

***This workshop is organised by the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore; with support from the School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Australia.***

Although travelling across nations and crossing borders to seek medical care is not new, the rapidly increasing volume and velocity of medical travel at the turn of the 21st century soon raised its international profile and visibility. Especially with the emergence of the medical tourism industry, contemporary international medical travel expanded considerably as private hospitals stepped up their marketing to reach patient-consumers overseas and new businesses that sought to facilitate cross-country utilization of medical care proliferated.

In tandem with the growth of the phenomenon, medical travel/tourism as a field of research has also grown rapidly, with recent works encompassing ethnographic studies of patients' experiences and subjectivities in the context of diverse types of medical travel as well as critical studies of international medical travel as a form of engagement embedded within struggles for access and rights to health care, as a reflection of shifting geographies of care and responsibility, and as forms of interactive encounter at the bodily, local and national scales, shaped by processes of globalization.

This workshop aims to provide a platform for discussing empirical and conceptual works on international medical travel in the context of the politics of transnational mobilities in Asia. Viewing Asia as a region of diverse and dynamic transnational mobilities, we are interested in papers that explore the ways in which international medical travel has developed in the region, the local, national and regional mechanisms that both impede and aid international medical travel, and the negotiations and contestations that accompany it.

We recognize that while international medical travel encompasses a range of different types of patient flows, and although the term 'medical tourism' often conjures up the idea of people travelling vast distances for medical care, the major flows are by and large intra-regional, often initiated because of the lack (or inaccessibility) of treatment facilities in the patients' own countries. International medical travel therefore cross-cuts with people's everyday realities, with different types of mobilities and bounded-ness, and with institutional processes in local, national, regional, as well as societal contexts.

While open to different theoretical approaches, we highlight the following which may provide useful starting points for empirical analysis:

- 1) Transnational studies have fruitfully re-conceptualized migration and migrants' realities within transnational social fields that do not coincide with national boundaries. While medical travelers are not conventionally regarded as migrants, conceptualizing international medical travel as a transnational social field may serve to reveal the depth and extent of social relations, networks and institutions that underpin this phenomenon.
- 2) In modern life, access to health care is a crucial part of life and social security. The ways in which health care is accessed and utilized as part of everyday life constitute an important part of social reproduction. Are there ways in which international medical travel contribute to social reproduction that are distinct from, or that distorts, the social reproductive role of locally accessed and utilized health care? Conversely, how may international medical travel contribute to social transformation?
- 3) Sustaining international medical travel as practice, as an industry, or even as a country export, involves processes of institutionalization that diverge from established conventions in healthcare provision and utilization. What are the ideas, practices, and processes that contribute to the institutionalizing of international medical travel and its cultural reproduction?
- 4) Locating international medical travel in society necessarily calls for an examination of societal responses, from both host and sending societies. These societal responses range from solidarity and sympathy on the one hand, to resistance and hostility on the other. How do they play out in relations at various levels – individual, organizational, local, and national – and to what extent do they shape the shifting landscape of limits and opportunities in the provision of health and medical care?

## **REGISTRATION**

Admission is free. Please indicate your interest to attend by dropping a note to Sharon at [arios@nus.edu.sg](mailto:arios@nus.edu.sg)

## **WORKSHOP VENUE**

Asia Research Institute  
Seminar Room, Tower Block #10-01  
469A Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259770  
National University of Singapore, Bukit Timah Campus

## **CONVENORS**

### **Dr Chee Heng Leng**

Women's Development Research Centre (KANITA) Universiti Sains Malaysia,  
and Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

### **Professor Brenda SA Yeoh**

Asia Research Institute, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,  
and Department of Geography, National University of Singapore

### **Associate Professor Andrea Whittaker**

School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Australia

## 26 AUGUST 2015, WEDNESDAY

<b>09:00 – 09:15</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
<b>09:15 – 09:30</b>	<b>OPENING &amp; WELCOME REMARKS</b>
09:15	<b>Brenda SA Yeoh</b> , National University of Singapore <b>Andrea Whittaker</b> , Monash University, Australia <b>Chee Heng Leng</b> , Universiti Sains Malaysia, and National University of Singapore
<b>09:30 – 11:15</b>	<b>PANEL 1   CROSS-BORDER</b>
Chairperson	<b>Catherine Smith</b> , National University of Singapore
09:30	<b>Regional Circuits of International Medical Travel: Prescriptions of Trust, Cultural Affinity and History</b> <b>Andrea Whittaker</b> , Monash University, Australia
09:55	<b>Cross-Border Patient Movement from the Lao PDR: A Qualitative Study</b> <b>Jo Durham</b> , The University of Queensland, Australia
10:20	<b>Archipelagic Genes: Medical Travel as Creative Response to Limitations and Remoteness in the Maldivian Islands</b> <b>Eva-Maria Knoll</b> , Austrian Academy of Sciences
10:45	Questions & Answers
<b>11:15 – 11:45</b>	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
<b>11:45 – 13:00</b>	<b>PANEL 2   HOPE, EXCEPTION</b>
Chairperson	<b>Tabea Bork-Hüffer</b> , National University of Singapore
11:45	<b>When ‘Doing Nothing’ is No Option: The Paradoxes of ‘Choice’ for Australians Undertaking or Considering Stem Cell Treatments in Asia</b> <b>Alan Petersen</b> , Monash University, Australia
12:10	<b>Beautyscapes: Political Economics of Hope and Cosmetic Surgery Tourism in South Korea</b> <b>Ruth Holliday</b> , University of Leeds, UK
12:35	Questions & Answers
<b>13:00 – 14:30</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>

## 26 AUGUST 2015, WEDNESDAY

<b>14:30 – 16:15</b>	<b>PANEL 3   REPRODUCTIVE TOURISM</b>
Chairperson	<b>Maria Platt</b> , National University of Singapore
14:30	<b>Regional Reproductive Quests: Cross-Border Reproductive Travel among Infertile Indonesian Couples</b> <b>Linda Rae Bennett</b> , The University of Melbourne, Australia, & National University of Singapore
14:55	<b>In No-Man’s Land: The Stateless “Citizen” in Transnational Commercial Surrogacy in India</b> <b>Anindita Majumdar</b> , Manipal University, India
15:20	<b>Born in Hong Kong or the USA: The Rise of Mainland Chinese Birth Tourism</b> <b>Zhang Yanxia</b> , China Agricultural University
15:45	Questions & Answers
<b>16:15 – 16:45</b>	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
<b>16:45 – 17:55</b>	<b>PANEL 4   FACILITATING, MARKETING</b>
Chairperson	<b>Bernardo Brown</b> , National University of Singapore
16:45	<b>Exploring the Mobility of Inbound Medical Tourists in India: Perspective of Hospital Marketing Managers in Chennai and Delhi</b> <b>Thinaranjney Thirumoorthi</b> , University of Malaya <b>Che Ruhana Mohamed Isa</b> , University of Malaya
17:10	<b>Medical Travel Facilitators as an Integral Part of the Medical Tourism Infrastructure of Private Hospitals in Malaysia</b> <b>Chee Heng Leng</b> , Universiti Sains Malaysia, and National University of Singapore <b>Por Heong Hong</b> , University of Malaya
17:35	Questions & Answers
<b>17:55</b>	<b>END OF DAY ONE</b>

