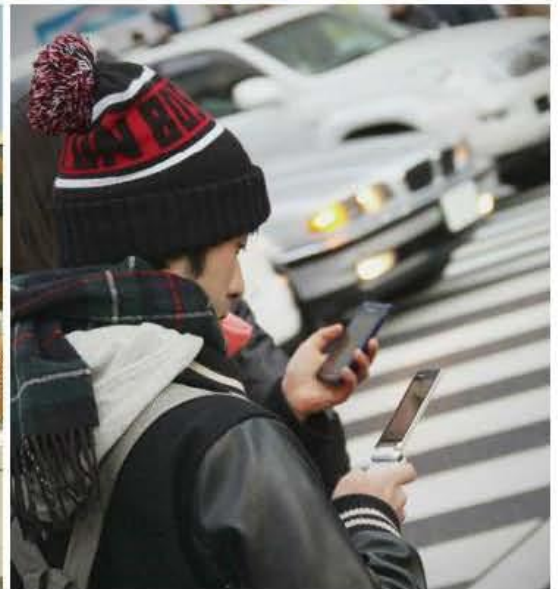


An interdisciplinary workshop on

# Youth Mobilities and Immobilities in the Asia-Pacific Region

7-8 November 2016



Photos credit to Lim Kean Bon

Jointly organized by:



**Organized by Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, and Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University, Australia.**

Young people in the Asia-Pacific increasingly move around for work, education and leisure. Traditional typologies of 'sending' and receiving' countries in the region are changing, with countries such as Australia and Singapore serving not only as significant hubs for incoming and outgoing youth migrants, but also as places of transit, stop-over and temporary stays. Current national policy frameworks tend to encourage much of this mobility, reflecting the widely accepted view that transnational mobility will provide young people with enhanced life chances and competitive job skills, as well as benefit national and local communities more broadly through remittances, skills transfer, cultural diplomacy networks and an increasingly cosmopolitan and agile workforce. Furthermore, significant and increasingly diverse commercial interests facilitate youth mobilities throughout the region. This covers a wide spectrum of processes, from the trafficking and recruitment of marginalized young people into unskilled and undocumented labour flows, to the development of commercial enterprises around international education, voluntourism, internships and 'working holidays' that target a burgeoning population of middle-class youth. Varied forms of mobility, whether residential mobility out of the family home, rural-urban mobility, inter-urban mobility or cross-border mobility are increasingly connected across young peoples' pathways to adulthood, and are positioned as desirable and desired experiences for many youth. Virtual mobilities and digital spaces play an increasingly important role both in these mobility aspirations as well as in the facilitation of mobile realities.

Desires for mobility are, however, equally underpinned by senses of global interconnectivity, and senses of increasing precariousness of local and emplaced social and economic security. As such, the realities faced by varied groups of youth on the move are often obscured by aspirational positionings of mobility. For young women and men caught at the margins of enduring patterns of social division, mobility often engenders a set of new challenges and vulnerabilities. And, even for 'middling' and elite mobile youth, the actual outcomes and ongoing impacts of different forms of mobility across social, civic and economic domains are still poorly understood, and could be unevenly experienced. Further, in a context in which mobility is often seen to confer advantage or social capital, the consequences of immobility for contemporary youth, and a sense of how mobility and immobility work together across young people's lives at various stages, warrants further attention.

This workshop seeks to open a dialogue between youth studies and migration studies within a mobilities paradigm to begin to set a renewed research agenda around youth and im/mobilities in the Asia-Pacific and beyond. Youth studies has often focused on young people as emplaced, rather than mobile subjects, and, with a few exceptions (e.g. Coe et al 2011), migration studies seldom foregrounds youth experiences (Cairns 2014:2), tending to focus on adult migrants or transnational families. In addition, while there is a wealth of literature on particular forms of youth mobility, such as the prolific amount of work on student mobility and education, and a set of emerging studies into voluntourism and leisure mobilities, connections across and between these literatures, and their connections to other forms of mobility are yet to be fully explored.

Within this context, we identify three key aspects around youth and im/mobilities that require further attention. First, very little research examines the actual impacts of different constellations of mobilities on young people's experiences, including how these are configured in relation to immobility, friction and other 'less-than-mobile' states of being (e.g. Cresswell, 2010). Second, how are contemporary processes of youth migration and mobile practices intertwined with historically specific local and regional narratives about places, political regimes, and cultures of class, gender, ethnicity etc.? Third, the concept of 'youth' needs to be problematised both as an age-related category and as a set of discourses informing the work of governments, actors in different social institutions, and young people themselves (Durham, 2000; Ruddick, 2003).

We gather scholars whose works are related to Asia-Pacific youth im/mobilities to begin a conversation, in the format of paper presentation and discussion. The aim is to carefully examine the types, motivations, conditions and outcomes of mobility amongst a diverse set of young people across the region of the Asia-Pacific in order to understand its actual effects at various scales—from the impact of im/mobility on individual life choices and chances, to how im/mobility is changing forms of social and economic infrastructure, including how nation-states are seeking to govern and direct youth on the move to specific ends. Some of the key framing questions we seek to address include, but are not limited to:

- How are different spatio-temporal forms of mobility (cross-border, intra-national, temporary, permanent etc.) and motivations for mobility (work, leisure, lifestyle, education) interconnected for youth on the move?
- How do immobility and stasis also configure into these interconnections?
- What critical concepts and methods can bring together developments in youth studies and migration studies to further youth mobilities research?
- How are infrastructural processes (state policies but also commercial enterprises) implicated in the facilitation but also the construction of emerging youth mobilities?
- What are their implications for the lived experience and the outcomes of im/mobility?

