MIGRATION METHODOLOGIES
CHALLENGES, INNOVATIONS AND CONCEPTUAL IMPLICATIONS FOR ASIAN MIGRATIONS

5–6 MAR 2020
AS8 SEMINAR ROOM 04–04
10 KENT RIDGE CRESCENT
SINGAPORE 119260
Migration flows of unprecedented volume and complexity within, as well as in and out of Asia have become one of the main drivers of contemporary social change in the region. In this context, approaches to studying international migration have highlighted the institutions, infrastructures, processes, practices, consequences and experiences of migration while attending to its multi-directional, multi-sited, multi-causal and open-ended nature. New spatialities and temporalities—from transnational families, mobile cities, diaspora-and-development, global care chains, contact zones, spaces of encounter to multinational migrations—have animated migration research as material borders and socially constructed boundary lines are transgressed, rigidified or redrawn in the face of multiple-, hyper- and transnational migrations and mobilities.

In view of the increasing conceptual breadth and theoretical sophistication of international migration scholarship, it follows that our research practices need to evolve to embrace the quickened pace of mobilities and the heightened sense of transience, simultaneity and otherness experienced by the migrant (and non-migrant) subject within interlocking lifeworlds. As Collins and Huang (2012, p.270) observe, contemporary migration scholarship “draws on a wide range of research methodologies, reflecting the multi-disciplinary character of the field, the diverse sites and subjects of migration, and the varied concepts and theories that underpin this area of study”. These methodologies have broadened to include computational, quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method approaches and techniques as exemplified by the use of longitudinal surveys, sequence analysis, social networks analysis; mental mapping, multi-sited ethnographies, go-along ethnography, visual ethnography, life-story interviews, paired/unpaired interviews, participatory methods and data visualization techniques (Büscher, Urry, and Witchger, 2010; Amelina and Faist, 2012; Meeus, 2012; Martiniello, 2017; Fauser, 2018; Ryan and D’Angelo, 2018).

Despite “all this methodological development, innovation and cross-fertilisation” within the scholarship on migration, the discipline has—to date—failed to fully explore, interrogate, review and compare the merit and design of such methods (Collins and Huang, 2012, p.270). The authors continue to argue that there has also been limited “reflection on the ethical and conceptual implications of these choices” (Collins and Huang, 2010, p. 270). This workshop responds to their observation by providing a collaborative forum to bring together migration scholars with diverse methodological interests and expertise.

We invite papers that focus on innovative methodological approaches while drawing on substantive findings relevant to “Asian migrations” (broadly defined to refer to migration flows within, as well as in and out of Asia) in order to grapple with the challenges and possibilities in conducting migration research. Contextually grounded papers that pursue one or more of the following questions are particularly welcome:

- How do we research new migration-led spatialities and temporalities in mobile times across interconnected worlds?
- How do we work with multi-directionality, multi-causality and provisionality in contemporary migrations? How do we map multinational migrations over time and space?
- What kinds of methodological routes can be pursued to go beyond the single case in migration research and to seriously contemplate multi-sited research, develop comparative transnational frameworks, increase awareness of the connectivities across scales and units of analysis, and instill wariness of methodological nationalism?
- How do we equip ourselves for the task of boundary-crossing, a task which goes hand in hand with supporting a socially progressive migration agenda?
- How do we devise research practices that would contribute towards dismantling institutionalized practices which reproduce racisms, nationalisms and social privilege, and pave the way for a more inclusive approach in our work as migration researchers?
# Thursday, 5 March 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:15 - 9:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9:30 - 9:50 | Welcome & Opening Remarks                    | BRENTA S.A. YEOH | National University of Singapore  
THEODORA LAM  | National University of Singapore  
ELSPETH GRAHAM  | University of St Andrews  
LUCY JORDAN  | University of Hong Kong                     |
| 9:50 - 11:50 | Panel 1 | New Spatialities                          | SHIRLENA HUANG | National University of Singapore  |
| 9:50    | Multinational Migration Methodologies for Capital-Rich and Capital-Constrained Migration Scholars | ANJU MARY PAUL | Yale-NUS College  |
| 10:10   | Intersections of Privilege and Positionalities: Reflections on Qualitative Research among German Lifestyle Migrants in Turkey | MARGIT FAUSER  | Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences  |
| 10:30   | Multi-Directional Migration and Messiness: Methodological Approaches and Implications | ELAINE LYNN-EE HO | National University of Singapore  |
| 10:50   | Uneven Migrations: Locating Place and Practice in Temporary Labour Migration from Sri Lanka | MATT WITHERS  | Macquarie University  |
| 11:10   | Question & Answer                            |                              |                                                                         |
| 11:50 - 13:00 | Lunch                                      |                              |                                                                         |
| 13:00 - 15:00 | Panel 2 | Lifecourse Trajectories and Family Biographies | LUE FANG  | National University of Singapore  |
| 13:00   | The Interrelationship between Fertility and Migration among Filipino and Indonesian Domestic Workers in Hong Kong | TIM F. LIAO  | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  |
| 13:20   | Household Splitting and Reunification: International Migrants and Their Families in Yiwu, China | CHEN CHEN  | Shanghai University  
RYAN RYLEE  | Independent Researcher  |
<p>| 13:40   | Marriage Migration and the Linked Lives of Transnational Couples in Singapore | THEODORA LAM  | National University of Singapore  |
| 14:00   | Lifetime Experience of Parental Migration and the Well-Being of Young Adults in Indonesia and the Philippines | ELSPETH GRAHAM  | University of St Andrews  |
| 14:20   | Question &amp; Answer                            |                              |                                                                         |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | Tea Break                                   |                              |                                                                         |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:30</td>
<td>Digital Migrations: Connectivity and Belonging in Diasporic Formations</td>
<td>SANDRA PONZANESI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:50</td>
<td>Using Participatory Ego-Network Data Collection to Inform Agent-Based Computational Modelling of Migration Pathways: Visualizing the Networks that Facilitate Myanmar Labour Migration to Thailand</td>
<td>ALYS MCALPINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:10</td>
<td>Tracing Translocal Figurations of Displacement in Asia</td>
<td>SARAH A. TOBIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:30</td>
<td>Question &amp; Answer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>END OF DAY ONE</td>
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<td>Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 – 10:45</td>
<td>Panel 4</td>
<td>Temporalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>Visualising Temporality in Forced Displacement</td>
<td>Su-Ann Oh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:35</td>
<td>Biography and Biopolitics: Researching Time and Temporalities in Asian Migrations</td>
<td>Francis L. Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>Question &amp; Answer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>Panel 5</td>
<td>Multi-Scalar and Multi-Perspective Approaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Multi-Verse Methodologies: Lessons for Migration Research in Asia</td>
<td>Denise L. Spitzer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20</td>
<td>Re-Thinking Migration Methodologies through Ethnography of Migrant Workers’ Health and Healthcare Entitlement across Sri Lanka and Kuwait</td>
<td>Sajida Ally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40</td>
<td>The Effect of Positive Parenting on Resilience of Caregivers and Adolescents in the Context of Migration: A Dyadic Model</td>
<td>Yao Fu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Question &amp; Answer</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30 – 15:00</td>
<td>Panel 6</td>
<td>New Migrants, New Agendas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Re-Embedding the Natural Environment in Asian Migrations through Political Ecology</td>
<td>Christine Gibb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:50</td>
<td>Mapping the Short-Term Placemaking Practices of Millennial Nomads</td>
<td>Simone Shu-Yeng Chung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:10</td>
<td>Mobile Transitions: Methodological Challenges of Examining a Generation in Transition and on the Move</td>
<td>Anita Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00 – 15:30</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30</td>
<td>End of Workshop</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00 – 17:30</td>
<td>Seminar by Alan Gamlen</td>
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</tbody>
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Multinational Migration Methodologies for Capital-Rich and Capital-Constrained Migration Scholars

