



Mahidol University
Wisdom of the Land



Mahidol Migration Center
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University

The 6th MMC


Regional Conference


From New Normal to the Next Normal:
**Migration Research and
Policy in the Changing World**

1 – 2 December 2022

Mahidol Migration Center (MMC) and
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand

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**International
Labour
Organization**

The 6th MMC Regional Conference

From New Normal to the Next Normal: Migration Research and Policy in the Changing World

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Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand
and

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MAHIDOL MIGRATION CENTER

Jointly supported by Mahidol University; Institute for Demographic Research of the Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Department of Demographic and Migration Policy at the MGIMO University; International Development Research Centre; the Asian Institute of Technology; Hanyang University; Hannover University; SEA Junction; Sussex-Mahidol Migration Partnership, University of Sussex; Asian Population Association; International Labour Organization; Kobe University and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science; University of Utah; National Institute of Population and Social Security Research; Labour Protection Network; Serve the People Association; World Vision Foundation of Thailand and Institute for Population and Social Research





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AGENDA

MCs:

Patraporn Chuenglersiri

Napaphat Satchanawakul

DAY 1: Thursday, 1 December 2022

TIME	PROGRAM
08:30–09:00	Registration and ATK testing
09:00–09:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductory Remarks Aree Jampaklay Director, Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR)• Opening Address Banchong Mahaisavariya, President, Mahidol University (MU)
09:15–09:30	Welcoming Remarks from the MMC Partnership Members <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kyoko Kusakabe Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand• Doo-Sub Kim Hanyang University, Korea; and the Asian Population Association (APA)• Kaoru Aoyama Kobe University; and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Japan• Edgard Rodriguez International Development Research Centre, Asia Regional Office, India• Sergey V. Ryazantsev IDR FCTAS RAS, Russia and FedUSC, Brazil• Rosalia Sciortino Sumaryono SEA Junction Thailand• Paul Statham Sussex-Mahidol Migration Partnership, University of Sussex, UK• Sureeporn Punpuing Mahidol Migration Center (MMC/IPSR), Mahidol University, Thailand
09:30–10:00	<i>Group photo-taking and break</i>

SESSION 1: Gender, Fisheries, and Migration

Chair: Kyoko Kusakabe

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

-
- 10:00–11:00
- 1.1 Labour Migration and Global Production in Times of Crises: The Case of Myanmar Migrant Seafood Processing Workers in Thailand
 - **Carli Melo** (*York University*)
 - 1.2 Network, Exploitation, and Resistance: The Experience of Cambodian Migrants in Thailand
 - **Sokha Eng** (*the University of Massachusetts Boston and AIT*)
 - 1.3 Consumption of Dried Fish by Myanmar Migrant Workers in Thailand: How Does It Change From the Place of Origin?
 - **Nang Lun Kham Synt** (*AIT*)
 - 1.4 Understanding the Social Well-Being of Women in the Dried Fish Value Chain: A Study of Myanmar Migrant Women Dried Fish Processor and Traders in Samut Sakhon Province, Thailand
 - **Si Thu Lin** (*AIT*)
-

SESSION 2: Women Migrants on the Margins

Chair: Paul Statham

Sussex-Mahidol Migration Partnership, University of Sussex

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- 11:00–12:00
- 2.1 Social Capital and Thai Women Building Their Lives in Britain: “Invisible” Gendered Ethnic Needs?
 - **Patraporn Chuenglersiri** (*MMC/IPSR*) and **Paul Statham** (*University of Sussex*)
 - 2.2 Till Death Do Us Part? End-of-Life Care for Ageing Western Husbands in Thailand
 - **Kwanchanok Jaisuekun** and **Sirijit Sunanta** (*RILCA, Mahidol University*)
 - 2.3 Migrating Into Low-End Wellness and Recreational Tourism Sector: Opportunities and Constraints for Female Tourism Workers in Thailand
 - **Sirijit Sunanta** (*RILCA, Mahidol University*)
 - 2.4 Hidden Mother’s Lives on Hold: An Analysis of the Lived Experience of Urban Refugee Mothers in Bangkok, Thailand
 - **Poramintorn Vongtrirat** (*University of Sussex*)
-

12:00–13:00 *Lunch*

SESSION 3: New Labor and Education Migration Trends in Eurasia

Chair: Malee Sunpuwan

Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University

- 13:00–14:15
- 3.1 Labor Migration From Tajikistan to Russia: Transformation of Trends During the COVID-19 Pandemic
• **Sergey V. Ryazantsev** (*IDR FCTAS RAS and FedUSC*)
- 3.2 Regional Peculiarities of Employment of Labor Migrants From Central Asia in Russia in 2020–2022
• **Roman V. Manshin** (*RAS*), *Marina N. Khramova* (*RAS/MGIMO University*), *Alexei V. Smirnov* (*RAS/MGIMO University*)
- 3.3 Russian-Speaking Migrants in Southeast Asia During the COVID-19 Pandemic
• **Nikita S. Ryazantsev** (*RAS/People’s Friendship University of Russia*) and *Marina N. Khramova* (*RAS/MGIMO University*)
- 3.4 The Trends and Potential of Educational Migration in Southeast Asia
• **Do Huong Lan** (*National Economic University*) and *Nikita G. Kuznetsov* (*RAS*)
- 3.5 Geopolitics of Vietnamese Labor and Educational Migration in Okinawa
• **Kenichi Ohashi** (*Rikkyo University/ Vietnam National University*)
-