## **CONVENORS**

### **Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh**

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### **Dr Cheng Yi'En**

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## **SECRETARIAT**

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## 7 NOVEMBER 2016 (MONDAY)

10:00 – 10:15	REGISTRATION
10:15 – 10:30	WELCOME REMARKS
10:15	<p><b>BRENDA S.A. YEOH</b>, <i>National University of Singapore</i></p> <p><b>SHANTHI ROBERTSON</b>, <i>Western Sydney University, Australia, and National University of Singapore</i></p> <p><b>CHENG YI'EN</b>, <i>Yale-NUS College, Singapore</i></p>
10:30 – 11:30	PANEL 1 – MOBILITY AND TRANSITION IN CONTEMPORARY CONTEXTS
Chairperson	<b>TINA SHRESTHA</b> , <i>National University of Singapore</i>
10:30	<p><b>Mobility in Transition: Youth Circulation and Precariousness in Crisis Contexts</b></p> <p><b>DAVID CAIRNS</b>, <i>ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal</i></p>
10:50	<p><b>Mobile Transitions: Concepts and Methods for Researching a Generation on the Move</b></p> <p><b>SHANTHI ROBERTSON</b>, <i>Western Sydney University, Australia, and National University of Singapore</i></p> <p><b>ANITA HARRIS</b>, <i>Deakin University, Australia</i></p> <p><b>LORETTA BALDASSAR</b>, <i>University of Western Australia, and Monash University, Australia</i></p>
11:10	Questions & Answers
11:30 – 12:00	TEA BREAK
12:00 – 13:30	PANEL 2 – NEGOTIATING GENDERED TRAJECTORIES
Chairperson	<b>DENISE L. SPITZER</b> , <i>National University of Singapore</i>
12:00	<p><b>The Entanglements of Migration and Marriage: Negotiating Mobility Projects among Young Women from Migrant-sending Villages in Ponorogo, Indonesia</b></p> <p><b>KHOO CHOON YEN</b>, <i>National University of Singapore</i></p> <p><b>BRENDA S.A. YEOH</b>, <i>National University of Singapore</i></p>
12:20	<p><b>“I Keep Moving when Things Change, I Suppose”: Mobilities, Escapades, and Entrapments</b></p> <p><b>KOH SIN YEE</b>, <i>University of Brunei Darussalam</i></p>
12:40	<p><b>Overseas Study as Zone of Suspension: Chinese Students Re-negotiating the Meanings of Youth, Gender and Intimacy</b></p> <p><b>FRAN MARTIN</b>, <i>University of Melbourne, Australia</i></p>
13:00	Questions & Answers
13:30 – 14:30	LUNCH

<b>14:30 – 15:30</b>	<b>PANEL 3 – EDUCATION &amp; FUTURES</b>
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>LORETTA BALDASSAR</b> , <i>University of Western Australia, and Monash University, Australia</i>
14:30	<b>Educational (Im)mobilities and the Architecture of Young People’s Futures in Hong Kong</b> <b>JOHANNA WATERS</b> , <i>University of Oxford, UK</i>
14:50	<b>Study Abroad and After Study as Contrasting Phases in Youth Transition to Adulthood</b> <b>HO KONG CHONG</b> , <i>National University of Singapore</i> <b>FRANCIS L. COLLINS</b> , <i>University of Auckland, New Zealand</i> <b>MAYUMI ISHIKAWA</b> , <i>Osaka University, Japan</i> <b>AI-HSUAN SANDRA MA</b> , <i>National Chengchi University, Taiwan</i> <b>CHUA YUE ER</b> , <i>National University of Singapore</i>
15:10	Questions & Answers
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>
<b>16:00 – 17:30</b>	<b>PANEL 4 – ASPIRATION &amp; TEMPORALITY</b>
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>ANJU MARY PAUL</b> , <i>Yale-NUS College, Singapore</i>
16:00	<b>Scalar and Temporal Im/mobilities of Asia-Pacific Urban Youth</b> <b>TRACEY SKELTON</b> , <i>National University of Singapore</i>
16:20	<b>“Life will Develop in Java”: Migration and Aspirations of Young Men from West Kalimantan Indonesia</b> <b>WENTY MARINA MINZA</b> , <i>Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia</i>
16:40	<b>Keeping Bodies Moving: Hope, Disruption and the Possibilities of Youth Migration</b> <b>FRANCIS L. COLLINS</b> , <i>University of Auckland, New Zealand</i>
17:00	Questions & Answers
<b>17:30</b>	<b>END OF DAY 1</b>
<b>17:45 – 20:00</b>	<b>WORKSHOP DINNER</b> (For Speakers, Chairpersons & Invited Guests)

<b>8 NOVEMBER 2016 (TUESDAY)</b>	
10:00 – 10:15	REGISTRATION
10:15 – 11:15	<b>PANEL 5 – EDUCATION, PLACE &amp; CLASS</b>
Chairperson	<b>MICHIEL BAAS</b> , <i>National University of Singapore</i>
10:15	<b>Tracing Differentiations, Correlations, and Contradictions in Youths' Degree-seeking Strategies in Singapore and its Regional Hinterlands</b> <b>CHENG YI'EN</b> , <i>Yale-NUS College, Singapore</i>
10:35	<b>State, Market, and Asian Developing-country Youths' Experiences of Educational Mobility: The Cases of Chinese 'Foreign Talent' Students in Singapore and Indian Medical Students in China</b> <b>YANG PEIDONG</b> , <i>Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i>
10:55	Questions & Answers
11:15 – 11:45	TEA BREAK
11:45 – 12:45	<b>PANEL 6 – LABOUR MOBILITIES</b>
Chairperson	<b>ELAINE LYNN-EE HO</b> , <i>National University of Singapore</i>
11:45	<b>Outsourcing Mobility, Risks and Middle-class Aspirations: Japanese Digital Workers in Dalian, China</b> <b>KUMIKO KAWASHIMA</b> , <i>Macquarie University, Australia</i>
12:05	<b>Staking Claims: Youth, Masculinity and the Politics of Labor Recruitment in an Indonesian Steel Town</b> <b>SUZANNE NAAFS</b> , <i>University of South Australia</i>
12:25	Questions & Answers
12:45 – 13:45	LUNCH
13:45 – 14:45	<b>PANEL 7 – DIGITAL LIVES, DIGITAL METHODS</b>
Chairperson	<b>ANITA HARRIS</b> , <i>Deakin University, Australia</i>
13:45	<b>Youth Mobility in the Digital Age: The Curious Case of Tinder Tourism</b> <b>GARTH LEAN</b> , <i>Western Sydney University, Australia</i>
14:05	<b>Housing, Migration and Education Pathways between Asian and Australia: Radio Documentary as Method</b> <b>DALLAS ROGERS</b> , <i>Western Sydney University, Australia</i> <b>SHANTHI ROBERTSON</b> , <i>Western Sydney University, Australia, and National University of Singapore</i> <b>GU ZHONGHUA</b> , <i>City University of Hong Kong</i> <b>ONG YUNYU</b> , <i>Music Composer, Singapore</i>
14:25	Questions & Answers
14:45 – 15:00	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>
14:45	<b>SHANTHI ROBERTSON</b> , <i>Western Sydney University, Australia, and National University of Singapore</i> <b>CHENG YI'EN</b> , <i>Yale-NUS College, Singapore</i>
15:00	END OF WORKSHOP

