



ORGANISED BY ASIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

MARRIAGE MIGRATION, FAMILY AND CITIZENSHIP IN ASIA

CONVENED BY DR TUEN YI CHIU & PROF BRENDA S.A. YEOH

31 JANUARY – 1 FEBRUARY 2019
AS8, SEMINAR ROOM 04-04

In recent decades, there has been a marked increase in cross-border marriages in East Asian industrialised economies such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore. Marriage migration and the rise of cross-cultural/cross-national families have the potential to challenge the substance, meanings and boundaries of citizenship. Scholars have argued that 'social citizenship' cannot simply be read through a singular focus on the legal framework governing citizenship status. Instead, citizenship should be better understood as 'a terrain of struggle' (Stasiulis and Bakan, 1997), shaped by state-led as well as socially embedded ideologies of gender, race and class, and negotiated on an everyday basis within public and private spheres. These forms of negotiation are clearly foregrounded in the case of female marriage migrants, as their citizenship is constrained not only by gendered hierarchies central to the patriarchal family, but also the gendered mode of 'familial citizenship' upheld by many Asian nation-states, positioning them as wives and dependents of their citizen-husbands. Incorporated into the private sphere of the family as domestic caregivers and socio-biological reproducers, marriage migrants straddle the ambivalent position of being 'outsiders' both within the state and the family. Despite their vulnerable status, some marriage migrants expressed agency in claiming and negotiating citizenship entitlements on grounds of their caregiving roles and socio-biological membership of the family. As a result, the family becomes an important site where citizenship as 'a terrain of struggle' typically occurs.

Thus far, extant studies have tended to approach citizenship as an individual-centred concept vis-à-vis the nation-state (Lopez, 2015), thus fading the family into the background. This workshop sets out to go beyond the state-individual nexus by bringing the family back into the discussion of marriage migration and citizenship as contested arenas. As the overarching thematic focus, we propose that the family is a strategic site where citizenship is mediated, negotiated and contested. Using the family as the lens to study marriage migration and citizenship, this workshop aims at drawing out the intersections between the individual, the family and the state. Given that the effects of citizenship laws targeting the non-citizen member are likely to spill over to other citizen members (Fix & Zimmerman, 2001), we also call for a re-conceptualization of citizenship to include family-level experience.

In sum, the workshop focuses on families formed out of cross-border marriages as a case in point to examine how the intricate nexus between marriage migration, family and citizenship emerges and develops in the context of inter-regional marriage migration within Asia or in Asian diasporas. We are particularly interested in marriage migration between Asian countries, given the predominant collectivist and familistic norms in the region. This is also an area that has been given less attention in the literature compared to east-west cross-cultural marriages. Questions to be addressed include, but are not limited to, the following:

- How do nation-states mobilize notions of 'the family' for its citizenship project and what are the repercussions for different types of families?
- How does citizenship structure the formation, trajectory and outcomes of families resulted from cross-border marriages?
- How is one's citizenship negotiated, adapted, or lived at the family level in the case of cross-border marriages?
- How is citizenship operated within the family through its non-citizen member, i.e. the marriage migrant and/or their children?
- What are the tensions between the individual, the family and the state when negotiating citizenship boundaries and how are these tensions produced along gender, generation, racial/ethnic lines?

WORKSHOP CONVENORS

Dr Tuen Yi CHIU

Sau Po Centre on Ageing, The University of Hong Kong
E | jtychiu@hku.hk

Prof Brenda S.A. YEOH

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

31 JANUARY 2019 • THURSDAY

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| 10:30 – 10:45 | REGISTRATION | |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | WELCOME REMARKS | |
| 10:45 | BRENDA S.A. YEOH , National University of Singapore CHIU TUEN YI , The University of Hong Kong | |
| 11:00 – 12:45 | PANEL 1 • CONSTRUCTION OF MARRIAGE MIGRANTS' CITIZENSHIP | |
| <i>Chairperson</i> | BITTIANDRA CHAND SOMAIAH , National University of Singapore | |
| 11:00 | LEE HYUNOK Yonsei University, Korea | A Question of Women's Citizenship: Marriage Migrants and Welfare/Care Regime in South Korea |
| 11:25 | YANG WEI Nanyang Technological University, Singapore | From Migrant Workers to Foreign Wives: A Study of Chinese Female Marriage Migrants in Singapore |
| 11:50 | BRENDA S.A. YEOH ROHINI ANANT National University of Singapore CHEE HENG LENG Independent Researcher, Malaysia | Transnational Marriage Migration and Precarious Pathways to Partial Citizenship in Singapore's 'Hyphe-Nation' |
| 12:15 | Questions & Answers | |
| 12:45 – 13:45 | LUNCH | |
| 13:45 – 15:30 | PANEL 2 • DISCOURSES ON CROSS-BORDER MARRIAGES AND THEIR CHILDREN | |
| <i>Chairperson</i> | THEODORA LAM , National University of Singapore | |
| 13:45 | HSIA HSIAO-CHUAN Shih Hsin University, Taiwan | A Political and Economic Analysis of the Shifting Gaze on the Children of Southeast Asian Marriage Migrants in Taiwan |
| 14:10 | CHIE SAKAI Kansai University, Japan | Family as a Buffer between Multi-Cultural Individuals and Single Citizenship: The Case of Cross-Border Marriages between Japan and China |
| 14:35 | YI SOHOON Rice University, USA | Criminalizing "Runaway" Migrant Wives: Commercial Cross-Border Marriages and Home-Space as Confinement |
| 15:00 | Questions & Answers | |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | AFTERNOON TEA | |
| 16:00 – 17:45 | PANEL 3 • CHILDREN OF MIXED MARRIAGES AND THEIR NEGOTIATION OF CITIZENSHIP | |
| <i>Chairperson</i> | ERIC C. THOMPSON , National University of Singapore | |
| 16:00 | CATHERINE ALLERTON London School of Economics and Political Science, UK | Migration, Mixed Marriages and Children's Non-Citizenship in Sabah, Malaysia |
| 16:25 | MASAKO KUDO Kyoto Women's University, Japan | Negotiating Citizenship in Transnational Spaces: Young Japanese Muslim Women Born to Japanese Mothers and Pakistani Fathers |
| 16:50 | CAROLINE GRILLOT University of Lyon, France, and University of Manchester, UK | Born across State Borders: Uncertain Citizenship of Chinese-Foreign Children in China |
| 17:15 | Questions & Answers | |
| 17:45 | END OF DAY 1 | |
| 18:00 – 20:00 | WORKSHOP DINNER (For Speakers, Chairpersons & Invited Guests) | |

