

Migration Cluster and Division of Research & Graduate Studies,
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore (Singapore) and
St John's College, Department of Geography and Metropolis British Columbia
University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada) present

 **APWIM IV**
Asia-Pacific Worlds in Motion



FIXITIES &
fluidities

Navigating Dynamics in Migration
An Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference
20-21 February 2012, AS7 Seminar Rooms A-C
National University of Singapore



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Asia-Pacific Worlds in Motion IV

Fixities and Fluidities: Navigating Dynamics in Migration

20 – 21 February 2012 AS7 Seminar Rooms A, B, C

Organised by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Migration Research Cluster),
National University of Singapore
St. John's College and Department of Geography, University British Columbia
and Metropolis British Columbia

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2012		
08:30 – 09:00	REGISTRATION	
09:00 – 09:15	WELCOME ADDRESS	
	BRENDA S.A. YEOH Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences National University of Singapore Research Leader, Asian Migration Cluster Asia Research Institute	
09:15 – 09:45	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 1	
	ADRIAN BAILEY Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Hong Kong Baptist University Professor of Migration Studies, School of Geography University of Leeds	
09:45 – 10:15	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Chairperson: BRENDA S.A. YEOH	
10:15 – 10:30	TEA BREAK	
	PANEL 1: HERITAGE, CULTURE & PLACE Chairperson: ELAINE HO	
10:30 – 10:50	ANDRÉANNE DOYON Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia	Migration and the Built Environment: Linguistic Landscapes in Vancouver's Chinatown
10:50 – 11:10	YOLANDE POTTIE-SHERMAN Geography, University of British Columbia	The Production of Metro Vancouver's Night Markets after <i>Vancouver's Chinatown</i>
11:10 – 11:30	LACHLAN BARBER Geography, University of British Columbia	A Mobile Sense of Place: Reading Heritage in Hong Kong through a Relational/Territorial Lens
11:30 – 11:45	FEEDBACK Discussant: ADRIAN BAILEY	
11:45 – 12:15	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Chairperson: ELAINE HO	
12:15 – 14:00	LUNCH	

MONDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2012		
14:00 – 14:30	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 2	
	ELSPETH GRAHAM Professor, School of Geography & GeoSciences University of St Andrews	
14:30 – 15:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Chairperson: MIKA TOYOTA	
	PANEL 2: MIGRATION, HEALTH & FAMILY Chairperson: MIKA TOYOTA	
15:00 – 15:20	UM SEONG-GEE Prentice Institute for Global Population & Economy, University of Lethbridge	Care Labour Migration and its International Labour Migration at Older Ages: The Case of Korean-Chinese Migrant Workers in the South Korean Long-term Care Market
15:20 – 15:40	DANICAR MARIANO Geography, National University of Singapore	Discursive Analysis of ART regulations in Singapore and the Factors that encourage Fertility Tourism among Singaporeans
15:40 – 16:00	CHRISTINE PERALTA History, University of British Columbia	Flipping the Script: Asserting Alternative Medical Knowledge in Infant Mortality Campaigns
16:00 – 16:20	DADA DOCOT Anthropology, University of British Columbia	All About my Mothers: The Work of Kinship and Gender in the Migration Practices of My Family
16:20 – 16:30	BREAK	
16:30 – 16:50	FEEDBACK Discussant: ELSPETH GRAHAM	
16:50 – 17:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Chairperson: MIKA TOYOTA	
	END OF DAY 1	
17:45	DEPART FOR DINNER	

TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2012		
09:00 – 09:30	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 3	
	<p align="center">RHACEL PARREÑAS Professor, Department of Sociology University of Southern California</p>	
09:30 – 10:00	<p align="center">QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Chairperson: SHIRLENA HUANG</p>	
10:00 – 10:10	TEA BREAK	
	<p align="center">PANEL 3: TRANSNATIONAL IDENTITIES & SUBJECTIVITIES Chairperson: TRACEY SKELTON</p>	
10:10 – 10:30	<p>CHENG YI'EN Geography, National University of Singapore</p>	Movements in/across Time and Space: Student Migrants in Singapore and their Stories of Youth, Transition, and Futurity
10:30 – 10:50	<p>KOH SIN YEE Human Geography, London School of Economics and Political Science</p>	Fixities and Fluidities of Citizenship and Migration Decision-Making: Listening Closely to the 'Malaysian Diaspora'
10:50 – 11:10	<p>SOPHIE CRANSTON Institute of Geography and the Lived Environment, University of Edinburgh</p>	Producing or Managing Expectations? The Subjectivity of British Corporate Expatriates in Singapore
11:10 – 11:30	<p>JUSTIN K.H. TSE Geography, University of British Columbia</p>	A Minority Challenging Multiculturalism: The Social Conservatism of Cantonese-speaking Evangelical Christians in Metro Vancouver
11:30 – 11:50	<p align="center">FEEDBACK Discussant: RHACEL PARREÑAS</p>	
11:50 – 12:30	<p align="center">QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Chairperson: TRACEY SKELTON</p>	
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH	
13:00 – 13:30	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 4	
	<p align="center">DAN HIEBERT Professor, Department of Geography University of British Columbia Co-Director, Metropolis British Columbia</p>	
13:30 – 14:00	<p align="center">QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Chairperson: PATTANA KITIARSA</p>	
	<p align="center">PANEL 4: ECONOMY, RACE & ETHNICITY Chairperson: XIANG BIAO</p>	
14:00 – 14:20	<p>KATIE RAINWATER Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore</p>	The Men who are Building Singapore? Market Actors, Racialization and the Decline of Thai Workers in Singapore's Construction Industry Labour Market
14:20 – 14:40	<p>HEIDI H. KONG History, University of British Columbia</p>	Fluid Fixities and Fixed Fluidities: the Mobility of Migrant Merchants under the White Australia Policy
14:40 – 15:00	<p>ZARINE ROCHA Sociology, National University of Singapore</p>	"If you don't know your heritage then you will just be lost": Negotiating mixedness around race in Singapore

TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2012	
15:00 – 15:20	MABEL SEAH Sociology, National University of Singapore New Chinese Immigrants, New Networks and the Rise of the Migration Industry in Singapore
15:20 – 15:30	BREAK
15:30 – 15:50	FEEDBACK Discussant: DAN HIEBERT
15:50 – 16:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Chairperson: XIANG BIAO
16:30 – 16:45	CLOSING REMARKS
	SHIRLENA HUANG Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Associate Professor, Department of Geography National University of Singapore
	END OF DAY 2
16:45 – 18:45	CITIZENSHIP WORLDS IN MOTION (SAME VENUE)

Fixity, Fluidity, and Transnational Familyhood

Adrian J. Bailey

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Chair Professor of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University

Professor of Migration Studies, School of Geography, University of Leeds, England

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Analyses of the form and nature of social networks with transnational inflections has contributed a great deal to an understanding of the economic, social, and political interdependencies of global society. Concerning migrants and processes of migration, empirical and conceptual work has drawn attention to the distinctiveness of such formations as transnational social spaces, transnational social fields, and transnational families. This paper briefly introduces three debates which, taken together, foreground the diverse ways in which ideas about fixity and fluidity may be reworking transnational conceptualisations of global society. It locates debates about fragmentation, cultural politics, and formations within the everyday realities of global recession. In drawing attention to points of connection and disconnection in these debates I also tout the merits of tolerance for transdisciplinary approaches and knowledges generated from empirical, theoretical, and participatory endeavours.

Adrian Bailey has worked across population, social, and economic geography since obtaining a PhD in 1989 from Indiana University. Utilising both quantitative and qualitative data, and motivated to connect primary and secondary materials with conceptual frameworks, his research experience has fallen in two areas: population and transnationalism; wellbeing (particularly links between migration, gender, and family). For example, post-structural readings of transnationalism have drawn attention to the diverse ways in which governance affects family life, poverty, and health outcomes among immigrants and refugees. Drawing widely from across and beyond contemporary human geography, his research also draws attention to concepts of gendered migration, family geographies and lifecourse.

Shuttle, Circular, and Sponsored Migration: Alternative Configurations of Female Labour Migration in Asia

Rhacel Salazar Parreñas

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The paper questions the applicability of Western-based models of migration to the experiences of female labour migrants in Asia, arguing that their experiences cannot be fully explained by the frameworks of assimilation and transnationalism. Calling attention to particular dynamics of regional migration, the paper urges the use of 'shuttle', 'circular' and 'sponsored' migration as alternative theoretical frameworks for understanding female labour migration in Asia.

Rhacel Salazar Parreñas is a professor of sociology at the University of Southern California. She is known for her work on women's labour and migration in economic globalization. She has received more than 100 invitations to share her work at universities, government and nongovernmental institutions, and research think-tanks throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. Her research has been featured in various news media outlets including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *de Volkskrant*, and *American Prospect*. Her dissertation was made into a documentary, *The Chain of Love* (2000), by the public broadcasting station VPRO-TV in the Netherlands. Professor Parreñas has co-edited three anthologies and has written four monographs as well as numerous peer-reviewed articles. She has received research funding from the Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, and National Science Foundation, and has received fellowship invitations from the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University and the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, NJ. Her work is translated in French, Spanish, Italian, German, Polish, Korean, and Japanese. She is currently the North America Regional Editor for Women's Studies International Forum.

Migrant Mothers, Gendered Expectations and the Well-Being of Children 'Left-Behind' in South-East Asia

Elsbeth Graham

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Popular perceptions and the media often ascribe particular vulnerabilities to children who stay behind when their mother migrates to another country for work. Anxieties focus on disruptions to family life and the consequences for such children of separation from their primary caregiver. However, research findings from the Child Health and Migrant Parents in South-East Asia (CHAMPSEA) project suggest a more complex picture, with variable consequences for different groups of children. There is no systematic evidence to support gendered expectations of a greater negative impact of maternal absence compared to paternal absence, although some vulnerabilities are revealed. In reflecting on this evidence, I raise questions about how child well-being is understood and from whose perspective.

Elsbeth Graham is Reader in Geography at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK and Co-Director of the ESRC *Centre for Population Change*. She has held posts at the Universities of Minnesota and Maryland, USA, and at the National University of Singapore where she was Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute in 2004 and 2008. Her research interests include fertility and family formation, intergenerational relationships, and migration and health inequalities in both the UK and South-East Asia. She has also published papers on theory and mixed-method research in population geography and an edited book on *Postmodernism and the Social Sciences*. Recently she has been joint Principal Investigator, with Brenda Yeoh, NUS, on a major interdisciplinary project investigating Child Health and Migrant Parents in South-East Asia (CHAMPSEA).