## **Mobility in Transition: Youth Circulation and Precariousness in Crisis Contexts**

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On-going dialogue between youth studies and migration studies has helped develop an understanding of how and why young people practice various forms of mobility. Prior studies have underlined the importance of individual agency in mobility choices, as well as the roles played by family and institutional support. This paper contributes to this debate through looking at mobility decisions made by European students in countries affected by the global financial crisis. I develop two concepts, mobility imperative and mobility capacity, to explain how mobility propensities change according to structural and personal circumstances. Fundamental to this process in crisis contexts is precariousness in work and study trajectories, associated with an erosion in the quality and quantity of life chances within a specific locale. In consequence, there is heightened dependency on personal inheritances of social and economic capital, resources that are vulnerable to erosion through austerity. Empirical evidence is drawn from surveys with students in Ireland and Portugal, demonstrating how a heightened mobility imperative and deteriorating mobility capacity produce immobility rather than outward migration. This trend is also observed in more recent research on the Erasmus undergraduate exchange programme in Portugal, suggesting that access to institutional mobility platforms is also affected by austerity. The discussion concludes with an exploration of alternative mobility possibilities, including the asking of the question: should European youth in crisis contexts consider moving outside Europe in order to continue their education and work trajectories?

**David CAIRNS** is Senior Researcher at the Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology, ISCTE-University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal. His areas of expertise include migration and youth studies, and he is currently undertaking research on the Erasmus programme in Portugal. Publications include several books on the theme of youth mobility and articles in journals including *International Migration*, *Journal of Youth Studies*, *Social and Cultural Geography* and *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*.

## Mobile Transitions: Concepts and Methods for Researching a Generation on the Move

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This paper argues for a renewed research agenda around the transnational mobility of young people across both youth studies and migration studies, and outlines concepts and propositions to further this agenda. We first review key literature across these fields, before arguing for a new conceptual approach that can further synthesize and extend these important foundations in the context of the emerging interdisciplinary space of youth mobility studies (Raffaetà, Baldassar & Harris 2016). Our central proposition is that mobility has become an important marker and maker of transitions for youth in many contexts globally and, as a result, the relationship of transnational mobility to transitions to adulthood needs to be comprehensively examined. In particular, we investigate how mobility is changing how young people experience and understand their progressions towards diverse social, civic and economic practices of 'adulthood'. We further argue that a conceptual and methodological advance is required to understand the unique circumstances of a generation 'on the move' as they navigate these pathways, and propose the idea of *mobile transitions* as a potential conceptual agenda. 'Mobile transitions' not only describes transition pathways under conditions of mobility but also emphasizes a number of key conceptual, empirical and methodological foci for the development of transnational youth mobility research. These include: orientations towards multiplicities of youth mobilities and transitions, in terms of categories, directionalities, spaces, cultures and temporalities; understanding 'mobile transitions' in relation to three intersecting domains of economic opportunities, social relations and civic practices rather than linear notions of economic and social autonomy; and understanding the mediating forces that produce, facilitate and constrain youth im/mobilities and transitions.

**Shanthi ROBERTSON** is a Senior Research Fellow in migration studies and globalization at the Institute of Culture and Society at Western Sydney University. Shanthi's research interests centre on migration, transnationalism, citizenship and urban space, particularly the social, cultural and political consequences of contemporary modes of migration governance in the Asia-Pacific. She has previously published on the education-migration nexus and is currently working on a three year Australia Research Council-funded project on temporality, mobility and young Asian temporary migrants to Australia.

**Anita HARRIS** is a Research Professor in the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation at Deakin University, Melbourne. Anita is a leading expert in critical youth studies, with a particular interest in youth identities and youth cultures; youth, mobility and multiculturalism; young people's civic lives and citizenship practices; and girlhood studies. She has most recently published on young people and everyday multiculturalism, young people's urban multicultures, and citizenship among young Muslim Australians.

**Loretta BALDASSAR** is Professor and Discipline Chair of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Western Australia and an Adjunct Principal Research Fellow at Monash University. Loretta is a leading global expert on transnational migrants, families and caregiving, and migration and ICTs. Her scholarship has focused on young migrants through studies of second generations as well as study abroad and intercultural learning. A leading scholar of the Italian diaspora in Australia, she has most recently published an edited collection on Chinese migration to Europe.



## The Entanglements of Migration and Marriage: Negotiating Mobility Projects among Young Women from Migrant-sending Villages in Ponorogo, Indonesia

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Normative gender ideologies in Indonesia tend to depict men as breadwinners of the household while women take on the primary role of homemaking. Informed by the Javanese cultural-religious notion of *kodrat*—defined as ‘God-given nature and spiritual prosperity’ (Tickamyer and Kusujarti 2012, 37), women are often assumed to be subordinate to men. Within the household, while it is common for Javanese women to have some form of economic autonomy—a socio-economic marker commonly associated with higher social status in Western discourses (Tickamyer and Kusujarti 2012)—they are depicted as ‘managers’ of households within which their husbands are the ‘masters’ (Sullivan 1994). While labour migration has long roots in Indonesia, the last three decades has witnessed the feminisation of labour migration where women are now as likely as men to migrate for work. This major shift has spawned a burgeoning body of scholarship in the context of Southeast Asia, although much of the focus has been trained on the impact of labour migration on gender relations in the household when parents migrate for work, leading to the reconfiguring of child-rearing and caregiving responsibilities work (e.g. transnational mothering and left-behind fathering). In the development of this literature, young people’s voices tend to be neglected in migration studies as they are often treated as passive ‘victims’ or ‘beneficiaries’ of parental migration (Hoang et al. 2015). Based on 29 interviews with young women aged between 15 and 24 years from migrant-sending villages in Ponorogo, this paper seeks to fill this gap and draw attention to their perspectives on the entangled relationship between labour migration and marriage prospects. In Indonesian society, both migration and marriage are important social markers that signify transition to adulthood. To foreground young women’s agency in navigating differentiated pathways, we draw on Zipin et al.’s (2015) ‘logics for aspiring’ to interrogate the way normative gender expectations are threaded through their marriage and work aspirations. While young people often hold onto normative expectations of gender relations in the household, the uneven mobilities perpetuated by gendered migration regimes have resulted in the ‘gendering of mobilities’ where it is easier for young women to migrate for work than their male peers. Against this backdrop, we investigate the influence that the normative marriage expectations and gender ideals has on young women’s aspirations and how they imagine and construct their individual mobility projects in this context.

