

The Migration Industry Facilitators and Brokerage in Asia

1 - 2 June 2017

Asia Research Institute Seminar Room
AS8, Level 4, National University of Singapore



Photo © The Star

The migration industry signals both the privatization of migration infrastructures and the increasingly formalized involvement of brokers and agents in migration. It comes as no surprise that the “migrant-broker” or agent has emerged as an important player to understand the dynamics involved in migrant trajectories. While the work of migrants as informal brokers persists – mainly based on the observation that low-skilled migrants pay a considerable price for their services – it has also been observed that without their involvement migration would often simply not be possible. At the same time, an increasing number of brokers operate within formalized networks and/or as part of professional organizations. As such we argue that an understanding of migrant brokers needs to go beyond kinship ties and clientelism and incorporate an understanding of how such networks and organizations operate within the transnational sphere of migration flows. Our aim is to zoom into mediation processes, institutional practices, and multiple activities of “micro-brokerage” involved in the facilitation of migration as well as the infrastructural support of the migration industry.

The workshop comprises of six panels organized around following themes:

- 1) **“State, labor organizations, and institutional brokerage”** addresses how state and non-state actors complement, collaborate with, and differ from practices that individual and independently operating brokers are engaged in. The set of papers in the first panel explore this connection by locating the role of the state and state-led agencies engaged in governing the migration industry.
- 2) **“Brokerage as knowledge production”** investigates specific ways in which migration brokerage materialize instrumentally, symbolically and strategically. The set of papers in the second panel documents everyday brokering activities in legal mediation, contestation over identity formation, and employment-recruitment work.
- 3) **“Brokerage, il/licitness and exploitation”** highlights the overlap, rather than the separation, between formal and informal channels and processes around brokerage that increasingly support the migration industry. Papers in the third panel bring a fresh empirical approach to this conversation.
- 4) The double panel on **“Brokerage in the domestic labor industry”** focuses into “micro-brokerage” activities involving individual agents, entrepreneurial brokers and institutional facilitators. The two panels (Panel 4 and Panel 5) are in conversation with one another on the topic of wide-ranging state-institutions and transnational networks supporting the ever-expanding domestic labor industry in Asia.
- 5) The final panel on **“Brokerage in the education industry”** examines the critical, often less understood, role of brokerage structure that facilitate student migration across and outside Asia. By looking into brokering activities that shape the contemporary ‘study-abroad market,’ the set of papers offer a novel approach to studying the commercialization of the education industry in general.

CONVENORS

Dr Tina Shrestha aristina@nus.edu.sg
Dr Michiel Baas arimba@nus.edu.sg
Dr Bernardo Brown aribeb@nus.edu.sg
Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh geoyosa@nus.edu.sg

1 JUNE 2017 (THURSDAY)	
09:45 – 10:00	REGISTRATION
10:00 – 10:30	WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
	Jonathan RIGG Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore Tina SHRESTHA Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
10:30 – 11:30	KEYNOTE ADDRESS
<i>Chairperson</i>	Brenda S.A. YEOH National University of Singapore
10:30	Simulations of Care: Brokering Labor in the Age of Robotics Anna GUEVARRA University of Illinois – Chicago, USA
11:15	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
11:30 – 12:00	TEA BREAK
12:00 – 13:30	PANEL 1 – STATE, LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL BROKERAGE
<i>Chairperson</i>	Elaine Lynn-Ee HO National University of Singapore
12:00	“Let’s Keep it Informal!”: Socio-economic Process of Labour Migration Mediation to Macau Melody Chia Wen LU University of Macau
12:20	Organization of Labour Migration through Institutionalized Relationships: Reflections from Nepal Bandita SIJAPATI & Deepak THAPA Social Science Baha, Nepal
12:40	The Organization of Talent Migration to Japan: Agents and Recruitment Fairs Hendrik MEYER-OHLE National University of Singapore Harald CONRAD The University of Sheffield, UK
13:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
13:30 – 14:30	LUNCH
14:30 – 16:00	PANEL 2 – BROKERAGE AS KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION
<i>Chairperson</i>	Melody Chia Wen LU University of Macau
14:30	The Omnipresent Migration Brokerage in Thailand: Providing an Alternative To and Mediating Legal Procedures Indrè BALČAITĒ Central European University, Hungary
14:50	The Migration Industry of Nikkei Filipino Migration to Japan: Brokering Japanese Blood for Cheap Foreign Labor Keiko YAMANAKA University of California, Berkeley Sachi TAKAHATA University of Shizuoka, Japan
15:10	Migration Brokerage as Networked Infrastructure: Foreign-Employment Recruitment Agencies and the Work of Recruiters in Nepal Tina SHRESTHA National University of Singapore
15:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
16:00 – 16:30	TEA BREAK

16:30 – 18:00	PANEL 3 – BROKERAGE, IL/LICITNESS AND EXPLOITATION
<i>Chairperson</i>	Johan LINDQUIST Stockholm University, Sweden
16:30	An Industry of Migration Frauds? State Policy, Migration Industry and Controlled Informality in India VJ VARGHESE University of Hyderabad, India
16:50	Precarity, Migration and Brokerage in Indonesia: Insights from Ethnographic Research in Indramayu Avyanthi AZIZ, Rhino ARIEFANSYAH & Nasiti Setia UTAMI University of Indonesia
17:10	Constrained Agency and Temporality in Debt-Migration for Construction Work in India Priya DESHINGKAR University of Sussex, UK
17:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
18:00	END OF DAY 1
18:30 – 20:00	WORKSHOP DINNER (For Speakers, Chairpersons & Invited Guests)

2 JUNE 2017 (FRIDAY)	
09:45 – 10:00	REGISTRATION
10:00 – 11:10	PANEL 4 – BROKERAGE IN THE DOMESTIC LABOR INDUSTRY I
<i>Chairperson</i>	Teresita Cruz-del ROSARIO National University of Singapore
10:00	Agents of a New Transnationalization in the Migrant Domestic Worker Industry: Expanding the Transnational Migration Perspective Anju Mary PAUL National University of Singapore
10:20	Micro-brokerage: Translation, Discretion, and the Migration Industry for Domestic Workers in Singapore Kellynn WEE, Charmian GOH & Brenda S.A. YEOH National University of Singapore
10:40	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
11:10 – 11:40	TEA BREAK
11:40 – 13:10	PANEL 5 – BROKERAGE IN THE DOMESTIC LABOR INDUSTRY II
<i>Chairperson</i>	Chand SOMAIAH National University of Singapore
11:40	Informality in Recruitment and Mobility of Indian Women Domestic Workers Going to the Middle East Praveena KODOTH Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum
12:00	The Prison-Classroom Model in Training a ‘Quality Maid’: From Disciplinary to Entrepreneurial Subjects Liberty CHEE Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines
12:20	Manufacturing Export-Grade Labor: Indonesian Migrant Domestic Workers at the Point of Production Andy Scott CHANG University of California – Berkeley, USA
12:40	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
13:10 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:30	PANEL 6 – BROKERAGE IN THE EDUCATION INDUSTRY
<i>Chairperson</i>	Michiel BAAS National University of Singapore
14:00	Schooling in the Migrant-sending Country: Learning to Labor for Low Wage Work Overseas Yasmin Y. ORTIGA National University of Singapore
14:20	State-mediated Brokerage System in China’s Private Study Abroad Market Shanshan LAN The University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
14:40	Brokered Education: The Migration Industry in Student Mobility Gracia LIU-FARRER & An Huy TRAN Waseda University, Japan
15:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
15:30 – 16:00	TEA BREAK