## 27 AUGUST 2015, THURSDAY

<b>09:30 – 10:40</b>		<b>PANEL 5   DIASPORA, RETURN MIGRATION</b>	
Chairperson		<b>Sallie Yea</b> , Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	
09:30		<b>Transnational Medicinal Travel: Circulation of Herbal Healings within the Hmong Communities in Laos, the US and France</b> <b>Audrey Bochaton</b> , University Paris Ouest Nanterre la Défense, France	
09:55		<b>Recovering a Hmong Body Politic: Type II Diabetes, Cure, and Return Migrations</b> <b>Mai See Thao</b> , University of Minnesota, USA	
10:20		Questions & Answers	
<b>10:40 – 11:10</b>		<b>MORNING TEA</b>	
<b>11:10 – 12:20</b>		<b>PANEL 6   JUSTICE, REGULATION</b>	
Chairperson		<b>Silvia Mila Arlini</b> , National University of Singapore	
11:10		<b>Stem Cells in ‘Zones of Exception’: The Market for Commercial Stem Cell Treatments in China and Possibilities for Regulation</b> <b>Jane Brophy</b> , Monash University, Australia	
11:35		<b>Standards, Metrics, and Protocols: The Regulatory Infrastructures of Asian Medical Mobility</b> <b>Ara Wilson</b> , Duke University, USA	
12:00		Questions & Answers	
<b>12:20 – 13:20</b>		<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>13:20 – 14:30</b>		<b>PANEL 7   FORMATION, PRACTICES</b>	
Chairperson		<b>Malini Sur</b> , National University of Singapore	
13:20		<b>Providing Medical and Extra-Medical Care to Foreigners: The ‘Parallel Economy’ in Corporate Hospitals in Delhi, India</b> <b>Heidi Kaspar</b> , University of Zurich, Switzerland	
13:45		<b>Medical Migration and Cosmetic Surgery in Northeast Asia: South Korea, Tracking Recent Patterns of Medical Tourism (1997- ), and Historicizing Aesthetic Norms (1945- )</b> <b>John P. DiMoia</b> , National University of Singapore, and Max Plank Institute for the History of Science, Germany	
14:10		Questions & Answers	
<b>14:30 – 15:00</b>		<b>COMMENTARY   David Bell</b> , University of Leeds, UK	
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>		<b>GENERAL DISCUSSIONS</b>	
<b>15:30</b>		<b>END OF WORKSHOP</b>	

## Regional Circuits of International Medical Travel: Prescriptions of Trust, Cultural Affinity and History

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Recent works on international medical travel examine it as a reflection of shifting geographies of care and responsibility as patients struggle to access health care. For many patients travel is a considered response to the perceived inadequate quality of care in their home countries. Distrust and dissatisfaction with the medical services in Indonesia was the primary motivation for Indonesian patients to travel for care. For patients, their relationship with their home state and willingness to travel for health care displays a contingent pragmatism expressed in terms of the desire for 'better doctors'. Within a context of generalised mistrust of the quality of medical services in Indonesia, in this paper we provide two case studies of how international travel by Indonesian patients from Indonesia to Penang in Malaysia is also embedded within regional circuits related to flows of trade and cultural and linguistic ties and facilitated by global transport and communication links (Toyota, Chee & Xiang, 2014). As examples we explore in greater depth the context of 'exit' by patients from the Chinese communities of Medan and by Acehnese patients to Penang. We describe how long histories of interconnections between these places contribute to travel for medical care. Medical care in Penang is described in terms of quality, comfort, and (for Chinese communities) the convenience of Hokkien-speaking staff. Although the focus on the inadequacy of doctors provides an explanation for their rejection of the services of their home state, regional, ethnic and historical affinities are important in their perceptions of trust and mistrust and choice of location for care.

**Andrea WHITTAKER** is ARC Future Fellow and Convenor of Anthropology at the School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Australia. She is a medical anthropologist working primarily in the fields of reproductive health and biotechnologies with a special interest on Thailand and SE Asia. Her Australian Research Council Future Fellowship studies the reproductive travel in Thailand and the region for sex selection and surrogacy. In addition, she is currently undertaking collaborative research on contraceptive use among migrant women in Melbourne through an ARC Linkage project and is part of another ARC Linkage project working on a longitudinal qualitative study of people living with HIV in rural and regional Queensland. She received her PhD from the University of Qld in 1995. Her major publications include *Intimate Knowledge: Women and their Health in Northeast Thailand* (2000), *Women's Health in Mainland South-east Asia* ed. (2002), *Abortion, Sin and the State in Thailand* (2004) and *Abortion in Asia: Local dilemmas, global politics* ed. (2010), and *Thai in vitro: Assisted reproduction in Thailand* (2015, Berghahn Books).

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**CHEE Heng Leng** is a (retired) academic previously attached to Universiti Putra Malaysia (1979-2003), Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (2003-2012), and Women's Development and Research Centre (KANITA), Universiti Sains Malaysia (2012-2014). She works in the fields of public health and healthcare policy, with a recent foray in marriage migration. Her current research project is on international medical travel, and she sees it as an intersection of her research interests in health care and in migration.

**POR Heong Hong** received her PhD from the School of Social Sciences, USM, in November 2014. Her current research interests lie at the convergence of cultural studies and postcolonial inquiry of issues regarding health, illness, medicine, bodies, gender and modernity. She is currently a research member of the Malaysian Ministry of Education funded project on "Traditional Knowledge", which examines how different forces and ideas – therapeutic, religious, scientific, and commercial – are interlaced in the process of forming a regulatory framework for traditional medicine and herbal products in Malaysia.