**KHOO Choon Yen** is a Research Assistant in the Asian Migration Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, and a Masters Candidate in the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore. Her research interests include labour migration from/within Indonesia and Southeast Asia, gender and migration, youth aspirations and return migration. Her Masters thesis explores Indonesian young rural women’s aspirations and negotiation of adulthood within Indonesia’s educational context and feminised migration phenomenon. She has co-authored papers in *Social & Cultural Geography*, *New Media & Society* and *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, and has co-produced a short film, *Mimpi Anak Desa (Small Town, Big Dreams)* which interrogates the impact of parental migration on young people’s aspirations in Ponorogo, Indonesia.

**Brenda S.A. YEOH** is Professor (Provost's Chair), Department of Geography, and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore. She is also the Research Leader of the Asian Migration Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, NUS, and coordinates the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis. 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).

## “I Keep Moving when Things Change, I Suppose”: Mobilities, Escapades, and Entrapments

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What does mobility mean to young, female ‘elite’ serial migrants? With this research question in mind, this paper draws upon the narrative of Sam (pseudonym), a single Malaysian-Chinese professional woman in her late-thirties at the time of interview in 2012. The paper analyses her multiple migration trajectories across Asia-Pacific and Europe—or to be more precise, her mobilities and escapades—since her teens. The paper argues that her seemingly effortless transnational sojourns cannot be interpreted simplistically as that undertaken by an elite mobile young migrant, or that of a privileged student-turned transnational skilled migrant. Nor was her migration trajectory a simple and linear one with smooth transitions into settlement in her chosen destinations. Instead, her constant search for ‘a place to belong’ belies her sense of never fitting in, always existing ‘in-between’, and being entrapped in perpetual limbo. Using Sam’s story, this paper shows how mobility has been used as a means to escape when things ‘don’t fit’. Ironically, however, moving to escape further exacerbates the misfit to everyday life in the ‘here’ and ‘now’. This paper concludes by reflecting on the relationships between gender expectations, prolonged youth transition, and im/mobility. In doing so, this paper contributes to a nuanced understanding of the lived experiences of young, female ‘elite’ serial migrants like Sam who feel that they do not, and perhaps cannot, belong anywhere. For them, mobility may not necessarily bring expected positive outcomes.

**KOH Sin Yee** ([www.sinyeekoh.wordpress.com](http://www.sinyeekoh.wordpress.com)) is Assistant Professor (Geography) at the Institute of Asian Studies at Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Her research is positioned at the intersections of migration studies and urban studies. Her completed and current research projects include: (1) Malaysian student-turned skilled migrants in Singapore and the United Kingdom; (2) the super-rich and their transnational real estate investments in Hong Kong; (3) cross-border homes and investments in Singapore-Johor Bahru and Brunei-Miri; and (4) expatriates in Brunei. She is the author of *Race, Education and Citizenship: British Colonial Legacies, Mobile Malaysians, and A Culture of Migration* (Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming in Dec 2016).

## Overseas Study as Zone of Suspension: Chinese Students Re-negotiating the Meanings of Youth, Gender and Intimacy

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This paper draws on my in-progress ethnographic research with Chinese women students in Australia to consider how time studying abroad functions as a temporal and geographic 'zone of suspension' for these mobile youth, through which they reconfigure the meanings of both youth and feminine gender. China's young generation of middle-class urban women is subject to the competing pull of at least two sets of contradictory ideologies. First, vis-à-vis gender, on one hand they are attracted by an emergent neoliberal-style ideology of self-authorizing, individualized feminine selfhood; while on the other hand they are subject to the effects of re-traditionalizing gender roles in the post-socialist era, whereby adult women's identity is (re)constructed as family- rather than self- or social collective-focused. Second, vis-à-vis life course, on one hand they are subject to the fairly rigid normative life-stage model of the elder generations, which is more compressed for women than for men and leaves women little leeway for deviation between stages; while on the other hand they are drawn toward a more open understanding of life course, incorporating an extended period of 'emerging adulthood', pre-marital sexual exploration, and a greater diversity of possible life pathways. Since the normative life-stage model's opportunity-cost is greater for women than for men, there is more pressure on women—especially academically, professionally and personally ambitious ones—to elaborate alternatives. This paper explores how for some, educational mobility seems like a step toward this goal; however, in practice the contradictions of both femininity and life course are reconfigured, rather than resolved, in overseas study's 'zone of suspension'.

**Fran MARTIN's** best-known research focuses on television, film, literature, Internet culture and other forms of cultural production in the contemporary transnational Chinese cultural sphere, with a specialization in representations and cultures of gender and sexuality, especially among youth. She is currently working on a 5-year Future Fellowship Project funded by the Australian Research Council that uses longitudinal ethnography to research the social and subjective experiences of a group of young women from China who are studying and living in Melbourne, Australia. Her recent book publications include *Telemodernities: Television and Transforming Lives in Asia* (co-authored with Tania Lewis and Wanning Sun, Duke U.P., 2016), and *Lifestyle Media in Asia: Consumption, Aspiration and Identity* (co-edited with Tania Lewis, Routledge, 2016). Fran is Associate Professor and Reader in Cultural Studies at the University of Melbourne.

## Educational (Im)mobilities and the Architecture of Young People's Futures in Hong Kong

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This paper draws upon fieldwork undertaken in Hong Kong, over the space of a decade, to reflect upon how educational (im)mobilities are folded into the structures that determine young people's futures. It draws upon two research projects in particular—one which involved children's international migration in search of education; the other which examined examples of young people 'stuck' in Hong Kong and prescribed, by virtue of their 'failure' in the school system to date, particular circumscribed life chances. The paper will look, first, at how certain identities are created through schooling in Hong Kong. Second, it will suggest how (im)mobilities play a role in this creation. Third and finally, it will consider the extent to which there is room for alternative discourses around education and young people to be forged. The paper speaks to wider debates concerning educational migrations (the role of students as migrants) and the formative role that education (both domestic and international) plays in contemporary societies.

