



GLOBAL FOODSCAPES

Transnational Pathways of
Food and Migration
In and Out of Asia

10-11 MARCH 2025

Hybrid Format

NUS AS8 04-04 & Online via Zoom

For more information, visit
<https://ari.nus.edu.sg/events/global-foodscapes/>

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THE UNIVERSITY
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This workshop is jointly organized by the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

This workshop explores the intricate discourses, linkages, and practices of global foodscapes by critically examining the multifaceted intersections between migration and food. Focused on three interconnected themes—food security, climate/environmental impact on food and migration, and the personal, social, and cultural significance of food for migrants—the workshop adopts a multidisciplinary lens, encompassing anthropology, geography, history, film, literature, and sociology. This workshop seeks to understand global and glocal foodscapes from the standpoint of Asia, particularly in post-pandemic Asia which experiences all levels of food insecurity ranging from alarming, serious, and moderate, to low. It seeks to explore the diverse ways in which migrants are embedded within food production, distribution, and consumption networks as they accomplish food security away from home. Anthropogenic climate change and out-migration due to environment-induced food security are critically explored too as new forms of precarity and food insecurity for migrants at destination occur. While some migrants and diasporics labour to accomplish food security for themselves and their families, another demographic of immigrants, diasporics and transnationals perform class, culture, identity, and community through foodwork. Covering a wide range of themes interconnected with migration and food (from hidden hunger to more celebratory culinary practices), this workshop offers direction to explore glocal Asian foodscapes in/under migration as the optic for deliberations for better understandings of migrant food security, multidirectional flows in food production-supply-consumption chains, and multicultural foodways within, across, and through Asia.

In conceptual terms, key questions that this Asia-centric workshop seeks to raise include:

- How is food security conceptualized and operationalized by migrants from and within Asia? (e.g. What are some of the diverse ways in which migrants embedded within food production, distribution, and consumption networks, accomplish food security away from home?)
- How is anthropogenic climate change impacting Asian food systems and migration?
- What are some of the personal, social, and cultural significances of food for Asian migrants? (e.g. How are Asian migrant foodways in flux?)
- While agricultural and ecological crisis, natural disasters, and environment-induced food insecurity might be driving out-migration, what new forms of precarity and food insecurity for migrants at destination occur?
- How do migrants labour to accomplish food security for themselves and their families?
- How do diasporics and transnationals perform class, culture, identity, and community through culinary practices and foodwork? (e.g. this may include reviving ancestral foods)
- In a post-pandemic Asia which experiences a range of levels of food insecurity, what do Asian standpoints offer in understanding the impacts of migration on food cultures, security, production, and consumption?

PROGRAMME AT-A-GLANCE

DATE	TIME (SINGAPORE TIME)	SESSION
10 March 2025 (Monday)	10:30 – 11:00	Welcome Remarks
	11:00 – 13:00	Panel 1 – Agrarian Change and Migrant (Im)mobilities
	14:30 – 16:00	Panel 2 – Everyday Food Practices and Food as Social Remittances
	16:30 – 17:30	Panel 3 – Transnational Entrepreneurship and Global Food Production Systems
11 March 2025 (Tuesday)	10:30 – 12:00	Panel 4 – Labour Migration and Food Security
	13:00 – 14:30	Panel 5 – Changing Culinary Landscapes and Food as Identity
	15:00 – 16:00	Panel 6 – Diasporic Foodways and Transnational Networks
	16:00 – 16:30	Closing Remarks

10 MARCH 2025 • MONDAY

10:30 – 11:00	WELCOME REMARKS BRENDA S.A. YEOH , National University of Singapore JAMIE S. DAVIDSON , National University of Singapore BARBARA STEPHENSON , The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
11:00 – 13:00	PANEL 1 • AGRARIAN CHANGE AND MIGRANT (IM)MOBILITIES <i>Chairperson</i> THEODORA LAM , National University of Singapore 11:00 Fleeing the Homeland, Clearing the Forest: Migration, Debt, and Agricultural Encroachment inside a Protected Area of Cambodia W. NATHAN GREEN , National University of Singapore LONG LY VOUGH , Freelance Researcher 11:20 Farmers on the Move: Multinational Migration of Filipino Agricultural Workers and Agrarian Change YASMIN Y. ORTIGA , Singapore Management University MARVIN JOSEPH F. MONTEFRIO , Yale-NUS College 11:40 Who is Tilling the Land and Sets the Table? Labor Migration in Transnational Agri-Food Networks between Vietnam and Germany JUDITH EHLERT , University of Passau NGUYEN NU NGUYET ANH , University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City 12:00 Cropland Abandonment Threatens Food Security in Rural Nepal: Understanding the Role of Migration CONGHE SONG , The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 12:20 Questions & Answers
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH
14:30 – 16:00	PANEL 2 • EVERYDAY FOOD PRACTICES AND FOOD AS SOCIAL REMITTANCES <i>Chairperson</i> BERNICE LOH , National University of Singapore 14:30 Remittances, Mobility, and Food Practices: The Impact of Gulf Migration on Malayali Food Cultures in Post-Pandemic Kerala MALLORY CERKLESKI , Scuola Normale Superiore 14:50 Tracing Digital Foodscapes and Healthcare in the Transnational Family in Pandemic Times KRISTEL ACEDERA , National University of Singapore BRENDA S.A. YEOH , National University of Singapore THEODORA LAM , National University of Singapore BITTIANDRA CHAND SOMAIAH , Yale-NUS College, and National University of Singapore 15:10 Secrets in the Kitchen: Food Practices, Intertwined Identities, and Legal Constraints VERONICA L. GREGORIO , National University of Singapore 15:30 Questions & Answers
16:00 – 16:30	AFTERNOON TEA

