

**East Asian Migration:
Implications for Development and Diversity**

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SESSION ABSTRACTS

Section A. Migration, Development, and Diversity

1. East Asian Migration in Comparative Perspective

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This paper provides an introduction to some of the issues involved in migration to and from East Asia, but with a focus on the implications for a broader, more comparative understanding of transnational migration. The comments are in four parts: first, a brief overview of contemporary migration; second, the potential of comparing migrant groups in different countries (e.g., Vietnamese in Japan and Korea; Chinese in Korea and Singapore); third, the way cross-national comparison illuminates the divergent meanings of “multicultural”; and, fourth, the multiple ways that migration issues overlap with national population and labor issues. East Asia’s contribution to a more global comparative consideration of contemporary migration is crucial in several ways. For example, Japan and Korea provide a contrast to countries in Europe and North America that have more porous borders and more extensive immigration. The situation in China, in which much internal migration is similar in structure to transnational migration in North America and Europe, provides another example. As a final example, the concurrent existence of significant flows both into and out of East Asian countries may be a useful guide to the kinds of simultaneous emigration and immigration that increasingly characterize global migration flows.

Keywords: East Asia, migration, cross-national comparison

2. Human Movement in the East Asian Region: Drivers and Obstacles

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This paper provides an overview of human movement in East Asia (China, South Korea, Japan), examining in turn the postwar period, the present situation, and possible future trends. It argues that all three countries exhibit broadly similar patterns though on different time scales. The pattern experienced by Japan in the 1960s was to some extent later repeated in Korea and also in China from the onset of economic reform in the late 1970s, after a delay created by the political upheavals from the Great Leap Forward onwards. The paper examines the impact on human movement of such factors as land reform, state policies towards agriculture, bureaucratic controls, and the process of industrialization. It ends with a consideration of future trends in the three countries, given present demographic parameters, environmental concerns, and the regional division of labor.

Keywords: East Asia, migration, cross-national comparison

3. Development of Immigrant NGOs in Japan and Korea: Convergence and Divergence

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Following an influx of immigrant workers nearly two decades ago, Japan and Korea adopted similar immigration policies characterized by tight border controls, absence of contract labor systems, and large numbers of de facto immigrant workers with few entitlements. These immigrant workers include industrial trainees, undocumented residents, and foreign nationals whose ancestors had once been members of the host population (e.g., Japanese-Brazilians in Japan and Korean-Chinese in Korea). Japan and Korea also share democratic constitutions that permit relatively high degrees of political freedom for civil activism. Despite many such convergent characteristics, Japan and Korea differ significantly from one another in the nature, form, and intensity of civil activism on behalf of immigrant workers. Consequently, the impact of civil activism on public policy formulation varies between the two countries. Based on the English language literature and recent research in Japan and Korea, this paper will examine for the two countries: (1) convergent patterns in immigration policies, immigrant populations, and democratic spaces for civil society; and (2) the divergent nature, form, and intensity of NGO activities, and their influence on immigration policies.

Keywords: Japan, Korea, migration, NGOs, civil society

4. Imagining Chungking Mansions

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Chungking Mansions is a dilapidated 17-story building full of cheap guesthouses, restaurants, and cut-rate businesses, located in Hong Kong's tourist district that serves as the center of "low-end globalization" in Hong Kong and throughout the world. It is where entrepreneurs from Asia and sub-Saharan Africa come to seek their fortunes, and it is where tourists from across the world seek dirt-cheap accommodations. In this paper I explore not just what Chungking Mansions is, but more, how it is culturally imagined. Chungking Mansions is viewed as a den of iniquity by many Hong Kong Chinese, who may be too terrified to ever enter the building. It is seen as a safe first-world perch from which to behold the exotic "third world" by some developed world tourists, and simply as a cheap place to stay in expensive Hong Kong by other tourists, some of whom come to Chungking Mansions thinking it is Chinese, and are startled by what they find. On the other hand, Chungking Mansions is imagined by many in cities such as Kolkata, Kathmandu, Nairobi, and Lagos, and throughout the developing world as a beacon of hope, a place where one might make one's fortune and never again be poor – a dream that, for a very few, comes true, and for many more, forever eludes them. All these imaginings collide in the narrow corridors of Chungking Mansions. In this paper I explore these collisions.