16:00 – 17:15	ROUNDTABLE - WHAT'S NEXT AFTER "OPENING THE BLACK BOX OF MIGRATION"?
<i>Moderator</i>	Bernardo BROWN National University of Singapore XIANG Biao University of Oxford, UK (via SKYPE) Anna GUEVARRA University of Illinois – Chicago, USA Jill ALPES VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands Johan LINDQUIST Stockholm University, Sweden
17:15 – 17:30	CLOSING REMARKS
	Tina SHRESTHA National University of Singapore
17:30	END OF WORKSHOP

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Simulations of Care: Brokering Labor in the Age of Robotics

Anna GUEVARRA

Department of Global Asian Studies, University of Illinois – Chicago, USA
guevarra@uic.edu

For decades, science and the public have been fascinated by the immense promise (and danger) of artificial intelligence. Globally, media headlines have loudly proclaimed the death of humanity with the ‘rise of the robots.’ While reports of such death may be greatly exaggerated, developments in the field of situated robotics have increasingly played with the boundaries between human and machine, intervening in the labor of care work. Such work has focused on the role of automation in revolutionizing arenas of everyday life, expressly using mimicry and simulation of human behaviors to achieve these ends. Of particular concern to this paper is the roboticization of care labor in education, health care, and domestic arenas, what I am referring to as the production of “simulations of care,” that are creating new forms of intimacy while blurring the boundaries between human and machine. These simulations now mediate and broker what I argue are new forms of affective and virtual migration. In this context, the paper will also revisit the notion of ‘global care chains,’ exploring whether it can fully account for the complexities of such contemporary forms of labor migration, articulations of gendered and racialized ‘skill,’ and changing relationships between human and non-human. In a technological era where automation, simulation, and mimicry are the new vocabularies of innovation and exploitation, this paper asks: what are new hierarchies, idioms of power, and theoretical frames to explore this altered landscape?

Anna GUEVARRA is an Associate Professor and Director of the Global Asian Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, USA. She is the author of the award-winning book, *Marketing Dreams and Manufacturing Heroes: The Transnational Labor Brokering of Filipino Workers* (Rutgers, 2010), an ethnography that narrates the multilayered racialized and gendered processes of brokering Filipino labor, the Philippines’ highly-prized “export” and is also a co-editor of *Immigrant Women Workers in the Neoliberal Age* (University of Illinois, 2013). Her work has also appeared in interdisciplinary journals like *Frontiers: A Journal of Women’s Studies*, *Social Identities*, *the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, and numerous edited anthologies. She is working on two projects. One is a book project that explores the simulation of care through robotic technology and its impact on carework, notions of racialized and gendered skill, and the geopolitical boundaries between the global north and south. Another book project (with Gayatri Reddy) is a community history project exploring the relationship between diaspora and empire by tracing the history of the descendants of Indian Sepoys who settled in the Philippines after the 18th century British occupation of the country.

**“Let’s Keep it Informal!”:
Socio-economic Process of Labour Migration Mediation to Macau**

Melody Chia Wen LU

Department of Sociology, University of Macau, SAR, China
melodylu@umac.mo

In contrast to increasingly rigid migration regimes in receiving countries in East and Southeast Asia, Macau is considered by some migrants as a “secret paradise”, in that its laissez faire migration regime renders migrants choices and autonomy, such as options of living-in or staying-out, changing employers, mobility between job sectors (domestic work or service work in hospitality and tourism sectors), and the possibility of moonlighting. Typically they enter Macau with a one-month tourist visa and find a job and an employer during this period. These conditions on the one hand allow migrants to bypass brokering agencies and sending governments’ protection regimes; on the other hand, they need to rely heavily on social and kinship networks in gaining knowledge of the migration regime, formal and informal job opportunities and mobility, and arrangements such as housing, health, remittances, and social life. The knowledge includes a stratified system of job desirability. In this paper I document the socio-economic logics of such knowledge, how it is obtained and against what cost.

This laissez faire migration system, I argue, is not the result of a “less graduated” regime and weak governance, nor due to the advocacy of migrants’ rights. In this paper I will illustrate how the actors in the migration industry, i.e. the migrant brokers (among whom many are migrants themselves), the employers, and migrant workers form a strange alliance in resisting government’s migration control and bureaucratization. Drawing from a recent government’s proposal of tightening migration control and the responses from these actors, I analyze how informalization of migration mediation and of labour market benefits these actors in ways that are sufficient to resolve their antagonism and to maintain a balance of respective power positions. Macau’s case provides a counterexample of the global trend of institutionalization of migration control and commercialization of brokerage.

Trained in anthropology and development sociology, **Melody Chia-Wen LU** teaches migration and transnationalism, consumption and leisure, gender and sexuality in the Department of Sociology, University of Macau. Her research interests include marriage migration and transnational families, the intersection of care and migration regimes in Asia, and labour mobility in the leisure and gaming industry. She is editor of *Asian Cross-border Marriage Migration: Demographic Patterns and Social Issues* (2010, with Yang Wen-Shan) and the author/co-author of journal articles in *Global Networks*, *Citizenship Studies*, *Environment & Planning D* and *Current Sociology*, and several book chapters. Prior to joining the University of Macau, she was Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute (Asian Migration cluster), National University of Singapore and the International Institute for Asian Studies, the Netherlands.

Organization of Labour Migration through Institutionalized Relationships: Reflections from Nepal

Bandita SIJAPATI

Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford, UK, and
Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility, Social Science Baha, Nepal
bsijapati@ceslam.org

Deepak THAPA

Social Science Baha, Nepal
dthapa@soscbaha.org

One of the characteristic features of present-day Nepal is the high mobility of people, especially for foreign employment. Presently, approximately 1,700 people leave the country on a daily basis for employment abroad (GoN, 2016).¹ While the movement of people is generally considered a function of social, political and economic conditions, and in many regards, a familiar and common practice, the dramatic increase in the outflow of Nepalis presents formidable challenges. To address these, the Government of Nepal like many other countries has focused its policy initiatives on the management of recruitment process to secure the rights and well-being of migrant workers. Using the example of a recent policy initiative, the 'free visa, free ticket' policy, we argue that the institutional regulations and policy practices meant to govern the recruitment industry, particularly controlling the exploitative recruitment practices, has paradoxically worked to restrict the agency of mobile individuals and at times also rendered them more vulnerable to abuses and exploitation at the very hands of the recruitment machinery these practices are instead meant to protect them from.