16:30 – 17:30	PANEL 3 • TRANSNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND GLOBAL FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS
<i>Chairperson</i>	BITTIANDRA CHAND SOMAIAH , Yale-NUS College, and National University of Singapore
16:30	Transcending Banana Investments: Unraveling the Hidden Dynamics of Chinese Land Investment in Laos BEN FAN , Kyoto University
16:50	Sourcing Live Mangrove Crabs across the Indo-Pacific: The Transoceanic Migration of Fishers and their Seafood Networks XUEFEI SHI , Chr. Michelsen Institute
17:10	Questions & Answers
17:30	END OF DAY 1
17:30 – 19:30	WORKSHOP DINNER (For Presenters, Chairpersons and Organisers Only)

11 MARCH 2025 • TUESDAY

10:30 – 12:00	PANEL 4 • LABOUR MIGRATION AND FOOD SECURITY
<i>Chairperson</i>	IMMANUELA ASA RAHADINI , National University of Singapore
10:30	The <i>Jastip</i> Network: Food Security and Mobility Practices among Indonesian Migrants in Sydney, Australia ARUM BUDIASTUTI , Universitas Airlangga
10:50	From Boarding School to Freelancing: Food Security Challenges of Ghanaian Migrants in Qatar BERNARD OWUSU , Balsillie School of International Affairs
11:10	Putting Food on the Table: Migrant Domestic Workers, Food-as-Wages Policy, and the Governance of Labouring Subjects KURT W. KUEHNE , New York University Abu Dhabi
11:30	Questions & Answers
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 – 14:30	PANEL 5 • CHANGING CULINARY LANDSCAPES AND FOOD AS IDENTITY
<i>Chairperson</i>	SAMIA DINKELAKER , National University of Singapore
13:00	From Gourmet Delicacy to Everyday Staple: Migration, Colonialism, and the Rebranding of a Culinary Icon, <i>Busan Eomuk</i> JI-YEON O. JO , The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
13:20	Cookbooks as Carriers of Culture: Chinese Culinary Knowledge, Mass Media, and Migration in the 20 th Century MICHELLE T. KING , The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
13:40	Migrant Restaurants as Ethnic Food in Tokyo: Interactions between Migrant Food Workers and Japanese Consumers in Tokyo MARÍA ALEJANDRA DORADO VINAY , Sophia University
14:00	Questions & Answers
14:30 – 15:00	AFTERNOON TEA
15:00 – 16:00	PANEL 6 • DIASPORIC FOODWAYS AND TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKS
<i>Chairperson</i>	FRANCESCA MORAIS , National University of Singapore
15:00	Gardening Community: Relational Agriculture and Southeast Asian Refugees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill CHRISTIAN C. LENTZ , The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
15:20	<i>Sari-sari</i> : Transnational Filipino Migrant Foodways and Networks in Hong Kong JOSEF ADRIEL OLINDAN DE GUZMAN , Chinese University of Hong Kong
15:40	Questions & Answers
16:00 – 16:30	CLOSING REMARKS
	BRENDA S.A. YEOH , National University of Singapore JI-YEON O. JO , The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill BITTIANDRA CHAND SOMAIAH , Yale-NUS College, and National University of Singapore THEODORA LAM , National University of Singapore CHRISTIAN LENTZ , The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill CONGHE SONG , The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
16:30	END OF WORKSHOP

Fleeing the Homeland, Clearing the Forest: Migration, Debt, and Agricultural Encroachment inside a Protected Area of Cambodia

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Migration to forest frontiers for cash-crop agriculture is a persistent, and widespread, cause of deforestation, habitat loss, and land conflict across Asia. Interdisciplinary scholars have identified numerous conjunctural factors to explain this migrant-led, agricultural encroachment. These factors include demographic pressures, migrants' need for land, and state-sponsored migration schemes, among others. However, few scholars have examined the financial lives of migrants at the forest frontier. This is a problem, because many migrants and their families throughout Asia have been adversely incorporated into global financial markets in the name of financial inclusion, with debt repayment obligations now a common push factor in migration journeys. To address this problem, I will investigate debt-driven migration inside Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary in eastern Cambodia, which is the most biodiverse protected area in the country. Migrants have settled inside of Keo Seima to grow cassava and cashew trees, denuding forest landscapes and displacing Indigenous Peoples. Based on interviews, a household survey, and remote sensing of land-cover change, this paper argues that debt to Cambodia's foreign-owned banking industry has accelerated both in-migration and cash crop agriculture. Many migrant households have settled inside Keo Seima to repay debts back home and then taken on new debts to establish their farms for cassava and cashew. By examining the financial lives of migrants within the broader conjuncture of agricultural encroachment into Cambodia's forests, this paper advances scholarship on the translocal pathways of food and migration within Asia.

W. Nathan Green is Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore. He holds an MA in Southeast Asian Studies and a PhD in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Nathan conducts research and teaches about how financialization transforms environments and people's lives in Southeast Asia, and how people in turn contest these processes. He has published widely on debt, microfinance, migration, and agrarian change in geography and interdisciplinary journals, such as *Progress in Human Geography*, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, and *Development and Change*.

Long Ly Vouch is a freelance researcher who has worked on various research topics in Cambodia, including climate change, migration, debt, and the livelihoods of rural communities. He has conducted research for local institutions such as the Royal University of Phnom Penh, as well as for international universities and non-governmental organizations. He holds an academic background in rural development and a master's degree in international human rights law. Currently, he is researching heat stress among migrant workers in Phnom Penh, as well as debt and migration in the Tonle Sap Lake and Mekong River regions.

Farmers on the Move: Multinational Migration of Filipino Agricultural Workers and Agrarian Change

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Increasing demand for food and agricultural labour has raised the urgent question: Who are the future farmers of the world and where will they come from? Wealthy nations have long relied on migrant farmers, establishing guest worker programmes and special visa regimes to bring in workers from countries in the Global South. Our research examines how contemporary farmers' mobilities have become much more complex, as advancements in food production increasingly demand laborers with the ability to handle work in large-scale industrial farms. The movement of Filipino farm workers is a case in point. While Filipino labor has a rich history of sustaining farms in rural settings overseas, such as indentured and contract work in North America during the colonial period, their mobilities today have become much more complex. Filipino workers now pursue opportunities in farms across the world, including places like Japan, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, Australia, and New Zealand. They are employed in various contract arrangements, ranging from seasonal work to internship programmes and to long-term employment with the prospect of becoming a permanent resident. We argue that each trajectory is accompanied and shaped by agricultural changes in destination countries, migration infrastructures, skills regimes, and remittance flows, the confluence of which have variegated implications on Philippine agrarian life. In this paper, we compare qualitative research on two migration trajectories: 1) Filipino migrant labor in vegetable farms in Japan; and 2) Filipino migrant labor the dairy farms in Australia and New Zealand by way of the UAE. Our findings complicate current debates on the role of international migration on de/reagrarianisation and de/repeasantisation in migrant-sending communities.

Yasmin Y. Ortega is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the 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. In 2019, she received the National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship. Her work has also been published in *Global Networks*, *International Migration Review*, and *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*.

Marvin Joseph F. Montefrio is Associate Professor of Social Science (Environmental Studies) at the Yale-NUS College in Singapore. He specializes in political ecology, environmental sociology, environmental anthropology, and critical agrarian and development studies. His research interest is at the intersection of food, agriculture, and sustainability in Southeast Asia.

Who is Tilling the Land and Sets the Table?

Labor Migration in Transnational Agri-Food Networks between Vietnam and Germany

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Rural-urban migration and off-farm opportunities, aging of rural populations, climate change and competitive access to farm land sets agriculture and food security in Southeast Asia under pressure. At the same time, European agriculture suffers from seasonal labor shortage. Wage labor is increasingly recruited from third countries to counteract this bottleneck, partly under highly precarious conditions. While seasonal farm laborers mainly work on fields in Southern Europe, Germany so far remains very strict with granting work permissions for third countries in the agricultural sector, despite agricultural representative bodies in Germany start to discuss potential options for recruitment.

Given that, so far, we can only speculate about a certain future trend, the article follows the overall aim of describing the emergent phenomenon of transnational agri-food labor migration between Asia and Europe, and between Vietnam and Germany, more specifically. Through literature review (academic work, government labor policies and grey literature, such as NGO reports and websites, daily press articles) and interviews with labor export companies and clients in Ho Chi Minh City/Vietnam as well as with agricultural representative bodies and labor market services in Germany, we want to discuss obstacles and potentials of respective agricultural labor regimes. This combined methodological approach provides an informed overview over institutional frameworks, the discourses and programs of professional associations and labor export companies, as well as the broader socio-political narratives of food security and the questions of 'who is tilling the lands' and under what conditions in Vietnam and Germany. In line with Abbot's (2019) argument to reconfigure food and migration as transnational networks, we will focus on the (potential) sending and host countries' perspectives to qualify this emerging phenomenon. Furthermore, we want to deduce how clients of labor export companies conceptualize and aim to accomplish food security and development away from home (see Crush 2013).

Judith Ehlert, a sociologist by training, holds a PhD in Development Studies. Currently, she is a post-doc at the chair of Critical Development Studies – Southeast Asia, at the University of Passau where she teaches BA and MA classes in food and migration in Southeast Asia and Gender and Development. Her PhD thesis focused on local knowledge and agrarian change in the Mekong Delta. From this, her interest embarked on urban food consumption issues in Ho Chi Minh City. She was the principal investigator of a research project on the body politics of food consumption in Ho Chi Minh City (2015-2019, funded by the Austrian Science Fund and based at the Department of Development Studies, University of Vienna). Inspired by Feminist Agro-Food Studies, Judith's interests focus on the food and body nexus as well as food production and consumption interfaces in transnational migration.

Nguyen Nu Nguyet Anh obtained a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy from the University of Sydney, Australia. Her PhD thesis aims at exploring social networks along the migration cycle between Vietnam and South Korea of Vietnamese temporary migrant workers. She is working as a lecturer at the Faculty of Sociology, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City, where she contributes significantly to both teaching and research, particularly in migration, labor, and gender. Dr Nguyen is actively involved in various international collaborative research projects, showcasing her ability to bridge academic communities across borders.

Cropland Abandonment Threatens Food Security in Rural Nepal: Understanding the Role of Migration

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Cropland abandonment is a growing concern in rural areas, with profound implications for food security and agricultural sustainability. This study examines the relationship of cropland abandonment with labor out-migration and remittances using household survey data collected in two watersheds in rural Nepal in 2023. Based on statistical analysis, we find that long-term migration is significantly associated with increases in the likelihood of cropland abandonment after controlling for other social-ecological factors. In contrast, seasonal migration has a lesser and negative effect. Remittances from long-term migrants significantly increase the abandoned area by migrant households, suggesting the transition from agriculture to non-agricultural livelihoods. The primary reasons for cropland abandonment reported by households include wildlife crop-raiding, labor shortages due to migration, and low soil fertility. Policy interventions that address human-wildlife conflict, promote agricultural investment with remittances, and improve rural infrastructure could help mitigate cropland losses.

Qi Zhang is currently Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environment at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research interests include understanding the dynamics of coupled human and environmental systems shaped by environmental policies, monitoring land-use and land-cover changes with remote sensing, and agent-based modeling of human-environmental interactions. He obtained his PhD in 2017 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Conghe Song is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography and Environment and Fellow at the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research interests include monitoring the land-use and land-cover changes with remote sensing, modeling the environmental consequences of land-use and land-cover changes in the context of climate change, and understanding the driving forces of land-use and land-cover change. He served as the principal investigator for the US National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the US Department of Agriculture. He obtained his PhD in 2001 from Boston University.

Sophia Graybill is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Environment at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests include rural outmigration and its impacts on women's time allocation and participation in natural resource management.

