

MIGRATION & CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS IN ASIA



21-22 Sep 2023



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Citizenship is often associated with legal and emotional membership in a political and geographic community. For migrants, membership in receiving countries—which could be temporary or permanent—is often determined by criteria such as kinship, ethnicity/race, skills, or wealth. A branch of scholarship in migration studies has primarily focused on citizenship as a lens for understanding migrant integration. Another branch has asked how diasporic citizenship might counter the integration efforts of migrant-receiving countries. Underpinning these analyses remain an assumption that there exists a singular, linear pathway towards citizenship and belonging in both the countries of origin and destination.

In contrast, there is a thinner discussion linking migration and the possibility that there could be multiple pathways towards citizenship, understanding the latter as a process that evolves across space and time, rather than an outcome or condition in a particular national space. A new focus on pathways to citizenship—the theme of this workshop—provides an instructive lens to account for how migrants navigate the uncertainties of migration and the global inequalities or opportunities that they encounter at different stages of their lives.

Focusing on pathways to citizenship is of special interest in the context of migration regimes in Asia where privileged access to permanent residency and citizenship in receiving states is usually limited to highly skilled professionals and capital-rich migrants. For the overwhelming majority of migrants in the low-skilled category, long-term settlement, family reunification and long-term integration and citizenship are often ruled out. At the same time, from the perspective of the sending nation-states, temporary migration does not necessarily connote short-term exits, and in fact may be characterised by long or indefinite duration, repetition, circularity and sometimes *de facto* settlement in host societies.

Directions of inquiry for papers submitted to this workshop should focus on the Asian context. They may include, but are not limited to the following:

- How do migrants navigate their citizenship in both the countries of origin and destination when there are countervailing pressures to prove their loyalty and commitment?
- What are the political and social strategies employed by migrants to attain and extend their rights of citizenship?
- What are the multidirectional or multinational geographical pathways that migrants undertake across the lifecourse to improve their prospects of attaining citizenship or to retain their citizenship status?
- What are the educational and employment pathways undertaken by migrants to achieve citizenship?
- How do family considerations and extended familial relations shape migrants' pathways to citizenship over the lifecourse?
- How do axes of identity such as ethnicity/race, class, and gender determine the legal and emotional terms of citizenship, and how do migrants negotiate such parameters?

This workshop aims to extend conceptualisation of migration and citizenship pathways with reference to immigrants and diasporic citizens, as well as older and younger migrants. While the workshop gives primary focus to how the above trends manifest in Asia, it also seeks to contribute to theorisation beyond Asian cases.

WORKSHOP CONVENORS

Prof Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho | Asia Research Institute & Dept of Geography, National University of Singapore

Prof Rhacel Parreñas | Sociology and Gender Studies, University of Southern California

Prof Brenda S. A. Yeoh FBA | Asia Research Institute & Dept of Geography, National University of Singapore

PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

DATE	TIME (SGT)	PANEL SESSION
21 Sep 2023 (Thu)	10:30 – 11:00	WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
	11:00 – 12:30	PANEL 1 – SPATIO-TEMPORAL REGISTERS OF CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS
	14:00 – 15:30	PANEL 2 – GEOPOLITICS AND CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS
	16:00 – 17:30	PANEL 3 – INTERSECTIONALITY AND CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS
	18:00 – 19:30	WORKSHOP DINNER <i>(For Presenters, Chairpersons and Invited Guests)</i>
22 Sep 2023 (Fri)	10:30 – 12:00	PANEL 4 – CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS AND (MIS)RECOGNITION
	13:30 – 15:00	PANEL 5 – SKILLS AND CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS
	15:30 – 17:00	PANEL 6 – FAMILYHOOD AND CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS
	17:00 – 17:30	SUMMARY & CLOSING REMARKS

21 SEPTEMBER 2023 • THURSDAY

10:30 – 11:00	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
	Brenda S.A. Yeoh <i>National University of Singapore</i> Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho <i>National University of Singapore</i> Rhacel Salazar Parreñas <i>University of Southern California & Princeton University</i>
11:00 – 12:30	PANEL 1 – SPATIO-TEMPORAL REGISTERS OF CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS
Chairperson	Theodora Lam <i>National University of Singapore</i>
11:00	Selling the “Canadian Dream” and Normalizing Downward Mobility: Citizenship Pathways and Filipino Migration Influencers in Canada Maria Cecilia Hwang <i>McGill University</i> Rhacel Salazar Parreñas <i>University of Southern California & Princeton University</i>
11:20 <i>online</i>	Cosmopolitanism, Transnational Citizenship and Entrepreneurial Activities: Chinese Migrant Women's Remigration Journeys from Taiwan Back to China Beatrice Zani <i>French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)</i>
11:40	Citizenship Pathways of Older “New Immigrants” in the Later Life-course in Singapore Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho <i>National University of Singapore</i> Brenda S.A. Yeoh <i>National University of Singapore</i>
12:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:30	PANEL 2 – GEOPOLITICS AND CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS
Chairperson	Bernice Loh <i>National University of Singapore</i>
14:00	Claiming Territory or Claiming Nationals: Divergent Consular Reaches and Overseas Citizenship Pathways in Sabah, Malaysia Amanda R. Cheong <i>University of British Columbia</i> Mary Anne K. Baltazar <i>Universiti Malaya</i> Cameliah Thomas <i>ANAK</i>
14:20	<i>Citizen Becoming: ‘In-between’ State and Tibetan Self-fashioning (1946 - 1986)</i> Noel Mariam George <i>London School of Economics and Political Science</i>
14:40	Migration, Citizenship and Identity Documentation: Citizenship and Pseudo/Partial Citizenship of Myanmar Migrants in Thailand Nyi Nyi Kyaw <i>Chiang Mai University</i>
15:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
15:30 – 16:00	TEA BREAK

16:00 – 17:30	PANEL 3 – INTERSECTIONALITY AND CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS
<i>Chairperson</i>	Yang Wang <i>National University of Singapore</i>
16:00	Walking the Tightrope of Belonging: Vietnamese Migrants' Experiences in Russia's Racialised Citizenship Regime Jessica Steinman <i>Erasmus University Rotterdam</i>
16:20	Diversifying the Socio-spatialities of the Migration/surveillance Nexus in Singapore Junjia Ye <i>Nanyang Technological University</i> Kelly Merie Portscher <i>Nanyang Technological University</i>
16:40	From “Disposable Labour” to “Desirable Citizens”: Citizenship Pathways for Chinese Migrant Worker-Turned-Marriage Migrant Women in Singapore Wei Yang <i>National University of Singapore</i>
17:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
17:30	END OF DAY 1
18:00 – 19:30	WORKSHOP DINNER (<i>For Presenters, Chairpersons and Invited Guests</i>)

22 SEPTEMBER 2023 • FRIDAY

10:30 – 12:00	PANEL 4 – CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS AND (MIS)RECOGNITION
<i>Chairperson</i>	Wei Yang <i>National University of Singapore</i>
10:30	Navigating Pathways to Multicultural Citizenship: Southeast Asian Immigrant Mothers and their Children in Taiwan Pei-Chia Lan <i>National Taiwan University</i>
10:50 <i>online</i>	Ten-Year Card: The Bamar Muslims' Generational Project of Citizenship in Thailand Phianphachong Intarat <i>University of Hawai'i at Mānoa</i>
11:10	Transnational Citizenship Pathways of Chinese Professional Migrants in Singapore: Negotiating Provisionality, Permanency and Emerging Precarity in (Post-)Pandemic Times Yang Wang <i>National University of Singapore</i> Brenda S.A. Yeoh <i>National University of Singapore</i>
11:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
12:00 – 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 – 15:00	PANEL 5 – SKILLS AND CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS
<i>Chairperson</i>	Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho <i>National University of Singapore</i>
13:30	'Road To Mount OlymPR': Mobility and Citizenship Pathways of Vietnamese Middling Migrants in Australia Lan Anh Hoang <i>University of Melbourne</i>
13:50	When Citizenship is Off the Table: The Comfortable Transience of High-Skilled Indian Women Migrants in the UAE Anju Mary Paul <i>New York University Abu Dhabi</i> Githmi Rabel <i>New York University Abu Dhabi</i>
14:10	Whose Migrants? Whose Skills?: Conflicting Ideals of Citizenship among Filipino Aspiring Nurse Migrants Yasmin Y. Ortiga <i>Singapore Management University</i>
14:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
15:00 – 15:30	TEA BREAK

15:30 – 17:00	PANEL 6 – FAMILYHOOD AND CITIZENSHIP PATHWAYS
<i>Chairperson</i>	Yasmin Y. Ortiga <i>Singapore Management University</i>
15:30	I Care for My Children but Not Citizenship: Alternative Tactics for New Immigrant Single Mothers in Transnational Families in Taiwan Hsunhui Tseng <i>National Cheng Kung University</i>
15:50 <i>online</i>	Split Nationality Households: A Strategic Response for Transnational Families to Optimize Complementary and/or Competing Citizenship Statuses Catriona Stevens <i>Edith Cowan University</i>
16:10	Negotiating Citizenship and Sense of Belonging among Children of Cross-national Marriages Bernice Loh <i>National University of Singapore</i> Brenda S.A. Yeoh <i>National University of Singapore</i> Theodora Lam <i>National University of Singapore</i> Esther Chor Leng Goh <i>National University of Singapore</i>
16:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
17:00 – 17:30	SUMMARY & CLOSING REMARKS
	Rhacel Salazar Parreñas <i>University of Southern California & Princeton University</i> Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho <i>National University of Singapore</i> Brenda S.A. Yeoh <i>National University of Singapore</i>
17:30	END OF WORKSHOP

Selling the “Canadian Dream” and Normalizing Downward Mobility: Citizenship Pathways and Filipino Migration Influencers in Canada

Maria Cecilia Hwang

McGill University
maria.hwang@mcgill.ca

Rhacel Salazar Parreñas

University of Southern California & Princeton University
parrenas@princeton.edu

According to the 2021 Census data, Filipinos comprise the third largest group (after India and China) of immigrants in Canada. While they constitute approximately nine percent of the immigrant population nationally, they are disproportionately overrepresented and make up the largest group of immigrants in the Canadian prairies and territories, including Manitoba (28% of immigrants), Saskatchewan (27%), Northwest Territories (29%), Yukon (29%) and Nunavut (23%). Filipinos in these destinations are also recent immigrants, with more than half of those who relocated to Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut arriving after 2011. This paper draws from interviews with recent Filipino migrants in Canada, including those who have moved or are planning to move to these destinations, and examines the emergence of what we call “global frontiers” of migration. We will link discussions on frontiers, settler colonialism, and international migration to theorize the citizenship pathways pursued by migrants who relocate from global cities in Asia to global frontiers in Canada.

Maria Cecilia Hwang is an assistant professor jointly appointed in the Department of East Asian Studies and the Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies. She is an ethnographer whose research interests include international migration, gender, sexualities, globalization and transnationalism, and Asia and Asian America.

Rhacel Salazar Parreñas is Florence Everline Professor of Sociology and Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Southern California. She is an ethnographer who studies labor, gender, international migration, the family and economic sociology. She is a Visiting Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies and Sociology, at Princeton University.

Cosmopolitanism, Transnational Citizenship and Entrepreneurial Activities: Chinese Migrant Women's Remigration Journeys from Taiwan Back to China

Beatrice Zani

French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)
beatrice.zani92@gmail.com

Chinese women's migration from China to Taiwan is subjected to a restrictive and gendered mobility regime, where marriage is the necessary condition for migrant women to legally enter, and settle down. Residency attribution takes two years, while citizenship takes seven years. Consequently, for Chinese migrant spouses who are not provided with citizenship rights, the end of marriage, i.e. divorce engenders expulsion and deportation. In contrast, if Chinese migrant women get divorced after obtaining Taiwanese citizenship, the obligation of leaving the territory vanishes. Curiously, most of Chinese women who leave Taiwan and remigrate back to China after a few years of stay there are provided with citizenship rights. A puzzle emerges: Why do migrants remigrate back to the society of departure after obtaining Taiwanese citizenship? How can Taiwanese citizenship become an opportunity for migrants upon remigration to their country of origin, China? What are the social, economic, cultural, and emotional resources Taiwanese citizenship is embedded with? This paper draws on ethnographic work carried out since 2016 in China and in Taiwan with Chinese marriage migrants. Specifically, it relies on 40 biographical interviews and life stories of Chinese female returnees (29-37 years old), who after migration to Taiwan re-migrated to China post-divorce, and who currently live and work in Shenzhen, Foshan, Dongguan. It shows how, within regimes of inequality which characterize both Taiwanese and Chinese societies and their labor markets, Taiwanese citizenship becomes a resource for migrants upon remigration to achieve upward social and economic mobility in China. (Re)migration and citizenship shape each other, and transform social, economic and emotional relations. Citizenship, in its relational and performative dimension, can support social status transformation, business-development, or facilitate cross-border movements for family visits. Engaging with the timely debates about migration, citizenship regimes, cosmopolitanism, and transnationalism, and moving beyond the ready equation between citizenship and settlement, this paper sheds light on the ways citizenship regimes vary over time and space and can be negotiated by migrants who are cosmopolitan actors operating across transnational spaces. It suggests that, within global regimes of inequality, migrants mobilize social, economic, cultural and emotional resources to navigate opportunities and constraints: to secure a living, achieve upward social mobility, strengthen familial and emotional bonds. The 'flexible' and dynamic dimension of citizenship produces new social, economic and emotional transnational practices and cosmopolitan existences amongst migrants who live across the borders.

Beatrice Zani is economic sociologist, research fellow at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)/ Interdisciplinary Unit for Economic Sociology (LISE), and she teaches sociology at Sciences Po Paris. Her research interests include economic sociology, transnational migration, global work, digitality, emotion, commodity-chains, and globalization. She has a good publication record in migration, mobility, and globalization studies, including a monograph (Routledge 2021). She serves as a board member of the network 'Migration' of the French Sociological Association, and the European Association of Taiwan Studies, and as associate editor of the Asia Pacific Viewpoint. Drawing on the functioning of shipping and transport in the Asian economies (China, Taiwan, Singapore), her ongoing research explores the link between migration, digitality, and migrant entrepreneurship in the transformation of work and globalization. Other research projects include Chinese migration and migrant entrepreneurship in Canada, and Taiwanese diasporic groups' experiences of migration, work, and inequality in North America ('Made-in-Taiwan', University of California, Santa Barbara).

Citizenship Pathways of Older “New Immigrants” in the Later Life-course in Singapore

Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho

National University of Singapore
elaine.ho@nus.edu.sg

Brenda S.A. Yeoh

National University of Singapore
geoyasa@nus.edu.sg

The intersecting fields of migration and citizenship scholarship has generally focused on working-age economic migrants or young people and been conversely slow to consider the experiences of migrants in the later life-course. We argue that the social invisibility of older immigrants needs to be redressed because their experiences can provide insights into how considerations over migrancy and belonging, familyhood and social rights evolve across the life-course as they weigh up their ageing needs in later life. In the context of Singapore’s immigration-citizenship regime, the paper charts out both the range and limits to older immigrants’ pathways towards citizenship as they negotiate what it means to belong in a multicultural nation that is still changing through new immigration. The paper draws on 26 in-depth interviews with older Chinese and Indian immigrants (i.e. aged 55 years and above) who have Singapore permanent residency or citizenship status. The paper engages with the conceptualisation of ‘citizenship pathways’ by considering aspects of legal and social citizenship through a life-course perspective, showing how older immigrants’ decision-making shifts over time to give weight to new considerations, including deliberations to do with ethnicity/‘race’ and their aspirations to age well.

Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho is 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* (2019; Stanford University Press). Her current research focuses on two domains: first, transnational migration, ageing and care in the Asia-Pacific; and second, im/mobilities and diaspora aid at the China-Myanmar border. Elaine is Section Editor of the International Encyclopedia of Human Geography (2nd edition), Editor of *Social and Cultural Geography*, and serves on the editorial boards of *Citizenship Studies*; *Emotions, Society and Space*; and the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*.

Brenda S.A. Yeoh FBA is Raffles Professor of Social Sciences, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore. She is also the Research Leader of the Asian Migration Cluster in the Asia Research Institute. She was recently awarded the prestigious Vautrin Lud Prize (2021) for her outstanding achievements in the field of Geography, and was also elected to the Fellowship of the British Academy as a Corresponding Fellow. 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.

Claiming Territory or Claiming Nationals: Divergent Consular Reaches and Overseas Citizenship Pathways in Sabah, Malaysia

Amanda R. Cheong

University of British Columbia
amanda.cheong@ubc.ca

Mary Anne K. Baltazar

Universiti Malaya
annebaltazar@gmail.com

Camelia Thomas

ANAK
ateacamelia@gmail.com

Under what conditions do states seek to politically incorporate their “diasporic subjects” abroad (Yeoh, Huang, and Devasahayam 2004)? How are these relations shaped by international, postcolonial negotiations over territory and sovereignty?

In this paper, we compare the approaches of Indonesia and the Philippines vis-à-vis the political “embracement” of their overseas nationals (and *potential* nationals) in Sabah, Malaysia (Torpey 1999). We draw on ethnographic fieldwork with communities of Indonesian and Filipino descent, focusing on their (non-)engagements with their respective consular arms. We theorize consular engagements as key sites at which states exercise “disciplinary governance” over their extraterritorial subjects via the provision of symbolic and material resources of legal status, the most important of which being citizenship, and the documents to prove it (Parreñas 2021; Rodriguez 2010).

We find a striking divergence in these states’ consular reaches, and consequently the availability of citizenship pathways for their (potential) nationals. The Indonesian state proactively seeks to *claim its nationals* in Sabah through the establishment of a permanent consular mission, the conduction of regular civil registration outreach, and the funding of Indonesian schools and teachers. In contrast, the Philippines government seeks to *claim territorial authority* over Sabah, continuing a dispute dating back to the colonial era, communicating the non-recognition of Malaysian sovereignty over Sabah by the withholding of its consular presence. This has notably resulted in an attenuated Filipino presence in and influence over Sabah, including limited citizenship pathways for ethnic Filipinos, who are left *unclaimed* and at risk of falling into intergenerational cycles of statelessness and irregularity.

Our paper makes novel contributions to understanding variations in diasporic citizenship in postcolonial contexts. By examining the dynamics of territoriality, sovereignty, and the practical means by which states extend their reach beyond their borders, we also furnish new insight into the “spatialities of citizenship” (Ho 2011).

Amanda R. Cheong is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of British Columbia, and earned her PhD in Sociology and Social Policy at Princeton University. She researches the impacts of legal status on people’s lives, focusing on undocumented, stateless, and refugee populations. Her research agenda is informed and facilitated by my own positionality as a first-generation college graduate and second-generation immigrant whose family experienced statelessness in Brunei. She has published in the *International Migration Review*, *Positions: Asia Critique*, *Genus*, and *Contexts*. Her work has received awards such as the American Sociological Association Theory Section Student Paper Prize, and the UNHCR Award for Statelessness Research. She has received competitive fellowships and grants from the American Sociological Association, the American Council of Learned Societies, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Southeast Asia Research Group.

Mary Anne K. Baltazar is a PhD student in Gender Studies at the Universiti Malaya, and earned her MA degree in International Relations from the Universiti Malaysia-Sabah. She is a Sabahan child rights activist of indigenous Kadazan and Filipino heritage, and founder of ANAK (meaning “child” in the Malay language), a grassroots community-based organization that advocates for the rights of stateless and legally marginalized children and their families in Sabah, East Malaysia. She chairs the Labour Working Group under the Jurisdictional Certification Steering Committee, which works to promote palm oil industry sustainability in Sabah. With 14 years of experience in the human rights and non-profit sector, she conducts research on statelessness, child migrants, and the labour rights of families living and working on palm oil plantations in Malaysia. With Amanda Cheong, she has published in *Genus* and the *Statelessness and Citizenship Review*.

Cameliah Thomas is the Community Engagement Lead at ANAK (meaning “child in the Malay language), a grassroots community-based organization that advocates for the rights of stateless and legally marginalized children and their families in Sabah, East Malaysia. A Sabahan hailing from Keningau, Cameliah specializes in community outreach and migrant rights advocacy in both urban and rural contexts. She has been collaborating closely with Amanda Cheong and Mary Anne Baltazar on research since 2017.

Citizen Becoming:
'In-between' State and Tibetan Self-fashioning (1946 - 1986)

Noel Mariam George

London School of Economics and Political Science
noelmariamgeorge@gmail.com

This paper plots the process of Tibetan *citizen becoming* in post-partition India. Tibetans have occupied the interstices of Indian Citizenship both in terms of 'hard' legal status and other 'soft' forms of belonging and participation. This way, they have fuzzied traditional models that discuss citizens, migrants and refugees as separate categories. The paper argues that the 'in-betweenness' of Tibetan identity, cannot be understood by legal transformations alone, but through an uncovering of how citizenship has been made and unmade at different sites: borders, bureaucratic categories, bilateral/multilateral treaties, international petitions and court cases among others. Tibetans in India are confronted with a dilemma concerning citizenship: first, their need to maintain exile identity through the denial of Indian citizenship as a political means to contest Chinese sovereignty, while also having to assert citizen-like claims in India. Walking this tightrope while juggling – national, international and regional politics – has intensified precarity, but has also produced creative and transformative practices that have opened up new spaces for democracy and citizenship in India. While holding multiple bureaucratic identities, Tibetans have historically engaged in legal and political battles to gain access to claims that defined the first and third wave of citizenship rights – right to work, freedom of movement, political participation, ownership of property and access to the welfare state for health, education and housing. At the same time, while they framed their rights claims in parallel to citizen claims, Tibetans have paradoxically asserted their agency by disavowing Indian citizenship, reinforcing statelessness as a mode of protest. Using archival work, the paper traces the internal transformations within the Indian state vis a vie Tibetan politics; between the 1955 Citizenship and its amendment in 1986 to challenge the temporal framing of Indian citizenship around the 'rupturing' of South Asia with religion as the main, if not only arbiter of politics.

Before joining the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), **Noel Mariam George** did her Masters in International Relations at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi and her M. Phil in Political Science at the University of Hyderabad. This training, along with several political changes in India, piqued her research interest in Indian citizenship and minorities. Later, through her engagement with *Tibetscapes* in IIT Madras, she began to re-work minority histories outside the framework of national citizenship and through the lens of refugees and transregional migration. Her current PhD project project places the 'fuzzy' figure of the – refugee – juggling international, regional, national and even sub-national regimes; as central to rethinking Indian citizenship. Through a comparative case study of the two largest post-partition refugee communities in India: Tamil 'repatriates' from Sri Lanka vis-à-vis Tibetan 'foreign guests', she examines the paradoxes in the changing definitions of Indian citizenship in the fifties, sixties and early seventies. Provisional Title of her thesis: *Refugees, Identity and the State: Post-partition Histories of Citizen Becoming in India*

Migration, Citizenship and Identity Documentation: Citizenship and Pseudo/Partial Citizenship of Myanmar Migrants in Thailand

Nyi Nyi Kyaw
Chiang Mai University
nnkster@gmail.com

Normally, a migrant's possession of a valid passport is sufficient proof of his or her citizenship in the country of origin when the person in question is outside it. In the case of Myanmar migrants in Thailand, however, the acceptable citizenship documentation includes not just passports but temporary passports, certificates of identity, national IDs and household registration lists. While passports and national IDs provide permanent or complete proof of legal identity of citizenship of the Myanmar migrants, the rest may be considered a lesser form of such proof of theirs. How do many among approximately four million Myanmar migrants in Thailand navigate between their (un)documented belonging to the country of origin and (un)documented existence in the host country? They often find themselves mired in bureaucratic, arbitrary and often discriminatory citizenship and pseudo or partial citizenship documentation policies and practices of Myanmar authorities, rendering them unable to meet migrant identification requirements set by Thailand. In an attempt to explain the extent of legal precarity of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand who are partially or insufficiently documented, I propose a quite novel concept of *pseudo/partial citizenship documentation*. I then use a combined textual and contextual analysis of Myanmar citizenship and pseudo/partial citizenship documentation policies and practices meant for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand. For the textual part, I will rely on the publications relating to the citizenship or identity documentation by the Ministry of Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Labour of Myanmar. For the contextual and lived experience part, I will interview labour rights activists and Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand.

Nyi Nyi Kyaw is Research Chair on Forced Displacement in Southeast Asia at the Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development at Chiang Mai University. He is also an honorary fellow at Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness and an associate at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. He has published papers in peer-reviewed journals including *Social Identities*, *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*, *Asian Journal of Law and Society*, and *Review of Faith and International Affairs* and book chapters on citizenship, nationalism and constitutional change, among other topics, with a special focus on Myanmar.

Walking the Tightrope of Belonging: Vietnamese Migrants' Experiences in Russia's Racialised Citizenship Regime

Jessica Steinman

Erasmus University Rotterdam
steinman@essb.eur.nl

The experiences of migrants in contemporary society are heavily influenced by the racialized citizenship and deportation regime. Despite citizenship being commonly perceived as an inclusive marker of belonging, certain groups of migrants face systematic exclusion from citizenship and its associated rights due to their racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic background. The threat of deportation further compounds their sense of insecurity and uncertainty in the host country.

This study focuses on the experiences of Vietnamese migrants in Moscow, a group that has received limited attention in previous research, in the context of Russia's racialized citizenship and deportation regime. Conducted through ethnographic research between 2016 and 2020, this article explores how Vietnamese migrants navigate the legal and social barriers to citizenship and respond to the constant threat of deportation.

The research findings reveal that Vietnamese migrants utilize a variety of strategies to maintain a sense of belonging and security in the face of exclusion and marginalization. These strategies involve a combination of legal, social, and cultural practices that allow them to overcome the condition of fictitious citizenship, which poses structural obstacles to full citizenship and their embodied deportability.

By foregrounding the experiences of Vietnamese migrants in Moscow, this paper contributes to a more nuanced and intersectional understanding of citizenship and migration studies. The paper also highlights the need to recognize the diverse and often contradictory ways in which citizenship is constructed and experienced by different groups of migrants, and the importance of considering the role of race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status in shaping these experiences.

Jessica Steinman is a social anthropologist with a specialized focus on migration, diaspora, and digitalization. She earned her D.Phil in Global Studies from the University of Leipzig, where she taught courses on migration and diaspora studies. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Erasmus University Rotterdam with research focusing on digitalization and critical logistics. Steinman's research spans several countries, including Germany, Taiwan, the United States, Russia, and Vietnam where she has conducted extensive fieldwork on Vietnamese migrants and their experiences of negotiating identity, belonging, and mobility in translocal communities. Her research provides a comprehensive understanding of the complex issues surrounding mobility in today's rapidly digitalized world.

Diversifying the Socio-spatialities of the Migration/surveillance Nexus in Singapore

Junjia Ye

Nanyang Technological University
jjye@ntu.edu.sg

Kelly Merie Portscher

Nanyang Technological University
kellymerie2@gmail.com

Contemporary migration to Singapore is increasing and diversifying. Two groups of migrant arrivals are migrant domestic workers (MDWs) and marriage migrants who marry Singaporean men (MMs) - women who carry low socio-economic capital. In this paper, we illustrate how female migrants' partial citizenship, surveillance, and power asymmetries converge to produce particularised forms of gendered precarity within Singapore society. Working in parallel with migration, are the intensifying and diversifying processes of surveillance. *We highlight how surveillance operates in a localized and multi-sited manner that produces both the development of differently included subjectivities as well as a non-linear citizenship continuum.* Our study examines how these migrants subjectively experience, perceive, negotiate, and employ strategies of resistance not only to counter varied forms of surveillance by the state and within the home, but also to create varied modes of belonging. We adopted a qualitative research design comprising two components – (1) 60-minute-long semi-structured interviews with 10 MDWs and 8 MMs who were either current or ex-LTVP holders and (2) site-based ethnographic studies at Lucky Plaza, Toa Payoh Park, and Joo Chiat.

Our paper presents five key findings – (1) the migrant women in our study are embroiled within non-linear citizenship relations with the state fraught with trust/surveillance tensions, (2) migrant bodies are surveilled and othered in both public and private spaces, (3) surveillance reconfigures gendered boundaries of care and control, (4) everyday resistance emerged as strategies of migrant agency and, (5) the Janus-face nature of lateral surveillance between co-ethnics and other migrants. By centering the non-elite, differently included subjects of a changing Singapore, we argue that the differentiated gendered dimensions of migrant citizenship are reproduced through acts of surveillance and resistance in the highly securitized global city.

Junjia Ye is Associate Professor in Geography at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Her research and teaching interests lie at the intersections of migration studies, cultural diversity, and the political-economic development of urban Southeast Asia. Her recent work examines the production of migrant subjectivities through state and community surveillance. Her work has been published in *Progress in Human Geography*, *Antipode*, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* and *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*. Her first monograph, *Class Inequality in the Global City: Migrants, Workers and Cosmopolitanism in Singapore* (2016, Palgrave Macmillan) won *Labour History's* annual book prize.]

Kelly Merie Portscher is an incoming MA candidate of the Social Science of the Internet programme at the University of Oxford. She completed her undergraduate degree with majors in Sociology and Psychology at NTU where she graduated with Honours (Highest Distinction). As the top undergraduate of her cohort, she is the recipient of both the Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal and the Mr and Mrs Kwok Chin Yan Sociology Research Book Prize (awarded to the student with the best performance in the final year thesis). Her research interests include digital sociology, online geographies of harm, and citizen participation in technology policy. She is currently conducting research on migration, surveillance, and creative labour under the supervision of Associate Professor Ye Junjia.

From “Disposable Labour” to “Desirable Citizens”: Citizenship Pathways for Chinese Migrant Worker-Turned-Marriage Migrant Women in Singapore

Wei Yang

National University of Singapore
weiyang@nus.edu.sg

This paper looks at the negotiation of citizenship pathways in the case of Chinese migrant worker-turned-marriage migrants in Singapore. It examines how citizenship as a subject-making process whereby the host state reconstitutes these migrant women who are co-ethnic but “low-skilled” into particular kinds of citizen-subjects and integrates them through an ethnicized neoliberal citizenship regime to consolidate its socio-economic order as well as to sustain national reproduction. It also examines how migrant women themselves draw the disciplinary gaze and strive to develop themselves into “qualified” citizens. They do so not only by embracing their maternal duties of reproduction and caregiving but also by constantly cultivating their entrepreneurial selves and subscribing to middle-class values and aspirations. Drawing on in-depth interviews conducted with 38 Chinese migrant worker-turned-marriage migrants between 2018 and 2021, this paper moves beyond the dominant frameworks of reproductive and familial incorporation in theorizing marriage migrants’ citizenship pathways and suggests a different mode of migrant incorporation and governance. It also provides a unique window into the workings of Singapore’s immigration and citizenship regimes and how they are shaped by multiple and intersecting inequalities.

Wei Yang is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asia Research Institute, NUS. She obtained her PhD in Sociology from Nanyang Technological University. Her thesis examines the lived experiences of mainland Chinese female migrant workers in the manufacturing and service sectors in Singapore. Her thesis mainly explores the diversity of migrant women’s social and intimate lives beyond the workplace and how they negotiate Singapore’s temporary migration regime under global capitalism to pursue their own mobility and reproduction. As a sociologist and migration studies scholar, she is particularly interested in exploring the interconnections between gender and mobility, between production and social reproduction, and between larger global processes and individual migrants’ aspirations and everyday lives. Her work has been published in *Pacific Affairs*, *Gender, Place & Culture*, and the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

Navigating Pathways to Multicultural Citizenship: Southeast Asian Immigrant Mothers and their Children in Taiwan

Pei-Chia Lan

National Taiwan University
pclan@ntu.edu.tw

This article utilizes in-depth interviews to explore how Taiwan's emerging regime of multicultural citizenship shapes the lived experiences of immigrant mothers and their children. My research underscores the significant impact of external contexts, such as geopolitical and diplomatic relationships, on the policy formation of multicultural citizenship. With the implementation of the New Southbound Policy in 2016, Taiwan's receiving context for marital immigrants has moved toward a regime of *geopolitical multiculturalism*. The new citizenship framework continues to focus on the intergenerational links of cross-border marriages but turned the focus from *reproductive assimilation* to *reproductive multiculturalism*—reframing the upbringing of immigrant parents as a collective asset of the nation instead of individual liabilities of children. I explore how immigrant mothers from Southeast Asia and their children navigate different pathways to multicultural citizenship across their life spans and in response to evolving state policies. Instead of viewing ethnic culture as a given heritage, I demonstrate that immigrant culture can be marginalized in the uneven linguistic borderland, accrued through ethnic and transnational networks, and converted into multicultural capital via political (mis)recognition as a gateway to social mobility and neoliberal self-entrepreneurship.

Pei-Chia Lan is Distinguished Professor of Sociology and founding director of Global Asia Research Center (2017-2023) at National Taiwan University. Her major publications include *Global Cinderellas: Migrant Domesticity and Newly Rich Employers in Taiwan* (Duke 2006, won a Distinguished Book Award from the Sex and Gender Section of the American Sociological Association and ICAS Book Prize: Best Study in Social Science from the International Convention of Asian Scholars) and *Raising Global Families: Parenting, Immigration, and Class in Taiwan and the US* (Stanford 2018).

**Ten-Year Card:
The Bamar Muslims' Generational Project of Citizenship in Thailand**

Phianphachong Intarat
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
pintarat@hawaii.edu

Migrant domesticity is a familiar topic in migration studies, but not the case for citizenship studies mainly because migrant rights are often framed as individual rights. Moreover, the most feasible framework to establish relationships between states and their noncitizens largely embeds in the capitalist framework where immigrants' right to stay is tied to their formal employment in the host countries' economic sectors. This hegemonic framework results in the omission of migrant domesticity, especially those non-able bodies who could not commodify their labor, in conversations about rights and political belonging despite the empirical studies that show migration is less likely about individuals' mobility, but an outcome of collective decision among family members.

This study focuses on the lived experiences of the stateless Bamar Muslims, a group of Myanmar Muslim minorities, who migrated to Thailand during the 1970s-1990s, and their struggle to gain legal recognition in Thailand through identification documentation. The Myanmar state denied the Bamar Muslims Burmese citizenship due to the latter's ethnoreligious identity while the Thai state regarded them as illegal immigrants in Thailand. Consequently, the Bamar Muslims remain stateless across generations. Against this backdrop, I look at the Thai civil registration law and the ways in which the stateless Bamar Muslim families engaged with the law implementation to understand the connection between migrants' domesticity and the power relations therein, and the politics of membership and belonging in the host country.

I argue that for the stateless Bamar Muslims, establishing legal personhood that could possibly lead to full citizenship in Thailand is a generational project that requires efforts from both parents and their offspring. By doing so, I propose an alternative way of understanding noncitizens' access to rights and protection by looking at citizenship, not as an issue of individual rights, but as a collective project between generations of immigrants.

Phianphachong Intarat is finishing up her doctoral study in Anthropology, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and transitioning to a lecturer position at Songkhla Rajabhat University, Thailand. Her dissertation looks at the Bamar Muslim noncitizens' arduous pathway to Thai citizenship to demonstrate how power dynamics within the private sphere of stateless families intersect with the politics of belonging to Thai society at large. Although the Bamar Muslims are small in number and remain under-researched, Phianphachong believes the connection between their cross-border migration journeys and political membership and belonging to the host country can contribute to broader conversations beyond Southeast Asian geographical boundaries, which she looks forward to discussing with other participants.

Transnational Citizenship Pathways of Chinese Professional Migrants in Singapore: Negotiating Provisionality, Permanency and Emerging Precarity in (Post-)Pandemic Times

Yang Wang

National University of Singapore
yangwang@nus.edu.sg

Brenda S.A. Yeoh

National University of Singapore
geoyasa@nus.edu.sg

Drawing on in-depth interviews with 38 Chinese professional migrants in Singapore, this paper investigates the complexity of navigating transnational citizenship pathways in the context of Asia's largely mono-national citizenship regimes. Given their relatively privileged access to permanent residency and citizenship in receiving countries, migrant professionals are known to practice transnational citizenship strategies in which they juggle citizenship statuses, rights and welfare in both home and host countries to maximise mobility, security and opportunities for themselves and their families. This paper examines how relatively elite Chinese professional migrants enact transnational citizenship strategies across the life-course, in relation to Singapore's and China's citizenship regimes, and amidst the (post-)pandemic new normal. It shows how practising transnational citizenship became more challenging with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic as access to privileges in receiving countries became further stratified on the basis of citizenship status.

The paper makes three arguments. First, under largely mono-national citizenship regimes, professional migrants tactically negotiate the best possible balance between provisionality and permanency in securing residential statuses in both countries of origin and destination. Permanent residency in the receiving country is commonly perceived as the ideal position for transnational citizenship, as it allows migrants to secure provisional permanence in Singapore and gain access to most essential citizenship rights. Meanwhile, by exploiting the provisionality of permanent residency, they continue to hold Chinese citizenship and maintain connections with their country of origin. Second, within immigrant households, transnational citizenship is typically practiced by diversifying citizenship status among family members. This involves one spouse changing citizenship to earn full welfare benefits for the family in the host society, while the other spouse maintains citizenship of origin to retain privileged access to resources back home. Third, in the light of pandemic disruptions, the same strategies that allow professional migrants to be dually embedded in both countries can backfire and render them outsiders of both, driving them to re-negotiate their migration and citizenship trajectories for more secure futures.

Yang Wang is a Research Fellow in Asia Research Institute (ARI) at National University of Singapore (NUS). She received her PhD in Communications and New Media from NUS, and master's degree in Mass Communication from Peking University (PKU). Her research interest lies at the intersection of information and communication technologies (ICTs), migration, family and gender. She has been doing research on transnational communication and transnational householding, mediated intimacy, household ICT domestication, gender positionality of Chinese migrant mothers, mobile parenting, education and skilled migration, as well as workplace digital transformation and digital organising. Her research integrates insights from multiple disciplines, including media and technology study, sociology, anthropology, human geography and migration study, cultural study, psychology, social work, and organizational and management study. She has published in leading international journals including *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, *New Media and Society*, *Journal of Children and Media*, and *Frontiers in Psychology*.

Brenda S.A. Yeoh FBA is Raffles Professor of Social Sciences, National University of Singapore (NUS) and Research Leader, Asian Migration Cluster, at NUS' Asia Research Institute. She was awarded the Vautrin Lud Prize for outstanding achievements in Geography in 2021 for her contributions to migration and transnationalism studies. Her research interests in Asian migrations span themes including social reproduction and care migration; skilled migration and cosmopolitanism; and marriage migrants and cultural politics.

‘Road To Mount OlymPR’: Mobility and Citizenship Pathways of Vietnamese Middling Migrants in Australia

Lan Anh Hoang
University of Melbourne
lahoang@unimelb.edu.au

Vietnam has been one of the top five source countries in Australia’s Migration Program for nearly two decades and with 268,170 people as of 2021, Vietnam-born residents now represent the sixth largest migrant group in Australia. Drawing from a qualitative study on the Vietnam-Australia migration corridor between 2019-2021, I discuss the various strategies and pathways that Vietnamese middling migrants develop, often with the crucial assistance of social media and transnational brokerage networks, to secure a permanent visa and, eventually, Australian citizenship. The Western-centric bias in the middling migrants scholarship has led us to overlook how nationality and race intersect to shape the ways middling migrants from the Global South navigate the ever-changing rules of skilled migration programs in the Global North. Through this case study on the mobility pathways that Vietnamese migrants undertake to attain Australian citizenship, I highlight both the defect and the brutality of the neoliberal underpinnings of migration governance and advance the scholarly debates on middling migrants.

Lan Anh Hoang is Associate Professor in Development Studies in the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia. She is author of *‘Vietnamese Migrants in Russia: Mobility in Times of Uncertainty’* (Amsterdam University Press 2020), which won The Association of Mainland Southeast Asia Scholars Book Prize in 2022, and co-editor of *‘Transnational Labour Migration, Remittances, and the Changing Family in Asia’* (2015) and *‘Money and Moralities in Contemporary Asia’* (2019). Lan’s research on migration and gender has also been published in many international journals such as *Gender and Society*, *Gender, Place and Culture*, *Global Networks*, *Population, Space and Place*, *Geoforum*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Mobilities*, *Asian Studies Review*, and *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. She is Regional Editor (Mainland Southeast Asia) of *Asian Studies Review*, Thematic Editor (Migration) of *Development in Practice*, and Associate Editor of Springer's *Global Vietnam* book series.

When Citizenship is Off the Table: The Comfortable Transience of High-Skilled Indian Women Migrants in the UAE

Anju Mary Paul

New York University Abu Dhabi
anju.paul@nyu.edu

Githmi Rabel

New York University Abu Dhabi
gkr232@nyu.edu

It is a truism in migration studies that states want high-skilled immigrants so much that they are willing to offer them the option of permanent settlement and citizenship, which they do not make available to low-wage labor migrants moving within temporary work permit regimes. However, there is a class of high-income destination countries in Asia and the Middle East where citizenship is not easily available, even to high-skilled migrants. While Western expatriates may not need to worry about naturalization options because they see their migrations as eventually circular, this may not be the viewpoint of non-Western expatriates from low- or middle-income countries. The United Arab Emirates (UAE), with its significant population of Indian expatriates, is therefore an interesting country to explore. Through in-depth interviews with 31 college-educated Indian women in the UAE, we find that the UAE's unique combination of geographical proximity to India, cultural similarity, zero taxes, limited bureaucracy, and high standard of living, made interviewees reluctant to leave, whether that meant returning to India where they held citizenship or moving onwards to a Western country where the possibility of new citizenship could exist. Instead, they overwhelmingly chose a third option – to stretch their time in the UAE as much as possible and delay departure even though this meant that they remained in a state we term “comfortable transience” where citizenship was off the table. Our interviews reveal that for some high-skilled migrants from developing countries, naturalization options may not be the most important factor driving their migration aspirations and decisions, and that other factors (particularly lifestyle and proximity to birth country can be equally important. Our findings highlight how transience is not a monolithic experience for all temporary migrants, and instead should be seen as a spectrum based on the degree of individual choice involved and the degree of precarity that it entails. For some migrants, comfortable transience overseas might be more appealing than uncomfortable permanence at home or even in another destination country.

Anju Mary Paul is Professor of Social Research and Public Policy at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD). She is an international migration scholar with research interests in emergent migration patterns (particularly to, from, and within Asia), gender and labor, globalization, domestic work and care policy. She is the award-winning author of *Multinational Maids: Stepwise Migration in a Global Labor Market* and *Asian Scientists on the Move: Changing Science in a Changing Asia*.

Githmi Rabel is a recent graduate from New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), double-majoring in Economics and Social Research and Public Policy. She is interested in exploring migration to, from and within the global south and especially focuses on migration experiences at the nexus of gender, sexuality and class. Her final-year research project, *The Gendered Significance of Transnational Kinship Networks in Stepwise Migration Trajectories: Evidence from the UAE* was a winner of the Economics Capstone Prize from the Social Science Division of NYUAD.

Whose Migrants? Whose Skills?: Conflicting Ideals of Citizenship among Filipino Aspiring Nurse Migrants

Yasmin Y. Ortiga

Singapore Management University
yasmino@smu.edu.sg

Scholarship on education and emigration have mainly focused on the experiences of international students – individuals who move to pursue academic studies beyond their countries of origin. This research has shown how schools can provide pathways to citizenship, offering the credentials that allow migrant students to obtain work visas or permanent residency upon graduation. However, few scholars realize that educational institutions *within* migrant-sending nations have come to play a similar role as well. In places like the Philippines, private school owners and administrators deliberately produce graduates for overseas jobs, altering school curricula and degree programs to fill the labor needs of destinations abroad. This paper discusses the implications of this system on local narratives of citizenship and identity. Using the case of Philippine nursing education, I discuss how skilling for export is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, individual efforts to pursue academic credentials allow state agencies to market Filipino labor to foreign employers, without having to invest in the development of such skills. Aspiring nurse migrants bear the cost of transforming themselves into desirable overseas workers but receive little support when they fail to realize such dreams. On the other hand, the hardship of skilling oneself for export also alters how nurses' view their obligations to their government and to their nation as a whole. Such shifts can be detrimental to national concerns, especially in times when these workers are needed the most. I base these arguments on interviews with 55 Filipino nurse migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yasmin Y. Ortiga is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Singapore Management University. She studies how the social construction of "skill" shapes people's migration trajectories, changing institutions within both the countries that send migrants, as well as those that receive them. She recently published the book, *Emigration, Employability, and Higher Education in the Philippines* (Routledge). Her work has also been published in the *Global Networks, Social Science and Medicine, and Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*.

**I Care for My Children but Not Citizenship:
Alternative Tactics for New Immigrant Single Mothers
in Transnational Families in Taiwan**

Hsunhui Tseng
National Cheng Kung University

Taiwan, as a desired destination for migration in Asia, has attracted numerous female marriage migrants from China and Southeast Asia since the 1990s. Over the past decade, however, the cases of divorce have mushroomed and resulted in a considerable number of transnational single-parent families. In this paper, I focus on migrant women who are single mothers with or without citizenship, exploring the ways in which they raise children and/or seek to maintain the mother-child relationship in various predicaments. Close attention will be paid to their exercise, or non-exercise, of citizenship in their survival tactics deployment, especially when obtaining citizenship is no longer the sole means for foreign spouses to continue residency in Taiwan after several law amendments. My data show that some of them chose not to be naturalized in order to maintain their eligibility for property inheritance in their home countries or for social welfare entitled to low-income households in Taiwan. These initial findings challenge our conventional understanding of citizenship in strengthening the parent-child intimacy and economic empowerment in transnational divorced families, despite the fact that naturalization is still deemed the final goal of migration for most marriage migrants. This paper will be comprised of two parts: the first part will review the past amendments to laws and policies related to transnational marriages, focusing on custody arrangements and the foreign spouse's eligibility to stay in transnational divorces with children involved. The second part will draw on interviews with 30 something single mothers from Southeast Asia and China at the age between 30 and 55 to see how these "failed" marriage migrants embrace or refuse Taiwanese citizenship as a way to negotiate limited resources available to them. Through reflecting on maternal citizenship, this paper expects to provide an alternative understanding of citizenship to marriage migrants in various living conditions in Taiwan via analyzing their "failed" migrant stories.