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Multinational migrations present particular methodological challenges for migration scholars, and these accentuate the existing challenges that plague studies of single-origin-single-destination international migrations. The extended-temporality, multi-spatiality, and complexity of multinational migrations add to the existing methodological issues surrounding most migration research. This paper explores particular methodological approaches to tackle each of these three issues, drawing from a mixed-methods, multi-part study of the stepwise international labor migrations of Filipino and Indonesian migrant domestic workers. Stepwise migration is a multinational migration pattern adopted by capital- and information-constrained migrants who are unable to travel directly and immediately to their preferred destination country, and instead have to engage in an initial migration to a country that is accessible to them given their capital constraints. However, once overseas, these migrants are able to acquire and accrue new capital and also new information that can be leveraged to climb their destination hierarchy.

This study involved multi-sited surveys with 1,200 Filipino and Indonesian domestic workers, and in-depth interviews with 160 of these workers, and spanned eight years and five research sites (Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Canada, and the United States). I highlight how the different methods and research designs deployed in this study were able to complement each other in capturing the complex migration patterns being aspired to and even more complex patterns being adopted by migrant domestic workers.

But I also discuss how this project grew organically, with new research questions, new research sites, and new methods being added incrementally to the project scope, as I learned more about the phenomenon of stepwise migration. I highlight how I adapted my methods in response to the capital constraints I myself experienced at various points in the research process. These constraints include visa restrictions that prevented me from journeying to Canada to conduct in-person fieldwork, and the lack of funds and time to follow the subsequent movements of most of my interviewees. In this manner, I attempt to show how the study of multinational migrations is not exclusive to those with “high capital,” and that even capital- and information-constrained migration scholars are able to study multinational migrations.
Anju Mary Paul is an Associate Professor of sociology at Yale-NUS College, Singapore and an international migration scholar with a research focus on emergent migration to, from, and within Asia. She is especially interested in how gender, labour, race and ethnicity, as well as class intersect at the moment of migration and the post-migration experience. Her first book, “Multinational Maids” (Cambridge University Press 2017), explores the stepwise international labour migration patterns and strategies being adopted by Filipino and Indonesian migrant domestic workers. She has also recently published an edited volume of essays written by her students on spaces of globalisation in Singapore entitled “Local Encounters in a Global City” (Ethos Books 2017). She has also published articles in the top journals in sociology and migration studies including the American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Migration Studies, the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Global Networks, and Ethnic and Racial Studies. Her latest project, “Asian Scientists on the Move,” looks at the various migrations of Asian-born, Western-trained bioscientists and the ideas about science and scientific research that they take with them as they travel from country to country.
Intersections of Privilege and Positionalities: Reflections on Qualitative Research among German Lifestyle Migrants in Turkey

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The subjects of my research, German retirement lifestyle migrants resettling in Turkey, are exemplary of new forms and subjects of migration (regarding age, purpose, resources) who move across new spatialities from the global north to the global south, at the fringes of Asia, and of Europe, that undergird and reverse existing asymmetrical power relations. This new form is considered the privileged migration of subjects with many advantageous resources. However, I argue that such a view is too monolithic, and disregards complex intersections and relationalities that inform the ambivalent and contradictory social locations and experiences of these, ordinary German citizens.

In this reflection I take up transnational methodologies that look beyond the container of one state, yet depart from a somewhat simplistic assumption of simultaneity to consider entanglements and intertwinements of institutions, resources and practices across space; I also reconsider the essentialized condition of (mobile) nationals from the global north as privileged, and take into consideration complex intersections that put this linearity into question. Such an approach also requires reflection of a “polysemic” researcher positionality, as insider to the group in terms of national origin, yet outsider to their chosen country, and as an outsider to their lifeworld, in terms of age, occupation, - and as a researcher on migrants – a category that does not fit them. This further complicates research ethics of results and implications – should I call them privileged? Or be astonished by the ease of their life abroad? Or rather, be concerned by their limited access to important social and political rights and resources at home and afar simultaneously?

Margit Fauser is Professor of Migration, Transculturality and Internationalization at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences. Her research revolves around migration and transnationalization, spatial questions and social and global social inequalities. She has done research on new migrant flows and places, both marginalized and privileged, and is currently directing new research on the local production of borders. She also serves a member of the board and vice-coordinator of the Research Network 35 “Sociology of Migration” of the European Sociological Association. Her recent publications include a co-edited Special Issue of the Journal of Borderlands Studies on “Migrations and Borders”, and a co-edited volume on “Transnational Return and Social Change” (Anthem Press) as well as an upcoming monograph titled “Mobile Citizenship. Spatial privilege and the transnational lifestyles of senior citizens” (Routledge).
Multi-Directional Migration and Messiness: Methodological Approaches and Implications

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Although the concept and practice of migration seems to be premised upon the flows of people across space, researchers inadvertently “fix” people in space (or spatial contexts) when they consider migrants as subjects of study. For example, we tend to isolate “immigration” or “emigration” trends as separate fields of study, anchored in either a migrant-receiving or migrant-sending country respectively. What are the implications, however, if our starting point of analysis is one that captures how “multi-directional migration” flows intersect in a migration site, or through such flows forge (citizenship) connections across migration sites? I consider three lines of inquiry in this presentation: (1) Why should we study multi-directional migration in all its messiness? (2) What are the epistemological and methodological tools that could be useful for studying multi-directional migration? (3) Lastly, what would mapping multi-directional migration look like, how can this be operationalised, and what political effects would such an endeavour achieve? To examine these questions, this presentation draws on nearly a decade of multi-sited, ethnographic research on Chinese migration connecting Singapore to China.

Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho is Associate Professor at the Department of Geography and Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore. Her research addresses how citizenship is changing as a result of multi-directional migration flows in the Asia-Pacific. She is author of *Citizens in Motion: Emigration, Immigration and Re-migration across China’s Borders* (Stanford University Press), which received the American Sociological Association’s (ASA) award for “Best Book in Global and Transnational Sociology by an International Scholar” in 2019. Elaine is Editor of the journal, *Social and Cultural Geography*, and serves on the journal editorial boards of *Citizenship Studies; Emotions, Society and Space;* and the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*. Her current research focuses on two domains: first, transnational ageing and care in the Asia-Pacific; and second, im/mobilities and diaspora aid at the China-Myanmar border.
Uneven Migrations: Locating Place and Practice in Temporary Labour Migration from Sri Lanka

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Unequivocal shifts in the scale, diversity and direction of migration flows throughout Asia have demanded growing recognition of the complex dynamics of transnational population movements across Southern borders, whether rigid or porous. By contrast, the well-trodden corridors of low-wage temporary labour migration that bridge South and West Asia have been enduringly framed with reference to a ‘migration-development’ debate that too often overlooks the contextual-specificity of local geographies and institutions in shaping disparate migration experiences. Within the contours of ‘the debate’ countries of origin are frequently homogenised by structure-centric and agency-centric theories alike, seen to be populated either by reserve armies of labour or by bland utility-maximising actors. In Sri Lanka, where menial foreign employment in the Gulf is a deeply entrenched survival strategy for a variety of distinct ethno-religious communities, the reification of migrant labour within totalising development paradigms has entailed methodological nationalism that obscures a broader spectrum of lived experiences. Multi-sited qualitative research across Sri Lanka instead reveals geographically specific economies of gender, ethnicity and class that inform the developmental circumstances of migration and, within these sites, heterogeneous migration cultures that reflect in situ institutional adaptation. This paper frames the methodological importance of place and practice in migration-development research by analysing differing causes for, experiences during and outcomes of temporary labour migration for one Muslim and one Tamil-Hindu community on opposite sides of the country. Findings reveal deeply uneven migrations emerging from the interplay of social, cultural, political and economic institutions that are shaped and bound by spatial fixity.

Matt Withers is a research fellow within the Department of Sociology at Macquarie University. His research is concerned with the developmental implications of temporary labour migration and remittances, both in Sri Lanka and throughout the Asia-Pacific region. His work adopts a multiscalar approach to migration dynamics and draws attention to local geographies and institutions as key sites of understanding through which to reconcile structural analysis with diverse and contextually-specific experiences of development and underdevelopment. His current project looks at how temporary labour migration intersects with work and care arrangements within migrant households in the Pacific, adopting time-use research to map changes in unpaid care provision, and calls for a ‘decent care’ agenda that frames support for gender-equitable social reproduction as integral to decent work and sustainable development.
The interrelationship between migrant workers’ migration trajectories and their marital fertility trajectories is complex. According to the literature on international migration, there are at least three explanations for the relationship. The disruption hypothesis states the impact of migration on the timing and spacing of births; the adaptation hypothesis considers migrants’ adjustment of their fertility to the place of destination; the selectivity hypothesis is concerned with the idea of unobserved characteristics such as a desire for upward mobility that may affect both fertility and migration. In this analysis, I entertain these and other possible explanations in an examination of domestic workers’ migration and fertility trajectories via a sequence analysis, using a 2017 survey fielded by the Research Centre on Migration and Mobility, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The survey includes a retrospective life course history module that collected migration, family formation, and employment information. I will also review the limitations of current research practices and discuss future needs for studying such migrants’ life courses.

Tim F. Liao is Professor of Sociology, Statistics, and East Asian Languages & Cultures and Head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Until recently, he served as Director of the Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies at the University of Illinois. He is a Deputy Editor of the journal *Demography*. He is a founding member of the Sequence Analysis Association and serves on the association’s executive committee (https://sequenceanalysis.org/).
Household Splitting and Reunification: International Migrants and Their Families in Yiwu, China

Migration challenges researchers to develop frameworks that can handle the complexity of human decisions at different points in the life course and in relation to variable places, aspirations, challenges, and significant others. We find migrant family biographies an invaluable tool for understanding the multi-directional and multi-causal migrations of linked individuals over time. Drawing on a fourfold typology of migrant household arrangements, we categorize the moves of certain family members as particular transitions in household arrangement. We apply this framework to international migrant householding in Yiwu, China, a global hub for trade in small commodities and a host city to some 13,000 international residents from over 200 countries. We use in-depth interviews to elicit family migration histories and migrants’ understandings of transitions in connection with major life events of family members, and we identify factors associated with particular kinds of transitions. International migrants in Yiwu make decisions in the face of significant challenges of language and culture, and in the context of a migration regime that makes permanent settlement in the host country nearly impossible for them. Meanwhile, some of their countries of origin are being transformed in ways that strongly discourage return. We highlight some of the most common factors that migrants in Yiwu consider when they make changes in household arrangement: children’s ages, costs and benefits of schooling in particular locations, and structural aspects of the origin and host countries, including wars and policy shifts.

Chen Chen (PhD in geography, UCLA) is an assistant professor in the Asian Demographic Research Institute at Shanghai University. Her research includes the use of mixed methods to understand changing patterns of human migration and the dynamics of gender and generation in the lives of migrants.

Ryan Rylee (JD, UCLA) is an independent scholar researching international migration in China. He is interested in migrant life trajectories, transnational families, love, and ethnographies of encounter.
Marriage Migration and the Linked Lives of Transnational Couples in Singapore

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Research on migration in recent decades have established the increasing importance of studying migration within the household/familial context, placing the emphasis on “mutual interdependence” rather than “individual independence” (Gubhaju and De Jong, 2009: 32). Despite the shift, few migration studies have yet dedicated sufficient attention on interrogating the extent and effects of the “interdependence” of various individuals within the migrant household. In particular, a linked lives approach – often used when studying intergenerational or spousal relations and influences – has rarely been applied within the migration framework. Defined simply, linked lives allow researchers the opportunity to examine “lives that are lived interdependently, and [where] social and historical influences are expressed through this network of shared relationships” (Elder, 1998: 4). Given that spouses often form “the most intensive linkages because they move through the life course together” (Lundquist and Xu, 2014: 1066), a linked lives approach would therefore provide an especially valuable theoretical grounding for understanding the significantly connected yet fluid lives of marriage migrants over time and even space.