## Cross-border Patient Movement from the Lao PDR: A Qualitative Study

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Healthcare is most often examined within the confines of nation states. Such an analysis however is not necessarily indicative of reality, with people often travelling across borders for healthcare. Much research has looked at patient mobility from high to lower income countries. Less attention however, has been given to people from low-and lower middle-income countries who seek healthcare services across international borders. This paper explores cross-border travel for medical care by patients in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The paper will show that while travelling across borders for medical care is not new, how, why and who travels across borders has changed in tandem with changes in the political and socio-economic landscape.

The paper is based on a review of the literature and qualitative interviews with patients who had crossed the border for planned healthcare (N=43), Laotian medical officials working in public institutions (N = 5), and international health advisors (N=6). Patients came from different districts, a range of socio-economic backgrounds, had crossed borders for planned healthcare in the last 2 years and, based on key informant subjective assessments, were information-rich respondents. Drawing on the work of de Certeau, the study reveals the tactical practices of cross-border patients as they creatively use the resources at their disposal to obtain the healthcare they desire. In this way, cross-border health spaces consist of both the agency of people seeking care and the specific opportunity structures that evolve from the prevailing socio-economic and political structure as well as concepts of the nation-state.

**Jo DURHAM** lived and worked in South East Asia for many years before recently moving to Australia where she teaches at the School of Public Health, Queensland. She is actively involved in research related to access to healthcare, chronic disease and disability and the application of social science theory to public health issues and practice. Her other interests are evaluation and researching the political and ethical aspects of public health and public health education in different cultural contexts. She has benefited greatly, both personally and professionally, from living and working in different cultural contexts and how they shape health and education.



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## Archipelagic Genes: Medical Travel as Creative Response to Limitations and Remoteness in the Maldivian Islands

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The Maldivian Islands are known primarily either as a tourist heaven or as the drowning paradise when ranked among the climate change's first victims. Hardly known, however, is the fact that the archipelago has to face the world's highest prevalence of *beta-thalassaemia*, a genetic disorder affecting the body's ability to create red blood cells. A 300:1 sea-land-ratio, however, and a population scattered over hundreds of islands in the Indian Ocean is a challenging context both for preventive population-screening programs and for the blood transfusion and iron-control treatment of the beta-thalassaemia major cases. In this specific archipelagic healthcare setting the line between national and cross-border medical travel is blurred.

With a focus on hemoglobinopathies as the most prevalent inherited disorders in Asia this paper discusses Maldivian medical travel as a creative response to health inequity as the consequence from archipelagic limitations and spatiotemporal remoteness. Due to these circumstances, and based on a comparatively affluent standing as South Asia's only upper-middle-income economy, medical travel seems to become a self-evident intrinsic part of the Maldivian medical landscape. In one way or the other, it plays into almost every Maldivian's life. The country's first general health insurance scheme covers patient referrals to India and Sri Lanka under certain conditions. And even first graders can find the topic of patient mobility illustrated as an animal story in their schoolbook.

**Eva-Maria KNOLL** is a researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Since 2013 she has been an Associate Scholar of the Max Planck Fellow Group "Connectivity in Motion: Port Cities of the Indian Ocean", MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle (Saale), Germany. Her research interests focus on anthropology at the intersection with life sciences, health-related mobility and tourism. Currently she is investigating the treatment and prevention of the inherited blood disorder Thalassaemia in the Republic of Maldives. She has co-edited *Kultur all inclusive*, transcript 2013, *Camels in Asia and North-Africa*, Austrian Academy of Sciences Press 2012, *Lexikon der Globalisierung*, transcript 2011. Further workshop-relevant publications include: 2012: 'Reproducing Hungarians – Reflections on fuzzy boundaries in reproductive border crossing', in Knecht/Klotz/Beck (eds.) *Reproductive Technologies as Global Form*. Campus 2012. *Navigating Socio-technical and Moral Landscapes: Reproductive tourism in Europe*, doctoral thesis, University of Vienna, 2011.

## When 'Doing Nothing' is No Option: The Paradoxes of 'Choice' for Australians Undertaking or Considering Stem Cell Treatments in Asia

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For patients and carers, the decision about whether or not to travel overseas for treatments otherwise unavailable to them in their own country is not straightforward. Those searching the internet and other sources for options will be confronted with diverse information and advice. Neoliberal healthcare is defined by the rhetoric of choice, and yet individuals are compelled to decide in a context of imperfect knowledge and great uncertainty. This paper examines the paradoxes of 'choice' that characterise borderless healthcare, focusing on the experiences of Australians who have either undertaken or contemplated undertaking clinically unproven stem cell treatments in Asia. Drawing on data from a sociological study on the phenomenon of stem cell tourism, the paper reveals the critical junctures that typify patients' and carers' treatment journeys, highlighting the paradoxes of 'choice' that arise for those with no or few options for treatment in Australia. We argue, in light of these paradoxes, that the promised 'choice' in neoliberal borderless healthcare is largely illusory and calls for an investment of trust in those whose claims are difficult, if not impossible to verify. Acknowledging these paradoxes, we conclude, is a necessary first step in developing forms of governance for unproven treatments that are attentive to the context of contemporary healthcare.

**Alan PETERSEN** is Professor of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, Monash University. He researches and has published extensively in the sociology of health and medicine, science and technology studies, and gender studies. His most recent book is *Hope in Health: The Socio-Politics of Optimism* (Palgrave Macmillan, May 2015).

**Casimir MACGREGOR** is Research Fellow in Sociology, School of Social Science, Monash University. He specialises in the sociology of health and illness, science and technology studies and public health. His research and publications are concerned with clinical medical sociology and the biopolitics of science in the Asia Pacific region.

**Megan MUNSIE** is a stem cell scientist who combines her extensive technical expertise with an interest and understanding of the complex ethical, social and regulatory issues associated with stem cell science. Megan heads the Education, Ethics, Law, and Community Awareness Unit at the Australian Research Council funded Stem Cells Australia initiative and is based at The University of Melbourne.

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## Beautyscapes: Political Economies of Hope and Cosmetic Surgery Tourism in South Korea

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South Korea is reportedly second only to Brazil in the proportion of its population undertaking cosmetic surgery procedures. Cosmetic surgery is an industry that is tacitly supported by the South Korean government and features as both content of TV shows in the Korean Wave (Hallyu) and structure of celebrity gossip surrounding Hallyu. Since South Korea is a big regional exporter of popular culture, it is perhaps no surprise that many young people from surrounding nations have begun to travel there for cosmetic surgical procedures. This paper interrogates this specialist dimension of international medical travel – cosmetic surgery tourism – exploring accounts of Chinese ‘patient-consumers’ travelling to South Korea. We argue that the flows or ‘scapes’ in which cosmetic surgery tourism are embedded are complex and multidirectional. In addition we explore the accounts of South Korean surgeons which foreground flows of technology and national pride. We argue that cosmetic surgery tourism in South Korea can be conceptualized as a ‘political economy of hope’ in which cosmetic surgery marks the economic and technological success of both the modern South Korean nation and its aspirational, newly-moneyed Chinese clients.