Bandita SIJAPATI is currently associated with the University of Oxford as a Visiting Academic at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS). She holds a PhD from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, New York. She has a Master's degree from Columbia University, New York, and a Bachelor's from Macalester College, Minnesota. Her main fields of research include migration, labour markets, political transitions and economic development. She is currently working on issues relating to low-skilled migrant workers from South Asia to countries in the Gulf and Southeast Asia. She is author of several monographs and articles on migration, inclusion, urbanization, and transnationalism. Prior to joining COMPAS, she served as Research Director at the Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) at Social Science Baha, Kathmandu. Additionally, she has also served as an advisor to the Government of Nepal on matters relating to labour and migration, and also worked as a consultant for the World Bank, International Labour Organization, Asian Development Bank, and the International Organization for Migration.

Deepak THAPA is Director of Social Science Baha. His research interest includes Nepali politics and society, and has a number of articles and book chapters to his credit. He has also written extensively on Nepal's Maoist conflict and has been a Visiting Fellow at Columbia University.

¹ These figures include people leaving for countries other than India. Nepalis (and Indians) are not required to get labour authorisation from their respective governments to work in the other country.

The Organization of Talent Migration to Japan: Agents and Recruitment Fairs

Hendrik MEYER-OHLE

Department of Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore
meyerohle@nus.edu.sg

Harald CONRAD

School of East Asian Studies, University of Sheffield, UK
h.conrad@sheffield.ac.uk

Japan is not known for its openness towards immigrants and where it has opened its doors this has usually either led to reports on highly ambiguous movement schemes or high bureaucratic hurdles. Yet, in one area Japan has recently shown a lot of openness, the recruitment of foreign university graduates. Japanese companies have begun to hire large number of fresh foreign university graduates as regular employees into their operations in Japan. This initiative goes beyond the recruitment of foreign students from universities in Japan and includes the setting of ambitious numerical objectives and the systematic recruitment of fresh graduates from overseas universities. In their recruitment activities companies are supported by private recruitment companies and government agencies. This paper analyzes the above new recruitment initiative and the interplay between companies and recruitment agents in the emergence of a new recruitment trend by looking at the specialized recruitment fairs for Non-Japanese fresh graduates that Japanese agents organize overseas and in Japan itself. For example, Singapore alone sees three major recruitment events annually, with some of the participating students being brought in from neighboring countries. Findings can be contrasted with the general discourse on brokerage and migration that has so far largely neglected the role of brokerage in so-called talent migration. Findings are based on a review of primary sources, observations at several recruitment fairs and interviews with representatives of recruitment agencies, companies and university career offices, as well as with over 30 young foreign employees currently working in Japan.

Hendrik MEYER-OHLE is Associate Professor in the Department of Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore, where he is researching and teaching on business, marketing and consumer culture in Japan. Before joining the National University of Singapore he worked for the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo from 1995 to 1999.

Harald CONRAD is Sasakawa Lecturer in Japan's Economy and Management at the University of Sheffield's School of East Asian Studies. Harald's research focuses on Japanese and comparative social policy, industrial relations, human resource management, economic issues related to demographic change and cross-cultural negotiation behaviour.

The Omnipresent Migration Brokerage in Thailand: Providing an Alternative To and Mediating Legal Procedures

Indrė BALČAITĖ

Central European University, Hungary
balcaitei@ceu.edu

Migration brokerage thrives under restrictive, changeable, lengthy and costly immigration procedures. Since the 1990s, Thailand is dependent on the low-paid labour from neighbouring countries but to this day has no a stable policy for its import. Meanwhile, human smuggling and other formal and informal brokerage industries are well-established. Although the Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar signed in the 2000s established a framework for issuing visas for low-skilled migrants, this 'legal' channel remains underused. Burmese migrant labour activists consider it 'legal trafficking' as migrants pay higher fees, cannot choose or change jobs and have fewer rights. Instead, more first-time Burmese migrants arrive in Thailand undocumented with the help of a smuggler, which allows them to avoid delays, spend less and obtain documentation once already working in Thailand. Based on interviews with mostly Karen migrants from Myanmar to Thailand intermittently between 2012 and 2016, I argue that going 'illegally' and thus being able to choose their broker gives migrants more sense of control. As I elaborate in the paper, both the 'legal' and 'illegal' channels of travel are heavily brokered, as well as the 'legalisation' process itself. Hiring brokers is standard practice both in dealings with Thai immigration authorities (regarding work permits and visas, re-entry permits before leaving Thailand and regular self-reporting) and Myanmar embassy (e.g. obtaining passports). As requirements keep changing, paperwork demands are superfluous, queues long and officers do not provide clear information, brokerage offers a greater chance of success.

Indrė BALČAITĖ researches the interaction of migration flows and borders across the legality/illegality continuum from an interdisciplinary perspective. She specialises in mainland Southeast Asia. Indrė completed her PhD in Politics and International Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, in 2016. Her doctorate built on long-term cross-border ethnographic fieldwork that included extensive interviewing of Phlong Karen migrants from central Kayin State of Myanmar to Thailand. She is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Central European University in Budapest.

The Migration Industry of Nikkei Filipino Migration to Japan: Brokering Japanese Blood for Cheap Foreign Labor

Keiko YAMANAKA

Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California – Berkeley, USA
yamanaka@berkeley.edu

Sachi TAKAHATA

School of International Relations, University of Shizuoka, Japan
takahata@u-shizuoka-ken.ac.jp

Since the 1970s Filipino women worked in Japan as entertainers and bar hostesses. Their intimate contact with Japanese men often resulted in cross-border relationships, either formal or informal, leading to births of children growing up in either mother's or father's land. Following the 2008 Supreme Court decision, the 2009 Revised Japanese Nationality Law granted Japanese citizenship to child born to unwed foreign mother and Japanese father, provided that the father acknowledged the child as his even after birth. The Law has opened new rights and opportunities for foreign mothers, most of whom are Filipino, with children eligible for Japanese citizenship called "New Nikkei Filipinos" estimated at 30,000. It has also given rise to the new economic actors who intermediate between labor demands of Japanese industries on the one hand, and desires of Philippine-residing mothers with Nikkei children to immigrate and work in Japan on the other. Unlike Nikkei Latin Americans whose Japanese ancestry is proven prior to migration and hence needing brokering service only for employment, Nikkei Filipinos must corroborate their Japanese blood by negotiating with Japanese fathers and therefore need support for obtaining Japanese citizenship before their mothers' employment is arranged by commercial recruiters. Based on the data collected in a community of Nikkei Filipino children and their mothers engaged in fish processing in Central Japan, this study proposes to examine: (1) historical continuity in mobilizing the recruiters' network; (2) intersections of recruiter' services and those of rights advocacy groups; and (3) employment and community of mothers and Nikkei children in Japan.