1 FEBRUARY 2019 • FRIDAY

| | | |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 10:45 – 10:50 | REGISTRATION | |
| 10:50 – 12:00 | PANEL 4 • NON-NORMATIVE CROSS-BORDER FAMILIES | |
| <i>Chairperson</i> | SHIORI SHAKUTO , National University of Singapore | |
| 10:50 | QUAH EE LING SHARON University of Wollongong, Australia | Disposability and Debilitation: Non-Citizen Migrant Mothers' Divorce Biographies |
| 11:15 | CHIU TUEN YI The University of Hong Kong | The Hidden Hierarchical Legitimacy of Marriage Migrant Mothers in Non-Normative Cross-Border Families in Hong Kong |
| 11:40 | Questions & Answers | |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | LUNCH | |
| 13:00 – 14:10 | PANEL 5 • (IL)LEGALITY AND MARRIAGE MIGRANTS | |
| <i>Chairperson</i> | TING WEN-CHING , National University of Singapore | |
| 13:00 | ANDERSON V. VILLA Ateneo de Davao University, and Mindanao State University – General Santos City, Philippines | Contestations on the Negotiated Citizenship Status of Non-Citizen Filipina-Mothers and their Children of Japanese Descent |
| 13:25 | BRANDAIS YORK University of Melbourne, Australia | Marriage Migration from Cambodia to China: Struggles for Citizenship, the Right to Work, and Left Behind Children |
| 13:50 | M ALA UDDIN University of Chittagong, Bangladesh | Dynamics of 'Illegal' Marriage: An Uncertain Path to Citizenship for the Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh |
| 14:15 | Questions & Answers | |
| 14:45 – 15:15 | AFTERNOON TEA | |
| 15:15 – 16:25 | PANEL 6 • MARRIAGE MIGRATION FROM AN INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE | |
| <i>Chairperson</i> | SYLVIA ANG , National University of Singapore | |
| 15:15 | ISABELLE CHENG University of Portsmouth, UK | Ambassadors, Advocates and Cultural Entrepreneurs: Vietnamese Women's Act of Citizenship in Taiwan |
| 15:40 | SHAWNA TANG University of Sydney, Australia | Queer Asian Marriage Migrants: The Transnational Familial Practices of Singaporean Lesbians |
| 16:05 | Questions & Answers | |
| 16:25 – 16:40 | CLOSING REMARKS | |
| 16:25 | BRENDA S.A. YEOH , National University of Singapore CHIU TUEN YI , The University of Hong Kong | |
| 16:40 | END OF WORKSHOP | |

A Question of Women's Citizenship: Marriage Migrants and Welfare/Care Regime in South Korea

LEE Hyunok

Department of Global Public Administration, Yonsei University, Korea
hl297@cornell.edu; frei Hyun21@gmail.com

The notion of citizenship has gained increasing importance in light of the influx of marriage migrants to South Korea. The issues of citizenship of marriage migrants are often framed in terms of the gap between the legal rights of individuals and the cultural context in which to practice them. However, the citizenship is not just a bundle of legal rights, it needs to be understood as a historical construct of the given society. This paper pays attention to the question of social citizenship in the context of developmental state in South Korea. In the process of compressed modernization in South Korea, the relationship between the state and the citizen took particular form i.e. developmental citizenship (Chang 2010). One of the implication of developmental citizenship in terms of social reproduction is that social citizenship has been re-formulated in terms of familial relationship, i.e. familialistic welfare regime (Ochiai 2009, Chang 2015). However, the increase in women's labor participation and the demographic changes over the four decades, families in Korea faced functional overload, hence, the mechanism of the social reproduction needed to change fundamentally. The internationalization of social reproduction, in particular, the cross border marriage is one of the transient solutions of this crisis of social reproduction (Lee 2012).

When the citizenship of women was discussed, both the participation of labor and the institutional arrangement of social reproduction have been important grounds. This paper sheds light on how the citizenship of marriage migrants are discussed and substantiated in the socio-political economic context by examining the following questions: 1) When marriage migrants participate in the labor market how do they deal with their care responsibility within the family? 2) What kind of public and private resources are available for maintaining their present and future life? 3) To what extent (and in which manner) the international mechanisms are used in this process? 4) What is the meaning of these phenomena in understanding the politics around the gendered social citizenship and the (family based) social contract in Korean society? In doing so, the in-depth interview with the Vietnamese marriage migrants in Korea as Vietnam is the biggest origin of marriage migrants after China. As the marriage migrants' experience of child care and labor participation changes over their life course, the marriage migrants who stayed in Korea more than ten years were selected. According to the National Survey of Multicultural Families, the majority of the marriage migrants who stayed in Korea more than 10 years tend to have children and also have work experience in the labor market. The interview will be triangulated and contextualized in terms of public discourse and institutional conditions by reviewing the news articles and the policies on the marriage migrants and multicultural families.

Lee Hyunok is Assistant Professor at the Department of Global Public Administration in Yonsei University, Korea. She received a PhD at the department of Development Sociology, Cornell University in USA. Her general research interest lies on exploring the gendered political economic processes in East Asia with the focus on social reproduction. Her current research interests include gendering migration system in East Asia, citizenship in relation to developmental state and welfare regime in East Asia, Intersection of migration regime and care/welfare regime, social economy. Her publication includes 'The Political Economy of Cross-Border Marriage: Economic Development and Social Reproduction in South Korea', in *Feminist Economics* (2012), and 'Trafficking in Women? Or Multicultural Family?: Contextual Difference in Commodification of Intimacy', in *Gender, Place and Culture* (2014), 'Gendered Migration in Changing Care Regime: A Case of Chinese Korean Migrants in South Korea' in *Social Policy and Society* (2017).

From Migrant Workers to Foreign Wives: A Study of Chinese Female Marriage Migrants in Singapore

YANG Wei

Department of Sociology, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
yangweiwendy@gmail.com

This paper forms part of my ongoing PhD research which is focused on the experiences of Chinese low-wage female migrant workers in Singapore's manufacturing and service sectors. Despite the state's attempts to regulate sexuality and reproduction practices of migrant workers in 'unskilled' categories, marriage to a Singapore citizen constitutes one of the most important mobility pathways for female migrant workers from China. They tend to meet their Singaporean husbands—many of them are new Chinese immigrants—in the workplace. After marriage, however, it usually takes several years before they are granted permanent residence and ultimately citizenship – this mostly happens after they give birth to their Singapore citizen children. In this paper, I seek to explore the following questions: To what extent their cross-border marriage is motivated by the prospect of acquiring permanent residence and citizenship? Since marriage to a Singapore citizen does not automatically qualify for permanent residence and citizenship, how do Chinese female marriage migrants negotiate their precarious and disadvantageous migration status after marriage? How do they redefine their gender roles in the cross-border family with both cultural similarities and differences? How is their citizenship considered to be a household strategy (especially for new Chinese immigrant family) not only to improve their immigrant status but also to maintain transnational connections with their home country?