Migration and Differentiated Mobilities: A Canadian Perspective

Daniel Hiebert

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Co-Director, Metropolis British Columbia

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In this paper I explore the relationship between two (of many) forms of mobility: physical and economic. From a migration standpoint the two questions associated with these types of mobility are, who is allowed to move to a different country, and what opportunities do newcomers face in the economy when they get there? Frequently there is a mismatch between these types of mobility. In the case of the US, for example, physical mobility is restricted while there is considerable demand for migrant labour (even during the current recession); the result is a vast population of unauthorised migrants. The opposite is largely true in the Canadian case, with much higher rates of legal migration, both permanent and temporary, but lower demand for migrant labour. The Canadian situation cannot be easily explained through traditional theories of migration or traditional approaches to policy analysis. Why, for example, does an apparently failed policy continue to be implemented? Why do immigrants choose Canada as a destination when so many experience barriers that inhibit their economic integration? On the policy side, the answer lies in a complex process of political negotiation conducted in a neoliberal environment that privileges the voice of capital, coupled with a growing sense of demographic urgency. Theories of migration that emphasise the role of social networks are helpful in explaining the continuing supply of immigrants to Canada.

Daniel Hiebert is a Professor of Geography at UBC and Co-Director of Metropolis British Columbia, a centre of excellence dedicated to studying immigration and diversity. His research focuses on the integration of immigrants in Canadian cities, particularly on issues related to their participation in housing and labour markets. He is also engaged in international collaborative projects on these subjects, with scholars in Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Germany, and Sweden and was the Guestprofessor of Migration Studies, in Memory of Willy Brandt, at the University of Malmö, 2009-2010. He also is also active in several advisory roles, including membership on the Deputy Minister's Advisory Committee (Citizenship and Immigration Canada), and as Co-Chair of the City of Vancouver Mayor's Working Group on Immigration.

Migration and the Built Environment: Linguistic Landscapes in Vancouver's Chinatown

Andréanne Doyon

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The landscape and built environment present two distinct linguistic landscapes in Vancouver's Chinatown. Through both an extensive photographic survey and a reading of urban planning documents, this paper argues that the divide in Vancouver's Chinatown was deliberate on the part of urban planners. This paper moves in five parts. First: the review of literature on Vancouver's Chinatown that has positioned it as a historic space to be preserved, overlooking the present spatial divisions that persist in urban planning. Second: the methodology for research on Chinatown's present. Third: the attempt by the City of Vancouver and property owners to use the western portion of Chinatown as an economic development zone. Fourth: how Main and Hastings divides Chinatown's west and east. Fifth: demonstrate that the usage of the east side of Chinatown for low-cost residential housing has led to the vitality of diverse forms of Chinese languages. This paper concludes with a call to further research on Chinatown's present landscape.

Andréanne Doyon completed her Bachelor of Arts (double major) in Asian Studies and Sociology and her Master of Arts in Planning at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Afterwards she worked for the City of Vancouver and UBC on projects pertaining to Chinatowns, as well as on green infrastructure and the green economy. She will commence her PhD in Architecture and Planning at the School of Design, University of Melbourne later this year. She is interested in how humans and the built environment interact and affect each other, as well as the role of migration on cities. For her PhD she wanted to bring together by background in Asian Studies and Migration Studies with her work as a practitioner in sustainability, therefore, she is proposing to look at the shophouse typology found in Chinese migration settlements as a case study of sustainable development. This is her third Asia-Pacific Worlds in Motion Symposium.

The Production of Metro Vancouver's Night Markets *After Vancouver's Chinatown*

Yolande Pottie-Sherman
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It has been twenty-five years since Kay Anderson first published material from her doctoral research on Vancouver's Chinatown. Anderson was a pioneer, bringing together the fields of social and cultural geography, and advancing our understanding of the socio-spatialization of race in the city. A simple Google search indicates the *magnitude* of this work's influence – the 1987 article, and a subsequent one in 1988 combined have been cited over 300 times. *Vancouver's Chinatown* (1991) remains on bookshelves and reading lists around the world. In this paper, I use the recent phenomena of 'night markets' in Metro Vancouver as a platform for thinking through changes to the social geography of race in the last twenty-five years. Night markets have long been central to the urban landscapes of Asian cities (such as Hong Kong, Beijing, Taiwan, Mumbai, Bangkok, and Seoul), and have more recently surfaced in the Chinese immigrant communities of Canadian cities. There are now two night markets operating in Vancouver, British Columbia: one in the downtown historic Chinatown, and the other in the suburb of Richmond. Designated a historic site in 1971, Chinatown has increasingly become associated with tourism and local economic development. Richmond, because of significant Asian settlement since the 1990s, is known as the 'new Chinatown' of Metro Vancouver. I focus on the ways in which these two night markets are differentially *produced* as spaces for cultural consumption in Metro Vancouver. Competing discourses of belonging, 'Chineseness', multiculturalism, and cosmopolitanism are harnessed in the production of both night market projects. These are sometimes contradictory, sometimes complementary, and are variously deployed by the entrepreneurs involved in the night market, the city governments, and local journalists. Overlapping and distinct social spaces within each night market are consequences of this discursive production. Ultimately, these case studies also speak to the significance of changes to both the experience of and intellectual approach to the social geography of race over the last twenty-five years.