**Johanna WATERS** is Associate Professor in Human Geography at the University of Oxford. Following her graduate studies in the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia, she took up a lectureship at the University of Liverpool, followed seven years later by a Senior Lectureship at the University of Birmingham, before moving to Oxford in 2013. Her research sits at the intersection of fields of 'migration' and 'education', but she would describe herself primarily as a social geographer concerned with addressing social inequalities and exclusions related to education and (im)mobilities. She has published widely within Geography and cognate disciplines, and has recent papers in *Geoforum*, *Children's Geography*, *Progress in Human Geography* and *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, as well as elsewhere. Johanna sits on the editorial boards of journals *Geoforum*, *British Journal of Sociology of Education* and *Journal of Studies in International Education*. She is currently writing a book with a friend and colleague Rachel Brooks (University of Surrey) addressing mobilities and materialities in education, due to be published in 2017 with Routledge. Her most recent work explores concepts of 'meritocracy' and 'failure' in relation to education systems and attendant mobilities.

## **Study Abroad and After Study as Contrasting Phases in Youth Transition to Adulthood**

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We use critical moments, a concept developed by Thomson and her colleagues (2002), Beech's (2014) use of Said's imaginative geography and Brannen and Nielson's (2002) portrayal of young people's time perspectives as conceptual anchors in understanding movements for study abroad and after study.

Study abroad and after study may be seen as chapters in one's life. Decisions surrounding these events come at moments of mindfulness for some. Used in this fashion, critical moments commit individuals to a 'move to learn' plan. For others, these decisions may be rather spontaneous, whimsical and still in other cases, the decisions are forced upon individuals. As consequential events study abroad and after study in a young person's trajectory, study abroad is anchored by narratives of desire and aspiration while after study narratives reflect a thickening of the path chosen and rarely taken to new ventures beyond moving back home and staying at host places.

Imaginative geographies in contrast to critical moments introduce the power of place to student mobility. If as Said argues, imaginative geographies are anchored in power relations between countries, then countries and their universities provide the reasons and the anticipation for the student. For countries bound in a post-colonial relationship, the mobility patterns to the former center are clear, carried by the imaginations of a higher education in an advance country (Beech, 2014). The recent attempts by Asian governments and universities to recruit international students represent a fresh start, un-encumbered but at the same time, un-enriched by the missing imagined center. Students must then build an imagination from other sources: families, friends and returned students, along with emergent imaginative geographies in regional circuits of culture and economy. And from rationales provided by university scholarships and funding arising out of inter-governmental agreements. The after study phased is marked by how places (host or home countries) allow for the transition to adulthood to be effected: job possibilities along with family formation.

Study aboard and after study are linked by knock-on effects. In this respect, there are temporal patterns to the imaginative geographies and movements involved in educational migration. This temporal pattern is revealed in narratives of students and graduates that point in many instances to a focus on labour market preparation that link acquisition (of skills, experiences and contacts) to career in a way that fits into predictable model (East Asia university as locus of choice) or adaptable model (East Asia university as a fall-back plan) of time (Breenan and Nielson, 2002). For a smaller group of youths who see study abroad as an attempt to keep the future at bay (the deferment model of time), the after study phase becomes somewhat of a crisis. In both cases, however, we see that imaginative geographies play an important role in situating individuals both in terms of understanding their mobilities to date but also in relation to negotiating ongoing mobility.

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**Francis L. COLLINS** is a Senior Lecturer in Geography and Rutherford Discovery Fellow at the University of Auckland. His research focuses on international migration and cities with a particular emphasis on the experiences, mobility patterns and governmental regulation of temporary migrants. Francis' research includes work in a range of Asia Pacific countries exploring: international students and urban transformation, higher education and the globalization of cities, labor migration and marginalization, time and youth migration, and social networks and aspirations. Methodologically and analytically, Francis prioritizes qualitative first-hand accounts of individual experiences and an emphasis on the role of government and non-government actors in shaping the possibilities for mobility and aspiration through migration. Recent publications can be found in: *Antipode*; *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*; *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*; *Environment and Planning A*; *Geoforum*; *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; *Higher Education*; *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* and *Population Space and Place*.

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**CHUA Yue Er** received her Masters in Sociology from the National University of Singapore, where she wrote a research thesis on the Chinese youths' experience of emerging adulthood, titled "International Students' Pathway: Mainland Chinese Students in Singapore". She is interested in the sociology of youth, higher education and migration patterns.

## **Scalar and Temporal Im/mobilities of Asia-Pacific Urban Youth**

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This paper draws upon in-depth research with young people aged 16 to 23 born and raised in the Asia-Pacific cities of Auckland and Singapore. This age range was selected because it is a time of transitions in both cities as young people make significant education and employment choices. For many young people it is a time of new mobilities (different daily commutes, new spaces to settle into), of fresh encounters with new peer groups (encounters through study or work), and a starting point of a degree of youth-oriented independence within their home cities (moving out of the familial home, travelling independently). Auckland and Singapore are cities of intense mobilities, inward and outward migration, and travel for pleasure, study or work. Both cities, located on islands, share the symbolic significance of 'going overseas' and the role of airports and airlines as part of the city infrastructure, national identity, and gateways to travel. This paper explores the complexities, contradictions and constraints of youth mobilities and immobilities through a scalar and temporal relational analysis of young people's narratives. The scalar analysis examines im/mobilities in, through and beyond their respective cities, overseas travel practices, and aspirational mobilities. A temporal analysis considers the differences articulated around time-rich and time-constrained mobilities in each city. It also considers the role of intergenerational temporality through considering freedom/ restrictions within the family that impact on young people's im/mobilities.

**Tracey SKELTON** is Associate Professor of Human Geography in the Department of Geography at National University of Singapore. Her main research focus is on geographies of children and young people and she has conducted such research in Cambodia, the Caribbean, Laos, New Zealand, Singapore and UK. She has published many articles and chapters focusing on young people and co-edited the first collection of work on young people's urban im/mobilities published in *Urban Studies* (2013, 50, 3). She is the co-editor of a forthcoming special issue in *Children's Geographies*, "Youthful Futures? Education, Employment and Aspirations". Tracey is also the Editor-in-Chief of a major 12-volume reference work with Springer, *Geographies of Children and Young People*: 5 volumes have been published to date: space, place and environment; politics, citizenship and right; identities and subjectivities; movement, mobilities and journeys; protection, provision and polity.