**Ruth HOLLIDAY** is Professor of Gender and Culture and Director of Research in the School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds. She has published widely on matters of aesthetics, material culture and the body, and especially cosmetic surgery. More recently she has been working on International Medical Travel with a specific focus on ‘Cosmetic Surgery Tourism’ and her 2013 ESRC funded project explored this industry in South Korea, Malaysia and Thailand as well as a number of European and North African destinations.

**Olive CHEUNG** is Research Fellow at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore.

**David BELL** is an urban cultural geographer, and currently Head of the School of Geography at the University of Leeds, UK. He was a co-investigator on the ‘Sun, Sea, Sand & Silicone’ research project, and has also recently published on cultural policy, food media, and geographies of hospitality.

**CHO Jihyun** received her PhD in the Sociology of Sport from Loughborough University, which investigated the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games and its impact on Korean society (politics, economic, culture, society and sports). Her research interests include mega sport events, globalisation of sport and elite athletes’ life style - sport policy. She has worked at the University of Leeds on the ESRC funded project ‘Sun, sea, sand and silicone: aesthetic surgery tourism in the UK and Australia’, specifically exploring the accounts of Korean cosmetic surgeons and patients. She is currently working at the Seoul National University and Yong In University in South Korea as a part time lecturer.

## Regional Reproductive Quests: Cross-Border Reproductive Travel among Infertile Indonesian Couples

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Despite the anxieties and risks embodied in international reproductive travel, annually hundreds of infertile Indonesian couples make the choice to try their chances of conceiving via assisted reproductive technologies (ART) available elsewhere in Asia. This paper examines the motivations for, options available to, and choices of infertile Indonesian couples in relation to reproductive travel in the Southeast Asian region. Decision-making with regard to cross-border reproductive travel is complex, shaped by a matrix of considerations functioning at different levels. There is thus a need to apply a multi-level lens that enables us to explore the phenomenon from different and intersecting vantage points. We achieve this by employing a relational model that considers the salience of 'home' – within Indonesia, of 'away' – outside of Indonesia, and 'elsewhere' which refers to infertile couples' negotiation of safe or comfortable contexts (expressed as *nyaman* by Indonesians) from which to pursue assisted reproduction.

Regional reproductive travel among Indonesians is a transnational phenomenon simultaneously constituted through the existence of differing regulatory boundaries, and enabled by the permeability of national boundaries. This paper includes the first attempt to explicate the regulatory framework of ART within Indonesia. It reveals how the legal and socio-religious institutions of society limit the reproductive options available to infertile Indonesian couples whilst at 'home'. Subsequently, it teases out the reproductive possibilities for Indonesians within other Southeast Asian nations, with a focus on Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia, to provide an abbreviated comparison of regional regulatory frameworks. This establishes the reproductive potential of being 'away' in juxtaposition to the limitations of remaining at 'home'.

We also describe regional patterns of reproductive travel, commenting on how different countries are perceived and sought out by infertile Indonesians. The paper then turns to explore more personal and relational level considerations expressed by couples seeking to undertake regional reproductive travel. We apply the concepts of '*nyaman*' and 'elsewhere' to unpack the varied ways in which couples understand and seek out safe or comfortable contexts in which to negotiate assisted reproduction. This reveals that being located 'elsewhere' whilst undergoing cycles of in vitro fertilization may in fact be more favourable for couples who are unable to negotiate the levels of privacy, anonymity, comfort or autonomy that they seek at 'home'.

**Linda Rae BENNETT** is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Migration Cluster at Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (July to October 2015), and Senior Research Fellow / Research Development Coordinator at the Nossal Institute for Global Health at The University of Melbourne. Dr Bennett is a medical anthropologist whose work focuses on gender, sexuality, biological and social reproduction, reproductive and sexual health and rights, and gender-based violence. She has worked with youth and women in Australia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, including migrant communities in these locations. She has 20 years of experience researching women's reproductive and sexual health in Indonesia. Dr Bennett recently concluded an ARC Future Fellowship involving a 5 year study of compromised fertility in Indonesia. This project led her to explore the salience of reproductive travel for infertile Indonesian couples. She has become increasingly interested in exploring new ways of understanding reproductive mobilities and their intersection with the emotional geographies of human experience and the politics of stratified reproduction. She is author of *Women, Islam and Modernity: Single Women, Sexuality and Reproductive Health in Contemporary Indonesia* (Routledge 2005), and co-editor of *Sex and Sexualities in Contemporary Indonesia* (Routledge 2015, with Sharyn Davies) and *Violence Against Women in Asian Societies* (Curzon 2003, with Lenore Manderson).

**Mulyoto PANGESTU** is an internationally renowned specialist in the area of fertility treatment training. Since 2006 he has been co-ordinating and teaching courses on assisted reproductive technologies, fertility clinic management, and genetic diagnosis of infertility in Australia and Indonesia. He leads medical education for Indonesian Fertility Consultants at Gadjra Mada University (Yogyakarta), Diponegoro University (Semarang) and Monash University (Melbourne). He is also a committee member of the Indonesian Association of In Vitro Fertilization responsible for collaboration and patient advocacy, and is strongly committed to improving patient empowerment among infertility patients in Indonesia. Dr Pangestu and Dr Bennett were co-researchers on the first social research survey to be conducted with Indonesian fertility patients in 2011, entitled; "Survey of Indonesian infertility patients' reproductive knowledge and health seeking behaviour". Dr Pangestu also acts as consultant for three Indonesian fertility clinics.

## In No-Man's Land: The Stateless "Citizen" in Transnational Commercial Surrogacy in India

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Every year large numbers of aspiring parents from all over the world come to India to fulfill their dream of parenthood. They hire an Indian surrogate and with the help of assisted reproductive technologies (such as IVF) are able to conceive children they can call their 'own'. Since 2005 gestational surrogacy has become a lucrative industry in India through the availability of cheap gestational labour, and cheaper medical services. However, this largely unregulated reproductive tourism industry is facing roadblocks in international bureaucratic processes of identity-giving.

Grappling between different country laws, Baby Manji (2008), a Japanese baby, and the German Balaz Twins (2010) found themselves in no-man's land, literally. The intricacies of the two cases threw up questions about recognition and genetics, and their relation to the bureaucratic processes of citizenship that operate in the context of reproductive travel to India.