In this vein, this paper aims to highlight how a linked lives approach is useful in furthering the understanding of the “mutually intertwined life trajectories” (Lundquist and Xu, 2014: 1066) of marriage migrant couples in Singapore consisting of a Southeast Asian wife and a Singaporean husband dyad. To paraphrase Settersten (2015: 217), the paper traces how the respective lives of these married individuals “affect and are [continuously] affected by” each other as well as the lives of others from the point of their meeting through their marital life course. Such a methodological approach in studying marriage migrants offers several advantages. It first allows the researcher to examine the complex interplay of micro and meso/macro effects on the union of two separate individuals from rather different socio-cultural contexts and their subsequent conjoined lives within an environment that is often ‘out of place’ for at least one half of the pair. Besides considering and dissembling both individual and structural factors affecting the linked lives of transnational married couples, the approach allows researchers to situate the changes experienced over and at critical junctures of the couples’ respective life courses. Through the life-stories of 14-paired migrant-wife and Singaporean-husband dyads, this paper stresses the importance of using a linked lives approach toward a deeper understanding of how marriage migrants navigate the strictures of migration, cultural and gender factors in linking their lives together in Singapore.
Theodora Lam is Research 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*.

Shirlena Huang is Associate Professor at the Geography Department at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Her research focuses mainly on issues at the intersection of migration, gender and families (with a particular focus on care labour migration and transnational families within the Asia-Pacific region) as well as urbanisation and heritage conservation (particularly in Singapore). She serves on several editorial boards including *Gender Place and Culture, International Journal of Population Research, Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, and *Women’s Studies International Forum*, as well as book series *Asian Cultural Studies: Transnational and Dialogic Approaches* (Rowman & Littlefield) and *The Intimate and the Public in Asian and Global Perspectives* (Brill).

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).
Digital Migrations: Connectivity and Belonging in Diasporic Formations

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This intervention revisits the notion of diaspora in connection to recent advancements in communication technologies, which have led to the formation of “digital diasporas”. Digital diaspora makes an important contribution to the debates on diaspora studies in relation to new patterns of globalisation. Yet, the notion of digital diaspora in itself is very hard to pin down, theoretically, methodologically and institutionally.

What kind of methodologies do we use when studying digital diasporas across multiple geopolitical sites and digital platforms? How do we avoid essentialism and methodological nationalism without letting go of the notion of digital diaspora as part of local as well as transnational formations? How does the notion of digital diaspora help us to capture different migrant cartographies also in their intersection and interconnection?

The first part of this talk is concerned with more theoretical issues, of how to define digital diasporas in relation to issues of gender, ethnicity, and affective belonging, focusing on how new technologies enhance new forms of connectivity between the homeland and destination countries, but also across diasporas. The second part is concerned with methodological issues and focuses on how diaspora and digital media studies tend to take either a qualitative, ethnographic perspective or a quantitative, data-driven approach. The former tends not to make use of digital methods or tools, while the latter tends to approach diaspora in static ways that contrast with theories of diaspora as a dynamic cultural formation. By following digitally mediated issues across platforms while drawing on feminist and ethnographic research ethics, a more nuanced and embodied vision emerges of diasporic formations online.

Sandra Ponzanesi is Professor of Gender and Postcolonial Studies, Department of Media and Culture Studies, Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Among her interests is the reception of the postcolonial field in relation to the cultural industry, the understanding of the notion of Europe from a postcolonial perspective, postcolonial cinema studies, and the exploration of digital literacies of migrants in transnational contexts. She is Project leader of the ERC project CONNECTINGEUROPE and Director of the PCI (Postcolonial Studies Initiative). Among her main publications are The Postcolonial Cultural Industry (2014), Postcolonial Cinema Studies (2012) and Paradoxes of Postcolonial Culture (2004). She is also editor of Gender, Globalisation and Violence (Routledge, 2014) and co-editor of Postcolonial Intellectuals in Europe (Rowman and Littlefield International, 2018), Postcolonial Transitions in Europe (Rowman and Littlefield International, 2016), Deconstructing Europe (Routledge, 2012) and Migrant Cartographies (Lexington Books, 2005). She has guest edited several special issues on postcolonial Europe, digital migration and postcolonial cinema for peer-review journals such as Social Identities, Interventions, Crossings, Transnational Cinemas, Popular Communication and Television and New Media.
Using Participatory Ego-Network Data Collection to Inform Agent-Based Computational Modelling of Migration Pathways: Visualizing the Networks that Facilitate Myanmar Labour Migration to Thailand

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Ligia Kiss
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Migration pathways, both physical routes and human networks, form a complex adaptive system that influences migrants’ outcomes. Our current work addresses this emergent system of labour migration pathways between Myanmar and Thailand. The aim of this research is to explore migrants entry into decent versus exploitative work with emphasis on the social and recruitment networks that migrants engage to find work.

To capture the system complexity, we combine qualitative ego-network analysis and agent based modelling. This paper presents our participatory methods for collecting ego-network data with 101 Myanmar migrants, including developing and piloting a tablet-based tool for mapping networks during the interview. This tool served three key functions: 1) the collection of ego-network data; 2) creating a collaborative space to build the visualization of this network which enhanced the interviewee’s understanding of the research and allowed real-time quality assurance through visual checks; and 3) provided a visual probing tool for the interviewer to reference. We will be applying qualitative ego-network analysis techniques to conduct in-case and cross-case analysis to identify typical migration pathway networks. This conference paper seeks to present the design and piloting of the tool.

Finally, the results from this ego-network analysis will inform the social network environment in our ABM proof of concept. Many conventional research methodologies in public health research fails to capture the complex interactions of actors and exposures that are critical to informing safer labour migration programming and policy. We will also present our plans for adapting the network data to ABMs.