**“Life will Develop in Java”:  
Migration and Aspirations of Young Men from West Kalimantan Indonesia**

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This study is based on a follow up of qualitative research conducted in 2008-2009 on educational and work aspirations of young people in Pontianak, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. While the past study focused on aspirations of young people living in Pontianak and of return migrants, this study seeks to understand the aspirations of young people from West Kalimantan currently studying in Yogyakarta, Java. It focuses on the cases of young men from different ethnic backgrounds (Malay, Madurese, and Chinese). This study finds that migration for furthering studies is not always linked to education aspirations, but rather, to the notion of self-development which encompasses both the present and future self. Ethnicity and class frame the meaning of self-development and how it relates to work aspirations. Lastly, this study finds that the practice of a more agentic individual is quite strong in these young men’s narrative. The agentic individual is seen in how family expectations shape, rather than dominate, their decision to migrate back to Pontianak. This study seeks to contribute to the discussion of education to work transition in the context of migration.

**Wenty Marina MINZA** obtained her PhD from Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam. She teaches at the Faculty of Psychology, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia and is currently Head of Center for Indigenous and Cultural Psychology at the same university. Her recent research interests focuses on hierarchical friendship, identity, youth transition, and youth culture. She is coordinating research on youth movement in Bali, Pontianak, and Yogyakarta as part of the Power, Welfare, and Democracy, a research collaboration with University of Oslo, Norway.

## Keeping Bodies Moving: Hope, Disruption and the Possibilities of Youth Migration

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Contemporary youth migrations are regularly invested with hopeful connotations about potential, transformation and the future. For young people, becoming mobile is purportedly directed to enhancing life chances through exposure to diverse places, accumulation of social and cultural capital and opportunities for self-reflection. At the same time, however, much youth migration occurs within uneven social and economic circumstances, and many young people today are on the move exactly because of present precarity and uncertain futures. Because of this youth migration also involves considerable exploitation, in the form of fraudulent intermediation, oppressive life and work situations and excessive indebtedness. This paper addresses the paradox of hope and exploitation in youth migration by exploring the narratives of young adults holding temporary study, job-search and work visas in Auckland, New Zealand. The accounts offered by these young people reveal both specific hopes expressed in migration – education, residency rights – as well as more general feelings of hopefulness about the future. In many instances, however, hopes and hopefulness emerge specifically in relation to personal difficulties and negative affects in ways that question the marking of hope as only a positive dimension of youth mobility. Through this case the paper argues that there is a need to re-evaluate hope in youth migration and pay greater attention to its role in generating and sustaining mobility in ways that cannot be separated from the struggles involved in inhabiting and moving in the world.

**Francis L. COLLINS** is a Senior Lecturer in Geography and Rutherford Discovery Fellow at the University of Auckland. His research focuses on international migration and cities with a particular emphasis on the experiences, mobility patterns and governmental regulation of temporary migrants. Francis' research includes work in a range of Asia Pacific countries exploring: international students and urban transformation, higher education and the globalization of cities, labor migration and marginalization, time and youth migration, and social networks and aspirations. Methodologically and analytically, Francis prioritizes qualitative first-hand accounts of individual experiences and an emphasis on the role of government and non-government actors in shaping the possibilities for mobility and aspiration through migration. Recent publications can be found in: *Antipode*; *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*; *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*; *Environment and Planning A*; *Geoforum*; *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; *Higher Education*; *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* and *Population Space and Place*.

## Tracing Differentiations, Correlations, and Contradictions in Youths' Degree-seeking Strategies in Singapore and its Regional Hinterlands

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In this paper, I argue that contemporary higher educational pursuits undertaken by young people (and families) entail a more textured and paradoxical exchange of mobilities and immobilities across variegated youth segments. This provocation addresses two key but under-emphasised points in existing scholarship on higher educational mobility. First, it underlines the relational nature of educational mobility, as both productive of and produced by immobility. Second, it acknowledges the disaggregated experiences of youth as a social group, and in particular highlights the continuing salience of class in mediating young people's imaginations and practices of mobility. I focus on Singapore as a locus to examine how local youths navigate an expanding but also increasingly hierarchical range of degree programme options within the city and its educational hinterlands in the region. I show that segments of Singaporean youths' degree-seeking strategies are caught in a web of differentiated opportunities structured by earlier schooling performances; their educational trajectories and subsequent correlated mobilities are held together by a middle-class imperative to gain a degree; and the manner in which (some of) these young people's mobile pursuits can lock them in contradictory positions with respect to cultural capital. The paper concludes by proposing that higher educational mobility needs to be analysed by tracing least three interrelated themes—differentiation, correlation, and contradiction—in order to more fully appreciate the fate and fortune of those who are navigating contemporary higher education. The materials that inform this paper is drawn from research conducted since 2012 with Singaporean youths aged between 18 and 25, all of whom were studying at public and private institutes of higher education.

**CHENG Yi'En** is a postdoctoral fellow at Yale-NUS College. He researches on knowledge-based cities, global education, transnational mobilities, and youth citizenship as they intersect with discourses around global cities and urban life. His newest project examines liberal arts education and youth citizenship in Asia. Past and ongoing projects include transnational marriage and familyhood, student migration and time-spaces, as well as private higher education, youth, and class. These works have been published in journals in the field of human geography, including *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Antipode*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Gender, Place and Culture*, *Global Networks*, and *Social and Cultural Geography*. Yi'En has a DPhil in Geography from the University of Oxford, Masters and Bachelor (Geography) from the National University of Singapore. He also worked as a part-time researcher at the Asia Research Institute, under the Asian Migration Cluster.

## State, Market, and Asian Developing-country Youths' Experiences of Educational Mobility: The Cases of Chinese 'Foreign Talent' Students in Singapore and Indian Medical Students in China

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Among diverse emerging forms of youth mobility, this paper focuses on higher education mobilities within the Asia-Pacific region. To-date, scholarship on (higher) education mobility has mostly adopted a Bourdieusian prism to look at students traveling from developing countries to the developed world, portraying educational mobility as a strategy for social class reproduction pursued by relatively privileged individuals and families. It is often assumed that mobility confers social and cultural capitals, and leads to enhanced job market competitiveness and life chances for mobile students.

Based on the author's ethnographic research over the past five years, this paper enters into critical dialogues with these themes by offering a comparative examination of two cases of educational mobility set in Asia: Chinese students recruited and funded by the Singapore state's 'foreign talent' scholarship programs and self-funded Indian students pursuing English-medium medical education (MBBS) in China. The contrast between these two cases goes beyond the fact that the former is a case of state-initiated/led educational mobility whereas the latter involves a stronger market logic; the social and academic characteristics of the students and their families, the students' experiences of international education, and the outcomes of their mobilities also vary notably. Through ethnographic materials gathered over sustained periods of time, the paper comparatively unpicks the nuanced realities and outcomes of these two distinctive groups of mobile Asian students' experiences of mobilities and immobilities in educational, social and cultural terms.