Keywords: Hong Kong, migration, globalization

5. Multiple Narratives on Migration in Vietnam and Their Methodological Implications

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This paper analyzes the narratives of both migrants to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and their family members back home on the reasons for migration. These narratives were collected as a part of a large-scale study of migrants in Ho Chi Minh City and four sending communities in two different regions of Vietnam. On one level, the divergence in narratives involves one of the three following scenarios: (a) the parent/caretaker's encouragement of migration as a solution to the migrant's (potential) wayward behavior; (b) the migrant's personal dream or aspiration or peculiar circumstances not acknowledged by his/her parent; and (c) the migrant's emphasis on his/her decision to migrate as a sacrifice to help solving economic difficulties in the family, in contrast to parents' de-emphasis of family difficulties and stress on accepting migration for the good of the migrant. On another level, all three types of narrative divergence, as well as most cases of narrative convergence, center on a dominant moral framework for family life. It is a model of filial children and caring parents, all of whom are supposed to consider the welfare of other family members to be of foremost importance, and the separation through migration to be undesirable. In the conclusion, I explore the implications of the

significant differences in the narratives of the members of the same households for research methodology on migration, both in anthropology and in other social sciences.

Keywords: Vietnam, migration, personal narratives, methodology

Section B. The Meaning of Migration: Continuity and Change

6. Trading and Adopting Children in Vietnam: Rereading Andre Baudrit's *Betail Humain. Rapt, Vente, Infanticide dans l'Indochine Francaise et dans la Chine du Sud*

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An historical perspective is fundamental to comprehending the modern phenomenon of selling and adopting children that, should we believe colonial administrators, was widespread in the Indochinese peninsula a century ago. Far from having disappeared, trading human beings occurs today in the same places and following similar patterns to those described in the 1940s by Andre Baudrit in his pioneering book *Le Betail humain*. Attending to this historical continuity reveals that human trafficking reflects cultural specificities as much as contemporary economic or geopolitical aspects of globalization. The discussion is in two parts. First, the paper will first address child trafficking in colonial Vietnam, from the late 19th century to the early 1940s, based on diverse historical sources. This account will focus on the perspectives of trafficked children as well as kidnappers and pirates operating both in the Gulf of Tonkin and along the land border. National and transnational child trafficking flows will be described by indicating the main commercial routes and passage sites, as well as the purposes of such transactions: prostitution, concubinage, adoption. Second, the paper will address symbolic sales and adoptions of children in colonial Tonkin and in contemporary Southern Vietnam. André Baudrit resuscitated three papers written by Nguyễn Văn Khoan in the 1930s that describe therapeutic sales of children to divinities or human benefactors. As shown by other authors from the colonial period as well as by ongoing ethnography in An Giang Province, transactions to third entities of new-born threatened by astrological incompatibilities or evil forces are staged in spectacular rituals aiming to change social and filiation relations.

Keywords: Vietnam, migration, trafficking, colonialism

7. Migration and Mobility among Ethnic Minorities and Vietnamese in the Uplands of Vietnam

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The uplands of Vietnam have been significantly transformed in the past fifty years by large waves of ethnic Vietnamese (known as Kinh) in-migration, both government-sponsored and spontaneous. At the same time as this large scale migration has occurred,

ethnic minorities who long resided in the uplands have been subject to sedentarization policies to limit their movement for agricultural production or other reasons. According to the government, these national migration policies aim to develop socio-economic conditions, strengthen national defense and security, and decrease the economic gap between regions and ethnic groups through redistribution of populations. In reality, migration policy has had a number of unintended consequences as well. This paper will provide an overview of patterns of ethnic minority migration in Vietnam, as they have been very different than the primarily government-sponsored migration for Kinh. Many minority groups have experienced very little social or physical mobility in recent years and consider themselves disadvantaged as compared to Kinh migrants. This paper explores what the impact of this limited mobility has been for minorities, particularly in terms of poverty impacts.

Keywords: Vietnam, internal migration, minorities

8. A Transnational Community and Its Impact on the Local Power Relations in Urban China

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This paper examines the formation of “Koreatown” in Beijing and its influence on the changing power dynamics in a local community of post-Mao China. Wangjing West Garden in Beijing has been known as “Koreatown” (Hanguocheng: 韩国城) since 2002 with more than 20,000 South Korean citizens living with local Chinese side by side. Based on ethnographic fieldwork from 2002 to 2004, and 2006, this paper illustrates how South Korean residents have continuously reevaluated their ethnic and national identity and invested their economic and cultural capital to recreate a Korean environment in their apartments, restaurants, and kindergartens. This transformation of a local Chinese neighborhood by foreign expatriates has also brought new opportunities and challenges to the local community in which government officials, Chinese landlords, apartment owners, and migrant workers have competed, allied, and negotiated to enhance their political and economic interests in reform China. While demonstrating the process of making “Koreatown” as an ongoing negotiation between South Korean and Chinese residents in everyday life, this paper emphasizes a significant and increasing impact by foreigners on the local politics of post-Mao urban China.

Keywords: Korea, China, migration, neighborhoods

9. Trans-modern Relocation of South Koreans: From American Dream to Asian and World Dreams

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Since the United States government changed its immigration policy and the United States started accepting large numbers of South Korean immigrants in 1965, over 1,000,000 South Koreans have immigrated to America. In addition, over 600,000 South Koreans are

living in China and over 100,000 South Korean newcomers are living in Japan. Today, these migrants can find their families, relatives, or friends in foreign countries, and their way of thinking about migration contrasts with that of migrants in the 1970s. Through their personal networking, they now can communicate with each other, obtain information about other countries, relocate to other places, and gain employment. This phenomenon of globalization enables South Koreans (as well as many other people throughout the world) to move beyond conventional ideas of immigration and emigration and instead become network agents who can transcend national boundaries and establish networks based on personal ties. My discussion is based on such network agents and focuses chiefly on the description and analysis of South Korean newcomers in Japan.

Keywords: Japan, Korea, China, migration, minorities

10. Filipina Singers in South Korea: A Paradox of “Doing a Job Professionally” as Filipina Entertainment Migrants

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Entertainment migrants in Korea have always been dominated by Filipino nationals since the late 1980s, but the group has been rapidly feminized since the late 1990s. In Korea, where employing live-in domestic helpers is uncommon, the entertainment sector has become the typical area that represents “feminization of migration.” In this paper, I plan to describe and analyze the lives of Filipina singers and some aspects of their live performances. These include the meaning of being a professional singer, the context of performance in terms of nationality (that is, the stage comprises Filipina singers, Western and Korean pop songs, Korean and other Asian audiences), and the difficulties of nurturing a family given these women’s captive position between two countries.

Keywords: Philippines, Korea, migration, entertainment

Section C. Marriage: Crossing Physical Borders and Social Boundaries

11. Cross-border Alliances between Vietnamese Women and Chinese Men (Yunnan-Guangxi): The Impact of Popular Representations of Conjugal Roles

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At the Sino-Vietnamese border, many cross-border marriages happen. This is not a new phenomenon, but it is currently often analyzed from an economic or a demographic perspective – often linked with illegal behavior issues – but rarely analyzed from the perspective of those individuals directly involved: their ideals, feelings, and cultural expectations. My present research aims to approach these alliances from such a complementary perspective. While giving a more balanced picture of the issue by evoking the historical continuity of the practice, the significance of local traditions, and

the influence of international migration on marriage, this presentation will also introduce some first findings concerning the perspectives of the couples in existing families (whatever the economic transactions surrounding their initial meeting), the perceptions these men and women have of each other (before, during, and after the experience of marriage), and how these representations influence other community members' choices in their private lives and in the changing social and economic environment on both sides of the Sino-Vietnamese border.