Yolande Pottie-Sherman received her BA from McGill University in geography and political science in 2006 and her MA in geography from Queen's University in 2008 under the supervision of Dr. Audrey Kobayashi. Her doctoral research, supervised by Dr. Dan Hiebert, examines the role of public marketplaces as spaces of exchange in plural societies. Its focus is on the night market phenomenon in Metro Vancouver. These spaces provide a platform for examining broader discourses of cross-cultural interaction, multiculturalism, 'diversity' and the new cultural economy. She is also collaborating with Rima Wilkes (UBC, Sociology) on studies of Canadian attitudes towards immigration and immigrants, and the multi-level modeling of anti-immigrant sentiment.

A Mobile Sense of Place: Reading Heritage in Hong Kong Through a Relational/Territorial Lens

Lachlan Barber

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This paper examines the relationship between the fluidities of mobility and the fixities of place by arguing that the movement of people has influenced the recent reassessment of urban heritage in Hong Kong. Scholars have long acknowledged that cities are constituted in part through their relationships with other places (Massey 1991) but geographical research has only recently begun to grapple with the complexities of an urbanism that is both relational and territorial (McCann and Ward 2011). Work on policy mobilities in particular has articulated this dialectic by documenting the processes by which urban policies are transferred from context to another, transforming in the process. Broadly, such work attempts to undermine the apparent all-pervasiveness of globalisation by isolating and deciphering the content of flows that constitute its movements. The present paper contributes to this agenda by studying the politics of heritage in Hong Kong through a relational/territorial lens. Most studies of urban heritage in Hong Kong and elsewhere rely only on the local context, examining endogenous transformations in policy and place contestation. Here, the frame shifts to include the migration and travel of Hong Kong residents. Relying upon qualitative data gathered during 8 months of field work in 2010, the paper reveals that two groups, activist returnees and international heritage professionals, have played a significant role in bringing heritage issues into the public discourse and shaping the subsequent government response. The mobility of these individuals has allowed them to access policy knowledge, professional networks, and comparative frames that are important resources in their work with local communities and governmental agents. The paper reveals, however, that innovation must respond to the specificities of land administration, culture and politics, and thus must be assembled locally.

Lachlan Barber is a PhD candidate in human geography at the University of British Columbia. His research focuses on the relationship between urban politics, place and mobility. More specifically, his dissertation examines the ongoing transformation of public discourses of heritage as a facet of post-1997 politics in Hong Kong, and the government response to civil society efforts to reinvent the meanings of local heritage. He is particularly interested in the role that various forms of human mobility play in these processes. Lachlan was drawn to this topic by thinking about the possibility of a progressive expression of heritage, not overdetermined by elite and state interests. Previous research, forthcoming in *The Canadian Geographer*, examined the historical exclusions reproduced in contemporary heritage landscapes in his home town, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Before returning to UBC to pursue doctoral studies in 2008, Lachlan taught at Saint Mary's University and worked as a community researcher and communications officer for the Atlantic Metropolis Centre. When not writing his dissertation, Lachlan teaches a class on the geography of Asia to undergraduates at UBC. He is encouraging them to grapple with the idea of "Asian modernity" and its varied expressions.

International Labour Migration at Older Ages: The Case of Korean-Chinese Migrant Mothers in the South Korean Long-Term Care Market

Seong-gee Um

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This paper explores the new diversity in migration trajectories, based on a case study of older Korean-Chinese migrant workers in the South Korean long-term care market. I first present the broad socio-economic and political contexts of South Korea and China, countries of migration and of origin, which shape the international migration of older people. Then, I explore how individual's socio-economic positions construct migration trajectories of older migrant workers in multiple forms in the transnational space. My field research found that the Korea's eased immigration policy environment over the last decade has facilitated a huge migration flow of older Korean-Chinese in their 50s and 60s to the Korean elder care market. As the Korean elder care market failed to attract local workers due to low wage and poor working conditions, elder care jobs have become an important employment niche for older Korean-Chinese migrants who have less employment opportunity in the Korean labour market. Although all worked as elder care workers in the long-term care sector, closer examination of twenty interview participants found four main categories of migration trajectory according to i) their migration pattern of 'migrating alone' or 'together with a spouse' and ii) the household type of 'single-earner' or 'dual-earner' household. Research findings present how individual's socio-economic backgrounds differently shape motivations, objectives, and migration/work patterns of older Korean-Chinese migrant care workers. Furthermore, based on my interview findings of the solo-migrant group of older migrants, I highlight the construction of global care chains among older actors between China and South Korea.

Seong-gee Um is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy, University of Lethbridge in Canada. She recently completed her Ph.D. program from the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto, by defending her thesis *At the Bottom: Migrant Workers in the South Korean Long-term Care Market* in January 2012. Seong-gee earned her masters' degree in social policy and administration from the University of Nottingham (U.K.) and studied law at Ewha Womans University (South Korea). Currently, she serves as a book review co-editor of the new academic journal *Transnational Social Review: A Social Work Journal* (published by Verlag Barbara Budrich). Her recent research has focused on social policy issues surrounding the employment of migrant care workers in ageing societies, with particular interests in Canada and East Asia.

Discursive Analysis of ART Regulations in Singapore and the Factors that Encourage Fertility Tourism Among Singaporeans

Danicar Mariano

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Fertility tourism or the movement of donors, broker and hopeful parents across borders in order to assist in or avail of assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) ranging from IVF (in vitro fertilisation) to surrogacy to sex selection is a highly understudied phenomenon. My paper will therefore discuss how ethical concerns about ARTs are embittered and complicated when combined with tourism. Many scholars, for instance, are troubled by the increasing occurrence of fertility travel from the Global North to the Global South in a “race to the bottom” that, some have noted, reeks of “reproductive opportunism.”