Keiko YAMANAKA is Continuing Lecturer of Ethnic Studies, University of California- Berkeley, USA. Since the 1990s she has conducted research on diverse communities of new immigrant workers in Japan, including Nikkei Brazilians, unauthorized Nepalese, and more recently Filipino immigrant wives. Focusing on civic support activities, she has been interested in how grassroots groups influence immigration policies in East Asia. Her recent publications include: *Wind over Water: Migration in an East Asian Context* (2012, Berghahn Books, coeditor); "Achieving Local citizenship in Rural Japan: Filipina Wives in Organized Activism," in Yuk Wah Chan, David Haines and Jonathan Lee (eds.), 2014, *The Age of Asian Migration: Continuity, Diversity, and Susceptibility*. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing; "Diverging Paths, Converging Ends: Japan and Korea's Low-skilled Immigration Policies, 1990 to 2010," in John Lie (ed.), 2015, *Multiethnic/Multicultural Korea*, Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies (IEAS) Publications, University of California, Berkeley.

Sachi TAKAHATA is Associate Professor of the School of International Relations, University of Shizuoka, Japan. She completed her PhD in sociology at Osaka City University. Fluent in both English and Tagalog, she has conducted fieldwork on Filipino migrants in Japan since the 1990s. She has also investigated immigration and settlement of other communities, including ethnic Koreans, Nikkei Brazilians and Nikkei Filipinos. Her recent publications include: "Foreign Care Workers in Underpopulated Areas and Local Cities: Follow-up Research on 49 Certified Filipino Care Worker Candidates under the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement," 2014, *The Annals of Japan Association for Urban Sociology*, 32: 133-148 (in Japanese); "From the Philippines to Japan: Marriage Migrants and the New Nikkei Filipinos," in Yoshitaka Ishikawa (ed.), 2015, *International Migrants in Japan: Contributions in an Era of Population Decline*, Melbourne: Trans Pacific Press; "Can Certified Care Workers Become Long-term Settlers?: Case Study of 49 Filipinos under the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement," 2016, *International Journal of Japanese Sociology*, No. 25: 27-39.

Migration Brokerage as Networked Infrastructure: Foreign-Employment Recruitment Agencies and the Work of Recruiters in Nepal

Tina SHRESTHA

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
aristina@nus.edu.sg

My paper focuses on migration brokerage and the work of recruiters in foreign employment-recruitment agencies (FERAs) mediating labor from Nepal to Malaysia. Migration brokers and facilitators play a critical role in recruiting the poor into labor circuit and the broader brokerage networks. As facilitators, FERAs staff in Nepal must produce brokerage by recruiting the rural poor into the low-wage migrant workforce. Drawing on my ethnographic fieldwork in Nepal and Malaysia, I examine the everyday recruitment practices of one such FERA in creating and sustaining brokering relationships with aspiring migrants, employment placement agencies overseas, and state agencies. Central to this brokerage, I argue, is the unresolved tension between the ever-expanding foreign employment recruitment business and ethical concerns for the everyday social relationships demanded by the contemporary forms and practices of recruitment. This paper contributes to the debate on 'the migration industry' and brokerage in Asia.

Tina SHRESTHA is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asian Migration cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Dr Shrestha received her PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Cornell University. Prior to joining ARI, she was postdoctoral fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden. Her previous research on Nepali migration and asylum seeking process has appeared in *Studies in Nepali History and Society* and in an edited volume *Refugee Resettlement in the United States: Language, Policy and Pedagogy*. Her research at ARI focuses on brokerage and documentation in the employment recruitment agencies facilitating labor migration from Nepal to Malaysia. She has a forthcoming piece in *Anthropology of Work Review*.

An Industry of Migration Frauds? State Policy, Migration Industry and Controlled Informality in India

V.J. VARGHESE

Department of History, University of Hyderabad, India
vjeebee@gmail.com

My paper would be an attempt to map the changing role of the state in regulating the migration industry in India, a country allegedly known for innumerable 'migration frauds'. The paper would disentangle the multiple ways in which the state policy and the migration industry – the industry getting adjusted as a result of changing government interventions as much as the state policies responds to the astonishing dissimulations from the industry – constitute each other in India. The paper would argue that the institution of emigration governance in India, with significant inheritances from the colonial regime of emigration control, creates a condition of controlled informality with unequal outcomes and technologies along class, skill and gender lines to the emigrants and aspirants. The role of private brokers is on the increase in recent times, paradoxically due to the increasing formalization of migration and a discerning globalization, unsettling the formal-informal divide in practice, agency and governance. The stringent 'migration policing' and new operational mechanisms based on virtual technologies did not really affect the political economy of corruption; instead control become a precondition for informality, where state and illegal actors are entrenched. By taking a select number of case studies of what is referred to as 'migration frauds', the paper would also argue that the predictable neo-liberal turn into a sort of minimalist state in the domain of emigration governance is a myth in the Indian case, wherein one see a state that is simultaneously active on the one hand and conceding and discriminatory on the other. The paper would also propose that the migration industry needs to be located and understood in terms of historically and institutionally situated migration ensembles, which is an outcome of interaction between heterogeneous actors like the state, capital, market, civil society, social networks and formal and informal brokers and on local, national and transnational scales.

V.J. VARGHESE teaches at the Department of History, University of Hyderabad, India. He was with the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Trivandrum and the Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, prior to this. His areas of interest include modern South Asian history, transnational migrations from South Asia and making of regional modernities in South Asia, with a focus on Kerala in South India and Punjab in North India. He has co-authored *Dreaming Mobility and Buying Vulnerability: Overseas Recruitment Practices in India* (Routledge, 2011) and co-edited *Anjuru Varshathe Keralam: Chila Arivadayaalangal* in Malayalam (Tapasam/DC Books, 1999/2011), *Migration, Mobility and Multiple Affiliations: Punjabis in a Transnational World* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) apart from writing in reputed journals and contributing chapters to many edited volumes.

Precarity, Migration and Brokerage in Indonesia: Insights from Ethnographic Research in Indramayu

Avyanthi AZIS

Department of International Relations, University of Indonesia
avyanthi.azis@ui.ac.id

Rhino ARIEFANSYAH

Department of Anthropology, University of Indonesia

Nastiti Setia UTAMI

Department of International Relations, University of Indonesia

Building on Lindquist's work (2010, 2012), this ethnographic research continues to problematize the role of informal brokers in Indonesia's labor outmigration. Focusing on Indramayu, West Java – one of the main migrant pocket areas in Indonesia – we employ the concept of "precarity" in understanding the recruitment of Indonesia's low-status migrant workers. Whereas Lindquist focuses on the establishment of "trust" and emphasizes informal brokers embodying, "ethical qualities that convince Indonesian villagers to become migrants," we expand on an aspect less discussed in his work, namely, the "moonlighting" nature of recruiters' involvement with migration process. For Indramayu's informal brokers, brokerage is often just one among the odd jobs they do for survival. While scholars have scrutinized migrants' precarity/their migration to precarity, and some have begun looking at the role of civil society in the interface between migration, globalization and precarity (Schierup et al 2015), we push collective understanding further by examining how actors beyond civil society & their precarity affect migration. In elaborating brokers' precarity and their "migrating others to precarity," we unpack more meticulously how informality functions in the mediation of transnational migration (which Lindquist construes as resembling transplantation rather than flows) and advances Lindquist's strategy in engaging with criticisms of neoliberalism. Indramayu's specific context also illuminates another important facet – feminization of migration – from the vantage point of brokerage, as women (former migrants) in the region recruit women, often presenting work abroad as a better option to prostitution (a stereotyped profession for women in the area).

Avyanthi AZIS is a lecturer at the Department of International Relations, University of Indonesia, where she teaches in the areas of international population movements and transnationalism. Her long-term research focuses on protracted displacement, refugee subject-making, and refugee subjectivity. Her most recent work looks at South Korean student migration to Indonesia.

Rhino ARIEFANSYAH is a visual anthropologist and lecturer at the Department of Anthropology, University of Indonesia. Alongside his primary focus on issues relating to human ecology and climate change, he has a long-running interest in Indonesian labor outmigration as his major research sites – Indramayu and East Lombok – are conjointly among Indonesia's main migrant-sending (sub-)regions.

Nastiti S. UTAMI studied as an undergraduate at the Department of International Relations, University of Indonesia. Based on fieldwork observation in Indramayu, her thesis scrutinized the role of informal migrant recruiters in Indramayu.

Constrained Agency and Temporality in Debt-Migration for Construction Work in India

Priya DESHINGKAR

Sussex Centre for Migration Research, University of Sussex, UK
P.Deshingkar@sussex.ac.uk

Debt-migration is endemic in low-paid construction work in India and is often facilitated by brokers who are held responsible for trapping migrants in slave-like conditions. This simplistic portrayal of relations between workers and brokers is challenged in this paper based on indepth interviews with migrant men and women from rural Telangana conducted at various points over the last 15 years. Interviews reveal a more complex situation where brokers are both facilitators and exploiters and workers have a degree of control, albeit unpredictable and variable, over their working conditions, making simple categorisations difficult and unhelpful. Using the concept of “constrained agency” proposed by Coe and Jordhus-Lier, I analyse the everyday experiences of migrant workers to show how structures, practices and social relations that underpin debt-migration and brokerage in the construction industry devalue the labour and bodies of workers on the one hand and the measures that workers take to protect themselves against exploitation on the other hand. I extend the discussion across time, employing concepts of temporality to show how debt, dependence on brokers and exploitative work in the short term may be traded off against future gains that allow workers to reposition themselves and their families socially and economically. I emphasise the multiple risks at different points of migration that can reverse any gains made and argue that greater political commitment is needed to reduce these risks.

Priya DESHINGKAR is Research Director of the Migrating out of Poverty Research Consortium and Senior Research Fellow in the School of Global Studies. Her research focuses on internal migration and poverty with a focus on precarious occupations, debt-migration, labour rights and agency. She holds a PhD from the Institute of Development Studies and has twenty years of experience of designing and supervising multidisciplinary, mixed methods research. Priya is an internationally recognised authority on internal migration and has played a key role in influencing the global policy discourse on internal migration and development. Her most recent book is *Circular Migration and Multilocational Livelihood Strategies in India* (co-edited with John Farrington, 2009). Until 2009, Dr Deshingkar was Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute.

Agents of a New Transnationalization in the Migrant Domestic Worker Industry: Expanding the Transnational Migration Perspective

Anju Mary PAUL

Yale-NUS College, National University of Singapore
anju.paul@yale-nus.edu.sg

Even though proponents of the transnational perspective pushed social scientists to “become ‘unbound’”, our notions of transnationality still tend to be limited to connections between an origin country and a destination country. This paper argues that we need to extend our study of transnational migration to consciously include processes, spaces, structures, and identities that emerge from and can enable secondary migrations between the first destination and one or more next-destinations. The role of recruitment and placement brokers/agencies as agents of this new transnational migration is the focus of this paper. Drawing from ethnographic and virtual fieldwork in the migrant domestic worker industries in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Canada, I show how enterprising migration middlemen source migrant domestic workers from one overseas market to place them in jobs in other overseas markets, thereby connecting destinations, rather than just an origin with a destination. These agencies are the “traffic wardens” of the global labor market for migrant domestic workers, channeling migrants towards particular destinations and away from others, and creating migration pathways between destinations. I highlight how these non-migrant actors foster the adoption of stepwise international labor migration through their advertising materials, sliding-scale fee structures, and subjective recruitment processes. By facilitating, encouraging, and also necessitating the adoption of stepwise migration, these recruitment/placement agencies create new opportunity structures for transnational migration within the global migrant domestic worker industry.

Anju Mary PAUL is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Yale-NUS College in Singapore. She is an international migration scholar with an interest in emergent patterns of high- and low-skilled migration to, from, and within Asia. Her research subjects encompass migrant domestic workers, migrant nurses, and Asian scientists and their spouses. She has published in top sociology and migration journals including the *American Journal of Sociology*, *Migration Studies*, *Social Forces*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, and the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Her book *Multinational Maids: Stepwise Migration in a Global Labour Market* will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2017. Her second forthcoming book *Local Encounters in a Global City: Singapore Stories* (Ethos Books 2017) is an edited volume of essays on various spaces and dimensions of globalisation in Singapore.

Micro-brokerage: Translation, Discretion, and the Migration Industry for Domestic Workers in Singapore

Kellynn WEE

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
kellynn.wee@nus.edu.sg

Charmian GOH

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
charmian.goh@nus.edu.sg

Brenda S.A. YEOH

Asia Research Institute & Department of Geography, National University of Singapore
geoyasa@nus.edu.sg

While the migration industry has been often portrayed as a juggernaut-like ensemble of transnational institutions, lucrative businesses, and/or extensive migrant kinship networks of key importance in the increasing commercialization of international migration, such an approach has given less weight to examining the inner workings of how actors animate migrant-moving processes in the course of everyday practices. Responding to the call for a greater focus on "micro-brokerage", this paper takes as its starting point the employment agents who facilitate the placement of migrant domestic workers from Southeast Asia with employers in Singapore. Drawing together ideas of translations in cultural brokerage and Michael Lipsky's theory of street-level bureaucracy, we argue that the migration industry opens up a broad "discretionary space" in which brokers have considerable scope to set labour standards, encourage behavioural norms, and influence the employment outcomes and living conditions of migrant domestic workers who work in Singapore homes. We suggest that while discretion characterises the conditions of the industry, interpreting agents' everyday practices through the prism of translation allows us to better understand how this discretionary space is (re)produced and transformed. Through a close examination of the interactions which take place at agency shopfront sites and qualitative interviews with 47 employment agents in Singapore and Indonesia, we investigate how agents broker between people as well as between interfaces to co-produce a cogent social reality out of the contradictory and overlapping interstices of law, state, language, and culture.

Kellynn WEE is a part of the Migrating out of Poverty research team at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS). Her research interests include gendered labour migration, the migration industry, and migrant advocacy and activism. She updates the Migrating out of Poverty blog at <http://arimoop.wordpress.com> with research findings, interviews, and excerpts from fieldwork.

Charmian GOH is a part of the Migrating out of Poverty research team at the Asia Research Institute, NUS. Her research interests include the migration industry and labour migration governance in Asia.