The paper argues that Asian developing-country youths' educational mobility and their associated experiences of social and cultural im/mobilities are the outcomes of complex negotiations between youths' own differential starting social positionings, constellations of power structures (e.g. the state and the market), and contextual social dynamics such as local immigration politics and exclusion.

**YANG Peidong** (DPhil, Oxford) is currently a Research Fellow at the Division of Sociology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His research interests are located at the intersections of education, migration/mobility, and media. His doctoral research examined Singapore's 'foreign talent' policy in relation to education, focusing specifically on the cross-cultural educational experiences of Chinese migrant students on scholarships offered by the city-state's government. His other past and present research projects include immigration tensions and immigrant integration in Singapore; Indian medical students in China; and cultural analysis of (online) media memes in contemporary China. He is the author of *International Mobility and Educational Desire: Chinese Foreign Talent Students in Singapore* (Palgrave, 2016) and more than a dozen international peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters ([www.peidongyang.com](http://www.peidongyang.com)).

## Outsourcing Mobility, Risks and Middle-class Aspirations: Japanese Digital Workers in Dalian, China

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This paper draws on an ethnographic study to examine the aspirations of Japanese digital workers in Dalian, a northeast Chinese city of six million people where the nation's largest high-tech zones operate. Their native language skills and cultural competency make them highly suitable for the task of providing 'quality service' to consumers in Japan from across the border. By the Japanese standard, these workers are low wage earners, and the jobs they undertake at call centres and other places of digital work are located on the lower end of the global value chain. An overwhelming majority of these workers consider their presence in Dalian temporary, and they frequently mull over their next move. This paper shows how different types of mobility feature prominently in the migrants' narratives of seeking middle-class achievement, in Japan or elsewhere. Markers of such achievement are gendered and tied up with life course events such as transition from education to employment and secure retirement. On the one hand, they use labour migration to reject the social and cultural expectations prevalent in deflationary Japan where possibilities for upward social mobility are limited. On the other hand, their imaginings of how to navigate risks in post-Dalian life through geographical mobility are frequently underpinned by their acceptance of the corporate profit imperative and the conformity to conventional markers of adulthood such as marriage. It is argued that the digital workers' engagement with international mobility (in practice and imagination) is an experiment in resisting, reworking and reinforcing normative ideas about the life course in their society of origin.

**Kumiko KAWASHIMA** is Lecturer at the Department of Sociology, Macquarie University. Her research to date has investigated the nexus between individual lives, global capitalism and social transformation in post-industrial contexts through the lens of transnational migration. Her latest publications include "Service Outsourcing and Labour Mobility in a Digital Age: Transnational Linkages between Japan and Dalian, China" (forthcoming, *Global Networks*), "Regulatory Approaches to Managing Skilled Labour Migration: Indonesian Nurses in Japan" (2016, with Michele Ford, *The Economic and Labour Relations Review* 27 (2): 231-247), and "Uneven Cosmopolitanism: Japanese Working Holiday Makers and the 'Lost Decade'" (2014, in Jeremy Breaden et. al. *Internationalising Japan: Discourse and Practice*, Routledge).

**Staking Claims:  
Youth, Masculinity and the Politics of Labor Recruitment in an Indonesian Steel Town**

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This ethnographic study examines young men's search for work amidst the intense competition for jobs and income opportunities between locals and foreign and domestic migrants in the industrial port city of Cilegon (population 405,303) in Banten, Indonesia. By foregrounding historical recruitment patterns and labour market hierarchies in Cilegon's steel industries since the 1970s, the paper examines a local community in the process of labour market exclusion and explores the effects this has on young men's self-perception, masculinity and their socio-cultural roles as breadwinners in the local society.

Despite rapid economic growth and industrialization during the Suharto years (1966-1998), local young men (aged 18-30 years old) in Cilegon with diplomas from regional vocational schools and technical training institutes feel they are losing out in the competition for industrial employment to skilled and better-educated migrants from other parts of Indonesia and abroad, including a recent influx of South Korean steel workers since 2010. Through critical analysis of debates around skill formation and the contestations around 'local' and 'newcomer' identities, this paper investigates how young men negotiate the impact of (inter)national labour market migration and immobility in their community as they navigate their job search and make political and cultural claims about who has access to what in and around the industrial zone.

**Suzanne NAAFS** is a cultural anthropologist with a geographical specialization in Indonesia and Southeast Asia. Her research examines the repercussions of educational change and global labor market restructuring for young people's futures and pathways into work, and their aspirations for middle class lifestyles and intergenerational mobility. She received her PhD in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies at Erasmus University and since then has held postdoctoral positions at the Asia Research Institute (2012-2014) and University of South Australia (2014-2015). Her research has been published in *Inside Indonesia*, *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* and *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*.

## Youth Mobility in the Digital Age: The Curious Case of Tinder Tourism

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Like all facets of social life, digital technologies have become deeply entwined in the performance of travel and tourism. Yet their investigation has largely been restricted to reflecting upon their use in place marketing/promotion and facilitating visitor experiences (e.g. interpretation in museums, self-guided walking tours, etc.). As such there is a significant, and rapidly expanding, gap in knowledge surrounding how digital technologies are reshaping travel experiences, including social interactions and connections during travel and tourism.

The TinDA (Travel in a Digital Age) project was established in 2015 to specifically examine the ways in which digital technologies mediate travel experiences. This paper draws upon findings from the first stages of a study investigating the commonplace use of location-based social discovery applications (or apps), such as Tinder, Grindr and Backpackr, among young travellers. The use of these apps during travel is embedded within a broader shift toward increasing digital connections and intimacies in a modern, mobile world. In the context of travel and tourism, location-based discovery apps represent a quest for alternate ways of encountering 'local', 'difference' and 'other', comparable with the rise of other digital platforms such as Airbnb and Couchsurfing. Beyond intimate encounters, data from the project suggests that travellers use the apps to connect (in all manner of ways) with people and places and to discover local knowledge. They have quickly become common travel tools for young travellers.