I will be using Singapore as a case study for why fertility tourism occurs. Factors that increase Singaporean’s motivation to seek cross border reproductive care include: the Bioethics Advisory Committee’s (BAC) heavy regulation on payments of donors, long waits, the technology is denied or restricted for certain groups of people, the ban surrogacy services, difficulties in adoption and greater knowledge of options due to government campaigns and infertility forums online. Even with the Singapore government’s IVF (in vitro fertilisation) subsidies, it will still be cheaper to do the procedure in the surrounding developing nations that have freer laws on ART, and more willing donors/surrogates. I also look into fear of incest as a unique factor compelling Singaporeans to venture out of the small island nation.

My study will delve into a discourse analysis of news articles, and blogs/forums pertaining to ART use and (in)fertility in Singapore. I will also analyse the recommendations made to the BAC as well as the BAC’s recommendations on how to regulate ART as well the stance of the various stakeholders they have consulted.

Danicar Mariano is a PhD candidate at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore. Brenda Yeoh is her advisor. Her research interests include gender and sexuality as well as geographies of intimacy and sex work. She is also interested in LGBT tourism and gender counterpublics in cyberspace. She holds an MA in Asia Pacific Studies from the University of San Francisco and a Literary and Cultural Studies from the Ateneo de Manila University. In 2007-2008, she was awarded the Yuchengco Graduate Fellowship from the Center of the Pacific Rim. Her article ‘Nicole Subic Rape Case and the Chingada in the Philippine Imaginary’ is included in the book, ‘Transnationalism and the Asian American Heroine: Essays on Literature, Film’ published by Mcfarland Press, while ‘Nicole’s Burden: the *Chingada* in Philippine Discourse’ will be published in the forthcoming issue of *Budhi*, Ateneo de Manila’s journal of ideas and culture. Her paper ‘Filipina Counterpublics Online: Identity Community and Sexuality in Downelink’ on the other hand, can be found in *Antithesis*, A Graduate Journal of Criticism, Theory and Creative Writing. It was also presented in UC San Diego’s graduate conference, ‘What is Public Culture?’

Flipping the Script: Asserting Alternative Medical Knowledge in Infant Mortality Campaigns

Christine Peralta

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In the 1920s, Philippine infant mortality campaigns called into question Filipino women's capacity to care as both mothers and nurses. Therefore the campaign required a two-step process of remodeling elite Filipino women as nurses who would then transfer their knowledge to mothers. In order to provide nursing education opportunities for these women, the colonial government partnered with the Rockefeller Foundation (RF). The Foundation remodeled Philippine nursing through an experimental nursing system that emphasized university training and specialization in public health. Even though the Foundation wanted to prove the universality of this system it was inevitably hampered by local conditions in the Philippines. It took years for the university system to be put in effect but offshoots of the original program were established, particularly the RF fellowship program that sponsored Filipino nurses to temporarily migrate to the U.S. in order to receive advanced training.

By examining a variety of sources, including RF records, letters, newspapers, dissertations and conference transcripts, this paper considers the role Filipino student nurses played in infant mortality campaigns. Filipino nurses sought U.S. training, in order to have their medical authority recognized, but in seeking recognition within a system that saw Filipino nurses as inherently inferior due to their race, gender, and profession meant that their authority would perpetually be called into question. For Filipino nurses that took part in the colonial medical project they had to occupy a liminal space that both simultaneously validated and invalidated their knowledge. The dilemma of recognition was an issue that all Filipino migrants in the U.S. faced which created a constant state of surveillance within the community abroad. While some crumbled under the pressure of constant policing other Filipinos used it to challenge the U.S. colonial project. At infant mortality health conferences, Filipino medical practitioners asserted their own medical authority. Even though these conferences were the same sites where both colonial and native medical practitioners invalidated nurse knowledge, nurses used it to legitimize native authority and the medical authority of women.

Christine Peralta is a Masters candidate at the Department of History, University of British Columbia. Her research focuses on health and migration.

All About My Mothers: The Work of Kinship and Gender in the Migration Practices of My Family

Dada Docot

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Using self-reflexive autobiographic writing, and my family as an ethnographic case, I look into the complex practices of kinship and gender as the intimate avenues that provide an insight into the contemporary dynamics of Filipino migration. In this paper, I introduce the 'three matriarchs' in my family, who hold the positions of power in the three different 'sites' of home. They have filled the vacuum left by the passing of the former patriarch of the family, my grandfather *Tatay* (literally 'father'), who, without ever moving out of our hometown in Camarines Sur, and despite his humble beginnings as a street peddler, managed to build a successful bamboo basket and furniture business, which operated from the early 1960s until the 1990s. The process of devolution of power within the family started with his death in 1992, and was completed upon the passing of my grandmother *Nanay* (literally 'mother') in 2006. I argue in this paper that the maintenance of these 'homes', and the assignment of gendered roles for each site was, and continues to be, necessary for the maintenance and propagation of kin unity and kin success. In the case of my mother and her siblings, who grew up in the post-war/post-American/post-colonial period, individual success is largely defined by the achievement of education, which is a reflection of the US 'policy of benevolent assimilation' of the Philippines during the colonial period, which placed an accent on the production of professionals, white-collar workers, and technical specialists through educational reform. Likewise, I argue that in the case of my family's migration, the assignment of gendered status, such as 'surrogate motherhood', should be understood according to traditional kinship patterns, and must thus be seen as a markedly localised practice of kinship.

Dada Docot is a PhD student in Anthropology at the University of British Columbia (UBC). She is also a visual artist whose photographic and film works focus on Filipino overseas migration. She is the initiator of the UBC Philippine Studies Series based at the UBC Liu Institute for Global Issues. Her research on Filipinos in Japan is funded by the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Dada received her MA in Human Security Studies-Anthropology from the University of Tokyo while on Japanese Government Scholarship.

Movements In/Across Space: Student Migrants in Singapore and Their Stories of Youth, Transition, and Futurity

Cheng Yi'En

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In the past few years, scholars are beginning to focus on students as embodied actors in the globalising spaces of education. My research builds on this existing literature by focusing on young student migrants' experiences of transnational migration and education with an emphasis on their everyday social relations and negotiations. This paper unpacks the ways in which education and migration intersect to produce specific stories about 'growing up' as both students and migrants. I argue that the construction of these stories are closely intertwined with their intimate experiences of time and space in relation to different scales, sites, and subjects. Drawing on recent geographical contributions on critical theories of time-space, I frame student migrant's experiences of 'growing up' as a process of transition marked by past, present, and future trajectories; rhythmic and power geometries of time; and felt textures of temporality. In doing so, I show how geographies of student migration – be it moving away and back, moving with and against, or moving forward – constantly operate alongside temporal horizons, routines, rhythms, and pace in the making of student migrants' stories about going abroad for study, experiencing new environments, and projecting future plans to go home (or not). This study draws on the narratives of 30 Southeast Asian students pursuing higher education in Singapore through in-depth interviews and solicited journals.

Cheng Yi'En is a research scholar at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore. He previously obtained a Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) from the same institution. His research interests span across the social and cultural geographies of migration, intimacy, and time. His current research topic is on Southeast Asian international students in Singapore, exploring their diverse experiences of both time and space as young transnational migrants on the move. He has also written and published works on transnational masculinities in international marriages, money and marriage migration, social cohesion in Singapore, and family migration.

Fixities and Fluidities of Citizenship and Migration Decision Making: Listening Closely to the 'Malaysian Diaspora'

Sin Yee Koh

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Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister has recently called the Malaysian diaspora an 'asset' with which the country seeks to 'cooperate with and hopefully entice to return in the near future'. Yet, who *is* the 'Malaysian diaspora'; why *would* they want to return; what are the *fixities and fluidities* of their citizenship and migration decisions; and how are these *negotiated* and *translated* into actual mobilities? In this paper, I problematise the term 'Malaysian diaspora' by giving voice to narratives of tertiary-educated Malaysian-born professionals in Singapore and overseas returnees to Malaysia. I argue that this is important in order to understand how such brain drain emigrations and return migrations are complex, nuanced and contradictory negotiations at the scale of the migrant actor(s). Specifically, I examine how the respondents conceptualise their mobilities; how they think of themselves as migrants and/or citizens during their migration trajectories; and the intersections of fixed/fluid emotional and rational factors in their citizenship and migration decisions. By listening closely to these shifting fixities and fluidities, I seek to understand how the 'Malaysian diaspora' negotiate and rationalise their lives within, between, and across borders as they live out their planned and unplanned mobile lives. This paper concludes with some theoretical and methodological reflections.

Sin Yee Koh is a PhD candidate in Human Geography at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Her research interests are in migration, citizenship, urbanisation and social change in East and South-east Asia. She is currently working on her PhD thesis, provisionally titled 'Emotional geographies of skilled diasporic citizenship: Malaysians in London, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur', which takes a structuration approach in examining citizenship and migration decisions of tertiary-educated Malaysians in the three locations. Concurrently, she is a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GY302 Urban Development: Politics, Policy and Planning); Membership Secretary and Office Manager for the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism (ASEN); and Research Assistant for 'Social Legacy of Mega-Events: The Case of 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games in China'.
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Producing or Managing Expectations?: The Subjectivity of British Corporate Expatriates in Singapore

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This paper considers the subjectivity of corporate British Expatriates in Singapore. It seeks to contribute to a growing set of literature looking at this type of temporary skilled international migrant. However, the overwhelming focus of this literature is of expatriates in situ, that is in the space of stay abroad. In this paper, I will argue that the subjectivity of British Expatriates in Singapore is made, in part, through the processes by which they get sent abroad. The processes that this paper focuses on are those associated with the management of the Expatriates' move, specifically the information provided to them by their managers and other popular guides about how to be an expatriate.

The first section of my paper will look at how culture shock is assumed to be an integral part of the expatriate experience. This I argue helps to produce the subjectivity of British expatriates in Singapore. Firstly, it produces expectations of Singapore and Singaporean culture, creating an imaginary of what living and working in Singapore will be like. Secondly, it teaches the British expatriate what the expected behaviours of being a British expatriate in Singapore are.

Sophie Cranston has a long-standing interest in understanding expatriation; I was born in Luxembourg to British parents and have a family that have enjoyed international careers. It was when I pursued my undergraduate degree at the University of St Andrews that this interest in expatriates became academic. For my undergraduate dissertation I looked at imperial nostalgia among British Expats in Kuala Lumpur. This interest in expatriates was developed in my Masters degree at the University of Edinburgh where I began to look at the Global Mobility Industry. This acted as a pilot project for my PhD research on International Assignments and the Global Mobility Industry. My PhD research looks at whether the way in which international assignments are understood is changing as they become seen as an opportunity associated with the war on talent. This looks at how HR departments and the Global Mobility Industry produce and utilise knowledges about international assignments- that management processes produce an idealised notion of what an international assignee should be like. With a focus on British international assignees in Singapore, I am looking at how and whether these ideas relate to how international assignees understand themselves as assignees.

A Minority Challenging Multiculturalism: The Social Conservatism of Cantonese-Speaking Evangelical Christians in Metro Vancouver

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Studies of transnationality in the Asia-Pacific region have recently focused on migration through a given social field over the lifecourse, some nodes centred on education, others on work (Waters 2002; Ley and Kobayashi 2005; Preston et al 2006; Waters 2006; Ley 2010; Lin 2011). While such approaches rightly highlight these migrants' ties to their places of origin, they seldom explore their commitments to their new destination nation-states. Using qualitative data collected from 40 key informant interviews and four focus groups in Metro Vancouver, this paper demonstrates that one particular, influential migrant group in Vancouver—migrants from Hong Kong who are of evangelical Christian faith—are in fact more committed to Canada than Hong Kong. However, their involvement in Canadian civil society, far from celebrating Canada's multicultural policy, has sought to challenge multiculturalism on the grounds that their rights of religious freedoms and parental choices in their children's education have been overshadowed by agendas concerning gender and sexuality. Such political voices have included journalistic postings in English- and Chinese-language media in Vancouver, activist organisations such as the Canadian Alliance for Social Justice and Family Values, and the success of Cantonese-speaking evangelical Christian candidates for the Conservative Party in federal elections. Given such a wide range of political participation, I argue that the social conservatism of Hongkonger evangelicals, while contextualised by a transnational social field, signifies an attempted integration into Canadian civil society *by challenging* the state's multicultural policy. This paper advances discussions of fixities and fluidities in Asia-Pacific migrations by outlining the development of a socio-political agenda by transnational migrants for their destination countries, not only their places of origin.

Justin Tse holds a B.A. (Hon.) in History and an M.A. in Geography from UBC. He is a Ph.D. Candidate in Human Geography at the University of British Columbia at Vancouver (UBC). His research interests revolve around geographies of religion in the Pacific region. He reads broadly around the intersection of religion and social theory, grounded studies of religion and secularism in space, transnational and international migrations and ethnicities in the Pacific region, the political movements and cultural politics of Asian Pacific America and Asian Canada, and urban geographies in the Pacific region. He has been a recipient of numerous awards, including the History Students' Association Prize for his undergraduate work in History, the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Master's Award from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada, the Edgar Wickberg Prize in Chinese Canadian History from the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of British Columbia, and a four-year University Graduate Fellowship from UBC.

**The Men Who Are Building Singapore?:
Market Actors, Racialization and the Decline of Thai Workers
in Singapore's Construction Industry Labour Market**

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A report on Thai construction workers prepared in the mid-1990s referred to them as the "The Men who Built Singapore". Indeed in the early '90s, Thais surpassed Malaysians to become the most numerically dominant nationality group in Singapore's construction workforce. Yet by the late '90s, the proportionate dominance of Thais began to decline as South Asian and Chinese workers made increasing inroads into the construction industry labor market. Drawing from ongoing interviews and archival research, my paper delineates the current position of Thai workers in Singapore's construction industry labour market and attempts to discern the reasons for the industry's reduced reliance upon this nationality group. I first describe the extent to which historical migration flows, Thai government policy and processes of 'racialisation'—a discourse which posits that nationality may be used as a shorthand for determining work ethic and skill—have contributed to the construction of 'Thai labour' as a distinct type of labour. I then consider how various market actors—workers, employers, employment agencies, training centres and government regulators—are implicated in the proportionate decline of Thais in the construction industry labour market. I suggest that careful attention to the decline of Thai nationals is important for what it reveals about how the costs and benefits of labour migration are determined by and distributed amongst market actors.

Katie Rainwater has an MA in Southeast Asian Studies Program from the National University of Singapore. In August 2011 she will begin her PhD in the Sociology Department at the same university. She is in the early stages of a comparative research project on Thai and Bangladeshi labour which she plans to expand for her doctoral research.

Fluid Fixities and Fixed Fluidities: The Mobility of Migrant Merchants Under the White Australia Policy

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Much of the history of the Chinese overseas in the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century is a history of capital and global actors in constant motion through and within the waters of the Pacific. As myriad merchants, traders, and labourers moved across the oceans, they built long-standing and complex economic, social, and cultural relationships which resulted in a far-reaching web of global networks constructed for purposes of trade and migration. Though migration was, indeed, shaped by *fixities* and *fluidities* as the conference theme suggests, migration also played its part in shaping those *fixities* and *fluidities*. This much is evident in the mobility of migrant merchants traveling despite the legislation of the Immigration Restriction Act 1901 and the regulations falling under the White Australia Policy.