Erin Sills is Edwin F. Conger Professor and Head of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at North Carolina State University. Her research interests lie in the interface of environment and development economics, with a recent focus on evaluating the impacts of conservation initiatives on both forests and land populations. Her research projects are widely distributed around the world, including the Amazon, Africa, Nepal, and Indonesia. She obtained her PhD in 1998 from Duke University.

Richard Bilsborrow is Research Professor in the Department of Geography and Environment and Fellow of the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research interests include migration and rural land-use and land-cover changes. His research has been supported by the National Institute of Health, the U.S. National Science Foundation, the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and numerous non-government organizations. He obtained his PhD in 1968 from the University of Michigan.

Remittances, Mobility, and Food Practices: The Impact of Gulf Migration on Malayali Food Cultures in Post-Pandemic Kerala

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This paper explores the relationship between remittances (tangible and cultural)¹ from Gulf migrants and food practices in Kerala, India considering both the experiences of those who remain in Kerala with family members abroad and the migrants themselves. It offers a dual-sided study, examining how the flow of remittances impacts food security and culinary practices in Kerala, while also looking at how these migrants have adapted or continue to adapt to new environments abroad. Building on various scholars' work, incorporating a post-pandemic perspective and using oral history collection methods as the main form of “data” collection, the paper investigates how access to tangible resources and new perspectives, experiences, and spatial changes influence daily food practices. Preliminary findings suggest that while remittances enhance food access, they can lead to a reduction in traditional food security and erode cultural practices.

Mallory Cerkleski (she/her) is a doctoral candidate in History at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, Italy. She holds an MA in Food Innovation and Management from the University of Gastronomic Sciences and dual BA degrees in Sustainable Food Systems and Political Science from Guilford College. Her doctoral project consists of a comparative history of the lived experiences of communist food systems in Cuba and Kerala using oral history and archival methodologies. Mallory's research on food justice and sovereignty has been published in *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* and *Journal of Gastronomic Sciences*. She also authored the essay “Resolver and Rebusque: The State of Cuban Land and Food Sovereignty” in the book *Food Sovereignty and Land Grabbing*. She is a board member of the Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies (SOYUZ) and the Graduate Association for Food Studies and leads the “Culinary Chronicles” project, which explores cultural heritage through oral histories using food as a tool and lens. Her extensive fieldwork includes projects in Cuba, India, Malawi, and the U.S., and she has presented her research at various international conferences. Mallory documents her findings and thoughts on Instagram at @savoringtheages and savoringtheages.owlstown.net/.

¹ Here, remittances refers to the multifaceted flow of resources—both financial and cultural—including money, goods, and ideas—from migrants to their families and visa versa. I am fully open and actually in need of a different word that is not “remittances” to describe this flow.

Tracing Digital Foodscapes and Healthcare in the Transnational Family in Pandemic Times

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While increasing scholarly interest in ‘digital foodscapes’ has highlighted the politics of food-based capitalism and the digitalization of food (via apps and social media) in urban contexts, less attention has been paid to the everyday digital practices around foodwork and healthcare in transnational households that connect urban migrants and their stay-behind families. The failure to account for how pervasive and intertwined the digital is in the transnational families’ food and healthcare practices presents an incomplete picture of the gender and generational dynamics that are imbricated in digital media. To fill this gap, we draw on in-depth interviews and visual food diaries from a study of migrant domestic workers in Singapore and their families in the Philippines. By focusing our analytical lenses on the logics and logistics of digital food and healthcare practices under duress during the COVID-19 pandemic, we attend to three interrelated themes. First, we analyse how times of crisis enable and disable the digital foodwork and healthcare practices in the transnational family. Next, we show how gender roles are mediated in the digital healthcare and foodscape during the pandemic. Last, we explore how the media shapes ideologies of ‘good’ health and ‘healthy’ foods across distance in transnational families.

Kristel Acedera is Research Associate in the Asian Migration cluster, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS). She holds an MSocSci degree in Geography from NUS. Her current research interests explore how the intimacies of transnational familyhood unravel in and through the digital spaces and temporalities of communication technologies. She has published her work on this in peer-reviewed publications like *Journal of Ethnic Migration Studies*, *International Journal of Communication*, *Current Sociology*, and *New Media and Society*.

Brenda S.A. Yeoh FBA is Raffles Professor of Social Sciences, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore. She is also 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. She has considerable experience working on a wide range of migration research in Asia, including key themes such as cosmopolitanism and highly skilled talent migration; gender, social reproduction and care migration; migration, national identity and citizenship issues; and cultural politics, family dynamics and international marriage migrants. She has published widely in these fields. Her recent books include *Handbook of Asian Migrations* (Routledge, 2018 with G. Liu-Farrer), *Student Mobilities and International Education in Asia: Emotional Geographies of Knowledge Spaces* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020 with R. Sidhu and K.C. Ho), and *Handbook on Transnationalism* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022 with F.L. Collins).

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*.

Bittiandra Chand Somaiah holds a joint appointment as Lecturer with Yale-NUS College, and NUS College at the National University of Singapore (NUS). She is an associate with the Asian Migration cluster, at the Asia Research Institute, NUS. Her research interests include embodied, emplaced, and intersectional citizenship subjectivities vis-à-vis migration.

Secrets in the Kitchen: Food Practices, Intertwined Identities, and Legal Constraints

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One of the ways in which immigrants negotiate their presence and build in-group communities is through food. However, this phenomenon is relevant primarily to communities with a culinary heritage distinct from that of their adopted homeland. This work, based on my ongoing ethnography and key interviews with Tausug families living in Sabah, seeks to explore the relationship between food practices, intertwined identities, and legal constraints. The families I interviewed are from Sulu, Philippines, who moved to Sabah, Malaysia without documents, as they crossed the sea and entered illegally decades ago. I examine how embedding oneself in similar food settings creates a sense of “shared culinary legacy” that develops into a consciousness about “intertwined identities.” Moreover, being able to cook together (production), share food with neighbors and during feasts (consumption), and work in eateries as staff (distribution) allows for engagements and the exchange of life stories and experiences of migration.

