a lot of poems.

00:12:45.920 --> 00:12:48.520

I did a lot of comedies, comedy stand-ups,

00:12:48.520 --> 00:12:51.920

some short, some long.

00:12:51.920 --> 00:12:57.800

And these helped me to express and survive.

00:12:57.800 --> 00:13:00.920

And it gave me some sense of existence.

00:13:00.920 --> 00:13:04.240

Like, it's not that OK.

00:13:04.240 --> 00:13:06.560

I'm really trapped.

00:13:06.560 --> 00:13:12.000

Because my body can be trapped, but my words can travel.

00:13:12.000 --> 00:13:15.600

So I put my words out there.

00:13:15.600 --> 00:13:17.200

Hong Kong, yes, affected.

00:13:17.200 --> 00:13:20.640

Of course, the best poets are the ones who suffer the most.

00:13:20.640 --> 00:13:27.480

If you see limitation, prison, detention,

00:13:27.480 --> 00:13:31.320

it gives you some time and it gives you a hardship

00:13:31.320 --> 00:13:35.240

which pushes you to question.

00:13:35.240 --> 00:13:36.760

Because if you do everything right,

00:13:36.760 --> 00:13:39.640

and then you get the opposite result,

00:13:39.640 --> 00:13:40.840

so there is something wrong.

00:13:40.840 --> 00:13:44.600

And then if you cannot blame others more than some level,

00:13:44.600 --> 00:13:47.800

you have to start blaming yourself and what you know.

00:13:47.800 --> 00:13:50.280

And you've got to dig deep.

00:13:50.280 --> 00:13:53.440

You've got to dig deep.

00:13:53.440 --> 00:13:56.480

This time was provided for me in prisons,

00:13:56.480 --> 00:13:59.680

in two, three times that I have been detained.

00:13:59.680 --> 00:14:04.760

And in long detention in Hong Kong,

00:14:04.760 --> 00:14:07.040

yeah, I know that I don't look like a detainee,

00:14:07.040 --> 00:14:08.800

but I don't have the right to work.

00:14:08.800 --> 00:14:10.320

I don't have the right to travel.

00:14:10.320 --> 00:14:13.320

I don't have the right to volunteer.

00:14:13.320 --> 00:14:15.280

I don't have the right to study.

00:14:15.280 --> 00:14:17.200

And then you have no right.

00:14:17.200 --> 00:14:20.200

My rights are less than a dog.

00:14:20.200 --> 00:14:23.600

Then I have to sit and do nothing.

00:14:23.600 --> 00:14:28.200

And then this caused me to pay attention.

00:14:28.200 --> 00:14:29.600

So now I have time.

00:14:29.600 --> 00:14:34.080

I have time to sit and observe two ways,

00:14:34.080 --> 00:14:37.760

one through inside and then one through outside.

00:14:37.760 --> 00:14:42.640

And by observing and then writing them down,

00:14:42.640 --> 00:14:48.360

some in a fictional way and some in just the way it is,

00:14:48.360 --> 00:14:52.200

some by harmony, rhythmic like a poem,

00:14:52.200 --> 00:14:54.720

somehow Hong Kong helped me to write.

Marija

00:14:54.720 --> 00:14:56.320

- What language do you use to write?

00:14:56.320 --> 00:14:59.880

I was just curious whether our audience can find your books

00:14:59.880 --> 00:15:01.240

and read your books.

John Outsoder

00:15:01.240 --> 00:15:03.320

- So in the beginning I started with Persian

00:15:03.320 --> 00:15:07.360

because when I come to Hong Kong, my English was very poor.

00:15:07.360 --> 00:15:12.360

I could just like say my name and like ask for address,

00:15:12.360 --> 00:15:14.600

which was bad.

00:15:14.600 --> 00:15:17.520

It was headache when I couldn't understand people talking.

00:15:17.520 --> 00:15:20.680

It was absolutely devastating.

00:15:20.680 --> 00:15:24.560

So I wrote a book in Persian that time

00:15:24.560 --> 00:15:27.280

and then I tried to approach the publishers

00:15:27.280 --> 00:15:32.280

and I got negative response.

00:15:32.280 --> 00:15:36.320

So I thought that, okay, let's do it in English.

00:15:36.320 --> 00:15:38.360

I have to learn English anyway.

Marija

00:15:38.360 --> 00:15:41.040

- So you learned English here in Hong Kong.

John Outsider

00:15:41.040 --> 00:15:42.480

- Yes.

00:15:42.480 --> 00:15:47.480

It was very quick because I got all my Persian connections.

00:15:47.600 --> 00:15:51.960

Not watching movies or music or any sort of news

00:15:51.960 --> 00:15:54.080

because it brings back trauma.