Alys McAlpine is a Doctoral Candidate at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and is part of the Gender Violence and Health Centre at the school. Her research focuses on issues of gender based violence, labour exploitation and human trafficking amongst mobile and marginalised populations. She has conducted research on migration and violence in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Nepal, Myanmar and Thailand. Her current doctoral thesis work focuses on labour migration pathways from Myanmar to Thailand and addresses questions about the mechanisms by which migrants enter decent versus exploitative work. She is a mixed-methods social scientist by training and in the course of her PhD her research questions have led her to learn and apply complex system and network analysis methods, specifically ego-network analysis and agent based computational modelling. She is currently in the analysis and write up stage of her PhD scheduled for completion in June 2021.

Luke Demarest

Ligia Kiss

Cathy Zimmerman
Forced migration studies often rely on research at single places and countries. Place-based or territorially-confined approaches are certainly well-suited to investigate how displaced people live and interact with others at certain localities and navigate through governance regimes of aid and asylum. They might, however, fail to capture the inherent multi-sitedness of many displaced people’s everyday lives and their translocal connections across the globe. Our paper will present the multi-sited methodology of the EU-funded Horizon 2020 project “Transnational Figurations of Displacement” (TRAFIG) and how it is being implemented in Asia. Our 3-year multi-country study assumes that translocal connectivity and mobility are among the key factors for moving out of protracted displacement (see Etzold et al. 2019 for details on the TRAFIG concept). As such the project is methodologically innovative, using a mixed approach itself (including ethnographic research, qualitative interviews, group consultations and a survey) and studies the means by which the refugees and IDPs themselves are connected and follows their mobility trajectories to multiple places. It thus largely rests on multi-sited and mobile methods. In Asia, the study examines displaced persons from Afghanistan and Syria, their complex trajectories of displacement, their everyday lives and their translocal networks. Moreover, our flexible methodology allows us to follow refugees’ transnational networks to other countries, potentially as far as Europe where research will be conducted simultaneously. Inspired by figurational sociology we then seek to identify how particular power structures and dependency relations unfold in these ‘translocal figurations of displacement’ and how they change over time.

Sarah A. Tobin is an anthropologist working at Chr. Michelsen Institute. In her work she explores transformations in religious and economic life, identity construction and personal piety, in recent years in particular in Jordanian refugee camps.

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Katja Mielke is a political scientist who works at Bonn International Center for Conversion with a focus on the nexus of violent conflict, mobility and migration in Central- and South Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

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Visualising Temporality in Forced Displacement

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We present the use of a photo elicitation method in our research on how young people construct the past, present and future in forced displacement. The challenges of collecting information about young refugees’ lives are manifold: the sensitivities surrounding trauma, armed conflict and displacement, ethical considerations, issues of consent, children as actors rather than as victims and the balance of power between children and adults. In addition, it is difficult to conduct research on temporality because of its intangible nature. In order to surmount these challenges, we provide cameras to refugee children and ask them to take photos of their lives. They decide on the photos they show us and we engage in in-depth conversations with them about their photographs and the meanings attached to the images. Not only is this a way of collecting data, it is also an exercise in creativity and a source of enjoyment for our respondents. We present two sets of research using this method: predominantly Karen children from Myanmar living in boarding houses in refugee camps in Thailand and Rohingya refugee children living in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. The photographs, through materiality and representation, capture accounts of their lives and their engagement with time. In so doing, we are able to identify the different temporal regimes that are imposed upon them by states and other actors, and to understand the temporal reasonings they construct within the constraints of their lived categories as refugees. This enables us to interrogate the linearity of conventional social biographies, thereby opening up new ways of understanding the temporality of forced displacement.

Su-Ann Oh is a visiting fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute specializing in research on refugees in and from Southeast Asia. Her research focuses on the forced migration of the Karen, Rohingya and other Burmese communities, education, temporality, Myanmar and the Thai-Burmese borderlands. She is currently writing a book on the control of time and refugee futures in Karen refugee camp education on the Thai-Burmese border. She is the editor of the book “Myanmar’s Mountain and Maritime Borderscapes: Local Practices, Boundary-Making and Figured Worlds” (2016).

Nursyazwani is currently a Research Associate at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore. She completed her MA in the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore. Her MA research discusses the co-construction of refugee legibility amongst Rohingyas in Malaysia. She is primarily interested in citizenship, political subjectivity and refugees—particularly in Southeast Asia.
Biography and Biopolitics: Researching Time and Temporalities in Asian Migrations

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The temporal turn in migration studies has disrupted the long-established emphasis on movement as measurable across and/or between spaces, shifting analysis towards more nuanced accounts of the intersection of spatialities and temporalities in migration. Attending to temporalities draws attention to the undetermined, uncertain and uneven character of migration, to the ways in which biosocial life stages shape and are shaped around being mobile, and the manner in which governmental and infrastructural technologies manipulate migrant bodies and aspirations through the regulation of time. In this paper I consider methodological approaches to time and temporality through reflection on several years of research on the rapid growth of new streams of labour migration out of Asia into the settler colonial context of Aotearoa/New Zealand and the provisional migration regimes that have facilitated and temporally structured such movement. I argue in particular that accounting for the multiple times and temporal experiences of migration can be enhanced by a focus on linking analysis of biography and biopolitics, the expression of past, future and present in migrant stories and the governmental and infrastructural action at a distance that gives shape to and regulates the possibilities for migration. Methodologically, focusing on biography and biopolitics relies on an orientation towards sensitivity to the timing and temporal experiences of migration and the deployment of diverse, intersecting methodological techniques—biographically-oriented interviews, time-sensitive surveys, and analysis of constantly mutating governmental technologies and discourses. Such an approach makes it possible to give voice to the narrative depth and emotional contours of migrant lives, while not losing sight of how these lives are intervened in by a range of actors who seek to manipulate the timing of migration—state, employers, intermediaries, families. Bringing biography and biopolitics together, then, also creates the possibility to make visible the extractive logics of migration regimes and to set the stage for a more socially progressive migration agenda.

Francis L. Collins is Professor of Geography and Director of the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis at the University of Waikato. His research centres on international migration and includes projects exploring international students and urban transformation, higher education and the globalisation of cities, labour migration, marginalisation and exploitation, time and youth migration, and aspirations and desires. Francis is the author of *Global Asian City: migration, desire and the politics of encounter in 21st century Seoul* (Wiley 2018) and co-editor of *Intersections of Inequality, Migration and Diversification* (Palgrave 2019) and *Aspiration, Desire and the Drivers of Migration* (Routledge 2019).
Disrupting the Formal Urban and Labour Archive: Life-Histories of Internally Migrant Construction Workers in Delhi

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Changes and continuities in patterns of internal migration and circulatory labour flows within the national context have largely fallen out of the purview of contemporary critical research on migration and mobility and continue to be consigned to the realm of demography or population studies. While reproducing a causal loop of "state-centrism" in migration research, this tendency also strengthens the existing divide between scholars of internal and international migration (Skeldon 2006; King 2011). This paper suggests life-history analysis of internal migrant workers as a means of diversifying and enriching our understanding of the dynamics of Asian city-making, especially in countries such as India which experience high volumes of back-and-forth migration between rural and urban areas and across sub-national borders.