This paper is based on my fieldwork conducted in Singapore between September 2016 and July 2018. Until now, 19 in-depth interviews have been conducted with Chinese female marriage migrants who initially came to Singapore as low-wage contract workers, and 12 in-depth interviews with their Singapore citizen spouses. The preliminary findings challenge the stereotypes of foreign spouses in Singapore as 'gold-diggers' who use marriage as a stepping stone to obtain citizenship or as "freeloaders" who contribute little to their family income. Instead, they tend to play an active role in improving family's economic and social positions, which is reflected in their attempts to move away from low-wage occupations to get a more skilled and higher paying job through skill development. This is also related to the fact that their Singaporean husbands tend to come from relatively lower socio-economic backgrounds or they are new immigrant themselves.

Yang Wei is a PhD candidate in Sociology at Nanyang Technological University. Her current research focuses on labor migration from China to Singapore, with a special focus on gender. Her research interests include transnational labor migration, gender and family, women's empowerment, and the impact of return migration on rural development. Before pursuing her PhD, she worked as a researcher in a Beijing-based think tank – the Centre for China and Globalization (CCG), where she conducted and coordinated policy relevant research on highly skilled migration from/to China. She received her master's degree in Cultural Studies from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Transnational Marriage Migration and Precarious Pathways to Partial Citizenship in Singapore's 'Hyphe-Nation'

Brenda S.A. YEOH

Asia Research Institute, and Department of Geography, National University of Singapore
geoysa@nus.edu.sg

CHEE Heng Leng

Independent Researcher, Malaysia
cheehengleng@gmail.com

Rohini ANANT

Department of Geography, National University of Singapore
arirohi@nus.edu.sg

As the world globalizes at an unprecedented pace, fixed notions of citizenship as a form of belonging that coheres within nation-states are increasingly destabilized by transnational migration and the presence of "others" within national borders. In the sphere of intimate relations, this phenomenon manifests itself in the form of rising international marriage trends, a proliferation of "multi-citizenship" family formations, and more broadly, an increasing scalar disjuncture between the lived realities of reproducing the family on the one hand, and the boundary-making work of reproducing the nation-state on the other. In contradistinction to the view that 'mixed marriage' (including transnational and cross-border unions) is a 'facilitator of integration' and enables 'privileged access to residence and citizenship status for family members of citizens' (Hart, 2015, 171), feminist and other critical scholars have argued that pathways to citizenship for marriage migrants are precariously ridden with negotiations around gender, ethnicity, nationality and class within host societies (Cheng, 2013; Kim, M., 2013), and are also mired in a fraught terrain of transnational patriarchal bargains (Jongwilaiwan and Thompson, 2013). Drawing on an ethnographic study of 71 marriage migrants in Singapore (mainly Vietnamese, Chinese, Indian and Southeast Asian women who marry Singaporean men belonging to lower social-economic strata), this paper examines (a) the multi-scalar processes of subject-making in producing marriage migrants as 'partial citizens' with limited rights to work, residency and citizenship in the host nation-state; (b) the gendered significance of biological reproduction (i.e. producing citizen-children) as a basis for claiming nation-state membership and the ensuing identity politics of 'hyphe-nation' (i.e. producing cross-nationality children); and (c) the ambivalence of partial citizenship that both contributes to, and is reinforced by, the logics of transnationality as marriage migrants struggle to position themselves both as dutiful daughters to their natal families and good wives in their marital families, while strategising to keep a foothold in both home and host countries.

Brenda S.A. Yeoh is Raffles Professor of Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and 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 also 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 on these topics and her recent books include *Transnational Labour Migration, Remittances and the Changing Family in Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015, with Lan Anh Hoang) and *Contested Memoryscapes: The Politics of Second World War Commemoration in Singapore* (Routledge, 2016, with Hamzah Muzaini), *Asian Migrants and Religious Experience: From Missionary Journeys to Labor Mobility* (Amsterdam University Press, 2018 with Bernardo Brown) and *Handbook of Asian Migrations*, Routledge, 2018 with Gracia Liu-Farrer).

Chee Heng Leng is an independent researcher who was formerly attached to Universiti Putra Malaysia (1979-2003), Asia Research Institute NUS (2003-2012), and Women's Development Research Centre (KANITA) (Universiti Sains Malaysia) (2013-2014). She works in the areas of health care, international medical travel, and transnational marriage migration. Her publications include 'Circuitous pathways: Marriage as a route toward (il)legality for Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia' (co-authors Brenda SA Yeoh and Rashidah Shuib) (*Asian and Pacific Migration Journal* 2012),

'Ethnicity, citizenship and reproduction: Taiwanese wives making citizenship claims in Malaysia' (co-authors Melody CW Lu, Brenda SA Yeoh) (*Citizenship Studies* 2014) and Medical travel facilitators, private hospitals and international medical travel in assemblage (co-authors Andrea Whittaker and Heong Hong Por) (in the special issue of *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* that she co-edited in 2017).

Rohini Anant is currently pursuing her Masters degree in the Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore.

A Political and Economic Analysis of the Shifting Gaze on the Children of Southeast Asian Marriage Migrants in Taiwan

HSIA Hsiao-Chuan

Graduate Institute for Social Transformation Studies, Shih Hsin University, Taiwan
hsiaochuanhsia.2@gmail.com

In recent years, the media and governmental entities in Taiwan have been promoting the Southeast Asian cultural and, specifically, the language advantages of what has become known as “the second generation of new immigrants.” Marriage migrant women from Southeast Asia are encouraged to pass on the languages and cultures of their home countries to their children, who can in turn assist Taiwan government to expand Taiwanese business in the Asia Pacific region, thus serving as Taiwan’s “vanguards of the South-bound,” that is, to help Taiwanese government’s deployment in Southeast Asia. However, only more than a decade ago these children were believed to be rife with developmental delays. Compounding this perception, their mothers were thought to lack the necessary skills for teaching their own children because of their inferior “population quality.” By analyzing the shift of discourse, this paper examines how state perception of ‘Southeast Asian’ citizens are shaped by geopolitics. While research has analyzed how states perceive families of marriage migrants and their belongings in the nation (such as Friedman 2005, Choo 2016), this paper will focus on the second generation of marriage migrants from Southeast Asia.

Moreover, the state perceptions of Southeast Asian citizens have different effects across classes, since the Southeast Asian migrants have multiple pathways of Taiwanese nationality, depending on their socio-economic statuses. The changes of Taiwanese immigration policies over the past twenty years, especially after President Tsai’s announcement of the “New Southbound Policy,” have shown that migrant families of upper and upper-middle classes are what the state desires. The lens of this paper also heavily focuses on why the legal changes contradict the seemingly positive discourse shift towards favoring Southeast Asian countries in both perception and reality.

Hsia Hsiao-Chuan is Professor at the Graduate Institute for Social Transformation Studies, Shih Hsin University, Taipei. As the first scholar studying marriage migration issues in Taiwan starting in 1994, her first Chinese book titled “Drifting Shoal (流離尋岸): The ‘Foreign Brides’ Phenomenon in Capitalist Globalization” has been well-received and translated to Japanese. Her other publications analyze issues of immigrants, migrant workers, citizenship, empowerment and social movement. Hsia is also an activist striving for the empowerment of immigrant women and the making of im/migrant movement in Taiwan. She initiated the Chinese programs for marriage migrants in 1995, leading to the establishment of TransAsia Sisters Association, Taiwan (TASAT). She is also the co-founder of the Alliance for the Human Rights Legislation for Immigrants and Migrants. She is an active officer of various regional and international organizations, including Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM), Alliance of Marriage Migrants Organizations for Rights and Empowerment (AMMORE) and International Migrants Alliance (IMA). Major English publications include *For Better or For Worse: Comparative Research on Equity and Access for Marriage Migrants; Multiculturalism in East Asia* (edited with K. Iwabuchi and H.M.Kim).

Family as a Buffer between Multi-Cultural Individuals and Single Citizenship: The Case of Cross-Border Marriages between Japan and China

Chie SAKAI

Kansai University, Japan
csakai@kansai-u.ac.jp

In this paper, I discuss how Japanese and Chinese cross-border families have adjusted to single citizenship even though they have multiple culture and language in their household, by using collected life stories of multicultural families in Shanghai in the 2010s.

As the relationship between Japan and China has grown closer, more of their citizens have moved beyond their national borders to study and work, thus having more chances to meet each other. Cross-border marriages have also increased between the Japanese and Chinese, representing the largest percentage of all international marriages in Japan (26.7% in 345,434, 2015).

Both Japan and China have a single nationality system; consequently, multicultural people must manage two cultures. Many Japanese-Chinese couples have chosen Japanese as the nationality for their children because they consider Japanese passport more accepted and society more stable, but they suffer distress because both countries have limited acceptance for multicultural backgrounds. For example, Japanese schools in Shanghai accept only Japanese nationals with Japanese skills without an accent, and Chinese schools consider them foreign students. Moreover, cross-border families need to manage frequent political disputes over territories and Japanese war crime against China.

Family plays a pivotal role in solving cross-border families' disputes; thus, assimilating into society is difficult while being part of a dysfunctional family. For example, parents help their multicultural children fit into a society. Therefore, the absence of one parent can substantially affect young schoolchildren, because they must be socialized into the society through culturally homogenous school system.

Chie Sakai is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Sociology, Kansai University, Japan. She has been researching the Japanese communities in Hong Kong and in Shanghai more than twenty years. Her current interests are the migration from Japan to China, women's changing positions in business community, and globalization of higher education in Japan. Her published articles are "Unintentional Cross-cultural Families: The Diverse Community of Japanese Wives in Shanghai" in *Marriage Migration in Asia: Emerging Minorities at the Frontiers of Nation-States* [Ishii ed. 2016: 43-72], and "The Japanese Community in Hong Kong in the 1990s: The Diversity of Strategies and Intentions" in *Global Japan: The Experience of Japan's New Immigrant and Overseas Communities* [Goodman et al. eds, 2003: 131-146].

Criminalizing “Runaway” Migrant Wives: Commercial Cross-Border Marriages and Home-Space as Confinement

Yi Sohoon

Rice University, USA
sohoon.yi@rice.edu

The term “*gachul*” (which directly translates to “leaving home”) usually carries a negative meaning of absconding or running away from home. The term is predominantly used to describe deviant behavior of youths but is increasingly used to penalize the behavior of adult marriage migrant women who enter South Korea after marrying South Korean men and then leave her marital family. This paper interrogates discourse on “runaway migrant wives” by examining criminalization of “unauthorized” mobility of migrant wives. In doing so, this paper pays attention to the conflation of criminal, immigration and family laws, and its effect on penalizing a decision about marriage and family by an adult individual. The paper draws from case laws from criminal court and laws and policies related to marriage migration from the Ministry of Justice. In particular, the paper highlights cases of marital rape and international child abduction against and by marriage migrants. Although the women under spotlight left (or tried to leave) their husbands and houses under different circumstances, their mobility was rebuked and penalized by both judicial and executive bodies to differing degrees. This paper deliberates the role of the state at the intersecting jurisdictions to create a collective effect turning home into space of confinement. In doing so, the paper contributes to the growing literature on spatial politics and criminalization of immigration enforcement by bringing in gender and cross-border family practices.

Yi Sohoon is Chao Foundation post-doctoral fellow in Transnational Asian Studies at Rice University. Her research interest is migrant subjectivity at the intersection of gender, immigration laws, precarious labor, and informal market. Her research broadly examines the construction of the informal sphere by the exclusionary laws and policies as well as the migrants’ relationship with the border in temporary migration programs. Prior to her affiliation with Rice University, she taught and researched at the University of Toronto and the University of Sydney. She undertook consultancy with the UN Women, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), and other NGOs to write on topics of migrant domestic workers, intersectionality and discrimination and labor rights protections in South Korea. She also previously worked at Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) before joining academia. Sohoon has published in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Critical Asian Studies*, and *European Journal of East Asian Studies*.

Migration, Mixed Marriages and Children's Non-Citizenship in Sabah, Malaysia

Catherine ALLERTON

Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
c.l.allerton@lse.ac.uk

In Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, many children live in mixed families, forged through the co-presence in the city of Indonesian and Filipino migrant workers. Although these children's parents did not migrate in order to marry, marriages and children have been an inevitable result of their lengthy stay and, in some cases, enduring immobility, in Sabah. This paper considers how mixed marriages – whether between those of different ethnic groups from the same country, between Filipinos and Indonesians, or between migrants and Malaysian citizens – have particular consequences for children who have been born across borders, in the country where their parents are working. Many of these mixed children have uniquely Sabahan ethnicities and identities, only made possible by their parents' migration to the state. As such, these mixed ethnicities tend to root children to Sabah, rather than to either parent's sending context. However, this form of cultural citizenship is often not matched by corresponding legal citizenship, since children of migrants, even if born in Sabah, are considered 'foreigners' in the state, and are excluded from government schooling and healthcare. Even children of mixed marriages between Malaysian citizens and migrants find themselves in a legal limbo, as their parents' marriages, and their own claims to citizenship, may be unrecognised. The paper explores how children's unique experiences of exclusion and noncitizenship not only reflect wider changes in immigration regulations and attitudes to migrant families, but also coexist with wider forms of cultural belonging to Sabah.

Catherine Allerton is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in rural eastern Indonesia (Flores) and in urban east Malaysia (Sabah), and is the author of *Potent Landscapes: Place and Mobility in Eastern Indonesia* (University of Hawai'i Press 2014). Her current research concerns children of Filipino and Indonesian refugees and migrants living in the east Malaysian city of Kota Kinabalu. This work explores children's experiences of illegality, statelessness and belonging in Malaysia, the country where the majority were born, but where they are excluded from education, healthcare and other services. In addition to a number of journal articles on this research, and an edited book (*Children: Ethnographic Encounters*, Bloomsbury 2016), Catherine is currently working on a book manuscript, provisionally entitled *Impossible Children: Migration and Noncitizenship in Sabah, Malaysia*.

Negotiating Citizenship in Transnational Spaces: Young Japanese Muslim Women Born to Japanese Mothers and Pakistani Fathers

Masako KUDO

Kyoto Women's University, Japan
kudom@kyoto-wu.ac.jp

Drawing on longitudinal research conducted among Japanese-Pakistani families across two generations, this paper explores how young Japanese Muslim women born to bi-national couples negotiate citizenship in multiple locations. Marriages between Japanese women and Pakistani men increased during the 1990s after labor migration from Pakistan to Japan rose sharply in the late 1980s. Couples in this type of bi-national marriage have experienced specific migratory trajectories and power dynamics. In this paper, I shed light on the complex ways in which their daughters negotiate citizenship and navigate early adulthood. I first provide the socio-historical and economic background to the transnational upbringing of Japanese-Pakistani children. Second, I discuss the experiences of alienation felt by Japanese-Pakistani children of both sexes within Japan, where they have formal citizenship by birth. I follow with accounts of female respondents in Japan and abroad. The interviews reveal challenges that these young Japanese Muslim women encounter daily at home and beyond and how they respond to such experiences. Further, I show that these young Japanese women's struggles do not arise just from "generational differences" or "two separate worlds of home and society," but they also reflect the power balance between couples as they progress through the life cycle. In conclusion, I contend that the tension between the family, the nation-state, and the agency of young Japanese Muslim women finds expression in how these young women craft Muslim identities in multiple locations.

Masako Kudo is a sociocultural anthropologist and Professor at Kyoto Women's University. She has conducted longitudinal research among Japanese-Pakistani couples since 1998, focusing on such issues as the processes of forming transnationally split families and the changing power dynamics within these families. Her current project concerns the socio-economic positions of the children of these marriages and the trajectories of their identity-formation in transnational spaces. Her recent publications include: "Mothers on the Move: Transnational Child-Rearing by Japanese Women Married to Pakistani Migrants" (in David W. Haines et al. eds., *Wind Over Water: Migration in an East Asian Context*, Berghahn Books, 2012); "Crafting Religious Selves in a Transnational Space: Japanese Women Who Converted to Islam upon Marrying Pakistani Migrants" (in Noriko Ijichi et al. eds. *Rethinking Representations of Asian Women: Changes, Continuity, and Everyday Life*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015); and "The Evolution of Transnational Families: Bi-national Marriages between Japanese Women and Pakistani Men" *Critical Asian Studies*, 49 (1) (2017).

Born across State Borders: Uncertain Citizenship of Chinese-Foreign Children in China

Michaela PELICAN

University of Cologne, Germany
mpelican@uni-koeln.de

Caroline GRILLOT

University of Lyon, France, and University of Manchester, UK
carolinegrillot@hotmail.com

Elena BARABANTSEVA

University of Manchester, UK
e.v.barabantseva@manchester.ac.uk

International intimate relationships and marriages in China as sites of citizenship tensions, cross-cultural contacts and problematic immigration laws have been a growing area of scholarly inquiries. However, the role and place of children resulting from informal relationships and recognised marriages have not been closely considered. The status of Chinese-foreign children is of particular research interest and concern, because—unlike their foreign parent who does not have a pathway to full citizenship—children’s status has to be reconciled within China’s strict single citizenship regime. It is thus important to understand how irreconcilable tensions in the children’s status are addressed and negotiated and the citizenship choice is made. Based on empirical material collected among Chinese-Russian, Chinese-Cameroonian and Chinese-Vietnamese families, we discuss the dilemmas of China’s citizenship regime concerning children born across borders. In particular, we discuss power relations in the familial decision-making process, everyday adaptations and negotiations of children’s care and parenting responsibilities, schooling, and social welfare. Focusing on the commonalities and differences across our three case studies, our aim is to outline how children’s citizenship takes shape at the interstices of race, gender, family norms, socio-economic factors, and rural and urban distinctions. In the context where children’s social and cultural inclusion in the Chinese society is predicated on the narrow and strict policies of the household registration (*hukou*) and nationality laws (*guoji*), we stress the importance of understanding how cultural, moral and legal dimensions of citizenship play out in mixed families’ negotiations of their children’s status in China.

Michaela Pelican is Professor of Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Cologne. Her research centers on ethnicity and mobility in the Global South, with a focus on migration between Cameroon, the Gulf States, and China. She is currently participating in the China-Europe *Immigration and the Transformation of Chinese Society* research project (DFG, grant no. AH 210/1-1) focusing on transformations of Chinese Immigration Law and Policy: Perspectives of lawmakers, administrators and immigrants.

Caroline Grillot is a social anthropologist, associated researcher at the Lyon Institute of East Asian Studies (France), and currently associated to the China-Europe *Immigration and the Transformation of Chinese Society* research project. Her researches have been focusing on Chinese social margins, including Sino-Vietnamese families, and she has recently started a new project on transhumant beekeepers.

Elena Barabantseva is Senior Lecturer in Chinese International Relations. Her research focuses on nationalism, mobility and borders in contemporary China. She is currently participating in the China-Europe *Immigration and the Transformation of Chinese Society* research project (ESRC Ref ES/L015609/1) focusing on marriage migration to China.

Disposability and Debilitation: Non-Citizen Migrant Mothers' Divorce Biographies

QUAH Ee Ling Sharon

School of Humanities and Social Inquiry, University of Wollongong, Australia
sharonq@uow.edu.au

Taking on a transnational, intersectional feminist perspective, this paper examines the circumstances of non-citizen migrant wives from less wealthy countries in Asia when divorce takes place. At the point of divorce, these women who had earlier moved to Singapore as marriage migrants were immediately thrust into precarious predicaments with their main concern centering round the rights to remain in their host country and care for their citizen children. The women's contestations for legitimacy to live, work and care for their citizen children expose global hierarchy of citizenship, unequal effects of globalisation and unequal distribution of life chances. Drawing from empirical data collected through in-depth interviews, the paper discusses how the intersection of multiple conditions and social categories embodied by the women affects their divorce biographies. By examining the women's experiences, the paper rethinks violence beyond the infliction of physical harm but in terms of disposability and debilitation. The findings show how the women experience violence in insidious ways as they go about organising their everyday lives. The women's narrative accounts not only reveal the disposability of ties with the citizen family when their reproductive and domestic labour is no longer desired, but also the disposability of ties with the host society when they are no longer categorised as potentially productive citizens located in a heteronormative marriage. The paper discusses the debilitating implications of such disposability in these women's post-divorce lives, which make their already vulnerable existence even more challenging.

Quah Ee Ling Sharon is Senior Lecturer in Sociology with the School of Humanities and Social Inquiry, University of Wollongong (UOW). Sharon's research interests include transnational, intersectional feminist perspectives, decoloniality, heteronormativity and non-normative families, divorce and transnational divorce, intimacies, emotions, genders, masculinities, sexualities and social policy. She has published a sole-authored monograph, *Perspectives on Marital Dissolution: Divorce Biographies in Singapore* (Springer, 2015), book chapters (Routledge, 2018) and articles in *Emotion, Space and Society*, *Journal of Sociology* and *Marriage and Family Review*. She is currently writing her second sole-authored book, *Transnational Divorce: Intimacies and Inequalities in Singapore* (under contract with Routledge). She was conferred her PhD in Sociology degree by The University of Sydney in 2013. Prior to her current academic position with UOW, Sharon was a postdoctoral fellow (2013-2014) and research fellow (2015-2016) with the National University of Singapore, Asia Research Institute.

The Hidden Hierarchical Legitimacy of Marriage Migrant Mothers in Non-Normative Cross-Border Families in Hong Kong

CHIU Tuen Yi

Sau Po Centre on Ageing, The University of Hong Kong
jtychiu@hku.hk

Most extant studies on cross-border marriages focused on the unequal spousal dynamics and the vulnerability of female marriage migrants, family-level experience and outcomes have been relatively under-theorized. In particular, the experiences of non-normative families such as those led by a widowed, divorced or cohabiting marriage migrant mother have rarely been put under the spotlight. While female marriage migrants generally experience legal precarity due to their dependence on their husbands to petition for their resident and immigrant status to remain in the host country, non-citizen female marriage migrants in non-normative families are trapped in the state of “legal nonexistence” (Countin, 2000) as their rights to reside in or immigrate into the host country are forfeited when their marriage with a local citizen is dissolved or not legally recognized. The situation further complicates when these women possess a different legal or citizenship status from their children. Drawing on interview data with female marriage migrants in non-normative cross-border marriages between Mainland China and Hong Kong, this paper examines how the state constructed a hidden yet hierarchical framework of legitimate citizenship for widowed, divorced or cohabiting marriage migrant mothers and how these women struggled to claim for maternal citizenship in the society where their children legally belong. The fact that the granting of citizenship for women in non-normative cross-border families is only made through the discretions of the authority indicates the state’s intention to sustain the normative definition of “the family”. It also highlights the intensified inequalities between citizens and non-citizens as well as among non-citizen migrant mothers with diverse family and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Tuen Yi Chiu (Jenny) is Research Assistant Professor at the Sau Po Centre on Ageing, The University of Hong Kong. She was previously Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (2016-2018). She obtained her PhD in Sociology from The Chinese University of Hong Kong (2016) and was Visiting Fellow at Harvard University for 17 months under the sponsorship of Harvard-Yenching Institute (2014-2015). Her research interests include migration and transnationalism, gender, marriage and family, ageing and intimate partner violence. She is currently involved in three research projects: (1) Cross-border Marriages between Mainland China and Hong Kong (gender dynamics, mixed-status families and transborder mobilities); (2) Transnational Relations, Ageing and Care Ethics (PI: Prof. Elaine Ho, Co-PIs: Profs. Brenda Yeoh, Shirlena Huang and Leng Leng Thang, NUS); and (3) Age-friendly City (environmental gerontology). Her selected publications include journal articles in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (forthcoming), *Current Sociology* (forthcoming), *Gender, Place and Culture* (forthcoming), *Population, Space and Place* (2018), *Violence Against Women* (2017) and book chapters in *Women’s Journey to Empowerment in the 21st Century* (forthcoming, Oxford University Press) and *Routledge Handbook of Families in Asia* (2015, Routledge).

Contestations on the Negotiated Citizenship Status of Non-Citizen Filipina-Mothers and their Children of Japanese Descent

Anderson V. VILLA

Ateneo de Davao University, and
Mindanao State University – General Santos City, Philippines
andersonvill@gmail.com

This study interrogates the negotiated citizenship status of Filipina migrant and their children born out of wedlock, or after divorce, from their Japanese fathers, and other similar circumstances. This paper seeks to answer the question, “How do Filipina mothers perceive the process of negotiating the citizenship status of their children in Japan?” This study focuses on the life stories of case respondents using in-depth interviews. Data sources were validated using participant observation and key-informant interviews covering the period 2011 to 2015. This paper mainly deals with the respondents’ perception and active participation in bargaining or settling their cases, considering their unauthorized status in Japan; making use of the existing networks while negotiating their legal and childrens’ statuses with the host country. This study borrows the concept of “negotiated citizenship” as coined by Stasiulis and Bakan (2003, 39) who argues that “non-citizens or migrants, in general, have gained rights and privileges previously granted exclusively to the citizens of host country through a network of sustained linkages that evince their transnational existence,” thus leading to their subtle integration in the host society. Narratives of the respondents reveal that these non-citizen migrants have indeed in the process inadvertently gained rights and privileges through special permission for residence. Simply put, their sense of belongingness with the local community inevitably facilitates the extension of their rights across national borders. Many of them were able to maximize their access at the city-based/prefectural level localized initiatives.

Anderson V. Villa is a 2018 Visiting Scholar at the Hoover Institution in Stanford University, California, USA. He earned his PhD in Asia Pacific Studies at the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Japan) in 2015 through a *Monbukagakusho* Doctoral Scholarship Grant (Japan’s Ministry of Education). He is currently teaching at the College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) of the Mindanao State University in General Santos City (MSU-GenSan), Philippines. He is also a Lecturer at the Ateneo de Davao University and the University of Mindanao (Graduate School) in Davao City. His most recent work appears at Asia Research Institute (ARI Working Paper Series) of the National University of Singapore (NUS). His research interests include international migration and immigration policies, migration and citizenship studies, Asian and Japanese studies, as well as ethnicity, conflict and peace studies. Dr. Villa also obtained a Summer Course Certificate on International Labour Migration in Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta (Jogjakarta), Indonesia.

