



Menu

Humans on the Move: Rachel

Posted on [Friday 06, 2015](#) by [QuikForce](#)



My life has always been defined by transnational movement and change. At the age of 6, I moved with my family from Singapore to Shanghai. At 18, I moved to the U.S. on my own for college at Duke, and

would stay for my graduate degree at Harvard.

Growing up in Shanghai involved a lot of international experiences, cross-cultural immersion, and travel. For as long as I remember, I would always have to pack up all my belongings every few years when we would move around from one city to the next, if not just moving to different districts in Shanghai. Thus, moving in and out of various apartments every year during my stay in the U.S. was not an unfamiliar experience, but a hassle at the end of a busy school year nonetheless. However, I also always found it liberating to not be tied down to any particular place, and knowing that the option of packing up to move across the world would always be available.

I love traveling, and even get restless if I am in the same city for longer than a month or so. During my years in university, I spent every summer and winter vacation in different countries. These last two years alone, I have visited more than 25 countries, including Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, China, Israel, Colombia, Turkey, France, Italy, Austria, and Thailand. But there are still so many more places I have yet to visit, and so many people I want to meet.

This willingness to constantly be in new environments, the thirst to learn and see more of the world has certainly led to a wide variety of invaluable opportunities, from being featured on TV or by magazines, to simply having a more well-informed perspective.

After graduation, I once again moved on my own to Seoul, South Korea, despite not knowing much about Korea nor having any close friends or relatives here. It is always difficult to settle into a completely foreign country where you do not know the language, but I have been learning a lot and have met so many kind people offering help and advice along the way. Given that I have strong ties to China, Japan, Singapore, the U.S., and now Korea, I am frequently asked where I feel most at home with. Although it is true that I still feel a special affinity with my birthplace (especially given I am often also referred to in the media as a Miss Singapore representative), I prefer to stay open minded as a citizen of the world. As such, I have no doubt that my identity will continue to be shaped by different international experiences every day.

(Rachel Leng, ASAN Institute, [Harvard GSAS](#))

Learn more about Rachel here--> <https://www.facebook.com/LengRachel?fref=ts>

This series is brought to you by [QuikForce](#), who acknowledges that moving is a major part of the human experience and often one evoking deep emotion and life changes. [Humans on the Move \(HOTM\)](#) seeks to spotlight such moving stories. New posts are published every Friday.

Want to be featured in Humans on the Move? Send an email to hotm@quikforce.com!

-Anastassia Goidina

Tweet

Share

0

Like 15

Share

G+1

0

Related

[Just Moved and Got an Empty Fridge? Throw a Housewarming Party! \(Gift ideas inside](#)

In scotland, global, flat, party, Moving Tips, france, traditions, apartment, culture, 집들이, international, housewarming, korea, ireland, new home, Life Events, ideas, moving



Posted in [global](#), [miss singapore](#), [languages](#), [Humans on the Move](#), [countries](#), [world](#), [jet-setter](#), [korea](#), [travel](#)

[← Humans on the Move: Alexander](#)

[Movers & Shakers: Anastassia Goidina →](#)

What are your thoughts?

First Name*

Last Name

Email*

Website

Comment*

Subscribe to follow-up comments for this post



Type the text

[Privacy & Terms](#)



Submit Comment



Recent Posts

- 🔖 [Things to do in Miami in June: Art and Music Festivals](#)
- 🔖 [Celebrating One Year at the Harvard Innovation Lab](#)
- 🔖 [Hidden Moving Costs: How to Budget for your Move](#)
- 🔖 [Washington DC: Neighborhoods for rent and things to do \(Part 2\)](#)
- 🔖 [Moving tips: Selling Online on eBay \(and PoshMark, Mercari\) Like a Pro](#)
- 🔖 [Memorial day weekend: NYC beaches and boardwalks](#)
- 🔖 [Living in DC: When is my trash day?](#)
- 🔖 [7 Tips for Saving on Moving Expenses](#)
- 🔖 [Brunch in Dallas: the new and tested](#)
- 🔖 [Tips for Finding A New Doctor After Moving](#)

Looking for something?

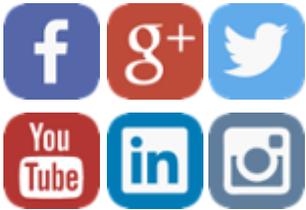
Search ...

Subscribe to receive new posts via email

Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Enter your email address

Subscribe!



A Hassle-free Move Is Here!



Search ...

Archives

 ▼

[Blog at WordPress.com.](#) | [The Gateway Theme.](#)