Hsunhui Tseng is Assistant Professor in the Department of Taiwanese Literature at the National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) in Taiwan. She received her PhD in anthropology from the University of Washington, Seattle. Before joining the NCKU in 2020, she worked as an assistant professor in the Gender Studies Programme, Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her teaching and research interests include family and marriage, motherhood, sex work, and migration in East and Southeast Asia. Her recent research focused on "failed" marriage migration, such as foreign spouses engaged in sex entertainment work as well as divorced single mothers struggling for parenting and survival in host society. In her next research project, she will shift the focus from foreign single mothers to local single fathers in these transnational divorced families. Through this series of research, she hopes to enrich the field of marriage migration in Asia with diverse perspectives from female and male individuals with "failing" marital experiences that are understudied in existing scholarship.

Split Nationality Households: A Strategic Response for Transnational Families to Optimize Complementary and/or Competing Citizenship Statuses

Catriona Stevens
Edith Cowan University
c.stevens@ecu.edu.au

This paper explores the strategic citizenship choices of Chinese labour migrants in Australia who must evaluate the relative benefits of Australian versus Chinese legal citizenship. Given the insecurities inherent in non-citizen status in either country, for many families the preferred strategy is for some members to take Australian citizenship while others retain their Chinese identity documents and local hukou benefits nested in their national citizenship in combination with Australian permanent residency. Forming these 'split nationality households' aims to optimise benefits and limit risk across all jurisdictions. The findings presented form part of a wider ethnographic study that considers migration and citizenship experiences of trade-skilled migrants in Perth (Stevens 2020, 2023). Analysis based on interviews with migrants forming split nationality households extends Bauböck's (2010) concept of citizenship constellations beyond a consideration of the individual as the unit of analysis to include a more complex network of family memberships. This expanded analysis of how webs of complementary and/or competing rights and obligations act on individuals within their family relations has application beyond these specific and situated cases and can increase our understand of how migrants interpret the value of local, state, national and supranational memberships in various global contexts.

Catriona Stevens is Forrest Prospect Fellow in the School of Arts and Humanities, Edith Cowan University and Research Manager of the ECU Social Ageing Futures (SAGE) Lab in Perth, Australia. Her research interests include labour migration, migration and citizenship policy, and transnational ageing and caregiving. Her recently awarded PhD received the Jean Martin Award from The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) for the Best Sociology Thesis in 2020-21. Her current research, funded by the Forrest Research Foundation, builds on this work to consider critical workforce challenges faced by the Australian aged-care sector, with an emphasis on the emic experiences of the workers themselves, especially those from migrant backgrounds. She is the author of eleven peer-reviewed journal articles, chapters, and conference papers, co-convenes the TASA Migration, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism thematic group, and is an incoming Board member for the International Sociological Association RC31 Sociology of Migration.

Negotiating Citizenship and Sense of Belonging among Children of Cross-national Marriages

Bernice Loh

National University of Singapore
berniceloh@nus.edu.sg
Corresponding author

Brenda S.A. Yeoh

National University of Singapore
geoyasa@nus.edu.sg

Theodora Lam

National University of Singapore
theodoralam@nus.edu.sg

Esther Chor Leng Goh

National University of Singapore
esther_goh@nus.edu.sg

In much of the scholarship on marriage migration, a large emphasis has been placed on the migrant spouse's social position and constraints faced in the host country due to a lack of legal status. There is, however, a gap in understanding the citizenship status of the children from cross-national marriages and the way that their legal status coalesces with their sense of belonging, their social and cultural identities, that may ultimately shape their migratory plans. There is a large push in youth studies to move from the 'minimal' to 'maximal' understandings of citizenship for young persons (Evans 1995), which requires looking beyond narrow and legalistic definitions of citizenship and into young people's more substantive engagements with their citizenship status. This paper focuses on 33 children from cross-national families that comprises a Singaporean and non-Singaporean spouse, across a range of socio-economic class. The children, aged 10 to 25, are currently living in Singapore or elsewhere and may hold either single (solely Singaporean or other nationality) or dual citizenship status that do not always cohere with the country they call home. Given that all the children from cross-national families in the study have a parent who is a non-Singapore citizen, this paper will examine their ideas of home against their formal citizenship status(es) that may be prescribed, inherited or assigned, and which they often have little control over from birth. It proceeds to examine how these young people view their social and cultural identities that may affect their sense of belonging, citizenship choice, aspirations and mobilities for the future.

Bernice Loh is a Research Fellow at the ARI. She currently works on an interdisciplinary project on cross-national families and youth in Singapore, focusing on their integration, identity and social resilience. Her research interests include transnational families, mixed marriages, youth and youth identities and social inequalities. She has published on marriage migrants, cross-national families, youth, girlhood and young femininities in Singapore.

Brenda S.A. Yeoh FBA is Raffles Professor of Social Sciences, National University of Singapore (NUS) and Research Leader, Asian Migration Cluster, at NUS' Asia Research Institute. She was awarded the Vautrin Lud Prize for outstanding achievements in Geography in 2021 for her contributions to migration and transnationalism studies. Her research interests in Asian migrations span themes including social reproduction and care migration; skilled migration and cosmopolitanism; and marriage migrants and cultural politics.

Theodora Lam is Senior Research Fellow in Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS). Her research interests cover transnational migration and families, the web of care within transnational households, geographies of children and young people, and gender studies. She has researched on both skilled and low-waged labour migrants as well as their families in Singapore and other Asian countries. Theodora has published on various themes relating to migration, citizenship and education, and co-edited several special journal issues and books.

Esther Chor Leng Goh is an Associate Professor of Social Work at the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Her research champions the need to utilise a more dynamic theory to examine children, child-rearing, and parent-child relationships. Together with her students, her work illustrates children and young persons even those living in vulnerable conditions, as capable agents, who contribute to the solutions of problems. She was also the principal investigator leading a multidisciplinary research team which conducted the first longitudinal study on low-income families in Singapore funded by the Social Science Research Council completed in 2021.