SESSION 4: Transnational Migration Landscape in East Asia

Chair: Jerrold Huguet

Consultant on Population and Development

-
- 14:15–15:15 4.1 Back to the Mother’s Homeland for Studying: Push, Pull, and Conditional Factors for Children of Foreign Women in South Korea
• **Doo-Sub Kim**, *Seunghyun Lee and Saerom Lee (CSMR, Hanyang University)*
- 4.2 Social Trust and Attitudes Toward Immigrants: A Comparative Analysis for China and Korea
• **Nayoung Heo** and *Jinjing Wu (Shanghai University)*
- 4.3 International Migration to Japan Under COVID-19: Regional Patterns and Prospects
• **Masataka Nakagawa** (*National Institute of Population and Social Security Research – IPSS*)
- 4.4 Research on Migrant Sex Work: Examples of Network Analysis from France and Japan
• **Kaoru Aoyama** (*Kobe University*)

15:15–15:30 *Coffee break*

ROUNDTABLE 1: Replacement Migration: A Policy Shift of Thailand

Chair: Sakkarin Niyomsilpa

Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University

-
- 15:30–16:30 **Panelists:**
- **Aphichat Chamratrirong** (*MMC/IPSR*)
 - **Chalermpol Chamchan** (*MMC/IPSR*)
 - **Mary Rose Sarausad** (*AIT*)
-

Optional: Collaborative Meetings

16:30–18:00 Rooms available for meetings and discussions

18:00–20:00 *Dinner at ARIS Restaurant*

DAY 2: Friday, 2 December 2022

**SESSION 5: Migration, The Well-Being of The Left-Behinds,
and the Impacts of COVID-19**

Chair: Nara Khamkhom

Ratchasuda College, Mahidol University

- 09:00-10:00 5.1 Parental Absence, Family Environment, and School Performance of Adolescents in the Southernmost Provinces of Thailand
- **Aree Jampaklay**, *Aksarapak Lucktong, Patama Vapattanawong, Kanchana Tangchonlatip, Kasama Yakoh, Aphichat Chamrathrithirong (MMC/IPSR), and Kathleen Ford (University of Michigan)*
- 5.2 Caregivers' Well-Being in the Context of Migration and the Unrest
- **Kanchana Tangchonlatip**, *Aksarapak Lucktong, Aree Jampaklay, Patama Vapattanawong, Kasama Yakoh, Aphichat Chamrathrithirong (MMC/IPSR), and Kathleen Ford (University of Michigan)*
- 5.3 Children's Psychological Well-Being in the Two Settings of Thailand
- **Patama Vapattanawong**, *Aree Jampaklay, Kanchana Tangchonlatip, Aksarapak Lucktong and Kasama Yakoh (MMC/IPSR)*
- 5.4 COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts on Muslim Migrant Returnees in Thailand's Deep South Provinces: Household Economy, Vulnerabilities, and Resilience
- **Suchada Thaweessit**, *Aree Jampaklay (MMC/IPSR), Anlaya Samuseneto (PSU), and Kasama Yakoh (MMC/IPSR)*
-

SESSION 6: Migration, Environment, and Mental Health

Chair: Marc Völker

Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University

-
- 10:00–11:00 6.1 Climate Migration in Eurasia: Trends and Prospects
• **Artem S. Lukyanets** (RAS/MGIMO University)
- 6.2 Migration Research Based on the TVSEP Long-Term Project
• **Ulrike Grote** (IUW, Leibniz University Hannover)
- 6.3 Environmental Income and Remittances: Evidence from Rural Central Highlands of Vietnam
• **Sina Bierkamp, Trung Thanh Nguyen and Ulrike Grote** (IUW, Leibniz University Hannover)
- 6.4 The Trauma of Flight or Flight from Trauma? Untangling the Relationship Between War, Migration, and PTSD in a Vietnamese Cohort
• **Yvette Young, Kim Korinex, and Nguyen Huu Minh** (University of Utah)

11:00–11:15 *Coffee break*

ROUNDTABLE 2: ‘New’ or ‘Better’ Normal for Migrants in Southeast Asia?

Chair: Rosalia Sciortino Sumaryono

Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University; and SEA Junction

-
- 11:15–12:15 **Panelists:**
- **Benjamin Harkins** (Ship to Shore Rights South-East Asia Program, ILO)
 - **Naruemon Thabchumpon** (Asian Research Center for Migration, Chulalongkorn University)
 - **Paul Buckley** (ASEAN Australia Counter-Trafficking - ASEAN-ACT, Australian Aid)
 - **Poonsap S. Tulaphan** (Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion (HomeNet Thailand))

12:15–13:15 *Lunch*

**ROUNDTABLE 3: Post-COVID-19 Era and the Emerging Issues
in Migration Research and Policies**

Chair: Charamporn Holumyong

Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University

13:15–14:15 **Panelists:**

- **Kaoru Aoyama** (*Kobe University and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science*)
 - **Paul Statham** (*University of Sussex*)
 - **Sergey V. Ryazantsev** (*IDR FCTAS RAS and FedUSC*)
 - **Ulrike Grote** (*Leibniz Universität Hannover*)
-

SESSION 7: Post-COVID-19 Action/Advocacy Research and Migrant Worker Rights

Chair: Sudarat Musikawong

Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University

- 14:15 –15:15
- 7.1 International Return Migrants: Human Capital and Policies
 - **Dusadee Ayuwat** and **Nattawat Auraumpai** (*Khon Kaen University*)
 - 7.2 Transversals and Migrant Workers' Rights: MMC Social Lab Inter-Sectoral Dialogues and Alter-Politics
 - **Adisorn Kerdmongkol** (*Migrant Working Group (MWG) and Sudarat Musikawong (MMC/IPSR)*)
 - 7.3 Migration Journalism: Policies, Trainings, and Solutions
 - **tammy ko Robinson** (*Hanyang University*)
 - 7.4 The Condition of the Migrant Workers in Taiwan Under the Global COVID-19 Pandemic
 - **Lennon Ying-Dah Wong**, and **Sherry Macmod Wang** (*Serve the People Association – SPA, Taiwan*)
-

TIME	PROGRAM
15:15–15:45	Rapporteurs Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Marc Völker (MMC/IPSR), Lead Rapporteur</i>• <i>Champangorn Holomyong (MMC/IPSR)</i>• <i>David D. Perrodin (MMC/IPSR)</i>• <i>Sarunya Sujaritpong (MMC/IPSR)</i>• <i>Truc Ngoc Hoang Dang (MMC/IPSR)</i>
15:45–16:00	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Aphichat Chamrattirong (MMC/IPSR)</i>

OPTIONAL: Collaborative Meetings

16:00–18:00 Rooms available for meetings and discussions or free time

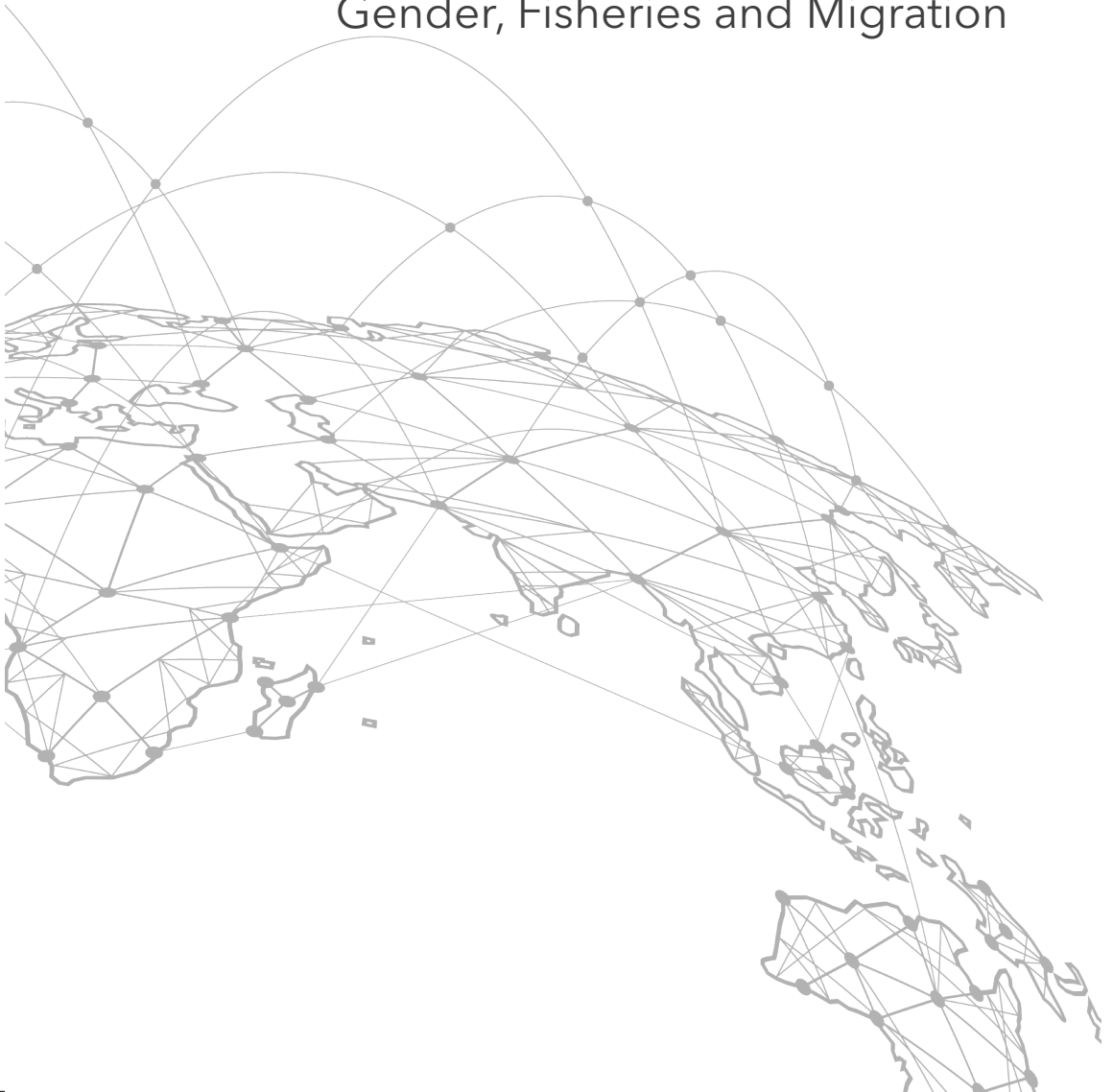
EXHIBITIONS:

1. Labour Protection Network (LPN)
2. SEA Junction
3. World Vision Foundation of Thailand (WVFT)



ABSTRACT

SESSION 1: Gender, Fisheries and Migration



**1.1 Labour Migration and Global Production in Times of Crises:
The Case of Myanmar Migrant Seafood Processing Workers in Thailand**

Carli Melo

The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated the vulnerability of global production networks as supply chains in all sectors have been disrupted by worldwide lockdowns. The impacts of such disruption have been especially devastating for industrial workers in the global South. What has been less noticed is that many such workers are migrants, either internally from other regions of the same country or internationally across borders. The employment of migrant workers has further implications because it means that the impacts of global production networks extend not just to the factories in which goods are made, but also to the distant places of origin from which migrants are drawn, to which they often send their earnings, and to which they will often later return. In Thailand, the employment of Myanmar migrant workers in global seafood processing production networks, and the everyday lives of these workers and their families, have been disrupted not only by the COVID-19 pandemic, but also by a coup d'état in Myanmar. Drawing on a preliminary literature review and fieldwork conducted for my doctoral research project, this presentation will examine some of the impacts of pandemic and political crises on Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand and on their families in their places of origin. It will also explore how applying a gender-based analysis can deepen our understanding of labour relations, social reproduction, and workers' agency in times of crises.

1.2 Network, Exploitation, and Resistance: The Experience of Cambodian Migrants in Thailand

Sokha Eng

Over the past two decades, more than 1 million Cambodians have migrated to Thailand for employment opportunities. The scholarship on migrants working in Thailand suggests that Cambodian migrants (both documented and undocumented) are not protected from labor exploitation and other forms of abuse. These forms of exploitation may include low pay with long working hours, illegal deduction of earnings, control of mobility, and withholding of passports (in the case of documented migrants). However, we know little about how Cambodian migrants themselves understand and resist exploitation. By using ethnographic methods, my research aims to examine how Cambodian migrants experience, understand and resist labor exploitation, and how migrant networks may shape migrant's understanding and facilitate or impede resistance; I also intend to investigate how these experiences and resistance strategies vary by gender. The study site is Rayong province, Thailand, where many Cambodian migrants are employed in the fishery industry. I conduct fieldwork for 5-7 months, using participant observation and in-depth, semi-structured interviews. The findings from this study will contribute to the larger field of South-to-South migration studies and inform policies that can assist Cambodian migrants in improving their wellbeing in Thailand.

1.3 Consumption of Dried Fish of Burmese Migrant Workers in Thailand: How Does it Change from the Place of Origin?

Nang Lun Kham Synt

Migrants from Myanmar make up a significant portion of the work force across a variety of industries in Thailand. Myanmar migrants in Thailand continue to consume dried fish products as part of their daily diet because dried fish products are accessible to low-income and vulnerable individuals in Myanmar because of their low cost and high nutrient density and home-cooked foods are brought along with migrants to make their transition into their new setting easier in their day-to-day lives. Choice, preference, and way of consumption on dried fish are all distinct for different genders of Myanmar migrants, who also have varying identities such as ethnicity, origin from Myanmar, income, etc. because dried fish is a delicacy in Myanmar. Migration causes shifts in gender roles among family members, which in turn influences their preferences for and consumption of dried fish products. As a result of the shifting patterns of consumption of dried fish among Myanmar migrants living in Thailand, the demand for dried fish products is becoming apparent in the dried fish trade sector along the migration route.

1.4 Understanding the Social Well-Being of Women in the Dried Fish Value Chain: A Study of Myanmar Migrant Women Dried Fish Processors, and Traders in Samut Sakhon Province, Thailand

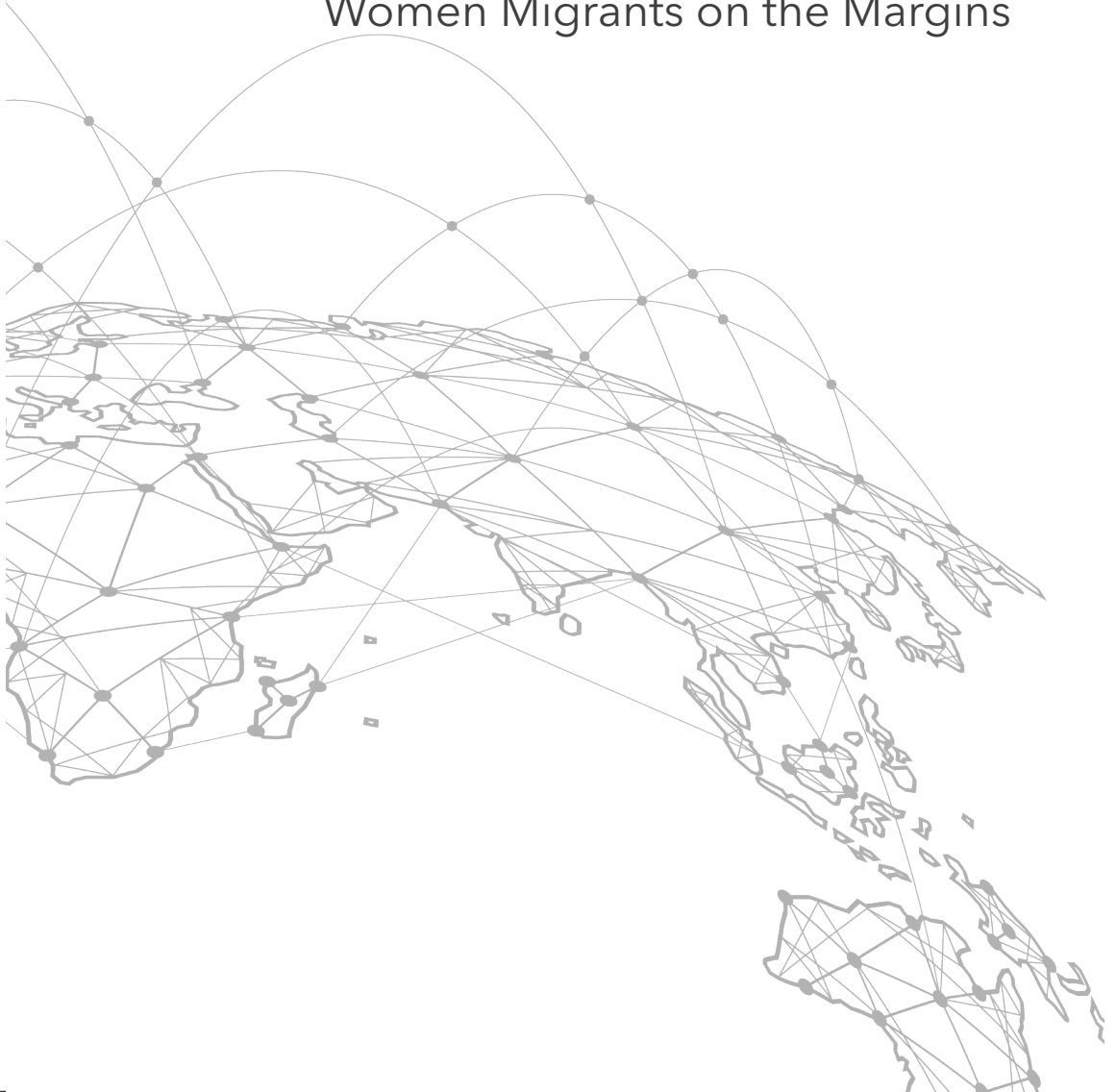
Si Thu Lin

Women play an essential role in the processing and marketing sectors of the small-scale fishing industry. Dried fish has been one of the essential components of south and Southeast Asian countries' food supplies, and contribute significantly to the economic opportunities of players in the entire fishery value chain. Women make up almost half of those working in the production and sale of dried fish. Women processors receive a range of benefits, such as income, employment opportunities, nutritional support, cultural linkages, and household resilience. Several Myanmar women apparently run their own dried fish processing business from their homes in Samut Sakhon, Thailand. Migrant women who take part in the production and trade of dried fish face obstacles across the value chain. Women producers have poor negotiating power with buyers as a result of normalized historical gender inequalities in the workplace and society. This study will examine how the dried fish business contributes to the general social well-being and the significance of this contribution to Myanmar migrant women processors. The majority of the people who take part in the study will be women who are engaged in the processing of dried fish on a small scale in the province of Samut Sakhon. This study places the majority of its emphasis on the mid-stream component, which consists of processors and merchants.



ABSTRACT

SESSION 2: Women Migrants on the Margins



2.1 Social Capital and Thai Women Building Their Lives in Britain: “Invisible” Gendered Ethnic Needs?

Paul Statham and Pattraporn Chuenglertsiri

This article presents a first detailed empirical study of Thai women and their social lives in the UK. The paper is based on an original detailed survey questionnaire with 300 Thai women who have lived in the UK for more than five years. Specifically, we focus on social capital and how links, ties and networks with Thais in the UK, British people, and Thais back in Thailand, help to relatively support their lives, or not. The interpretation of survey data is backed up by a number of detailed biographical semi-structured interviews, where women account for their experiences over years in the UK. Thai women are largely “invisible” to state “integration” policies. The reason for this omission is perhaps because the predominant immigration “pathway” for Thais to the UK is by “marriage migration”. This is a direct result of the UK’s highly restrictive immigration control and settlement requirements. However, it results in a specific form of migrant community, of whom 90% are women, and who face specific forms of gendered and ethnic discrimination in Britain. For the British state, Thai women’s interests seem to be relegated to private matters within marital relations, thereby reinforcing the dominant patriarchal power of their British husbands. The state seldom intervenes or aids except in extreme (and relatively common) cases of domestic violence. Thai women are often left without realisable rights, because of knowledge deficits and dependence on husbands and their families. How they engage with, and fit in with, their settlement societies, has also largely escaped academic attention. Thai women commonly face stigmatisation. They often find their work opportunities channelled into ‘sexualised work’ in massage parlours, or low-end services, though many have professional qualifications.

2.2 Till Death Do Us Part? End-of-Life Care for Ageing Western Husbands in Thailand

Kwanchanok Jaisuekun and Sirijit Sunanta

After a few decades of large-scale transnational marriages and migration of Thai women to countries in the Global North, the phenomenon has matured and Western-Thai married couples have aged, particularly the men who tend to be older than their Thai wives. This article examines the understudied topic of Western man – Thai woman couples in their old age, focusing on those who decide to spend their late life in Thailand. Ageing in Thailand as non-citizens, many Western husbands fall through the net of social protection and rely on their Thai spouses as the only source of care. This study examines the implications of caring for frail Western husbands on Thai wives, drawing on biographical narrations of three Thai women. Their stories elucidate the weight of providing end-of-life care to non-citizen husbands/partners in the lack of other sources of support in Thailand. The care obligation takes a toll on the women’s physical and mental health, financial stability, career, social life, and relationships. The three women do not engage with the expected gendered role of spousal caregiver in the same way leading to different decisions on end-of-life care for their foreign husbands. Their stories speak to the complexity of ageing, care arrangement and social protection in the context of global mobility.

2.3 Migrating into Low-End Wellness and Recreational Tourism Sector: Opportunities and Constraints for Female Tourism Workers in Thailand

Sirijit Sunanta

Tourism is a key economic driver of Thailand, contributing to as much as 20 percent of the GDP before the COVID-19 pandemic. Frontline low-end tourism workers are predominantly female, mostly rural-to-urban migrants who are attracted to higher wages in service work in tourism destinations. This study is based on ethnographic fieldwork and semi-structured interviews with 15 masseuses and 10 golf caddies in Hua-Hin, a Thai tourism destination known for long-stay, wellbeing, and recreational tourism. The findings reveal that employment in the tourism sector offers economic and social opportunities to women who have less education and who come from modest backgrounds. Most of the research participants are from rural farming families and previously worked in the manufacturing sector before moving into tourism work which offers higher wages. Apart from economic gains, tourism work also provides opportunities to learn new languages, befriend and even develop romantic relationships with foreigners, leading to economic and social mobility. An opportunity to work abroad is also available for Thai masseuses. The downside of frontline low-end wellness and recreational tourism work is the prevalent informal and flexible employment that leads to precarity, most pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Providing highly gendered and intimate labor in the perceived low-end tourism sector, women workers often experience social stigmatization, physical and emotional exhaustion, and sometimes sexual advancement from customers.

2.4 Hidden Mother's Lives on Hold: An Analysis on the Lived Experience of Urban Refugee Mothers in Bangkok, Thailand

Poramintorn Vongtrirat

This research examined the lived experiences and challenges face by mother refugees who are in Bangkok, regardless of their UNHCR status either as recognised as asylum seeker, refugee, or rejected cases. These mothers are on the least privileged end of the spectrum, many of whom have spent time in detention centres and whose situation are more precarious and whose tactics are more desperate and creative. For refugees, Bangkok is experienced as “a waste of time” and a form of institutionalised torture as they spent years seeking strategies to cope with bad situation and change organisation of space into a more bearable one until they can finally resettle. Hence the aim of this research is to widen the narrow gap of study on refugee lived experience. To address this gap, this study utilises the narratives from the lived experiences of urban mother refugees to further understanding of how pre-migration background influences mothers' ability to perform motherhood in margin of Bangkok, what strategies they employed to cope and make decisions to survive, and how they draw aspirations for the future. A qualitative approach was adopted, with semi-structured interviews, to explore the lived experience of fleeing home and impact of new environment upon family life and motherhood duty. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 45 refugee mothers from 4 different nationality groups to provide comprehensive account of the experiences related to mothering while highlight the intersectionality that influence their ways to tackle challenges. Many of these narratives were spoken about refugee mothers' ability to negotiate an opaque and hostile asylum system, poverty, housing problems, health issues, separation from partners and children, social exclusion, parenting alone and adapting to new culture. Some of these challenges created a barrier between mothering expectations and actions. The implications of the finding are discussed with regards to both host-country's regulations and those professional working with refugee mothers. As refugees, mothers who participated in this research have navigated exclusionary that continually defined them as non-citizen and outsider through regulation and societal discourse. This research examines how refugee mothers negotiate the complex terrain of mothering and manage to cope with the hardship they are facing in Bangkok, Thailand. Their narratives provide insight view that reveals the interaction and contestation of cultural values, codes, and rules as refugee mothers struggle to situate themselves as mothers in new cultural semi-permanent settlement.



ABSTRACT

SESSION 3:

New Labor and Education
Migration Trends in Eurasia



3.1 Labor Migration from Tajikistan to Russia: Transformation of Trends during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sergey V. Ryazantsev

This research examines the trends and patterns of labor migration of Tajiks to the Russian Federation in recent years. Leaving for temporary work in the Russian Federation for citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan has become a widespread phenomenon and a significant socio-economic phenomenon. There are about 1 million Tajik citizens and ethnic Tajiks in Russia, as well as their family members. For Russia, Tajikistan is an important supplier of labor migrants: approximately 25% of all labor migrants in Russia come from Tajikistan. According to a rough estimate, Tajik labor migrants produce about 1.3% of Russia's GDP.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly complicated the situation of Tajik citizens - temporary labor migrants in Russia. According to a survey in April 2020, about 28% of Tajik migrants surveyed were fired and unemployed, 39% were sent on unpaid leave. In fact, 67% of interviewed migrants from Tajikistan were unemployed and had practically no sources of income at the beginning of the pandemic. In April 2020, it was revealed that the most pressing life problems of labor migrants from Tajikistan at the beginning of the pandemic were the inability to pay for housing (about 57%), the loss and inability to find a job (40%) and the lack of money for food (29%). About 14% had problems with police checks, poor living conditions - 8% and 1% of respondents could not pay for a patent. At the beginning of the pandemic, a survey in April 2020 showed that 88% of migrants from Tajikistan had reduced income, which was obviously a shock reaction to the self-isolation regime, the introduction of restrictions, the closure of economic facilities, and the loss of jobs by migrants. In February 2021, 59% of surveyed labor migrants from Tajikistan said that their income had decreased during the pandemic. The share of those whose expenses have not changed significantly increased (11% and 27%, respectively). The share of migrants whose incomes increased from 1% to 14%. Labor migrants have generally adapted to the situation on the labor market.

This study was designed to identify the key problems faced by Tajik labor migrants in Russia during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, to determine how much social assistance was available to them during the pandemic, and to offer recommendations on how to help people in difficult situations outside their homeland. The implementation of many of the proposed measures is possible only with the active participation of all interested parties: the authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan, the authorities of the Russian Federation, international organizations, the UN system, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of organizations of labor migrants from Tajikistan. The proposed actions are grouped according to key areas of activity: political, economic, social, medical, and informational measures.

3.2 Regional Peculiarities of Employment of Labor Migrants from Central Asia in Russia in 2020-2022

Roman V. Manshin, Marina N. Khramova, and Alexei V. Smirnov

The study discusses some features of labor migration in Russia during the COVID-19 pandemic. The greatest changes in the employment of labor migrants in Russia occurred during the “first” and “second” waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. These periods were characterized by the most severe mobility restrictions. Therefore, some labor migrants lost their jobs, and some were forced to reorient themselves to new forms of employment (for example, the delivery of goods, food). Labor migrants adapted to the changed conditions quite quickly, and by the end of 2020 we could see a partial recovery of the main indicators of the labor market at the national level.

Our study showed that the majority of labor migrants in 2020 did not return to their countries of origin, but remained in Russia and tried to adapt to new conditions. This was due to the fact that returned migrants in their countries of origin could find themselves in an even more vulnerable situation due to the inability to find work. For Russia, the main donor countries of labor migrants are Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, that is, countries with an excess of labor resources and characterized by a high level of unemployment.

The official data of the Russian border service indicate that during 2021 there was a gradual increase in the volume of labor migration compared to 2020. In terms of the number of cases of entry for the purpose of work, a level of approximately 80% of the 2019 figures was reached. After the removal of most of the restrictions associated with the pandemic, the employment of labor migrants in their “traditional” sectors of the economy largely resumed. However, there is every reason to believe that new areas of employment for labor migrants, as well as for the local population, are firmly rooted in the Russian labor market.

The study also analyzes the main measures of state support for the population, small and medium-sized businesses, and migrants. It is shown that, in general, state support measures during the pandemic were timely and made it possible to avoid the collapse of the national economy. It is concluded that the measures applied would be more effective if they took into account the regional specifics of employment of the population and migrants to a greater extent.

3.3 Russian-Speaking Migrants in Southeast Asia during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Marina N. Khramova and Nikita S. Ryazantsev

We analyse the situation of Russian-speaking communities in the countries of Southeast Asia in the period from 2015 to 2021. Particular attention is paid to the situation that has developed as a result of the restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is shown that, in general, Russians living in the countries of Southeast Asia showed good adaptability to the changed situation. The most difficult period was in the first few months after the announcement of the quarantine. In the future, after the lifting of part of the restrictions on internal movements, as well as due to the presence of remote employment among the majority of Russians living in the countries of Southeast Asia, the situation began to improve. A number of countries have made it possible for foreign nationals to get vaccinated.

A characteristic feature of the migration of Russians to the countries of Southeast Asia is that in most cases the main migration trajectories lie in the plane of tourism, that is, “from a tourist to a permanent resident.” The largest Russian-speaking communities are currently concentrated in Vietnam and Thailand. Up until the start of the pandemic, there was also an increase in the interest of Russians in such countries of the region as Cambodia, Myanmar, and Singapore. A combination of attractive factors, including a relatively loyal visa regime in most countries of the region, a warm climate throughout the year, and a low cost of living, attract Russians from different regions of Russia. At the same time, in the vast majority of cases, Russians retain their citizenship, as well as real estate and close ties with Russia. Many of them continue to work remotely in their companies and organizations, and additional income is provided by renting out apartments in Russia. The study was supported by the Russian Science Foundation grant No. 22-68-00210, <https://rscf.ru/project/22-68-00210/>.