I wish to look at how medical technology, the state and international laws tend to define persons and relationships by regulating entry and exit in reproductive tourism. Despite its transnational character the surrogacy industry in India is involved in procedures of the identification of kin as citizens, evident in the ways in which the state identifies mothers and fathers. Through the discussion of three cases of parents navigating the citizenship process of their newborns the paper looks at processes of 'boundary crossings' and 'boundary maintenance'. The world of transparent and visible boundaries — and their policing in the case of medical travel — is seen through the transnational practices of granting citizenship.

**Anindita MAJUMDAR** is Faculty, Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities, India. She has been awarded the doctorate by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi. Her thesis 'Kinship and Relatedness in Commercial Gestational Surrogacy in India' has been recommended for the 'Distinction in Doctoral Research Award' at Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi by her examiners. She has also taught undergraduate sociology at the University of Delhi from 2006-09. Her research has been published in the *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, *Gender, Technology and Development* and *Economic and Political Weekly*. She has previously been invited to present at the American Anthropological Association, Freie University-Berlin, University of Copenhagen and at Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Anindita will be joining the Department of Gender Studies, University of Lund on a short-term postdoctoral fellowship funded by the Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET), 2015-16.

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## Born in Hong Kong or the USA: The Rise of Mainland Chinese Birth Tourism

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The number of birth tourists from Mainland China has been increasing very rapidly in recent years. Hong Kong and the USA have emerged as two major destinations for Mainland Chinese birth tourists. This paper examines the factors that influence the rise of Chinese birth tourism in Hong Kong and the USA, and compares the policy responses in these two major destinations. Based on extensive documentary studies and in-depth interviews with Chinese birth tourists, it explains how China's population control policies and emerging middle class create demand for the birth tourism industry, and how the birthright citizenship in the USA and the right of abode offered at birth in Hong Kong and recent relaxing visa rules for Mainland Chinese tourists promote the rise of Chinese birth tourism. This article further explores the social and economic impacts of the rising birth tourism industry on these two receiving societies and compares their different policy responses. The article shows how the demographic, economic and social welfare dynamics interact in the birth tourism industry.

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## Exploring the Mobility of Inbound Medical Tourists in India: Perspective of Hospital Marketing Managers in Chennai and Delhi

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Medical tourism industry has experienced a rapid growth in recent years, witnessing an increase in tourists' mobility to seek healthcare services. Even though India positions itself as a prominent key player in medical tourism industry in the world, strategic knowledge from the perspective of suppliers remains limited. This study explores the profile of medical tourists in India from the perspective of the hospital marketing managers in Chennai (South India) and Delhi (North India). It also examines various strategies undertaken by the hospitals to cater for the needs of medical tourists. We purposely identified and in-depth interviewed ten marketing managers, and analyzed the data using NVivo qualitative software. The findings provide insights on the South-South flow of medical tourists in terms of nationality and types of treatment they seek. We discovered that the managers from the two regions perceive degree of competition differently. Among the strategies deployed by the hospitals are customer oriented services, personalized services, collaboration with various parties, quality control and marketing and promotion efforts. The knowledge of medical tourism mobility and the current hospital strategies is crucial in facilitating the formulation of appropriate product development and marketing communication.

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**Kanagi KANAPATHY** is a lecturer and researcher, with about 25 years of experience in academic and corporate line. Versatile and effective educator, she has 15 years of teaching experience in higher education and 10 years of experience in manufacturing industry, in managerial positions. Kanagi Kanapathy holds a Doctorate in Business Administration from University of South Australia. She is currently a senior lecturer in operations management at Faculty of Business and Accountancy, University of Malaya. Her research interests are in operations and supply chain management, capacity and innovation management.

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**Jacob JOHN**, a dental surgeon by profession, qualified as a Prosthodontist in 1997. He served in the Tamilnadu Dr MGR Medical University, India and Ministry of Health, Malaysia and is now a faculty member at the University of Malaya Dental Faculty, Malaysia. Dr Jacob is a Life Member of Indian Prosthodontic Society, Associate Editor of Annals of Dentistry, University of Malaya, and a member of the International Association for Disability and Oral Health's Special Care in Post Graduate Education task force. He is the founding member of the Malaysia Association for Prosthodontics and presently serves as its Honorary Secretary. His special interest lies in Geriatric Dentistry and Health Tourism related issues.

## Medical Travel Facilitators as an Integral Part of the Medical Tourism Infrastructure of Private Hospitals in Malaysia

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This paper aims to situate medical travel facilitators (MTFs) in the institutionalized context of health care delivery in private hospitals. Drawing from case studies of three hospitals, we uncover the mechanisms used by the hospitals to manage MTFs as part of their organization of medical travel, showing how the MTFs articulate with hospital infrastructure and staff to generate and sustain the flow of foreign patients. This structural link is concretised, first by virtue of the fact that the MTFs are paid by the hospital, and second, through the contract signed between the MTFs and the hospital, which lays down regulations governing their conduct, and subsequent monitoring by the hospital. On their part, the MTFs legitimize their roles through the performance of various actions to cater to what they discern are the felt needs of the medical travellers. Foremost among these is to provide information and advice about which specialists to consult, an action akin to the practice of triage. They therefore position themselves in close juxtaposition to hospital authorities or the doctors themselves. Our cases reaffirm the importance of social networks in the facilitation of medical travel, noting that international medical travel cross-cuts with other forms of migration. Finally, even as the hospitals incorporate them, the MTFs in turn shape the delivery of medical care in the hospitals. By emphasizing their situatedness and connection in/with the hospital, we show that the MTFs and their practices are an integral part of how medical tourism is being constituted and incorporated within an institutionalized context of medical care provision and delivery.

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**CHEE Heng Leng** is a (retired) academic previously attached to Universiti Putra Malaysia (1979-2003), Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (2003-2012), and Women's Development and Research Centre (KANITA), Universiti Sains Malaysia (2012-2014). She works in the fields of public health and healthcare policy, with a recent foray in marriage migration. Her current research project is on international medical travel, and she sees it as an intersection of her research interests in health care and in migration.

**Andrea WHITTAKER** is ARC Future Fellow and Convenor of Anthropology at the School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Australia. She is a medical anthropologist working primarily in the fields of reproductive health and biotechnologies with a special interest on Thailand and SE Asia. Her Australian Research Council Future Fellowship studies the reproductive travel in Thailand and the region for sex selection and surrogacy. In addition, she is currently undertaking collaborative research on contraceptive use among migrant women in Melbourne through an ARC Linkage project and is part of another ARC Linkage project working on a longitudinal qualitative study of people living with HIV in rural and regional Queensland. She received her PhD from the University of Qld in 1995. Her major publications include *Intimate Knowledge: Women and their Health in Northeast Thailand* (2000), *Women's Health in Mainland South-east Asia* ed. (2002), *Abortion, Sin and the State in Thailand* (2004) and *Abortion in Asia: Local dilemmas, global politics* ed. (2010), and *Thai in vitro: Assisted reproduction in Thailand* (2015, Berghahn Books).