Through these food practices, Tausug families engage in cultural citizenship, where their participation in shared culinary traditions grants them a sense of belonging and recognition within their local community, even in the absence of legal status. Additionally, family display theory becomes relevant as these families use food practices to ‘display’ their familial and communal connections, reinforcing their identities and ties despite legal and geographic constraints. Ultimately, this sense of intertwinedness becomes more relevant to the community than the legal status of the immigrants. While the Malaysian state refuses to acknowledge Tausug families from the Philippines as legal residents, their intertwined identities (both phenotypical and cultural) with local Sabahans serve as a subtle means of protection against the imposed legal constraints.

Veronica L. Gregorio is Lecturer at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in the National University of Singapore. Her research interests are gender and sexuality, family, and agrarian change in Southeast Asia. She is also an associate of the Food Politics and Society cluster at Asia Research Institute and an associate fellow of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute Regional Social and Cultural Studies program.

Transcending Banana Investments: Unraveling the Hidden Dynamics of Chinese Land Investment in Laos

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The rising demand in Chinese fruit market has driven Chinese entrepreneurs to invest heavily in Southeast Asia, leading to “fruit booms.” However, fruit investment is usually not the end of the road for many entrepreneurs, as they have expanded and transformed their investments to become a group of local long-term agricultural investors. Current research predominantly focuses on the land issues and the impacts of fruit investments, yet largely overlooks the dynamics, changes, and development of the key actors—Chinese entrepreneurs. This oversight has led to an insufficient understanding of the transformation of entrepreneurs, and the complex relationships between their investments, local social networks, and land control dynamics.

To fill this research gap, this study analyzes the investment expansion cases of three Chinese banana entrepreneurs based on an eight-month fieldwork in Laos. The study finds that these entrepreneurs expand and develop their banana investments through a variety of modes, including utilizing the Chinese Chamber of Commerce network to flexibly invest in emerging crops, leveraging the local government network to diversify their crop investments, and integrating both business and government networks to implement crop rotation on large-scale land, which in turn led to land control transfer, expansion, and redistribution. This study reveals that Chinese entrepreneurs are not passive market responders but strategically leverage transnational and local networks to secure land control and diversify investments, shifting from short-term to long-term agricultural investments. This study further challenges the general view that foreign agricultural investments are linear, singular, and purely market-driven, demonstrating instead how transnational agricultural enterprises in the Global South are deeply embedded in and shaped by complex social networks.

By mapping the trajectories of Chinese banana entrepreneurs in Laos, the paper highlights the transformation of entrepreneurs and the broader implications of foreign agricultural investments on food security and agricultural transformations within the global foodscapes.

Ben Fan is a PhD candidate at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University. His research interests include the various scales and forms of land deals, agricultural investments, and their impacts on local socio-economic structures during the global land rush, particularly focusing on the role of Chinese private capital in the Global South. His doctoral study takes Chinese banana investments in northern Laos as a case to explore the motives, patterns, and strategies behind the behaviours of Chinese banana entrepreneurs. Particular attention is paid to how Chinese banana entrepreneurs can expand and sustain their investments in Laos and thus become a long-term agricultural investor group in Laos. It further analyses the various developmental trajectories and transformations of banana investments in Laos, thus exploring the profound impact of Chinese private capital on land investment and the changes in agricultural policies in Laos.

Sourcing Live Mangrove Crabs across the Indo-Pacific: The Transoceanic Migration of Fishers and their Seafood Networks

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This paper illustrates the nexus between food security and migration using the example of the transoceanic trade of live mangrove crabs and the fishers involved in establishing these trading networks. Mangrove crabs are highly valued in East and Southeast Asian gastronomic cultures and are extensively harvested. Consequently, crab fishers from the region have turned to coastlines abundant in mangroves in the Indo-Pacific, spanning from the Mozambique Channel to the Coral Sea. Along these newly developed coasts, where mangrove crabs were under-appreciated for their bioeconomic value, they have now become significant seafood exports, backed by governments' blue economy initiatives. The paper recounts the biographies of Malagasy Chinese crab fishers who moved to Madagascar due to environmental and occupational pressures at home. Their expertise enabled them to swiftly establish a transoceanic live seafood trade between Madagascar and China, outperforming the previously dominant French and Indian traders of frozen crabs. This transformation has reshaped the seafood industry and local attitudes towards crab consumption on the big island facing a perennial food crisis. Fieldwork was carried out for five months in Madagascar and one month in China to trace the crab-sourcing chains and the fishers' mobilities. Comparable data was gathered from databases, interviews, and short visits to explore this particular foodway of liveliness and freshness in countries like Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Tanzania, Mozambique, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Samoa, Fiji, and Hawai'i. These findings highlight the broad historical and geographical reach of crab fishing and its potential implications for food security among consumers and local communities in the ecologically sensitive Indo-Pacific region, shedding light on the diverse impacts of the culinary practices from Asia on the global food systems.

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The *Jastip* Network: Food Security and Mobility Practices among Indonesian Migrants in Sydney, Australia

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Food security is a critical issue for migrants who must deal with the surging cost of living in the host countries while maintaining cultural and dietary preferences. The existing literature has linked food security practices with questions on identity and integration, but the material arrangement or network enabling the practices remains underexplored. Thinking with the concept of migration infrastructure, this paper provides an empirical example of the facilities, technologies (such as transport and communication), and knowledge used in the mobility of ethnic food from Indonesia to Australian cities where it is consumed, further processed, and distributed by migrants. Focusing on a food mobility practice popular among migrants called *jastip* or *jasa titipan* (shopping entrusted goods service), I trace the movement of food to understand what meanings or values it entails and how it intersects with Australian regimes of inspection, from airport biosecurity to food safety standard. This research involved semi-structured interviews with providers and clients of *jastip* recruited via an advertisement in 'The Rock Sydney' Facebook group, along with observations in informants' homes (upon consent) and Indonesian grocery stores. *Jastip*, I argue, serves as a 'culinary node' or point of connection in the migrants' food security network creating multiple possibilities of food production, consumption, and distribution. The 'mobile' food goes directly to end-consumers or to the hands of homemade food makers who further process it and sell it via the FB group's online marketplace and informal food bazaar at Indonesian grocery stores in Sydney. This study expands the discourse on food security by highlighting the material dimensions of migrants' experience to maintain cultural continuity and economic resilience in the face of systemic constraints. It also bridges the gap between food security and regulatory frameworks in host countries, shedding light on how migrants navigate and sometimes challenge these regimes.