While life-history interviewing has been a rich resource for scholars of trans-national migration and has featured extensively in ethnographies of work and employment, little sustained reflection exists on its contributions and suitability to the study of internal labour migrants and their relationship to urban space in Asian cities. Building on the life histories of informally-employed migrant construction workers living in nine tehsils around Delhi, I argue life-history analysis in migration research disrupts formal urban and labour archives by allowing for the study of, a) ephemeral urban spaces such as demolished settlements, daily labour markets, and shifting unregistered workplaces and, b) informal labour migrants whose multi-causal and multi-directional mobilities and presence in the city remain undocumented although they comprise the bulk of the labour force in urban place-based industries such as construction.

Debolina Majumder is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Cambridge. She received her Bachelor’s degree in History and International Relations and her Master’s degree in Geography from the University of British Columbia, Canada. Her doctoral research grapples with the transitory but recurring urban landscapes within which migrant construction workers continue to work and live in Delhi and asks how the transience and informality of construction labour (and work) is reproduced in and through urban space.
Multi-Verse Methodologies: Lessons for Migration Research in Asia

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The dynamic multi-layered complexities of migration demand research that both attends to diversities and specificities of localities, policies, and subject positions, while also accompanying salient and multi-directional migratory flows. In this paper, I argue that the development of a multi-nodal research network comprised of differently-situated partners who operate within and across national, disciplinary, and stakeholder borders offers the best response to these requirements. Drawing from our research project, The Lives of Migrant Remittances: An Asian Comparative Study (LOMR), which focuses on the meanings and distribution of financial and social remittances from Filipino and Indonesian migrant workers in Hong Kong and their uptake in their home countries, communities, and households, I outline how research network members grounded in disparate epistemic and ontological positions enrich our data collection processes and complicate our analytical frameworks. In accordance with feminist and participatory methodologies, the research team, comprised of academics, graduate students, and representatives from migrant advocacy and grassroots organizations—including current and former Hong Kong-based migrant workers, is conceptualized as a multi-nodal network. This structure allows for emergent design of research activities based on local conditions, enhances flexibility in response to shifting policies and innovations, and helps de-centre the privilege of academic scholars from the Global North. While the unequal distribution of resources, demands of funders, and challenges working across multiple temporal, organizational, and spatial realms can militate against flattened organizational hierarchies and decentralized decision-making, cross-border conversations and relationships amongst individuals that give rise to the development of the multi-nodal research networks aid in working through these issues.

Denise L. Spitzer is a Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta and an Adjunct Professor in the Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies at the University of Ottawa, Canada, where, from 2005-2015, she was the Canada Research Chair in Gender, Migration and Health and Principal Scientist in the Institute of Population Health. 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. Engaging in participatory research with migrant communities throughout Asia, Canada, and the Horn of Africa, Professor Spitzer is interested in examining how global processes, mediated through intersectionality, are implicated in health and wellbeing.
Re-Thinking Migration Methodologies through Ethnography of Migrant Workers’ Health and Healthcare Entitlement across Sri Lanka and Kuwait

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How notions of migration transform with health remains a largely unexplored topic, yet it is a crucial lens for analysing the convergence of migratory, medical and policy infrastructures. Sri Lankan migrant workers in Kuwait are in transition between varying approaches to body and health, systems of healthcare and rights, as well as regulations on medical assessment and labour recruitment. In researching migrants’ experiences, physical, emotional and symbolic transitions are probed alongside the roles of public and private actors to create politically-relevant accounts. This paper discusses the methodology of conducting ethnography of migrants’ health and healthcare entitlement across the different spaces of Kuwait and Sri Lanka and producing intimate accounts using a multi-scalar perspective. It investigates the value of researching migrants’ experiences of healthcare while attending to meso contexts of medical, recruitment and juridical settings, as well as macro frames of regulations. The research draws on political anthropology that elaborates ideas of migrants’ ‘health-related deservingness’ (Willen 2012) and how health is constructed by agents and produced through structures of differentiation and inequality (Fassin 2007). Research is being conducted in Kuwait and Sri Lanka from 2018-2020, and includes participant observation, interviews with migrants and key secondary informants and a small survey. The paper argues that migration means different things to Sri Lankans who navigate healthcare and bodily surveillance across contexts and the frontier of healing processes and policies. Consequently, re-focusing methodological questions of intra-Asian migration research through health can re-cast understandings of the ethical, discursive and political forces of migration occurring across interconnected domains.

Sajida Ally is a social and medical anthropologist who researches the moral and political anthropology of migration and health, particularly in the context of South Asian transnational migration to the Arab-Persian Gulf. She is a Lecturer in Global Public Health at Queen Mary University of London, where since 2017 she has developed an MSc in Migration, Culture and Global Health. Sajida is also the PI of the project, ‘Sri Lankan Migrant Workers’ Entitlements to Healthcare in Kuwait: The Role of Public and Private Actors’—funded by REALM (Research and Empirical Analysis on Labour Migration) at Columbia University and NYU-Abu Dhabi. Her academic training has been in Social Anthropology (PhD, Sussex), Social Policy and Development (MSc, LSE), and History and Arab Studies (BA, Georgetown). She has also worked extensively in the NGO sector in migration policy advocacy in Hong Kong, Geneva and other Asian countries.
The Effect of Positive Parenting on Resilience of Caregivers and Adolescents in the Context of Migration: A Dyadic Model

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The impact of a parent migrating away for work impacts not only individuals but relationships within the family that stays behind. Currently, the negative health impacts of migration on left-behind children (Fellmeth et al., 2018) mainly comes from data on the individual level. Many statistical techniques frequently used in migration research are inadequate for testing interdependence effects within the family unit.

The data used is from the project *Migration and Health Impacts on Cambodia Children and Families* (MHICCaF), with 618 pairs of adolescents and their caregivers of migrant parents, and 114 comparison pairs from non-migrant households. The Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM, Kashy & Kenny, 2000) is applied to detect dependent and interdependent effects of positive parenting on adolescents and caregiver’s resilience. The analyses use structural equation modeling with maximum likelihood estimation using the program lavaan (Rosseel, 2012).