**Garth LEAN** is a Lecturer in Geography and Urban Studies in the School of Social Sciences and Psychology at Western Sydney University. His research and writing primarily investigates experiences of physical travel in a modern, mobile world. He is the lead researcher of the Transformative Travel Research Project ([www.transformativetravel.com](http://www.transformativetravel.com)) and co-lead of the TinDA (Travel in the Digital Age) Project ([www.tindaproject.com](http://www.tindaproject.com)). Garth has published a variety of papers on travel, tourism and mobilities, along with the monograph *Transformative Travel in a Mobile World* (CABI 2016), and the edited volumes *Travel and Imagination* (Ashgate 2014) and *Travel and Transformation* (Ashgate 2014). He is the Vice President of the Geographical Society of New South Wales and a member of the Geographies of Leisure and Tourism Research Group with the Royal Geographical Society.

## Housing, Migration and Education Pathways between Asia and Australia: Radio Documentary as Method

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This paper reports on a participatory digital storytelling project that is currently recording the experiences of foreign students from China who are living in Sydney, studying in tertiary institutions and navigating the local housing market. The paper provides a preliminary reflective discussion of the ethical and methodological processes involved in conducting research that uses radio documentary as method. The context of the research involves the policies and practices that link immigration, citizenship, international education and real estate investment in complex and increasingly entangled ways across the mobilities of people and capital from Asia to Australia. We argue that much of the existing literature and public commentary on how Asian/Australian mobilities are configured, enacted and mediated constructs international education, foreign investment and migration as largely distinct flows. However, these narratives do not account for the co-constitution of the mobile subject as simultaneously a foreign student, a local housing consumer and a migrant. We focus in this paper on the research methodology we developed to work with 10 foreign students from China on developing narratives that can speak to the complex and multiple subjectivities and experiences involved in their housing, education and migration pathways. This methodology draws on the renewed scholarly focus on the sonic within cultural geography as well as on digital audio storytelling and participatory research ethics.

**Dallas ROGERS** is a member of the Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University. His research investigates the relationships between globalising urban space, discourse and technology networks, and housing poverty and wealth. He has published numerous articles on these themes, and two housing related books: a monograph on *The Geopolitics of Real Estate: Reconfiguring Property, Capital and Rights* (2016, Rowman & Littlefield International); and the edited volume *Housing in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Australia: People, Practices and Policies* (2015, Routledge). Dallas studied radio production, radio documentary and digital content production at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS), graduating with a Graduate Diploma in Digital Content Production – Radio. He uses these skills to develop engaged digital storytelling methodologies and in his national community radio show SoundMinds Radio: <http://www.soundminds.com.au/author/dallas/>.

**Shanthi ROBERTSON** is a Senior Research Fellow in migration studies and globalization at the Institute of Culture and Society at Western Sydney University. Shanthi's research interests centre on migration, transnationalism, citizenship and urban space, particularly the social, cultural and political consequences of contemporary modes of migration governance in the Asia-Pacific. She has previously published on the education-migration nexus and is currently working on a three year Australia Research Council-funded project on temporality, mobility and young Asian temporary migrants to Australia.



**GU Zhonghua** recently received her PhD in public policy from City University of Hong Kong. Now she is a visiting fellow working with Dr Dallas Rogers at Western Sydney University. Her research focuses on the urbanisation and social change in Chinese cities, as well as urban and regional development. Prior to her PhD research, she has worked in real estate industry in Hong Kong and China.

**ONG Yunyu** is an award winning multi-instrumental, multi-lingual film composer and sound designer who has a background in multiple musical genres and is a graduate of the prestigious AFTRS graduate diploma screen composing course. She is the 2015 winner of the International Samobor Film Music Festival Crystal Pine Award for best score. Yunyu is currently working on international film projects across Singapore, China and Europe. This year she is working with Palm Beach Pictures on developmental works in Singapore and Australia and is working with Amoy Media on a documentary series based in China, Xiamen.

## ABOUT THE CHAIRPERSONS

**Anju Mary PAUL** is Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Division of Social Sciences at Yale-NUS College. 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 *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, and *Migration Studies*.

**Denise L. SPITZER**, PhD, is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the National University of Singapore's Asia Research Institute. A Professor in the Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies at the University of Ottawa, she also served as the Canada Research Chair in Gender, Migration and Health and as a Principal Scientist in the Institute of Population Health from 2005-2015. In addition to undergraduate studies in Biology, Chinese Language, and Music, she holds a Master's degree and doctorate in Anthropology from the University of Alberta, Canada. Dr. Spitzer is interested in examining how global processes—intersecting with gender, racialization, migration status and other social identifiers—are implicated in health and wellbeing. Her current program of research focuses on the impact of the global economy on immigrants, migrants and refugees in different parts of the globe and engages with critical perspectives of the body, transnationalism and constructions of identity; the impact of policy on health; community-based research and intersectional analysis. Professor Spitzer has published in journals such as *Gender & Society*, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, and the *Canadian Journal of Public Health*. Her edited collection, *Engendering Migrant Health: Canadian Perspectives*, was published by the University of Toronto Press in 2011 and was recognized by the Women's and Gender Studies Association in 2013 with a WGSRF Outstanding Scholarship citation.

**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 Singapore), international student migration to China, and border mobilities between Myanmar and China. Prior to joining NUS, she was a lecturer at the University of Leeds. She completed her PhD at University College London, after which she was awarded postdoctoral fellowships at Royal Holloway University of London and the University of British Columbia. Dr Ho serves on the editorial boards of *Citizenship Studies*, *Emotions, Society and Space*, and the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*. She is also an international member of the ESRC Peer Review College in the United Kingdom.

**Michiel BAAS** is a Research Fellow with the Asian Migration Cluster of the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Most of his work deals with the Indian middle class, in particular with respect to questions of migration, transnationalism and mobility. He has published extensively on Indian student-migration to Australia and more recently has been working on projects as diverse as new middle class professionals (gym trainers and coffee baristas) in Indian cities such as Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai; mid-level skilled migration from India to Singapore; and the functioning of the migration industry in India.

**Tina SHRESTHA** is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asian Migrations Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. She received her PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Cornell University (2014). Her doctoral research on Nepali migration and asylum seeking process in the United States has appeared in *Studies in Nepali History and Society* and in an edited volume *Refugee Resettlement in the United States: Language, Policy, and Pedagogy*. She is working on a book manuscript on the co-production of suffering and victimhood in the US asylum process. Her research at ARI focuses on brokerage and documentation in the employment recruitment agencies facilitating labor migration between Nepal and Malaysia. Before joining ARI, she held a postdoctoral fellowship at the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden.