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CITIZENSHIP AND MIGRATION

Guest Editor: Apichai W. Shipper

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ABSTRACTS

**Introduction: Politics of Citizenship
and Transnational Gendered Migration in East and Southeast Asia**

Apichai W. Shipper

The concept of citizenship is fluid and constructed. State actors, societal actors, and courts play important roles in the construction and reconstruction of formal, substantive, and differentiated citizenship. The recent arrival of transnational gendered migration from neighbouring countries to East and Southeast Asia challenges pre-existing assumptions about how political communities are defined and how new members should be treated. This introductory chapter proposes an analytical framework to understand the politics of citizenship and transnational gendered migration within the context of East and Southeast Asia.

**Outlawed Children: Japanese Filipino Children,
Legal Defiance and Ambivalent Citizenships**

Nobue Suzuki

Recently, many scholars have studied the burgeoning number of intimate relationships involving global migrations of people. They have demonstrated that cross-border liaisons of mixed nationalities are born not simply out of “love” but also of inequalities and power struggles occurring at crisscrossed intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, class and nationality. Yet, the existing literature on these associations has thus far tended to focus on adult relationships, and studies on children born to these couples continue to be scarce, especially, when children are born out of wedlock to border-crossing parents, the children’s citizenship and other rights complicate the existing social system and may challenge national sovereignty. Based on ethnographic research conducted in the 2000s among children born to unwed Filipino women and Japanese men (JFC), this article details the processes of JFC’s lawsuits against the Japanese state in order to reinstate their once-denied Japanese nationality. It then discusses some of the implications of their defiance to the state power for these children’s citizenships beyond political entitlements by introducing several cases of the experiences of the children who grew up in Japan and those who recently gained entry to their pátria without fathers.

**Rethinking Belongingness in Korea:
Transnational Migration, “Migrant Marriages” and the Politics of Multiculturalism**

Timothy Lim

Korean identity—based on a conflation of race and ethnicity—has been generally accepted as an unquestioned fact and closely associated with rights to citizenship and belongingness in Korean society: “non-Koreans” have simply and unabashedly been excluded from membership in South Korea. However, the now three-decades-old surge in transnational migration is beginning to erode the once-solid myth of South Korea’s homogeneity, and with it, the taken-for-granted belief that South Korea is only for Koreans. Moreover, the dramatic increase in international marriages, especially those between a Korean male and a “foreign bride,” bring an added dimension to transnational migration in South Korea, one in which questions of identity, citizenship, and belongingness must be directly addressed. The process of social transformation in Korea will be complex, contingent and profoundly political, involving multiple socio-political actors; increasing tensions along gender, racial, and class lines; and intense debates over the discourse and practices of citizenship, belonging and national identity. This paper argues that transnational migration—both of workers and foreign spouses—has already laid the basis for a significant change in long-held conception of Korean identity and belongingness. This is partly evidenced in the increasingly salient idea that Korea is now a “multicultural society.”

**Marital Immigration and Graduated Citizenship:
Post-Naturalization Restrictions on Mainland Chinese Spouses in Taiwan**

Sara L. Friedman

As Taiwan seeks to establish itself as an independent polity in the international community, it simultaneously confronts the problem of how to integrate almost 300,000 marital immigrants from Mainland China. This most recent wave of marital immigration across the Taiwan Strait began in the early 1990s and reached its peak in 2003, stabilizing since then at roughly 10 percent of all marriages annually. Chinese marital immigrants in Taiwan face more onerous requirements for residency and citizenship than any other category of foreign spouse. In the years immediately following naturalization, moreover, they remain barred from civil service employment and have limited family reunification rights. This paper examines these post-naturalization inequalities in relation to 1) broader population concerns that encourage continued restrictions on Chinese immigration; and 2) struggles over how to define the scope of the Taiwanese family and nation. It asks whether, given this environment, Chinese marital immigrants can ever become full Taiwanese citizens, both in terms of juridical status and national incorporation. This question underscores a key tension in Taiwan’s nation-building project: how to integrate immigrants who are racially, ethnically, and linguistically similar but who come tainted by longstanding political differences across the Taiwan Strait.

**Nostalgia, Anxiety and Hope:
Migration and Ethnic Identity of Chosŏnjok in China**

Wang-Bae Kim

Although the migration of Koreans to Manchuria has a long history, the main influx occurred after 1910 when Korean agricultural peasants and industrial entrepreneurs migrated mostly to the area above the Korean peninsula and Harbin and Shenyang to seek newly emerging economic opportunities. Currently, there are approximately two million people of Korean ancestry living in China with the majority of that population concentrated in the Manchurian region. Recently, a considerable number of ethnic Koreans (Chosŏnjok), both female and male, have moved away to urban centres elsewhere in China in the midst of rapid urbanization and industrialization. Moreover, after normalization of diplomatic relations between the PRC and South Korea in 1992, some Chosŏnjok in China have travelled to South Korea as migrant workers, especially young Chosŏnjok women who have arrived as marriage partners for South Korean men. As the PRC developed economically and its international stature rose, younger ethnic Koreans found themselves faced with more choices. As well, the weak autonomy of civil society within the region has made it difficult to reinforce ethnic Korean identity through discursive means. With the migration and concurrent in-migration of Han-Chinese to Chosŏnjok villages and cities, many Chosŏnjok in the formerly homogenous communities are experiencing a loss of ethnic identity and solidarity. This produces a complicated feeling of nostalgia for the past among older Chosŏnjok and of anxiety and hope for the future among Chosŏnjok of all ages.

**Labour Recruitment, Circuits of Capital and Gendered Mobility:
Reconceptualizing the Indonesian Migration Industry**

Johan Lindquist

During the last decade there has been a marked shift in the structure of migration from Indonesia with the deregulation of the transnational labour recruitment market after the fall of Suharto and a broader attempt across the region to regulate migrant flows to and from receiving countries in the wake of the Asian economic crisis. In this process, hundreds of Indonesian labour recruitment agencies have come to function as brokers in an increasingly government-regulated economy that sends documented migrants to countries such as Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. Based primarily on fieldwork on the island of Lombok, one of the major migrant-sending areas in Indonesia, the article considers the gendered aspects of this state–market relationship by focusing ethnographic attention on the initial stages of recruitment, as informal labour brokers deliver migrants to formal agencies. Critically, the article describes how capital increasingly flows “down” towards female migrants and “up” from male migrants—i.e., men must go into debt while women do not pay (or are even offered money) to travel abroad—thus highlighting the gendered dimensions of the current economy of transnational migration. More generally, the article argues for a renewed focus on the migration industry as a way of reconceptualizing Indonesian transnational migration in the context of contemporary forms of globalization.

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