The data from the migrant households supports the actor-only model (Figure 1): adolescent’s resilience is influenced by their own perception of parenting/caregiving, but not by how their caregivers perceive their own parenting/caregiving. The data from the non-migrant households suggests that adolescent’s resilience is only influenced by their own perception of positive parenting/caregiving (Figure 2). Significant correlations are found between adolescents’ and caregivers’ assessment of positive parenting/caregiving for both types of households, but adolescents’ resilience is only associated with caregiver’s resilience within the migrant households.

Results reveal differential relationships between parenting/caregiving and resilience at the both the individual and dyadic levels based parental migrant status providing novel insight into family dynamics in the context of migration. Such methodology also can be further applied to examine the linkages between the migrants and those who stay behind.

Figure 1 APIM model with standardized paramert estimates of migrant households
*** $p < .001$

Figure 2 APIM model with standardized parameter estimates of non-migrant households

** $p < .01$

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Lucy Jordan is Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, University of Hong Kong. Her research focuses on how societal transformation impacts on intimate family life and wellbeing. Her scholarship includes study of key themes related to social transformation and family life including migration and transnational families, and other topics related to social vulnerability including intergenerational family relationships, social integration of migrants, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and risk behavior in developing global urban contexts. Her current research focuses on migration and the family in emerging economies of Asia including Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Nepal.

Jia Chen is Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work, Shanghai University. Her research focuses on inter- and multi-generational family relationships and its implications for the wellbeing of different family members.

Kol Wickramage is the UN Migration Agencies’ Global Health Research and Epidemiology Coordinator responsible for providing technical guidance on research and evidence generation across IOM’s three health programmatic areas: medical examinations for migrants and refugees; technical cooperation on migration health with member states; and health action in humanitarian and post-crisis contexts. He worked with WHO from 2004 in health action in crisis projects, from protracted civil conflict to natural disaster settings, and since joining IOM in 2009, has worked on a broad spectrum of migration health projects predominantly in low-income countries - ranging from the West-African Ebola outbreak response, multi-country research on health impacts of low-skilled migrant workers and their families in Asia, to supporting member states formulate health policies, interventions and research at the nexus of migration and health. He received Presidential honors in Sri Lanka for his research work and advancing a national migration health policy through an evidence-informed, inter-ministerial process. Dr. Wickramage co-founded a global migration health scholars’ network in 2016 and is passionate about supporting research scholarship, especially within developing regions.
Re-Embedding the Natural Environment in Asian Migrations through Political Ecology

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Piguet (2013) calls for re-embedding the natural environment as an important factor in human mobility, in actively shaping and being shaped by complex migration and other social, economic, political and environmental processes. Asia’s diverse migration streams and susceptibility to environmental change, among other factors, position the region as a fruitful site for such re-embedding. This paper explores how to do so. First, it reflects upon the ability of particular techniques, including interviews, go-alongs, workshops, reflexive blogging, and participatory videos and mapping activities, to unpack environmental migration-led spatialities and temporalities after Typhoon Sendong in Northern Mindanao, Philippines. The techniques themselves reveal diverse, sometimes contradictory, aspects of migration processes. These techniques focus attention onto the bodily aspects of both migration and migration research (cf. Longhurst, Ho, and Johnston 2008); they centre the bodies of migrant and non-migrant subjects as the locus of migration challenges and impacts (Silvey and Lawson 1999). Second, the paper situates these findings in a political ecology framework. Adopting a political ecology approach avoids reproducing the thinly veiled racisms, nationalisms and social privilege characteristic of natural determinism—a key contributor to the disappearance of the environment from migration studies in much of 20th century, and the alarmist warnings of waves of environmental refugees that sparked the reappearance of the environment in migration studies in the 1980s and 1990s (Piguet 2013). Instead, a political ecology approach, and the methodological techniques underpinning it, re-place the natural environment in a contemporary, socially progressive migration agenda.

Christine Gibb is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Geography and Planning, and the Asian Institute of the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto, where she is researching how gendered religious practices, institutions and norms determine access to disaster assistance in Southeast Asia. Her doctoral research investigated a specific case of environmental migration in the Philippines, and focused on governmentality and exclusion in relocation sites and other post-disaster spaces. She has an interdisciplinary background, which includes studies in geography, biology, capacity development and extension, and international development. Her research interests include environmental migration, global environmental change, feminist geography, post-disaster reconstruction, and accompanied research methodologies.
Mapping the Short-Term Placemaking Practices of Millennial Nomads

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Millennial nomads, globally dispersed and peripatetic individuals whose travel freedom is in fact contingent on each individual’s motility, are imbued with a different understanding of distance and time. Although millennials are commonly identified by their age cohort i.e. currently between twenties and mid-thirties, they are more definitively identified by a common mindset and shared values. As the first generation of digital natives who grew up internet literate and accepting the entanglement of personalised technological devices as an everyday norm, these individuals, leveraging on twenty-first century affordances in mobility and travel (Urry, 2007), personify geographical liberation as well as ‘everywhereness’ (Scott, 2016) in their short-term placemaking practices. The rise of millennial nomads have come to challenge the conventional work, life and education triadic relationship, motivated by their need for location-independence and technological integration. Singapore, in particular, is recognized as the destination for millennials for employment prospects rather than tourism (Maynard, 2019). Rather than emphasizing transience and movement, our research on multi-mobile millennial nomads considers the moment of ‘stillness’ when a short-term address is in place, to supply a balancing perspective. The digital diffusion allows for new possibilities in connecting analysis and intervention in social research through the use of digital methods and approaches (Pink, 2009; Marres, 2017). A mixed methodology, consisting of semi-structured closed interviews and social media analysis, guides the qualitative ethnographic study on the spatiality and temporality of millennial nomad placemaking across different scales, with data visualization and analysis utilizing digital tools i.e. ARCGIS, word clouds and visual media.

Simone Shu-Yeng Chung is Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore. She holds a PhD in Architecture and MPhil from University of Cambridge, and an MSc from University College London. After completing her studies at the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, and the Architectural Association, she practiced as a chartered architect in London.