Brenda S.A. YEOH is Provost's Chair Professor, Department of Geography, NUS as well as Research Leader of the Asian Migration Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, NUS. Her research interests include the politics of space in colonial and postcolonial cities as well as transnational migration in the Asian context.

Informality in Recruitment and Mobility of Indian Women Domestic Workers Going to the Middle East

Praveena KODOTH

Centre for Development Studies, India
praveena@cds.ac.in; pkodoth@gmail.com

In harnessing employment in the Middle East since the mid twentieth century, migrant domestic workers from India built upon diverse histories of previous work-related mobility, marriage and trade connections with the Arab Middle East and importantly connections in Bombay, which was the nodal centre for recruitment to the Middle East. I wish to contextualize recent mobility, which has been clustered largely in specific regions of three states – Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Goa – in terms of the specific nature of brokerage that has emerged in response to Indian state policy which is hostile to low skilled women’s mobility. Demand for migrant jobs in the sending regions has led to the suspicion of the state as interested in preventing migration and the perception that migration brokers are accessible and helpful. A restrictive policy environment may be implicated in institutionalizing a layered form informality / illegality in private recruitment and mobility practices. Indeed, recruiters work in association with rent seeking state officials to produce specific mobility practices that assist women to navigate emigration procedures and to circumvent restrictions imposed by the state. With material from field work in Kadapa and Godavari regions of Andhra Pradesh, I propose to examine how brokerage of low skilled women’s migration blurs oft-made distinctions between formal recruitment and informal mobility practices. As agents and sub agents crisscross multiple sending regions, shared recruiting and mobility practices are resorted to by commercial (licensed) recruiting agencies, small informal local networks including kin and social networks and independent workers turned brokers.

Praveena KODOTH is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum where she teaches and conducts research. Her current research on gender, state and mobility focuses on women’s overseas migration from Kerala and Andhra Pradesh as domestic workers and in allied tasks. She has analysed the intersecting influence of class, caste and patriarchy in the systemic production of invisibility of poor women migrant workers from the historically disadvantaged social groups and is interested in informal intermediation practices and the clustering of women migrants in specific regions in the context of adverse state policy. She has also published in the areas of marriage match making in contemporary Kerala, gender and social development in Kerala and on the transformation of property relations among matrilineal social groups in late colonial Malabar.

The Prison-Classroom Model in Training a ‘Quality Maid’: From Disciplinary to Entrepreneurial Subjects

Liberty CHEE

Department of Political Science, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines
lchee@ateneo.edu

This paper examines the training period shortly before the deployment of migrant domestic workers to destination households. Literature on training centers tend to emphasize Foucauldian disciplinary power. As a constitutive effect of industrial capitalism, ‘discipline’ extracts value from docile bodies as an extension of machines found in manufacturing. But the demand from destination countries for ‘quality maids’ exacts more than just immobility and docility. It entails the formation of biopolitical and entrepreneurial subjects. As biopolitical subjects, training constitutes domestic workers as mobile reproductive labor, plugged into the social reproduction of their host country’s population. As entrepreneurial subjects, training converts them into units of human capital – a self-actualizing source of income for families, economies, recruitment agencies and governments. I argue that, through techniques found in Foucauldian models of the classroom and prison, training centers play the crucial role of producing reproductive labor power for export. While immobility and discipline create the fundamental conditions of domestic worker migration, the ‘assembly’ of an empowered, entrepreneurial subject makes possible not only the successful completion of the worker’s employment contract but repeated deployment to different migrant destinations – perpetuating overseas work as a permanent means of employment and a way of life. This paper draws from fieldwork in training centers in the Philippines and Indonesia catering to markets in the Gulf, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Liberty CHEE is Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science in the Ateneo de Manila University. Her research interests include domestic worker migration governance, international relations theory and feminist political economy. She completed her doctoral dissertation, ‘Power as Practice in Global Governance: Recruitment Agencies and Domestic Worker Migration in Southeast Asia’ at the National University of Singapore in 2015.

Manufacturing Export-Grade Labor: Indonesian Migrant Domestic at the Point of Production

Andy Scott CHANG

Department of Sociology, University of California – Berkeley, USA
andy.chang@berkeley.edu

While the plight of migrant domestics has been widely documented, the manner in which women are transformed into export-grade labor has received scant attention. Based on 18 months of multisited ethnography in 4 private training centers and 3 government briefings for prospective migrants in Jakarta and East Java, this paper studies Indonesia's migration industry by probing the array of private and public institutions governing contract migration. It approaches migration not by emphasizing how employment agencies subjugate women migrants, but by examining the growing rationality of migration governance. Since the passage of landmark legislation in 2004, the Indonesian state has departed from a strategy of relative neglect to one of industry oversight to enhance the aptitude and wellbeing of its transnational workforce. Two crucial dimensions of this burgeoning public-private partnership involve the certification and protection of migrant domestics. The state requires Taiwan- and Hong Kong-bound domestics to undergo 600 hours of accredited training in licensed training centers. During the Professional Competence Exam, candidates are further assessed on the basis of their medical knowledge, foreign language comprehension, and the theory and practice of housekeeping, elderly care, and babysitting. Additionally, the state organizes a mandatory pre-departure orientation informing migrants of their rights and obligations, and of crisis centers and embassy labor attachés in the event migrants face contractual violations abroad. The sending state's professionalization of migrants thus has the effect of blurring the distinction between unskilled and skilled labor, and between precarious and protected work, in a global economy centered on service work.

Andy Scott CHANG is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. From October 2014 to May 2015, and from January 2016 to December 2017, under the Fulbright and Fulbright-Hays fellowships, Mr. Chang has conducted over 18 months of multi-sited ethnographic research involving 144 informants straddling the commercial migration industry, government bureaucracy, and migrant-sending villages and cities in Jakarta, Surabaya, Ponorogo, and Manado. His research interests lie at the intersection between gender, work, and migration, with an emphasis on the evolution of the migration industry and how women's international migration affects rural livelihoods and the construction of masculinities for left-behind men.

Schooling in the Migrant-sending Country: Learning to Labor for Low Wage Work Overseas

Yasmin Y. ORTIGA

College of Alice and Peter Tan, National University of Singapore
yasmin.ortiga@nus.edu.sg

Popular migrant destinations like the US have increasingly assessed immigrants based on their “human capital,” where academic qualifications often serve as measures of individual knowledge and skill. Such criteria assumes that higher education will raise the likelihood of immigrants’ economic integration, providing access to stable, better-paying jobs. As a result, private universities within migrant-sending countries have become key players in the migration industry, providing migrants with the qualifications and training that presumably ensures their future mobility.