Marriage Migration from Cambodia to China: Struggles for Citizenship, the Right to Work, and Left Behind Children

Brandais YORK

Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne, Australia
byork@student.unimelb.edu.au; brandais.york@unimelb.edu.au

Over the last several decades, Cambodian women have been emigrating to more developed states in Asia through marriage. As has been pointed out (Chung, Kim, & Piper; 2016), this form of migration can perhaps be most appropriately discussed in relation to the migration-development nexus, as the migrant herself is so often motivated by opportunities for advancement that go beyond simple differences in economics.

However, these marriages have been perceived by governments in receiving nations as a deceptive means to economic migration. In China in particular, there remains rhetoric of distrust and skepticism, which has spilled over into the application of citizenship laws. A result of this perception is the current struggle of these women to gain and to obtain the right to citizenship, and subsequently the right to legally work.

Citizenship for these women is dependent on a legal marriage as well as proper household registration; a lengthy process that many rural and low-income families in China have no understanding of. As a result, the women either remain illegally, without the right to work – or repatriate, often being forced to leave children behind. Cambodian marriage migrants in China have cited these related difficulties as their greatest barrier to a happy life.

This paper uses the route of marriage migration between Cambodia and China as a case study exploration of how governments can use citizenship as a tool of exclusion that can have unexpected and harmful consequences for its society. As a new destination country for marriage migrants, this paper explores the possible implications regarding China's current legal framework towards marriage migrants.

Brandais York is a PhD candidate looking at Cambodian female marriage migrants in China under Professor Susan Kneebone's related ARC grant. Her thesis uses socio-legal and feminist theories to examine the issue considering the unique historical, economic, and legal histories that have shaped the legal frameworks that currently seek to regulate this form of migration between these two countries. In addition to her PhD, Brandais has also worked as a research assistant since early 2015, which included conducting extensive interviews on marriage migration in Taiwan, Cambodia and Vietnam. In August 2018 she presented a forthcoming publication to the MLS Statelessness Centre on the topic 'Children of "Cross Border Marriages" and Nationality in Can Tho, Mekong Delta, Vietnam'. Coming from a background of practical experience in development, focused on female migration in Southeast Asia, Brandais holds an MSc in Global Migration from University College London as well as an MA in Public Policy and International Affairs from The American University of Paris. Prior to joining Melbourne Law School, she worked as a migration and research consultant for a local human rights NGO in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 2012-2015.

Dynamics of ‘Illegal’ Marriage: An Uncertain Path to Citizenship for the Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

M Ala UDDIN

Department of Anthropology, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh
alactg@gmail.com

This paper intends to offer an insight into how the ‘stateless’ Rohingya refugees try to manage their survival in the host country Bangladesh marrying its citizens. Since the 1980s, the Rohingya have faced severe discrimination in Myanmar. Often described as ‘the world's most persecuted minority,’ the Rohingya found their ways to escape state-sponsored persecution to Bangladesh, where over one million Rohingyas currently live in horrendous conditions. Like in their country of origin, they remain ‘statelessness’ in Bangladesh, while both countries denied citizenship. In response to the relative absence of comprehensive study on citizenship and integration of the refugees, this paper offers a critical account on marriage between the ‘stateless’ Rohingyas and Bangladeshi nationals. The empirical study (Jan-Aug 2018) finds, in the absence of adequate food, shelter and security in the refugee camps, the Rohingya women try to manage their survival through marrying the Bangladeshi men with the hope of achieving citizenship and basic services. Given the linguistic, religious and physical similarities, integration of the Rohingyas into the host communities has been tricky. The pre-existing Rohingyas who already obtained citizenship and permanent residence in Bangladesh collaborate in the process. Notwithstanding such migrant-marriages are ‘illegal’, that often involve polygamy, child marriage or abandonment, both sides find potential advantages from marriages between two nations (Rohingya—Bengali) of two regions (Southeast Asia—South Asia). What is more, the Rohingya families accept polygamy or much older men for their daughters because they believe the marriage will secure their survival in Bangladesh. However, in reality, marriage migration does not ensure survival or citizenship of the refugees. Thus, this paper examines the tangled web that the Rohingya refugees find themselves in between statelessness and citizenship throughout the life-struggle.

M Ala Uddin has been teaching anthropology in the Department of Anthropology, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh for about 15 years. He has been conducting research on diverse issues of the indigenous people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh. His major research dealt mainly with the survival strategies of the indigenous people—how they try to manage their survival affected by the outsiders (i.e. settler Bengalis). Among other issues, he worked on religious pluralism, street vending, health and diseases, migration & diaspora, refugee situations, and forest management. He has written a book entitled, *Theoretical Anthropology* (in Bengali), and authored several articles published in peer-reviewed national and international journals (e.g. *Asian Ethnicity*, *Ethnopolitics*, *Anthropos*). His current research works look into the plight of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, gender and adolescent experiences, and socio-cultural gerontology.

Ambassadors, Advocates and Cultural Entrepreneurs: Vietnamese Women's Act of Citizenship in Taiwan

Isabelle CHENG

School of Area Studies, History, Politics and Literature, University of Portsmouth, UK
isabelle.cheng@port.ac.uk

Using Vietnamese activists' act of citizenship in the wake of the implementation of New Southbound Policy in Taiwan as a case study, this research argues that transnational ties facilitate a dynamic relationship between the host state's nation-building and the immigrants' empowerment. The NSP's implementation has unintentionally created a public space for Vietnamese activists to fulfill socio-political advocacy and cultural entrepreneurship. Their act of citizenship has not only placed themselves in the centre of the NSP's implementation but has also incorporated this initiative into their careers and activism. Although immigrants are the weaker party in the asymmetrical power relation against the host state, their act of citizenship have the potential to challenge the *status quo* of the social hierarchy constituted by gender, class and ethnicity, as projected by the host state. Thus their act of citizenship may create a rupture and make a difference to migrant community as well as to the host society.

Isabelle Cheng is Senior Lecturer in East Asian and International Development Studies at the University of Portsmouth, in the UK. Focusing on East Asia and using Taiwan as a case study, her current research projects are immigrants' political participation in electoral politics, transnational activism's critiques on global anti-trafficking campaign, and care deficiency towards pregnant migrant workers in the host country. Her research on migration has been supported by the CCK Foundation, which funded two conferences co-organised by her on transnationalism and Chinese migrant family in September 2017 and November 2018. Her other interest is the Cold War in East Asia with a focus on gender and soundscape. She is currently leading two inter-disciplinary projects on the making of authoritarianism in Taiwan during the 1950s-60s. She serves as the Secretary-General on the Board of the European Association of Taiwan Studies. She is also a Research Associate at the Centre of Taiwan Studies, School of Oriental And African Studies.