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From Boarding School to Freelancing: Food Security Challenges of Ghanaian Migrants in Qatar

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In the last two decades, Qatar has emerged as a major destination for lower-skilled migrants from Ghana in sectors such as construction, transportation, hospitality, and domestic work. Existing literature on the Ghana-Qatar Corridor focuses on the role of brokers and recruiters in Ghana and the poor working conditions of Ghanaian migrants in Qatar. Very little is publicly known about the food security situation and challenges confronting these labour migrants. In this paper, we address this research gap by reporting on our findings from recent in-depth interviews with Ghanaian labour migrants in Qatar. We examine the emergence of Qatar as a destination for Ghanaians and show how the downgrading of the kafala system in 2020 has changed the food security options and challenges confronting migrants. Prior to 2020, most migrants lived in company or other employer accommodation (the 'boarding school' model) where sub-standard and undesirable food was provided. Many Ghanaian migrants have taken advantage of the post-2020 dispensation and become 'freelancers' seeking other employment opportunities. However, the move from boarding school to freelancing has presented them with a new set of food security dilemmas and challenges.

Jonathan Crush is University Research Professor and a faculty member in the Department of Political Science at Wilfrid Laurier University and Extraordinary Professor at the University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa. He founded and directs the Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP) and the Migration and Food Security (MiFOOD Network). He has published extensively on migration histories and governance in Africa.

Bernard Owusu is Postdoctoral Fellow at the Balsillie School of International Affairs. Bernard holds a PhD in Geography from Wilfrid Laurier University, an MA in Geography from the Memorial University of Newfoundland, and a BA from the University of Ghana, Legon. Dr Owusu's current research explores migration patterns in the Global South, with a particular emphasis on international migration to and from Ghana and its critical connections to food security. Through his work, Bernard aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of how migration impacts food systems and resource sustainability in developing regions.

Putting Food on the Table: Migrant Domestic Workers, Food-as-Wages Policy, and the Governance of Labouring Subjects

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This paper considers migrant domestic workers' intimate role in three forms of home-based food consumption in Singapore: 1) as primary food preparers for approximately one in seven citizen households; 2) as primary food providers to their own kin networks across South and Southeast Asia; and 3) as food consumers in their own right. This foodscape is largely hidden from public view, but is not trivial: one in six women workers in the society is a migrant domestic worker (MDW). However, while MDWs literally "put food on the table" for their employers and financially "put food on the table" for family members back home, MDWs are not meant to put it on their own plates. That is, subsistence costs are neither built into wages nor allocated as a fixed cash allowance. Rather, employers are obligated to provide nutrition directly in the form of meals and/or groceries.

My research draws upon 18+ months of research on low-wage migrants in Singapore, including nine months of observation in a shelter for 'runaway' domestic workers; scores of interviews with MDWs and employers; and extensive engagement with officials, labor brokers, and NGO advocates. I highlight two arguments. First, calorie provision becomes a key nexus of migrant control. Employers' virtually unfettered control over food—what is eaten, where, when, and with whom—is a powerful mechanism of labor coercion. Second, by effectively classifying food as a 'variable wage component,' the state allows employers to flexibly suppress costs. As I evidence, the strategy confers the privilege of full-time MDW assistance to families who otherwise could not afford the luxury, in turn reducing reliance on costly state-funded services. By jointly analyzing micro- and macro-level implications of the food provision policy, I show its critical importance in the governance of laboring subjects, and even the achievement of major policy goals.

Kurt W. Kuehne is a sociologist and postdoctoral associate at New York University Abu Dhabi. His book project, based on an award-winning dissertation, examines the hidden costs borne by the low-wage, short-term labor migrants who build and maintain the world's rising global cities. The project builds upon 18+ months of ethnographic fieldwork alongside South Asian construction workers and Southeast Asian domestic workers and has been supported by the U.S. Departments of Education and State, Mellon Foundation, American Institute of Bangladesh Studies, and various research centers. In collaboration with Anju Paul and Bedoor AlShebli, he is also studying the migrations of non-native scientists to emergent research hubs in the Middle East and East Asia. Kurt has won several teaching awards and serves on the non-profit board of Princeton in Asia. He holds a PhD (Sociology) and MA (Southeast Asian Studies) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and an AB (Politics) from Princeton.

From Gourmet Delicacy to Everyday Staple: Migration, Colonialism, and the Rebranding of a Culinary Icon, *Busan Eomuk*

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Following the Ganghwa Treaty of 1876 between Joseon (Korea) and Japan—Korea’s first modern and unequal treaty—Busan emerged as Korea’s first modern treaty port, serving as a pivotal gateway for international interactions. Even before the treaty, Busan was a crucial hub for trade, travel and migration between Japan, northeastern China, and Russia, but the treaty further intensified its global connections.

Situated at the southeastern tip of the Korean peninsula, close to Japan, Busan’s historical, geopolitical, and social contexts have profoundly shaped its culinary landscape. This paper examines the evolution of "Busan Eomuk (Fishcake)" within the broader framework of modern Korean history, focusing on migration, colonialism, and post-colonial nationalism. Drawing on the concepts of gastropolitics (Appadurai 1981) and affective topography (Jo 2017), the study utilizes archival and media research, as well as interviews with local residents, *eomuk* restaurant owners, vendors, and producers.