**POR Heong Hong** received her PhD from the School of Social Sciences, USM, in November 2014. Her current research interests lie at the convergence of cultural studies and postcolonial inquiry of issues regarding health, illness, medicine, bodies, gender and modernity. She is currently a research member of the Malaysian Ministry of Education funded project on "Traditional Knowledge", which examines how different forces and ideas – therapeutic, religious, scientific, and commercial – are interlaced in the process of forming a regulatory framework for traditional medicine and herbal products in Malaysia.

## Transnational Medicinal Travel: Circulation of Herbal Healings within the Hmong Communities in Laos, the US and France

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In this paper, we address the question of International Medical Travel by examining the role played by health networks in the transmission and commoditization of traditional medicine on transnational markets. Our study is based on Hmong healing plants gathered in Laos and sold abroad (USA, France) via the networks of the Hmong diaspora. These networks are an essential link between herbs collection areas, Laotian markets (Vientiane, Phonsavan) and members of the Hmong community living overseas. The emergence of this medicinal plant market provides important income opportunities, increases plant collection and reinforces traditional medicine knowledge.

Studies undertaken within migrants' communities often emphasise how people seek out different forms of medical treatment, often concurrently, ranging from 'modern' biomedical pharmaceuticals to the use of plant-based treatments and other forms of spiritual practice. The range of treatments used is often based on a combination of factors including accessibility, pragmatic needs and social and cultural expectations.

In this paper, we will explore how transnational networks shorten distances and renew the notion of access to healthcare. The growing demand for herbal medicine has several impacts locally, especially in the districts where villagers gather healing plants. The commoditization of herbal medicine also impacts host countries (US, France) as it supplements biomedical facilities and leads to mixed patterns in people's quest for medical solutions. Finally, we will examine how the circulation of traditional medicine through networks reinforces a sense of extraterritorial identity among members of the Hmong diaspora.

**Audrey BOCHATON**, health geographer, works as an Assistant Professor at the University Paris Ouest Nanterre la Défense. Her research mainly focuses on transnational mobility, health and care. She received her PhD in Human Geography in 2009 from the University of Paris Ouest Nanterre la Défense on cross-border movements related to health along the Lao-Thai border (The rise of a transnational healthcare paradigm: Thai hospitals at the crossroads of new patient flows, *European journal of transnational studies*, 2013; Cross-border mobility and social networks: Laotians seeking medical treatment along the Thai border, *Social Science & Medicine*, 2015). She also worked in the field of medical tourism in Thailand with Bertrand Lefebvre (The rebirth of the hospital: heterotopia and medical tourism in Asia on Tour: Exploring the rise of Asian tourism, Tim Winter, Peggy Teo, T.C. Chang, London, Routledge, 2008 – Interviewing elites. Perspectives from medical tourism sector in India and in Thailand, *Fieldwork in Tourism: Methods, Issues and Reflections*, Michael Hall (ed.), Routledge, 2010). Her current researches focus on the circulation of traditional medicine among the Hmong Diaspora between Laos, US and France (The commoditisation of therapeutic knowledge among diasporas' populations: the case of the Hmong in Lao PDR, in *Mobility and Heritage in Northern Thailand and Laos: Past and Present*, Olivier Evrard, Dominique Guillaud and Chayan Vaddhanaphuti, 2013); and on illicit circulation of pharmaceuticals in South-East Asia.

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## Recovering a Hmong Body Politic: Type II Diabetes, Cure, and Return Migrations

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Diabetes in the United States is a ballooning crisis that disproportionately affects minorities and those of lower socioeconomic standing. Rather than subscribing only to the biomedical management of diabetes through daily exercises and diet, Hmong-Americans with type II diabetes, who were born in Laos, insist on a cure that is found back “home” and that return migrations are also a return to their pre-diabetic self. Home remains an ambiguous yet politically saturated discourse marker: pointing towards Laos yet also territorializing Thailand, a place of momentary asylum for Hmong refugees after 1975. As guerrilla fighters alongside the United States Central Intelligence Agency, a large fraction of Hmong in Laos fought a covert operation against the Pathet Lao Communist Party. After the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Southeast Asia, Hmong who sided with Americans became displaced refugees. With this historical backdrop, I ask: *what is the relationship between cure and return migration, and what biopolitical possibilities does the desire for cure do for Hmong in diaspora?* In this paper, I examine how cure is actualized through the return migrations of Hmong-Americans with diabetes. The social interactions around a cure between Hmong-Americans, Hmong-Thai, and Hmong-Lao, I argue, produces a Hmong-American subjecthood that is tied to a larger Hmong body politic that territorializes the spaces of Hmong residence in Laos and Thailand. Furthermore, these mobilities reopen history for negotiation and remake their visions of the future through the frictions of globalization and hopes for a cure.

**Mai See THAO** is a PhD Candidate in the Anthropology Department at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Her research interests are: chronic illness, ethnic consciousness, and transnationalism. Her current dissertation research project examines the process of becoming a diabetic patient for Hmong-Americans as it is shaped by social and historical relationships to the Homeland (Laos/Thailand). She explores the materialization and consumption of the Homeland within everyday diabetic experiences and returns migrations. Her overall research goals are to understand how claims to health, life, and death are caught within notions of sovereignty. She also serves as a community researcher on Solahmo (Somali, Latino, Hmong) for Health and Wellness, conducting community based participatory research on health disparities with the Somali, Latino, and Hmong communities in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

# Stem Cell in 'Zones of Exception': The Market for Commercial Stem Cell Treatments in China and Possibilities for Regulation

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'Stem cell tourism', the practice of people travelling abroad to access unproven stem cell treatments (SCTs), has drawn criticism from the international medical and scientific community for being financially exploitative and potentially dangerous to the patients who undergo such treatments. In China, a country leading the world in the number of patients treated with unproven stem cell treatments, the development of their stem cell bioeconomy has been identified as a key area of growth by the Chinese government as a strategy of economic development and establishing itself as a global centre for clinical trials. However, international criticism of the availability of unproven treatments has forced China to address the perceived lack of regulation in order to leverage the value of the resources they have devoted to the growth of their national stem cell bioeconomy.

This paper draws on recent fieldwork in China, including interviews with representatives of SCT clinics, as well as representatives of the Chinese Academy of Science with an active role in determining China's regulatory approach. Building on Ong's (2006) 'zones of exception', and Zhang's concept of '*post-hoc pragmatism*' (2014), this paper examines some of the difficulties China has faced in attempting to regulate over the last few years, and the various strategies providers of unproven treatments have employed in order to continue offering treatments to foreign patients. For clinics and companies operating in zones of exception, they have proven to be flexible and adaptable. This creates difficulties for regulation, in that an internationally-recognised regulatory approach would enhance legitimacy for mainstream research activities, however the possibilities for top-down approaches may be limited by unproven treatment clinics operating in the margins.

**Jane BROPHY** is a PhD Candidate in the School of Social Sciences at Monash University. Her research is an examination of the market for stem cell treatments in China, and is based on ethnographic fieldwork undertaken in China, as well as interviews with Australians who have travelled for treatments. She also holds an MA in China Studies from the University of Melbourne, and has worked as a qualitative researcher in areas such as law and public health.

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## Standards, Metrics, and Protocols: The Regulatory Infrastructures of Asian Medical Mobility

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Medical services, particularly for institutions claiming international status, negotiate a range of regulatory standards concerning not only medical care but also economics. In a context shaped by local regulations, clinics navigate standards that were produced beyond their country and often outside of Asia. Through a focus on key sites associated with “medical tourism” in Thailand and with attention to intra-Asian medical travel, my paper discusses the practical negotiations of the regulatory infrastructures that guide and govern the provisioning of international medical services. The paper draws on on-going research on medical tourism in Bangkok (Wilson 2010; 2011) using approaches from Science and Technology Studies (STS). The STS approach calls attention to the making, travel, and modification of metrics that are constructed as generic and universal. This paper charts the multiple sources of this regulatory infrastructure, such as those from transnational trade agreements, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), patient privacy codes, or insurance requirements. The larger project it derives from considers of these two questions: One, how do medical providers articulate between “global” standards with local contexts? To what extent do their practices modify standardized metrics? Two, are the engagements with protocols concerning bodies and health related to protocols for business operations? The economic side of medical care is often presented as separate from the domain of health. Investigating infrastructural protocols can show where and how health and economic standards are connected or differentiated in institutional practice. A focus on standards illuminates the material and symbolic formation of transnational medical care in Asia.

**Ara WILSON** is Associate Professor of Women's Studies and Cultural Anthropology at Duke University. Her long-term research in Thailand has resulted in an ethnography, *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok: Tomboys, Tycoons, and Avon Ladies in the Global City* (University of California Press, 2004) and articles the Thai economic crisis and market shrines. She has an article on "The Infrastructure of Intimacy" forthcoming in *Signs* (2016) and other articles on transnational feminist studies. Her current book projects include *Sexual Latitudes*, exploring the transnational scale for sexuality, and an ethnographic study of medical tourism in Southeast Asia. This latter work has produced articles in *Body & Society* (2010) and in the volume *Asian Biotech*, eds. A. Ong and N. Chen (Duke, 2011).

## Providing Medical and Extra-medical Care to Foreigners: The 'Parallel Economy' in Corporate Hospitals in Delhi, India

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Literature on the emerging phenomenon on international medical travel has started to unpick patients' experiences (e.g. Aizura 2010; Kangas 2011; Kingsbury et al. 2012), to analyze political economy of the industry (e.g. Qadeer & Reddy 2013; Whittaker et al. 2010) and outline the ethical issues involved (e.g. Cohen 2012; Smerdon 2008). Research on the practices of attracting, caring for, curing and accommodating patients from abroad, however, is scant.

Based on the qualitative study in selected corporate hospitals, this paper examines how care giving to foreigners unfolds in corporate hospitals purposefully attracting patients from Middle Eastern, African, CIS and SAARC countries to Delhi, National Capital Region. As so-called medical tourism has developed into a veritable industry in India, corporate hospitals have been setting up services and processes to cater to the 'special needs' of foreign patients. In these hospitals, as a medical doctor aptly has put it, "there is a parallel economy" for international patients; e.g. queues to see the doctor can be cut and language interpretation is part of the 'package' – yet the bill is up to 40% higher than for domestic patients.

First, we examine what kinds of services, spatialities, processes and know-hows are assembled at these global curative places in order to cater to foreign patients. We highlight that the articulation of otherness is crucial; it invokes differences between domestic and foreign patients while assuming sameness within these 'groups' of patients. We argue that this practice allows corporate hospitals to sell extra services to all foreign patients, irrespective of the individual need. Hence, it foremost is effective in meeting the hospitals selling targets.

**Heidi KASPAR** is a Junior Lecturer at the Geography Department, University of Zurich, Switzerland and visiting fellow at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India and University of California, Berkeley, USA (Nov. 2013-April 2015). Her current research project on international medical travel to India unpicks the emotional, economic, social and health entanglements of this emerging practice. Beside medical mobilities, her research interests encompass economic, urban and gender geography, with a focus on the practical, imaginative and material production of space and place and feminist methodologies. She has published on flirting in fieldwork, interviewing as a method of urban studies and the production of public spaces in Zurich.

**Sunita REDDY**, is an Assistant Professor at the Center of Social Medicine and Community Health, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. She is a medical anthropologist, researching on various public health issues in India. Her research areas are health service systems, women and child health, tribal health, medical tourism and reproductive tourism and surrogacy issues. She has published articles in peer-reviewed journals, contributed papers for edited volumes and disseminated her research work in various universities abroad. She has researched on disaster issues from social science perspectives and published a book '*Clash of Waves: Post tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands*' (2013) Indos publishers, New Delhi. She is a core group member in formulation of various guidelines on disasters at National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi. She is a founder member of 'Anthropos India Foundation' a trust that promotes visual and action anthropology.



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## Medical Migration and Cosmetic Surgery in Northeast Asia: South Korea, Tracking Recent Patterns of Medical Tourism (1997- ), and Historicizing Aesthetic Norms (1945- )

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Since the early to mid-2000s, the South Korean plastic surgery community has lobbied for the ease of the legal apparatus to allow patients to enter the country for a variety of medical procedures, asking that both short and long-term visas be granted more readily. The appeal of alleged expertise in the “Asian face” has lent these elite professionals a positive image in much of northeast and southeast Asia, and many clients want to travel to Seoul and other major cities for their desired surgery..

At the same time, not every patient demographic fits the desired clientele for this growing market, as the system is based largely upon the notion that patients will pay out of pocket, thereby bypassing the ROK national health insurance scheme, for which the vast majority of them are ineligible.

This paper considers the unique and curious case of ethnic Koreans, many of them born overseas or having migrated earlier, who seek to return to South Korea for medical treatment, while remaining *within* the health insurance system. There are a number of ways in which such patients can document their heritage, and if successful, these individuals can receive coverage. By focusing on this particular segment of a much larger “Asian” demographic, I seek here to highlight the contradictions of the appeal of plastic surgery, and to emphasize the tensions brought by this specific group of medical migrants, Koreans who live and work at the boundaries of the nation.

**John DIMOIA** is an Assistant Professor in History at the National University of Singapore (NUS), where he currently teaches classes focusing on (1) the broader history of technology (esp. in EA, 18th century-present), (2) the history of medicine (tropical, global, 18th century-present), and (3) Modern Korea (mid-19th century-present). He is the author of *Reconstructing Bodies: Biomedicine, Health and Nation-Building in South Korea since 1945* (Stanford University Press / Columbia University Press: WEAI series). Along with his position in the History department, he is an Associate Fellow at Tembusu College, NUS, and a member of the STS cluster. He is working on two new projects: the first a book on energy issues in NE Asia and the Korean peninsula, centering in particular on the decision by South Korea to “go nuclear” in the late 1960s; an edited volume titled “Engineering Asia,” co-edited with Hiromi Mizuno (University of Minnesota) and Aaron Moore (Arizona State University).

## ABOUT THE CHAIRPERSONS

**Bernardo BROWN** is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, affiliated with the Religion and Globalization and the Asian Migrations clusters. His work on Sri Lankan Catholic return migration has recently appeared in *Contemporary South Asia* (2014) and *Ethnography* (2015). His current research projects focus on Catholic seminaries and priestly vocations in South and Southeast Asia. He received his PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Cornell University and was a postdoctoral fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden.

**Catherine SMITH** is a medical anthropologist with a special interest in the relationship between medicine and socio-political transformation. Catherine has recently joined the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore, as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Science, Technology and Society research cluster. Her new project will examine dynamics around malaria transmission as a means through which to explore health, social inequality and shifting state formations in Southeast Asia. Before joining ARI Catherine was a research assistant and sessional lecturer at the University of Queensland, and an Asian Studies Association of Australia Postdoctoral Fellow and visiting Fellow at the Australian National University. Catherine's doctoral research and forthcoming book explores how conflict survivors in Aceh, Indonesia have taken up the globalised concept of trauma and incorporated it into post-conflict healing practices and political imaginaries.

**Malini SUR** is a Research Fellow with the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore and member of the Asian Migration cluster since 2015. Her research interests connect three broad areas—borders, mobility, and citizenship—with a focus on South Asia. She has lectured at the University of Amsterdam and held a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto. Malini has published in anthropology and interdisciplinary journals including *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (forthcoming), *HAU*, *Mobilities*, *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* and the *Economic and Political Weekly*. She has co-edited a collection of ethnographic essays on migration entitled *Transnational Flows and Permissive Politics* (Amsterdam University Press, 2012). At the Asia Research Institute, Malini is revising her doctoral dissertation on a century of land politics and political violence in South Asia's northeastern borderlands into a book manuscript. Since 2014, she has been conducting new fieldwork in northeast India and eastern India on internal migration exploring the intersections of labour, religion and gender. She is currently completing a documentary film on these themes. Her fieldwork photographs have been exhibited in Amsterdam, Berlin, Bonn, Chiang Mai, Heidelberg, Kathmandu and Munich.

**Maria PLATT** is currently a Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore. Prior to this she completed her PhD in anthropology at La Trobe University. In 2007-2008, as an Endeavour Research Fellow, she undertook field work on gender relations and marriage on the Indonesian island of Lombok. Her PhD thesis explored women's capacity to exercise agency within marriages where Islam and local custom rather than the state are the key institutions which govern marriage. Her research interests include gender, migration and marriage, which includes the regulation of intimacy, within Indonesia and the Southeast Asian context.

**Sallie YEA** is Assistant Professor at the Humanities and Social Science Education, National Institute of Education, Singapore. She is also an Associate of the Asian Migration Cluster at Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. She has published extensively on the subject of human trafficking and vulnerable migrations in Southeast and East Asia, including a recent edited volume on *Human Trafficking in Asia* and monograph titled *Trafficking Women in Korea: Filipina Migrant Entertainers*, both with Routledge. She is currently conducting research with migrant workmen in Singapore and migrant fishermen on long haul fishing vessels through Singapore, considering the experiences of these men as expressions of precarious work.

**Silvia Mila ARLINI** is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Asian Migration cluster at Asia Research Institute. She received her PhD in Southeast Asian Studies from National University of Singapore. Her dissertation, 'Smuggling of Indonesian clothing products: its prevalence, incentives, impacts and institutional problems', considered the smuggling conducted by misclassifying the imported products as one of the significant factors plaguing the Indonesian small scale clothing industry. Her research interests are ranging from macroeconomic issues to social economic and policy issues. Under Global Project of Migration out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium, she currently researches on the issues of labour migration related to human capital development of the left behind family members, remittance, debt-financing migration and development strategies/policies. She graduated with a Master degree in Public Policy from National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan and Bachelors of Arts in Economics from Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia. Prior to that, she worked as an economic researcher in Indonesia and involved in the development of macroeconomic model for Indonesian Ministry of Finance. She wrote several books on the Indonesian Macroeconomic Outlook and also a book chapter titled 'the Economic Crises and Indonesia's Fiscal Policy Management' published by ISEAS, Singapore.

**Tabea BORK-HÜFFER** is Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation Fellow at the Migration Cluster, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS). She has studied geography, sociology and social anthropology at the Universities of Bonn, Belfast and Cologne and received the national award of the Association of Geographers at German Universities (VGdH) for her PhD thesis ("Migrants' Health Seeking Actions in Guangzhou China", Steiner Publishers 2012). Her research interests and publications center around the changing geographies of internal and international migration, migrant health and health governance, and the role of new media in migrants' place perception with a regional focus on China, Southeast Asia (Singapore and Malaysia) and Germany. Among others her work has been accepted for publication in journals such as *Erdkunde*, *Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie*, *Geographische Zeitschrift*, *International Journal of China Studies*, and *Population, Space and Place* (forthcoming 2015). Before coming to NUS she was Scientific Coordinator of the German Research Foundations' Priority Program "Megacities – Megachallenge: Informal Dynamics of Global Change", which comprises 10 projects and 70 researchers in China, Bangladesh, and Germany.