My research investigates how well higher education institutions are actually able to fulfill their role as “producers” in the global exchange of migrant labor and what problematic outcomes result from their attempts to do so. I contextualize my study in the Philippines, where state agencies work with private colleges and universities in training Filipinos for overseas jobs in the hope of maximizing the monetary remittances eventually sent back home. Based on in depth interviews and participant observation, this study argues that while aspiring migrants pursue higher education in the hope of obtaining professional positions overseas, local universities and colleges continue to reproduce social hierarchies within Philippine society, socializing working class students towards manual jobs that do not require college degrees. As such, aspiring migrants are funneled into unequal segments in the global labor market even *before* they leave their countries of origin. Studies on immigrants have also tended to focus mainly on vertical stratification, noting the differences between and among high school and college graduates. This paper shows how universities, as institutions that facilitate migration, also create horizontal stratification among aspiring migrants in college, disadvantaging working class students from lower tier institutions. This paper investigates how such disparities are evident in the field of Hotel and Restaurant Management, a program popular among aspiring migrants seeking to join the international hospitality industry.

Yasmin ORTIGA received her doctorate in Sociology from Syracuse University and her master’s in Education at Harvard University. Originally from the Philippines, Yasmin considers herself a “scholar of the sending country,” having grown up in a place where international migration is seen as a natural part of life. She is currently a Lecturer at the College of Alice and Peter Tan, a residential college at the NUS University Town. She is also part of an NTU research team that studies the mobility of foreign and returnee scholars in Singapore. Yasmin’s previous research investigated how Philippine higher education institutions attempt to produce workers for “export,” altering curriculum and school structures in an effort to educate students for foreign employers. She focused on the experiences of students and educators in Nursing and Hospitality Management, two programs linked to perceived labor demands overseas. Her work has been published in the *International Migration Review*, *Social Science & Medicine*, and the *British Journal of Sociology of Education*.

State-Mediated Brokerage System in China's Private Study Abroad Market

Shanshan LAN

Department of Anthropology, The University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
s.lan@uva.nl

The thriving of China's private study abroad market is marked by the tremendous increase of self-funded students who use the services of educational brokers to realize their transnational mobility dreams. With the privatization of China's higher educational system and the commercialization of international student migration, studying abroad is often framed in popular Chinese media as a special type of educational consumption and a matter of personal choice. This paper contends that recent transnational student migration from China is in fact largely facilitated and structured by the state. Based on archival and ethnographic research in two Chinese cities (Guangzhou and Jinan), this paper identifies three notable features in the field of transnational educational brokerage: the blurring of boundaries between educational/language training and brokerage, the interconnectedness of the state and non-state sectors, and the branching out of commercialized brokerage services from big cities in coastal areas to second- and third-tier cities in inland China. It argues that the diversification of brokerage services in China's private study abroad market reflects the state's deliberate efforts to relax its control of transnational student mobility. However, instead of relieving the problem of the uneven distribution of educational resources in China, state attempt to liberalize the study abroad market ends up obscuring and perpetuating social inequalities through its tacit endorsement of neoliberal ideologies of self-responsibility and self-improvement.

Shanshan LAN is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam. Her research interests include transnational migration, race and immigration policy, trans-border trade activities and networks, African diaspora in China, global Chinese diaspora, class and social stratification in contemporary Chinese society. She is the author of *Diaspora and Class Consciousness: Chinese Immigrant Workers in Multiracial Chicago* (Routledge 2012). Her monograph, *Mapping the New African Diaspora in China: Race and the Cultural Politics of Belonging*, is forthcoming with Routledge Press. She is currently working on an ethnographic project on transnational student mobility and the politics of social reproduction in China.

Brokered Education: The Migration Industry in Student Mobility

Gracia LIU-FARRER

Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Japan
glfarrer@waseda.jp

An Huy TRAN

Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Japan
anhuytran.225@gmail.com

Every year millions of people move across national borders to study in overseas educational institutions. Student mobility has become one of major forms of human migration. At the same time, it is a structured and brokered mobility. Despite its idealized visions, international education is both a commodity and an efficient channel for labor import. Governments, schools and various private entrepreneurs participate in engineering, channeling and regulating student mobility. These characteristics give rise to a migration industry whose activities focus on facilitating the process of recruiting, moving and employing international students.

Using the student mobility trends from China and Vietnam into Japan in the past three decades, this paper investigates the conditions for the emergence and prosperity of this industry, the actors involved and its evolving characteristics. It also attempts to use the issues that have emerged in such a brokered education mobility to discuss the ethical dimension of migration industry. As other forms of migration industry, education brokerage is a Janus-faced existence. It facilitates the mobility of students and provides opportunities that are previously unavailable to aspiring youth. At the same time, as a business pursuing financial gains, it is exploitive and in some cases coercive. As noted by others, it is difficult to demarcate the legitimate and illegitimate behavior in the process. It is therefore important to bring into conversation the fluidity of the ethical boundary and examine the conditions that intensify individual migrants' vulnerability.

Gracia LIU-FARRER is Professor of Sociology at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Japan, and leads the Migration and Citizenship Research Group at Waseda Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies. Her research examines diverse patterns of migration into Japan, and immigrants' economic, social and identity practices in Japan. She has also been investigating the emigration of wealthy Chinese and study abroad industries in China.

An Huy TRAN is graduate student at Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Japan. His research examines recent student mobility from Vietnam to Japan.

ROUNDTABLE
What's Next After "Opening The Black Box Of Migration"?

XIANG Biao

Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Oxford, UK
biao.xiang@anthro.ox.ac.uk

Anna GUEVARRA

Department of University of Illinois – Chicago, USA
guevarra@uic.edu

Jill ALPES

VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands
m.j.alpes@vu.nl

Johan LINDQUIST

Stockholm University, Sweden
johan.lindquist@socant.su.se

In the roundtable discussion, speakers will reflect on the workshop on “The Migration Industry: Brokerage and Facilitators in Asia” in relation to their own work. They will also comment on one of the following topics: a) The (unequal) scale of migration brokerage; b) Brokerage as co-constitutive of the migration industry; and c) Ethics and politics of studying migration brokerage. The brief presentations will be followed by general discussion to hone key ideas and insights.

XIANG Biao is a Professor of Social Anthropology. He has worked on various types of migration—internal and international, unskilled and highly-skilled, emigration, left behind and return—in China, India and Australia. Instead of taking migration as a distinct phenomenon to be explained, he sees migration as a particular means of social change that reveals larger forces at work. Through the lens of migration, he has examined the changing Chinese state, labour relations in the high-tech sector in India, and other political economy issues in Asia. Currently, Xiang is trying to understand why commercial recruitment intermediaries have become so prominent in unskilled labour migration in east Asia, given that modern institutions and technologies are supposed to be dis-embedding and dis-intermediating.

Anna GUEVARRA is an Associate Professor and Director of the Global Asian Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, USA. She is the author of the award-winning book, *Marketing Dreams and Manufacturing Heroes: The Transnational Labor Brokering of Filipino Workers (Rutgers, 2010)*, an ethnography that narrates the multilayered racialized and gendered processes of brokering Filipino labor, the Philippines’ highly-prized “export” and is also a co-editor of *Immigrant Women Workers in the Neoliberal Age (University of Illinois, 2013)*. Her work has also appeared in interdisciplinary journals like *Frontiers: A Journal of Women’s Studies*, *Social Identities*, *the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, and numerous edited anthologies. She is working on two projects. One is a book project that explores the simulation of care through robotic technology and its impact on carework, notions of racialized and gendered skill, and the geopolitical boundaries between the global north and south. Another book project (with Gayatri Reddy) is a community history project exploring the relationship between diaspora and empire by tracing the history of the descendants of Indian Sepoys who settled in the Philippines after the 18th century British occupation of the country.