This paper suggests that the primary concerns of migrant merchants were simply to navigate a space bounded by the confines of their decisions, interactions, and activities, all of which took place outside of, or in some cases in defiance of, the geographic and political boundaries of the nation-state. In order to land at their destinations or be guaranteed entry upon return, migrant merchant travelers had to navigate varying systems of policies and ensure that they had the correct documents before embarking on each voyage. The regulations of the Immigration Restriction Act 1901 were understood and navigated, much like how the oceans were divided into travel routes and traversed.

As the bureaucratic processes controlling travel under the White Australia Policy evolved, so too, did the responses of the migrant merchant travelers. Despite the restrictive policies that were put in place to regulate and inhibit the movement of capital and bodies during this time, global actors were still able to forge ahead, plotting their courses across the Pacific, all the while, making connections between far-away lands and distant homes.

Heidi H. Kong is a Ph.D. Candidate in History at The University of British Columbia. In the past two years, her research has taken her to cities in China, Australia, and New England, as well as to Singapore and Hong Kong. She is currently using an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating cultural history with critical geography, to theorize about a nineteenth-century global China. Her aim is to write a history of Asia and the Pacific that takes us beyond the era of the dominant nation-state.

'If You Don't Know Your Heritage, Then You Will Be Lost': Negotiating Mixedness Around Race in Singapore

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Present-day Singapore boasts a diverse population: a legacy of colonial rule and significant migration. With this diversity has come an increasing level of intermarriage across racial and ethnic groups. Despite this blurring of boundaries, Singapore's multiracial ideology is based on separate, racialised groups, leaving little room for identities which cannot be so easily categorised. This paper explores how the children of intermarriage negotiate their identities and feelings of belonging in the Singaporean context. Drawing on 20 in-depth, narrative interviews with individuals of mixed Chinese-European descent, this research looks at a key outcome of migration: individuals with multiple national, cultural and ethnic ties, who have never known anything else.

Personal narratives illustrate how individuals work to locate themselves in society when they are dislocated by others, and how commonality can be found in difference. These stories describe multiple ways of understanding 'home', as individuals of mixed descent find a symbolic space and a physical place in which to belong. The recent state acknowledgements of mixedness serve to highlight the continued dissonance between fluid identities and fixed racial categories, as well as the unique balance of racialised choice and constraint in Singapore. However, they also show the creative and flexible ways in which people are able to cross boundaries, and the everyday negotiations between aspects of heritage, experience, community and nation in defining identity.

Zarine L. Rocha is a Research Scholar in the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore. Originally from New Zealand, she has a BA from the University of Canterbury, and an MSc from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She worked at the United Nations in Switzerland from 2004 to 2009, focusing on issues of identity and social conflict. Currently, she is conducting research for her PhD, looking at "mixed race" and state classification in New Zealand and Singapore.

New Chinese Immigrants, New Networks, and the Rise of the Migration Industry in Singapore

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While migration has been widely conceptualised as a socio-cultural phenomenon in Sociology and the social sciences, lesser attention has been given to the perspectives of business or industry growth. Yet, given the prevalent labour flows today, coupled with the prevailing demand for migrant labour across the skill spectrum, migration is increasingly a business-oriented activity. This paper discusses new immigration in light of the institutional perspectives. It argues that the unique characteristic of immigration today lies in the ways it has been institutionalised – through businesses and government policies. This paper thus suggests that there is growing prominence of the migration industry in Singapore. I use the case of new Chinese immigrants to illustrate this. First, I make a case for a “new Chinese immigration” by highlighting the new migratory patterns and argue that migration today has taken on a more business-oriented and corporate character. Second, I suggest that this is so due to changing network dynamics amongst Chinese immigrants. By drawing upon network perspectives, I argue that there is an increase in the dependence on institutionalised migration networks, concomitant with a decrease in the reliance on personal migration networks, and these work together to fuel a migration industry. These network dynamics provide some reasons for the growing migration industry in Singapore. Overall, this paper suggests that new network dynamics undergird new patterns of Chinese immigration, and together these create the conditions for a flourishing migration industry. The paper thus problematises three notions: “new immigration”, “migration networks” and the “migration industry”.

Mabel Seah is a Masters candidate in Sociology at the National University of Singapore. Her research interests are in immigrant integration, networks and organisations. This paper is part of her Masters thesis which deals with New Immigration. This project is funded by the Ministry of Home Affairs through the Home Team Research Award 2010-2012, under the category of Citizenship (New Immigrants: issues of Integration into Singapore Society and Impact on Social Cohesion).

POST-CONFERENCE ROUNDTABLE

Fixities and Fluidities: Citizenship Worlds in Motion

February 21, 2012

AS7 Seminar Rooms A-C, Shaw Foundation Building

National University of Singapore

4:45 – 6:45 pm with Reception to Follow

In recent decades, labour markets around the globe have undergone enormous change and more migrants than ever are relocating to take advantage of employment opportunities. Increasingly, highly-skilled migrants are able to select their destinations of choice from multiple options. As result, states must compete for desirable migrants. More and more, governments are looking at citizenship issues within a transnational framework and exploring the implications of citizenship requirements for both migrant-sending as well as migrant-receiving countries.

Join a distinguished group policymakers and academics from both sides of the Pacific to discuss citizenship policy and the implications for state relations and migrant mobility.

PRESENTERS:

Ms. Caroline Guimond, Canadian High Commission (Singapore)

Dr. Elaine Ho, Department of Geography, NUS (Singapore)

Dr. Leong Chan-Hoong, Institute for Policy Studies (Singapore)

Dr. Shirley Hsiao-Li Sun, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)

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