Introduced by Japanese settlers in the late 19th century, fishcake was initially a gourmet delicacy for Japanese settlers and elite Koreans during the colonial period (1910-1945). However, during the Korean War (1950-53), it became an affordable protein source for millions of refugees. Over time, fishcake evolved into a ubiquitous street food, found in markets, near schools, and on dinner tables across Korea. Despite its widespread popularity, its shift from a gourmet item to a common staple also led to its perception as an ‘unsanitary’ food.

The linguistic shift from the Japanese term *kamaboko* to the misnomers *odaeng* or *ten’pura*, and eventually to the Korean name *eomuk*, reflects changing social attitudes and Korea’s evolving geopolitical relationship with Japan. Additionally, the production of *eomuk*—from fishing and selling fish to making and vending fishcakes—reveals the hierarchies and gendered divisions of labor during both the colonial and post-colonial periods. Recently, *Busan eomuk* has been rebranded as a nutritious, versatile food featured in various settings, from traditional markets to department stores and trendy cafés. The social history of *Busan eomuk* illuminates the local, national, and global politics involved in its production and consumption, as well as the diverse affective responses it generates about a place and its people.

Ji-Yeon O. Jo is Associate Professor of Korean Language and Culture in the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. A founding faculty member of UNC’s Korean program and former director of the Carolina Asia Center (2019-2024), her scholarly work focuses on the Korean diasporas, diaspora cinema, legacy migration, and Korean American Studies with particular attention to their affective and political dimensions. Her first book, *“Homing: An Affective Topography of Ethnic Korean Return Migration* (University of Hawai’i Press, 2017)” addresses critical issues in contemporary legacy migration—citizenship, cultural belonging, language, and family relationships—and introduces the concept of “affective topography” to explore the complex emotional landscapes that shape the experiences of legacy migrants. Currently, she is completing a monograph titled *“Un/Settling Korean Diasporas: Cinematic Interventions and Transruptions of Korean Diaspora Films and Documentaries”* and is embarking on a new project, *Gastro-politics and Gastro-affect of Diasporas: Mapping Culinary Interactions in Asian Global Port Cities*. Her interdisciplinary research methodology includes ethnographic research, participant observation, oral history, archival research, and visual analysis.

Cookbooks as Carriers of Culture: Chinese Culinary Knowledge, Mass Media, and Migration in the 20th Century

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This paper examines the proliferation of Chinese-English cookbooks in postwar Taiwan, which were products of transnational migration and a Cold War context. Here I focus on the example of Fu Pei-mei (1931-2004) and her eponymous, best-selling three-part cookbook series, *Pei Mei's Chinese Cook Book* (Vol. 1-3), published from 1969 to 1979. Although Fu was a television pioneer in Taiwan and appeared on the air for forty years, overseas audiences knew her almost exclusively as a cookbook author. Fu's cookbooks were not translated into English *after* their initial creation as Chinese texts; rather, they were conceived of as bilingual texts from their very inception, as a way to speak to Fu's multiple audiences: recent Chinese immigrants moving abroad from Taiwan, who hankered after a taste of home; long-time overseas Chinese in places like the Philippines, who could only read English; and American military wives of husbands stationed in Taiwan supporting the ROC, who enjoyed dabbling in the culinary arts of the Orient. The overwhelming success of Fu's cookbooks paved the way for the publication of other bilingual cookbooks in Taiwan (such as Huang Su-huei's series for the Wei Chuan Food Company). Yet Fu's cookbooks not only carried notions about Chinese cuisine across the globe in the suitcases of overseas immigrants and foreign dilettantes—they also carried Chinese culinary culture across time, as Fu's cookbooks were passed on to second-generation children, an emblem of the significance of cuisine in identity-building projects across transpacific migrant journeys.

Michelle T. King is Associate Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, specializing in modern Chinese gender and food history. Her most recent book is *Chop Fry Watch Learn: Fu Pei-mei and the Making of Modern Chinese Food* (W. W. Norton, 2024), which examines the career of Taiwan's beloved television personality and cookbook author as a way to illustrate changes in postwar society, including shifting gender roles, changing media landscapes, international relations, and the transnational construction of identity through successive generations. King is co-editor (with Jia-chen Fu and Jakob Klein) of the forthcoming volume, *Modern Chinese Foodways* (MIT Press), editor of *Culinary Nationalism in Asia* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2019) and author of *Between Birth and Death: Female Infanticide in Nineteenth-Century China* (Stanford University Press, 2014). Her work has appeared in *Gastronomica*, *Journal of Women's History*, *Social History*, and other publications.

Migrant Restaurants as Ethnic Food in Tokyo: Interactions between Migrant Food Workers and Japanese Consumers in Tokyo

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Migrant-owned eateries in Japan are becoming a key feature of the urban culinary infrastructure. The popularity of “ethnic food” in urban Japan predates the rapid increase in migrant-run eateries in Japan, with many early restaurants offering Asian, European, and other cuisines opened by Japanese who served localized or hybridized dishes. Since the 2000s, migrants have increasingly run restaurants in Tokyo, some using visas for skilled migrants (Liu-Farrer and Tamang 2023). Even as the number of migrant-run eateries increases, the customer base remains mainly Japanese, shaping expectations of taste, service, and even norms of sociability (Wessendorf and Farrer 2021). A growing interest in “authentic” restaurants has emerged. Authenticity, however, is a concept negotiated among consumers and producers (Lu and Fine 1995) and increasingly by online cultural intermediaries. This paper combines an analysis of Tabelog (Japan’s largest listing website) with an ethnographic examination of social media content related to migrant-run eateries, as well as fieldwork in these types of establishments in Tokyo. We examine how migrant restaurateurs market foreign foods in Japan, and how these offerings are shaped by the varying expectations of Japanese customers and reviewers, interacting with larger structural forces such as low wage growth and restrictive migration regimes. Taking into account this larger context, we emphasize the interaction among consumers, producers, and cultural intermediaries in negotiating the materiality, meanings, and experiences of commercial migrant foodways in Tokyo.

James Farrer is Professor of Sociology and Global Studies and Director of the Graduate Program in Global Studies at Sophia University in Tokyo. His research focuses on the contact zones of global cities, including ethnographic studies of sexuality, nightlife, expatriate communities, and urban food cultures. Recent publications include *The Global Japanese Restaurant: Mobilities, Imaginaries and Politics* (with David Wank eds.) and *Globalization and Asian Cuisines: Transnational Networks and Contact Zones* (ed.). He leads a public ethnography project on neighborhood Tokyo foodways (www.nishiogiology.org) and is a member of the editorial collective producing *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food Studies*. He frequently contributes to media programming on urban life in Asia, including NHK World's “Tokyo Eye 2020” and TBS’s “Matsuko to Shiranai Sekai”.

María Alejandra Dorado Vinay is a doctoral student in the Graduate Program in Global Studies at Sophia University. She has a master’s degree in Urban Studies and a bachelor’s degree in Politics and Public Administration from El Colegio de México. Her research focuses on the migration of people and foodways, particularly in Mexico and Japan. For her doctoral research, she is exploring the understanding, presentation, and consumption of Mexican food in restaurants in Tokyo, and how these places act as intermediaries that offer various imaginaries of Mexican cuisine. For her master’s research, she worked on a history of Japanese restaurants in Mexico City that narrated the different discourses on authenticity and localization of those restaurants through time.

**Gardening Community:
Relational Agriculture and Southeast Asian Refugees at the
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

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For over a decade at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Carolina Community Garden has provided a space both for students to learn about low-input agriculture and for volunteers to grow vegetables, produce food, and feed hungry people. This paper documents an innovative program led by the garden to donate food to underpaid sanitation workers, most of whom are Karen refugees from Burma/Myanmar. The program has led gardeners to shift cultivars to serve the tastes of this growing Asian-American community in Chapel Hill, building a larger community in the process. It has also raised complex ethical questions—about, for example, how to raise living standards for marginalized workers short of salary increases—that we aim to answer herein.

Christian C. Lentz is Associate Professor of Geography and the Environment and Adjunct Associate Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His *Contested Territory: Dien Bien Phu and the Making of Northwest Vietnam* won the 2021 Harry J. Benda Prize from the Association of Asian Studies for outstanding first book in Southeast Asian studies. His research interests include political geography, agrarian studies, decolonization, and development in modern Southeast Asia, especially Vietnam and Indonesia.

Terese Gagnon is an environmental and political anthropologist. She is Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with the Carolina Asia Center under the Bringing Southeast Asia Home Initiative. Her current ethnographic book project examines Karen food, seed, and political sovereignty across landscapes of home and exile. Terese incorporates creative forms including ethnographic poetry and visual anthropology in her scholarly work. She is the editor of the book *Embodying Biodiversity: Sensory Conservation as Refuge and Sovereignty* and co-editor of *Movable Gardens: Itineraries and Sanctuaries of Memory*.

Sari-sari:
Transnational Filipino Migrant Foodways and Networks in Hong Kong

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As Hong Kong's largest ethnic minority, Filipino migrants have a significant albeit understated impact on Hong Kong's foodscape. Despite Hong Kong's reputation as a culinary melting pot, Philippine food has only recently become globally popular and thus visible to its larger population. However, since the influx of migrant Filipino labor to Hong Kong starting from the 1970s, Filipinos have found various means of meeting their need Philippine food while far from home. This paper explores the different ways that Filipino migrants in Hong Kong has established foodways in order to meet demand for Philippine products. I make use of the Filipino term *sari-sari* ("varied") to refer to the multiple ways through which Philippine products come to Hong Kong and are distributed throughout the migrant Filipino population. These transnational networks vary in terms of scale, from large-scale commercial importers to individual actors carrying products in their suitcases. Rather than being a simple discussion of the movement of products across borders, I highlight the personal, social, and cultural significance of the movements of these food items by tracing how these movements are punctuated and facilitated by social relationships. Based on current ethnographic fieldwork among Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong, this paper describes migrant Filipino foodways using three particular examples across different scales – Filipino grocery stores, Filipino domestic helper food networks, and the production and consumption of cassava cake. Using these three cases, I reflect on issues of food security as well as the performance of class, culture, identity, and community for migrants.

Josef Adriel Olindan De Guzman is a Filipino PhD candidate from the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Department of Anthropology. With a particular interest in migrant food and foodways, his current research is focused on the eating habits and foodways of Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong. Through the documentation of the daily meals of domestic helpers alongside ethnographic research on Filipino foodways, he aims to understand how both sociocultural factors such as the migrant community, employer-employee relations, and transnational families alongside structural forces such as the industrial food system shape the everyday meals and food practices of migrant workers.

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Bernice Loh is Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. 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.

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Kathleen Burke is an historian of food, gender, and maritime empires in the Indian Ocean World. Her first book project, *"Hearth of Empire: A History of Indian Ocean Cuisine"*, shows how colonial kitchens were important, but overlooked, spaces of power, knowledge production, and cultural exchange in the Dutch East India Company's empire in the Indian Ocean. This groundbreaking study places previously marginalised actors—"mestiza" or mixed women and enslaved male cooks—at the centre of Indian Ocean history, demonstrating that they shaped global food networks, knowledge systems, and cultural practices that ultimately transformed eating habits across the empire and Dutch Republic. Her current project at the Asia Research Institute in the National University of Singapore, *"Cultivating Connections"*, examines an even greater diversity of historical actors who produced knowledge about plants in the early modern Indian Ocean, focusing on how Indigenous growers in the Indian Ocean were adapters and transformers of knowledge about American plants. It examines how American plants challenged, changed, or were absorbed into indigenous cosmologies and ecologies. Her latest publication, *Recultivating Connections in the Indian Ocean*, came out in late 2024 in *Slavery and Abolition*.

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Theodora Lam is Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. 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.

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