Queer Asian Marriage Migrants: The Transnational Familial Practices of Singaporean Lesbians

Shawna TANG

Department of Gender and Cultural Studies, University of Sydney, Australia
shawna.tang@sydney.edu.au

East Asian marriage migration, as a field of study, has been almost entirely preoccupied with heterosexual cross-border marriages, with specific concerns for vulnerable female migrants in hypergamous unions with citizen-husbands. This paper takes up the critical feminist concerns of the existing scholarship but makes a queer and inclusive turn by focusing on same-sex female marriage migrants from East Asia, specifically, Singapore, who have moved to Australia in search of a family life. In the context of East Asia, queer marriage migration is almost unheard of and often overlooked, even within the body of family migration scholarship that takes to task the heteronormative state-family nexus. Yet, discrete work in queer research reveals increasing numbers of Asian same-sex migrations since a decade ago, particularly to Australia (Yue 2008, Smith 2012). In this paper, I maintain the gender lens on East Asian marriage migration by considering the case of Singaporean lesbians who have crossed borders in order to form families. It looks at the ways in which queer diasporic women take on the double burden of familial citizenship in both host and home country: forming their same-sex families across borders in Sydney while at the same time practising a gendered mode of familial citizenship in Singapore, where queer women are rendered as 'single daughters' and continue to provide caregiving for elderly parents from afar. Drawing on qualitative fieldwork, including interviews and an autoethnography, the paper tracks the lives of Chinese and mixed-race lesbian households to provide insights into how familial migration is lived out along queer, racial and gendered lines.

Shawna Tang is a Lecturer at the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies, University of Sydney. She has held post-doctoral fellowships at the Sexualities and Genders Research Group (SaGR) at Western Sydney University, and the Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the National University of Singapore (NUS). She currently serves on the editorial board of *Journal of Sociology*. Her research is in the field of queer Asia, with a focus on Singapore. Specifically, she studies sexuality politics, LGBT aging, non-normative families and intimacies, homophobia and sexuality justice in Asian global queer cities. She is the author of *Postcolonial Lesbian Identities in Singapore: Rethinking Global Sexualities* (Routledge, 2017).

ABOUT THE CHAIRPERSONS

Bittiandra Chand Somaiah is a post-doctoral fellow in the Asian Migration cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. She received her PhD in Sociology from Macquarie University. She has been working on the Child Health and Migrant Parents in Southeast Asia (CHAMPSEA) Wave 2 project, with a focus on Indonesia, since 2017. Her research interests include mothering, migration, class, carework, youth and children's aspirations, multiple modernities, new cosmopolitanisms, intimate citizenship practices, circulations of care, sociologies of the body, gender and emotions.

Eric C. Thompson is Associate Professor and Chair of Graduate Studies in the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore. Before joining NUS, he completed a PhD in sociocultural anthropology at the University of Washington and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of California Los Angeles. He teaches anthropology, gender studies, urban studies and research methods. He has conducted research for over two decades throughout Southeast Asia, primarily in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Indonesia. His research interests include transnational networking, gender studies, urbanism, culture theory, and ASEAN regionalism. His work has appeared in the journals *American Ethnologist*, *Asian Studies Review*, *Citizenship Studies*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, *Field Methods*, *Gender Place and Culture*, *Global Networks*, *Political Geography*, *Urban Studies*, and *Women's Studies International Forum* among others. He is author of *Unsettling Absences: Urbanism in Rural Malaysia* (NUS Press, 2007) and *Attitudes and Awareness toward ASEAN: Findings of a Ten-Nation Survey* (with Chulanee Thianthai, ISEAS Press, 2008).

Shiori Shakuto completed her PhD in Anthropology at the Australian National University in 2017. Her research analyses how intimate social relations in Japan are reimagined and reorganised through inter-Asian mobility and conversely how inter-Asian mobility is constructed in and through intimate social ties. Applying emerging insights in feminist anthropology to classic anthropological debates over gender and value, her research ranges from an analysis of productivity and intimacy in the aftermath of work to shifting forms of reproductive labour in the aftermath of an environmental disaster. She has explored these themes through her doctoral research on Japanese retirees in Malaysia and, at ARI, she is developing her dissertation into a book manuscript.

Sylvia Ang is a post-doctoral fellow at the Asian Migration Cluster, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. She has published in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Gender, Place and Culture*, *Postcolonial Studies* and *Cultural Studies Review*. Her research interests include transnational labour migrants, racism, co-ethnicity, intersectionality, ethnography and digital ethnography. She is currently working on developing her PhD dissertation into a book: an intersectional perspective on the politics of co-ethnicity between Chinese-Singaporeans and newly arrived Chinese migrants in Singapore.

Theodora Lam is a post-doctoral fellow in Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS). She obtained her PhD in Geography from NUS and her dissertation focused on understanding changing gender subjectivities, web of care and relationships within the family in the wake of transnational labour migration. Her research highlights the voices of return migrants as well as carers and children who have remained in the home countries. Theodora is currently involved in a longitudinal research project, Child Health and Migrant Parents in Southeast Asia (CHAMPSEA): Waves 1 and 2. Her research interests cover transnational migration, children's geographies and gender studies. She has co-edited several special journal issues and has also published on themes relating to migration, citizenship and education in various journals and edited books including *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, *Environment and Planning A* and *Population, Space and Place*.

Ting Wen-Ching is a post-doctoral fellow in Asia Research Institute (ARI). She is working under the research project entitled, 'Transnational Relations, Ageing and Care Ethics (TRACE)' to examine care migration from Myanmar to Singapore and the left-behind care chains. Prior to ARI, Ting was a Postdoctoral/Research Fellow between Dec 2016 and June 2018, under the research project entitled 'Capitalising Human Mobility for Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development in Myanmar' (CHIME), at the University of Sussex to explore the nexus between poverty, migration and development in Myanmar. She obtained a doctoral degree in Migration Studies from the University of Sussex in 2016. Her PhD research was to explore the relationship between displaced Shan in limbo and the places and further examine how they dealt with the subordinate status and navigated their multiple marginalities during the radical and protracted displacement along the Thai-Myanmar border. Besides, her research interests include migration and social changes, mobility, displacement, place-making, aid and development. Her geographical areas of research focus mainly on Southeast Asia countries.