00:15:54.080 --> 00:15:56.440

Like you see one scene in a movie

00:15:56.440 --> 00:15:58.560

and then for few nights you cannot sleep.

00:15:58.560 --> 00:16:01.960

So why to do that?

00:16:01.960 --> 00:16:06.640

In one way was bad to be like away from the culture

00:16:06.640 --> 00:16:08.920

and good stuff, but in one way it was good

00:16:08.920 --> 00:16:11.240

that it helped me to learn English faster

00:16:11.240 --> 00:16:13.880

than usual procedure.

00:16:13.880 --> 00:16:17.920

And yeah, I published them on Amazon

00:16:17.920 --> 00:16:21.360

'cause legally I'm not allowed to publish anything here.

00:16:21.360 --> 00:16:23.480

It considers us business and making money.

00:16:23.480 --> 00:16:26.640

Then I will be criminal for publishing a book,

00:16:26.640 --> 00:16:29.520

which is a very serious crime, I guess.

00:16:29.520 --> 00:16:34.520

And so I put on Amazon,

00:16:34.520 --> 00:16:38.760

if people search for the books they can find.

Marija

00:16:38.760 --> 00:16:41.680

- Choose to search with your name, John Outsider.

John Outside

00:16:41.680 --> 00:16:44.640

- 'Cause I think there are more John Outsiders out there

00:16:44.640 --> 00:16:47.160

and I didn't advertise much.

00:16:47.160 --> 00:16:52.600

So it's like just somewhere in the end of the Amazon

00:16:52.600 --> 00:16:55.000

and like near the toilet, you know,

00:16:55.000 --> 00:16:58.600

those corners of Amazon, my books are there.

00:16:58.600 --> 00:17:03.040

But I'm happy to share the links if you want.

Marija

00:17:03.040 --> 00:17:04.960

- We can still try and find them.

John Outsider

00:17:04.960 --> 00:17:06.520

- Yeah, it's possible.

Marija

00:17:06.520 --> 00:17:09.600

- You came here speaking Persian

00:17:09.600 --> 00:17:13.000

and that's your native language, I imagine.

00:17:13.000 --> 00:17:13.960

That's your mother tongue.

John Outsider

00:17:13.960 --> 00:17:17.280

- My mother tongue is Turkish.

00:17:17.280 --> 00:17:19.440

In Iran, the first language is Persian.

00:17:19.440 --> 00:17:24.280

So we study and of course in the street we talk Persian.

00:17:24.280 --> 00:17:27.200

But in school they teach us Arabic.

00:17:27.200 --> 00:17:29.480

So it has a second language.

00:17:29.480 --> 00:17:33.600

We have some classes on English, but not really.

00:17:33.600 --> 00:17:36.520

They don't go to win it, but it gives the basics.

00:17:36.520 --> 00:17:41.520

So I knew the alphabet, I could read slowly a page,

00:17:41.520 --> 00:17:44.920

understanding like maybe 20% of a page.

00:17:44.920 --> 00:17:45.960

So these four languages.

Marija
00:17:45.960 --> 00:17:48.920

- So you speak Turkish.

John Outsider
00:17:48.920 --> 00:17:51.000

- Turkish, Persian.

Marija
00:17:51.000 --> 00:17:51.840

- Arabic.

John Outsider
00:17:51.840 --> 00:17:54.200

- Arabic, English and rubbish.

00:17:54.200 --> 00:17:55.760

I speak rubbish very well.

Marija
00:17:55.760 --> 00:17:56.600

- Okay.

John Outsider
00:17:56.600 --> 00:17:57.880

- And body language.

00:17:57.880 --> 00:18:01.280

That's above 18, so we cannot talk my body language.

Marija
00:18:01.280 --> 00:18:06.080

- Which of these languages do you use here in Hong Kong

00:18:06.080 --> 00:18:06.920

the most?

John Outsider
00:18:06.920 --> 00:18:08.200

- Of course English.

00:18:08.200 --> 00:18:09.760

Of course English.

00:18:09.760 --> 00:18:12.120

I wanted to learn Cantonese in the beginning,

00:18:12.120 --> 00:18:17.120

but then when I realized that they don't want me here,

00:18:17.120 --> 00:18:18.760

there was no point.

00:18:18.760 --> 00:18:22.720

And I thought that the procedure will be fast,

00:18:22.720 --> 00:18:25.120

I will be out of here like in a year or two.

00:18:25.120 --> 00:18:29.240

So there were never enough motivation to learn.

00:18:29.240 --> 00:18:31.240

And Cantonese is very hard.