Keywords: China, Vietnam, migration, marriage

12. Women Marriage Migrants and the Negotiation/Tension of Nation-State: The Case of South Korea

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This paper aims to problematize the marriage of migrant women, particularly involving their sexuality and their role in the reproduction of nationality and kinship. If women are seen as a resource for reproducing nation and state in both the biological and social senses, how does the discourse of women's reproduction and sexuality shift when the women involved are foreigners? In order to deal with these issues, this paper explores the way in which the Korean government has changed the regulations regarding nationality in order to accommodate the increase of international marriages between Korean men and women from such other Asian countries as China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Mongolia, and Thailand. At the same time, by presenting ethnographic data on a rural village where some Korean men married women from other "Asian" countries, this paper examines how village life has been changed by the appearance of these women and how the men in these international marriages – often arranged by international marriage agencies – deal with their transnational kinship.

Keywords: Korea, migration, marriage, policy

13. China's Female Marriage Migration: For Love or No?

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With the implementation of the reform and opening-up policies, China has loosened its strict household registration system and allowed large scale internal migration. Since the 1980s, female marriage migration has been on the rise. In this paper, based on China's 1990 and 2000 censuses and ad hoc sample surveys, we analyze the trend of China's female internal marriage migration, the mechanisms behind its eastward movement, the marriage patterns, and the consequences for the males who are left behind. We find that: (1) Female marriage migration accounts for between a quarter and a third of all female migration, and for over half the female migration from the western poorer provinces to eastern coastal provinces. (2) "Push-pull" theory helps explain the eastward movement. Women first begin their migration as migrant workers. When possible, women

themselves then use marriage to escape poverty-stricken homes and to move up through the spatial hierarchy to more prosperous areas. (3) Resource exchange theory helps explain the marriage patterns. In order to marry into the prosperous communities, females usually marry people with certain kinds of disadvantage, disability or poverty, for example. (4) In areas with the loss of female migrants, men who are left behind as “bare branches” encounter great difficulty finding spouses. Such villages pose long-term problems for Chinese society.

Keywords: China, migration, marriage

14. Restored Masculinity and Transnational Convertibility in the Vietnamese Diaspora

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This paper takes up the varied ways in which Vietnamese working class immigrant men restore and remake class and masculinity in the context of massive changes in the new global economy, particularly in the transitional economy of Vietnam. I focus on how overseas Vietnamese, or Viet Kieu, men have used the opportunities of globalization since the Doi Moi economic reform to return to Vietnam for marital partners. I take a critical global approach by asking why and how some overseas Vietnamese immigrant men use globalization as a gender strategy to restore masculinity in late capitalism through the convertibility of wage differentials between the first and the third world. This convertibility allows these men to recuperate from a loss of status as a result of migration, and this convertibility makes it possible for them to use cultural origin to identify a specific marriage market in their home country. I engage with the scholarly work on the “gendering of transnational spaces” in the new global economy, particularly concerns raised by scholars doing work on the impact of “immigration” on countries of origin, such as Vietnam. The central point of this paper is that instead of being a social equalizer that empowers all migrants alike, transnational practices can at times reproduce, and perhaps even amplify, gender inequalities. This paper draws on fieldwork and in-depth interviews with 129 individuals conducted in the United States and in Vietnam.

Keywords: Vietnam, migration, marriage, globalization

Section D. Asians Beyond Asia – and Back Again

15. Transnational Migrants, Social Capital, and the Global Economy: The Chinese High Tech Professionals in Silicon Valley

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In the past twenty years, the new transnational Chinese migrants have become a significant labor force in the high-tech industries in the San Francisco Bay area. They differ from the old immigrants in terms of geographical origins, education, occupation,

the mode of border crossing movements, and the nature of their social capital. There are now about 25,000 Chinese high-tech professionals and 2,400 Chinese companies in Silicon Valley, to the south of the city of San Francisco. This paper exams the role they play in the globalization of high-tech industry, the multiplier effects in the local economy, and the flow/circulation of talents in different parts of the world. Instead of seeing “brain-drain,” the paper shows the phenomenon of “distribution of brain power.” The transnational Chinese brought with them both talents and social capital which help transform the economy and cultural landscape of Silicon Valley.

Keywords: China, USA, migration, entrepreneurship

16. Career Development and the Experience of Family Life among Immigrant Korean Women in New York City

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The family is an important resource for immigrants not only in beginning a new life but also in developing a career in a foreign country. The role of parents is pivotal for immigrant children to adjust to a foreign environment, especially among Korean families where close ties between parents and children are much emphasized. Immigrant children face challenges in juggling new family values, which they adopt from a new environment, and old ones, which their parents maintain. This paper will explore how Korean women, who are taking a leadership role in New York City, have experienced family life and have been influenced by their parents. The paper will also compare their views on “traditional” family values including such issues as patriarchy, son preference, filial piety, parent support, and virginity, with the views of their parents who have lived in Korea for all or most of their lives. This study is based on a review of the literature and interviews conducted in 2005 with Korean women in New York City.

Keywords: Korea, USA, migration, marriage, family

17. Emigration, Exile, and Exodus: Overseas Vietnamese Communities from the Perspective of Indigenous Religions

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Research in California with Vietnamese immigrants who follow the indigenous religion of Caodaism has revealed that they invest their experiences of fleeing Vietnam and forming new congregations in the diaspora with a spiritual significance: They have been given the religious mission of spreading their faith to the rest of the world. Recent Vietnamese and English language publications in California describe Caodaists as missionaries who must show Americans how the “three great Asian traditions” of Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism can absorb Christianity (since Jesus is the son of the Jade Emperor Cao Dai) and be relevant to a modern globalized millenarianism, in which the postcolonial era of Asian ascendance is also the Third Great Age of universal

salvation. This paper looks at ways in which the experience of exile is narrated in relation to a new theodicy explaining the fall of Saigon as part of a divine mechanism to eventually unite all world religions together. It also examines the cultural adjustments that this religious vision requires in the American setting.

Keywords: Vietnam, USA, migration, religion

18. Globalization, Development, and Class Formation: Chinese Trans-regional Migration and Franco-Chinese Transmigration

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This paper is an examination of the ways in which forces of development in the age of globalization are implicated in the dynamics of contemporary movements of people both within and across borders. By focusing on the case of Chinese trans-regional migration and Franco-Chinese transmigration, the paper explores the complex links between migration and class formation in China, a nation that since the 1980s has been set on a course to join the world of global capitalism. In particular, the paper explores the ways in which the proliferation of relations mediated by the market realized through official policies of “reform” and “opening” has intensified the processes of trans-regional and transnational migration. I argue that the drive to develop a socialist market economy by transforming socialist relations to capitalist relations in both agriculture and industry has increased class differentiation and provoked a crisis of reproduction for a new class of the dispossessed. While trans-regional and transnational migration are often pursued as social and economic strategies to resolve the crisis of reproduction and should serve to stem the problem of class polarization, I argue that migration in its various forms also paradoxically contributes toward sustaining social differentiation.

Keywords: China, France, migration, globalization

19. Expatriates Go Transnational in the Era of South Korean Globalization

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The Korean government and the Korean people have long had a complicated relationship with Korea’s emigrant population. Over the past fifty years, in particular, the South Korean government has adopted a wide range of policies of varying effectiveness to help integrate overseas Koreans into South Korea’s economic development and globalization. Given this historical and social structural background, we examine the stories of 137 Korean Americans who visited South Korea and explore the question, “Can Korean Americans really go home?” The relationship between these Korean Americans and South Koreans is grounded in a shifting relationship between the U.S. and South Korea based on an increasing trafficking of images, commodities, capital, and mutual

accusations between these two countries. These transnational processes produce identities that differentiate the diasporic population from the population of the homeland in terms of race, nation, culture, and language. Furthermore, factors such as generation, gender, class, and degrees of mobility produce varied relationships for Korean Americans with the homeland. Korean Americans who reported negative experiences in South Korea attributed such experiences to South Koreans' ambivalence, discomfort, and insecurity in assessing their positions and strategies in relation to the often rocky relationship between South Korea and the U.S., the global hegemony of the English language, and Korean immigration to the U.S. Nonetheless, Korean Americans' temporary stays in South Korea seemed to meet their original expectations. Many reported that they gained a deeper understanding of their immigrant parents and their family backgrounds, and arrived at a more inclusive, yet loosely defined understanding of the transnational Korean community.

Keywords: Korea, USA, migration, diaspora