Mary Ann Ng graduated with a Masters of Architecture from the National University of Singapore. She is currently Research Assistant on Dr Chung’s MOE Tier 1 AcRF project Deciphering the Spatial Rhetorics of Millennial Nomads at the School of Design and Environment, NUS. For more information on the research project, visit: https://millennialnomadspace.com
Young people are at the forefront of an unprecedented rate of global mobility, increasingly for interrelated opportunities for work, education and leisure, and thus are arguably the case par excellence of those who inhabit ‘multi-directionality, multi-causality and provisionality in contemporary migrations’ as they engage in multiple and complex types of mobility spatially as well as temporally, enacting movement through a key stage of the life course while physically on the move. Youth mobilities research represents an emerging field that exemplifies the methodological challenges of cross-fertilization and boundary crossing in contemporary migration research. It has largely been caught between transnational migration studies that privilege theorisation of mobility without a critical analysis of youth as a social category, and youth studies frameworks, which interrogate constructions of the youth phase but produce a traditional sedentarist figure of youth, with limited appreciation of the contemporary imperative for transnational mobility and the global dynamics of migration. These conceptual foci have been accompanied by methodological habits that can limit our understandings of the complexity and interconnected nature of the experiences of a generation making an adult life on the move. For example, quantitative longitudinal studies of youth transitions may rely on populations who stay in place. Qualitative research into transnational families tends to centre the narratives of adults, with migration research still frequently framing youth through concepts such as second generation that position them only in relation to adults, and assume permanence and settledness.

In this paper we offer a discussion of the methodological challenges of studying the nexus between youth transitions and mobilities, taking account of the field-specific theoretical tendencies that have driven different kinds of research approaches. Drawing on preliminary work in our multi-method, longitudinal Australian Research Council project on youth mobilities in to and out of Australia with young people of Chinese, Indian, British and Italian ancestry, we interrogate critical methodological questions surrounding the notion of ‘mobile transitions’. We focus, in particular on some methodological tensions and opportunities that exist in critically examining both local and transnational dimensions of transition regimes and varied and mobile cultural understandings of youth and adulthood. In doing so, we also consider the following questions:

- What are the particular advantages and challenges of longitudinal survey-based approaches to explore the mobilities-transitions nexus?
- How are mobile transition practices best defined, theorised, ‘measured’ and captured ethnographically and what are the most effective qualitative research tools to explore these transitions?
Loretta Baldassar is Professor in the Discipline Group of Anthropology and Sociology at The University of Western Australia. She has published extensively on migration, with a particular focus on transnational families and caregiving. Baldassar is Vice President of the International Sociological Association Migration Research Committee and a regional editor for the journal Global Networks. She is co-Chief Investigator on ARC Discover Projects: Ageing and New Media (Wilding, La Trobe) and Youth Mobilities (Harris, Deakin, and Robertson, Western Sydney).

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, mobility, citizenship, youth and urban space. Her book on The Education-Migration Nexus (Palgrave 2013) was awarded the Raewyn Connell Prize for the best first book in Australian sociology. Her two ARC research projects are on temporality, mobility and Asian temporary migrants to Australia and the long-term effects of transnational mobility on youth transitions.

Anita Harris is a Research Professor in the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University. She is a youth sociologist undertaking a series of projects on young people, multiculturalism, mobility and citizenship, with a particular focus on cultural diversity and gender. She has published widely in youth studies and is the author of several books including Young People and Everyday Multiculturalism (Routledge, 2013). Together with Loretta Baldassar and Shanthi Robertson she is undertaking a longitudinal project on youth transitions and transnational mobility.
About the Organisers and Chairpersons

Bittiandra Chand Somaiah is a Research Fellow in the Asian Migration cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, and at the Centre for Global Social Policy, University of Toronto. 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.

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).

Elspeth Graham is Professor of Geography at the University of St Andrews, UK. Her research interests are in population and health. She is currently working on two mixed-methods projects: (i) Fertility and Family in Europe; (ii) Child Health and Migrant Parents in Southeast Asia (CHAMPSEA). She is a long-time advocate of mixed-methods research, having published a discussion paper on the topic in 1999. She has extensive experience in mixed-methods research design, data collection and analysis, and continues to engage in debates about the philosophical underpinnings of mixed-methods research.

Lucy Jordan is Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, University of Hong Kong. Her research focuses on how societal transformation impacts on intimate family life and wellbeing. Her scholarship includes study of key themes related to social transformation and family life including migration and transnational families, and other topics related to social vulnerability including intergenerational family relationships, social integration of migrants, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and risk behavior in developing global urban contexts. Her current research focuses on migration and the family in emerging economies of Asia including Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Nepal.

Lue Fang is Research Fellow in the Asian Migration cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Her research interests include acculturation and migration, youth psychological wellbeing and educational achievement. Her recent work has been focusing on psychological wellbeing of rural to urban migrant children in China and the impact of parental migration on left behind children’s mental health in Southeast Asia.
Shiori Shakuto is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Asian Migration Cluster of the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore. She obtained her PhD in Anthropology from the Australian National University in 2017. Her research interests lie at the intersection between gender and mobilities, with a focus on how gender relations in Japan both affect, and are affected by, transnational movement to Southeast Asia. She received an inaugural ARI-FASS Manuscript Workshop Grant 2019 to develop her dissertation into a monograph, tentatively titled, ‘Anxious Companionship: Japanese Silver Backpackers.’ It presents a critique of patriarchy in retirement. Her research has been published in various journals including an article ‘Post-work intimacy’ in American Ethnologist. At ARI, she will be carrying out research on how the tsunami and nuclear disaster of 2011 has motivated some Japanese people to move to Southeast Asia and how such movement has been gendered.

Shirlena Huang is Associate Professor at the Geography Department at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Her research focuses mainly on issues at the intersection of migration, gender and families (with a particular focus on care labour migration and transnational families within the Asia-Pacific region) as well as urbanisation and heritage conservation (particularly in Singapore). She serves on several editorial boards including Gender Place and Culture, International Journal of Population Research, Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography, and Women’s Studies International Forum, as well as book series Asian Cultural Studies: Transnational and Dialogic Approaches (Rowman & Littlefield) and The Intimate and the Public in Asian and Global Perspectives (Brill).

Theodora Lam is Research 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.

Yi’En Cheng is Research Fellow in the Asian Migration cluster at Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore. His research interests lie in the intersection across education, youth, and mobilities in Asian cities. He is the guest editor of special issues ‘Geographies of Citizenship in Higher Education’ in Area (with Mark Holton) and ‘Mobile Aspirations? Youth Im/mobilities in the Asia-Pacific’ in Journal of Intercultural Studies (with Shanthi Robertson and Brenda Yeo). Prior to joining ARI, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Yale-NUS College and Clarendon Scholar at University of Oxford where he completed a DPhil in Human Geography.