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ANT 1045 - Migration, Labor, and Justice  
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Spring 2023

**Ethnographic Exercise #2: Migration Scrapbook Contribution**



This family photo above was the “object” that I submitted to the American Anthropological Association’s World on the Move Migration Scrapbook exhibit to represent both me and my family’s migration journey, directly showing our lives prior to immigrating over to the United States. This photo itself is from when I was around one to two years old and when my family was still in our home country of Taiwan, particularly taking place behind the counter of a FamilyMart store. This was the convenience store that my parents owned and operated between the two of them as their primary source of stable income in Taiwan. Although I do not have much recollection of when the photo was taken simply due to how young I was, the story of

the photo told to me by my mother was that a customer who frequently came to the store for quick prepackaged meals offered to take a picture of us altogether. I ultimately chose to add this family photo to the migration scrapbook because this old picture is one of the few objects we bought over aside from old clothing before our decision to move over to New York had been made. As a result, although my childhood memories of Taiwan may be limited, I wanted to use this photo as it reminds me of my early uprisings and Taiwanese background, especially as I supposedly often spent my time in the store with family rather than with a babysitter. Moreover, I submitted this photo to the exhibit as it not only is a personal reminder of the setting I came and grew up in, but also serves to be a reflection of my parents' migration journey and sacrifice. The photo reflects the successful business that my parents established and yet were willing to give it up to largely reunite with my extended family on my paternal side in New York. From this, this item also serves to be relevant to our class's discussion on the contributing influence of family in patterns of external migration, demonstrating how economic migration drivers don't necessarily always play a major contributing role as shown in my own family's migration story.