Jill ALPES works as Senior Policy Officer on deportations at Amnesty Netherlands, and as a researcher at the University of Utrecht on the EU Turkey deal. Jill has researched transcontinental migration of predominantly low-skilled migrants, with a focus of what happens before migration and after deportation and fieldwork sites in Cameroon, the DRC and Turkey. She is the author of *Abroad at any cost: Brokering High-risk migration and illegality in West Africa* (Routledge, 2017) and has been publishing in international journals, such as *Africa*, *Social and Legal Studies*, *POLAR* and *Identities*. Her research examines and juxtaposes the work of different actors within the migration infrastructure, such as migration brokers, consulate officers, airport staff and family members. In her publications, Jill has mobilized ethnographic material to speak to legal paradigms and policy fields, such as human trafficking, internet-mediated marriage migration, social protection of undocumented migrants, and the combat against irregular migration.

Johan LINDQUIST is Professor of Social Anthropology and Director of the Forum for Asian Studies at Stockholm University in Sweden. He is a member of the editorial committee of *Public Culture* and editorial board of *Pacific Affairs*, has published articles in journals such as *Ethnos*, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, *Mobilities*, *Public Culture*, *Pacific Affairs*, and *International Migration Review*, is the co-editor of *Figures of Southeast Asian Modernity* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2013), the author of *The Anxieties of Mobility: Development and Migration in the Indonesian Borderlands* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2009), and the director of the documentary film *B.A.T.A.M.* (Documentary Educational Resources, 2005). His current book project is entitled *Mediating Migration: Brokering Knowledge and Mobility in Indonesia and Beyond*.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Bernardo BROWN is a Research Fellow at the 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), *Ethnography* (2015) and *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* (2015). His current Research projects focus on Catholic seminaries and priestly vocations in South and Southeast Asia. He received an MA from the New School for Social Research and a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Cornell University. Before joining ARI, he held a post-doctoral fellowship at the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden.

Brenda S.A. YEOH is Professor (Provost's Chair) in the Department of Geography as well as Research Leader of the Asian Migration Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, NUS. Her research interests include the politics of space in colonial and postcolonial cities, and she has considerable experience working on a wide range of migration research in Asia, including key themes such as cosmopolitanism and highly skilled talent migration; gender, social reproduction and care migration; migration, national identity and citizenship issues; globalising universities and international student mobilities; and cultural politics, family dynamics and international marriage migrants. She has published widely in these fields. Her latest book titles include *The Cultural Politics of Talent Migration in East Asia* (Routledge, 2012, with Shirlena Huang); and *Migration and Diversity in Asian Contexts* (ISEAS press, 2012, with Lai Ah Eng and Francis Collins); *Return: Nationalizing Transnational Mobility in Asia* (Duke University Press, 2013, with Xiang Biao and Mika Toyota); as well as a paperback reprint of her book *Contesting Space in Colonial Singapore: Power Relations and the Urban Built Environment* (originally published in 1996 by Oxford University Press; reprinted by NUS Press in 2003 and 2013).

Chand SOMAIAH is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asian Migration cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. She received her PhD in Sociology from Macquarie University. Her research interests include mothering, gendered experiences of migration, Asian diasporas, multiple modernities, intimate citizenship practices, circulation of care, sociologies of the body and feminist methodologies. She is currently working collaboratively with an international research team on a mixed-method longitudinal study titled *Child Health and Migrant Parents in Southeast Asia (CHAMPSEA): Wave II*. The project is investigating the longer-term impacts of parental absence on children from sending communities of international labour.

Elaine Lynn-Ee HO is Associate Professor at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore (NUS). Her research addresses how citizenship is changing as a result of migration in countries like China, Myanmar and Singapore. Her current research focuses on three areas: transnational ageing and care in the Asia-Pacific (including China and Singapore), international student migration to China, and border mobilities between Myanmar and China. She is part of the Transnational Relations, Ageing and Care Ethics (TRACE) project with Associate Professors Shirlena Huang and Thang Leng Leng, and Professor Brenda Yeoh.

Jonathan RIGG is Director of the Asia Research Institute and Professor in the Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore. Prior to that, he was Head of the Geography Department at Durham University in the UK. He was also based at the School of Oriental & African Studies, London University where he was a Lecturer, British Academy Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, and PhD student. He is a development geographer interested in illuminating and explaining patterns and processes of social, economic and environmental change in the Asian region and the impacts of such changes on ordinary people and everyday life. In his work, he has tried to give a "face" to the individuals buffeted by modernisation and ascribe to them an agency which is sometimes absent in higher level interpretations of change. He has been concerned to treat ordinary people as special and the geographical contexts in which they live – and which they help to shape – as distinctive. He is currently working on three projects: an international, interdisciplinary study of resilience to earthquake risk in the continental interior of Asia; a study of the role of land in agrarian change in Thailand; and a project on the survival of the smallholder in East and Southeast Asia. His latest book *Challenging Southeast Asian Development: The Shadows of Success* was published in August 2015.

Michiel BAAS is currently a Research Fellow with the Asian Migration Cluster of the Asia Research Institute at National University of Singapore. His most recent project focuses on Indian mid-level skilled migrants in Singapore and the “migration industry” which facilitates migration from India to Singapore. Previous projects include research on IT professionals in Bangalore; student migration in Australia; and more recently new middle class professionals (among which fitness trainers and coffee baristas) in Delhi and other Indian cities. Previously, Dr Baas headed the Amsterdam-department of the International Institute for Asian Studies and was a lecturer with the anthropology department of the University of Amsterdam. He was also coordinator and secretary to the board at the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR) and involved in the Eutopia Institute in Amsterdam. The red thread in his work is the Indian middle class.

Teresita Cruz-Del ROSARIO is Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore. She was previously an Associate Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and Senior Research Fellow at the Center on Asia and Globalisation. Her teaching experience has been in Development Policy, Social Movements, and Sociological/Anthropological Theory and Methods. She has a background in Sociology, Social Anthropology and Public Administration from Boston College, Harvard University, and New York University. Apart from peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, she has authored the following books: “Lost in Transition: Comparative Political Transitions in Southeast Asia and the Middle East” (coauthored with James M Dorsey, Palgrave MacMillan 2016); “The State and the Advocate: Development Policy in Asia” (Routledge UK 2014) and an edited volume entitled “The Democratic Developmental State: North-South Perspectives” (forthcoming Ibidem Publishers). A fourth book is currently under preparation and is entitled “Vanished History: Recovering Pre-colonial Transnational Philippine History” (Hong Kong University Press 2018). Her current research interests are in the broad field of Arabia-Asia historical and sociological connections, religion and globalization, and comparative regional development.