00:18:31.240 --> 00:18:34.480

They have words that has many different meanings

00:18:34.480 --> 00:18:36.320

and they can pronounce it differently.

00:18:36.320 --> 00:18:38.800

I cannot, I don't have those tools in my head.

00:18:38.800 --> 00:18:42.000

It's very difficult.

00:18:42.000 --> 00:18:46.440

'Cha' can mean tea and also can mean fork.

00:18:46.440 --> 00:18:49.840

So you might go to a tea house and ask for tea

00:18:49.840 --> 00:18:51.880

and then they give you a fork.

00:18:51.880 --> 00:18:52.720

It is possible.

00:18:52.720 --> 00:18:55.880

You say 'cha, ng goi' (tea, please) and then the guy comes with a fork.

Marija

00:18:55.880 --> 00:18:58.080

- You can still use some Cantonese I see.

John Outsider

00:18:58.080 --> 00:18:58.920

- Oh yeah.

00:18:58.920 --> 00:19:02.400

Especially the curse words, the bad words I can use

00:19:02.400 --> 00:19:05.640

very well because they use it against me a lot.

00:19:05.640 --> 00:19:07.520

So you hear it a lot, you can use it.

00:19:07.520 --> 00:19:12.360

I'm not sure if I'm allowed to say here the bad words.

Marija

00:19:12.360 --> 00:19:13.200

- I don't think so.

John Outsider

00:19:13.200 --> 00:19:14.520

- I can shout it out.

Marija

00:19:14.520 --> 00:19:19.160

- For the end of our discussion, you did say,

00:19:19.160 --> 00:19:22.720

you feel that you are a detainee here in Hong Kong

00:19:22.720 --> 00:19:24.600

and that's what your papers say.

00:19:24.600 --> 00:19:27.960

And you did mention a few times in our conversation

00:19:27.960 --> 00:19:30.560

that first of all, you expected to be here

00:19:30.560 --> 00:19:32.320

for a short period of time

00:19:32.320 --> 00:19:37.320

and that you don't really see your future in Hong Kong.

00:19:37.320 --> 00:19:41.800

How do you see your future?

00:19:41.800 --> 00:19:46.000

Or to make it more specific,

00:19:46.000 --> 00:19:50.240

how can Hong Kong make you feel more welcome?

00:19:50.240 --> 00:19:52.920

And how can Hong Kong and its people

00:19:52.920 --> 00:19:55.000

help you see your future here?

00:19:55.000 --> 00:19:57.280

Is that possible?

John Outsider

00:19:57.280 --> 00:20:02.280

- So the thing is, if you see a goal in future,

00:20:02.280 --> 00:20:07.320

it means that you set a goal, you plan things.

00:20:07.320 --> 00:20:10.520

And then to plan things, you need to have the right

00:20:10.520 --> 00:20:13.960

to access to them or the tools to access to them.

00:20:13.960 --> 00:20:20.720

The uncertain situation that I'm here and without rights,

00:20:20.720 --> 00:20:22.600

I cannot plan anything.

00:20:22.600 --> 00:20:27.240

So it's very hard to imagine a future.

00:20:27.240 --> 00:20:34.160

But about Hong Kong welcoming me,

00:20:34.160 --> 00:20:37.880

I don't see it's possible.

00:20:37.880 --> 00:20:41.720

And towards doing welcoming something,

00:20:41.720 --> 00:20:43.400

the first step is to willing.

00:20:43.400 --> 00:20:47.400

And I don't see that willing.

00:20:47.400 --> 00:20:50.600

I cannot see that, okay, a Hong Konger say that,

00:20:50.600 --> 00:20:54.880

okay, oh, we need like middle-eastern, middle-aged guys here.

00:20:54.880 --> 00:21:00.640

Not really, it's not part of their value system at all.

00:21:00.640 --> 00:21:04.800

So I would say the first thing would be to consider that.

00:21:04.800 --> 00:21:10.640

First to consider that, okay, do we want a person

00:21:10.640 --> 00:21:13.720

that doesn't look like us, wasn't born here,

00:21:13.720 --> 00:21:17.160

but has certain qualities to be welcomed here?

00:21:17.160 --> 00:21:19.360

And then if you consider that,

00:21:19.360 --> 00:21:22.680

then you start giving some options.

00:21:22.680 --> 00:21:24.800

Okay, these options, these are the ways

00:21:24.800 --> 00:21:27.120

that we can consider a person.

00:21:27.120 --> 00:21:30.800

So I don't expect anything to happen

00:21:30.800 --> 00:21:33.160

because I don't see any desire behind it.

00:21:33.160 --> 00:21:46.220

(upbeat music)