3.4 The Trends and Potential of Educational Migration in Southeast Asia

Do Huong Lan and Nikita G. Kuznetsov

One of the directions of development of the Russian higher education system is the state policy on attracting educational migrants to our country, expanding academic mobility and integrating domestic universities into the global space. Given that the demographic potential of Russia's traditional source of migrants – the CIS countries – is limited, it is necessary to expand the presence of Russian education in the markets of dynamically developing countries with young populations.

In this paper, the region of Southeast Asia is analyzed as promising for the promotion of Russian education abroad. The aim of the work is to assess the feasibility of promoting Russian education directly to the Southeast Asian region in relation to the tasks of the Russian Federation to increase the number of foreign students in the country, as well as to identify the main factors influencing the process of choosing education abroad by young people from this region, studying the case of Vietnamese youth.

The study is based on a combination of statistical and qualitative analysis of demographic indicators, information about the scholarship policy of the Russian Federation in the region, and also includes data obtained as a result of a sociological survey and materials of in-depth interviews with specialists in the field of education.

The presentation shows that Southeast Asia will retain its significant demographic potential in the long term, certain points are noted that indicate the ineffectiveness of Russia's policy of providing quotas for education for the countries of the region, the key factors that influence the choice of education abroad are analyzed. We have identified a high degree of propensity for educational migration from the region, due to the low quality of higher education and the demand for graduates, an assessment of "second-order" factors, such as the availability and quality of leisure,

public and medical services, etc. We have formulated recommendations for adjusting the policy of promoting domestic education in the region, including the creation of institutional conditions for the employment of foreign graduates of Russian universities, the formation of a sector of the economy in Southeast Asia associated with Russia, increasing the flexibility of scholarship policy, supporting the process of admission to universities for foreigners, as well as promoting the image of Russia as a country with modern comfortable living conditions, rich culture, wide opportunities for leisure. This research was supported by the RFBR and VASS in the framework of the scientific project No 20-511-92002; "RF strategy in the educational markets of Southeast Asia: assessing the socio-demographic potential and directions of public policy".

3.5 Geopolitics of Vietnamese Labor and Educational Migration in Okinawa

Kenichi Ohashi

The number of Vietnamese residing in Japan is increasing year by year, in recent years in particular. Vietnamese is the most increased foreigners among all foreigners residing in Japan over the last decade. As of June 2022, there are 476,346 Vietnamese living in Japan. Among foreigners in Japan, it was the second largest after 744,551 of Chinese nationality. By status of residence, 181,957 are “Technical Intern Training”, which is about more than 55% of the total. This was followed by “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” (72,997), “Specified Skilled Worker” (52,748) and “Designated Activities” (45,962). As for “Student” (44,358), it is the 5th most popular status for Vietnamese. The number of Vietnamese students in higher educational institutions and Japanese language schools is the second largest after China.

Okinawa prefecture is an island prefecture located at the westernmost tip of the Japanese archipelago. The number of Vietnamese residing in Okinawa prefecture is 2,622 and this number is only about 0.6% of the total of 432,934 Vietnamese residing in Japan (December 2021). In terms of numbers, Okinawa prefecture is by no means large part of the Vietnamese residents in Japan. However, Vietnamese accounted for about 14.1% of the 18,535 total foreign residents in Okinawa prefecture, and Vietnamese have been the largest number of foreign residents in Okinawa prefecture since 2019.

The purpose of this study is to understand the backgrounds of this high presence of Vietnamese in Okinawan society in recent years. In doing so, it attempts to elucidate the backgrounds from the historical and geopolitical contexts of Vietnam and Okinawa in particular. The labor and educational migration from Vietnam to Okinawa is intricately related to the historical and geopolitical relationship between Okinawa and Vietnam that goes beyond simple global economic principles or push-pull factors. This work was supported by JSPS-KAKENHI 19K01209.



ABSTRACT

SESSION 4: Transnational Migration Landscape in East Asia



4.1 Back to the Mother's Homeland for Studying: Push, Pull and Conditional Factors for Children of Foreign Women in South Korea

Doo-Sub Kim, Seunghyun Lee, and Saerom Lee

This paper explores the major determinants and the mechanisms of foreign women's plans to send children back to their homeland for studying. Attention is focused on the effects of socioeconomic status, the motherland's cultural identity, and the perception of discrimination against foreigners. This paper proposes a conceptual scheme that the motherland's cultural identity serves as a pull factor, while the perception of discrimination functions as a push factor, in deciding whether to send their children back to the mother's homeland for studying. It is hypothesized that the push-pull dynamics vary according to the language spoken in the mother's homeland. Utilizing micro-data from the 2018 Korean Multicultural Family Survey, a series of regression and logistic analyses are conducted. Results show that high socioeconomic status is likely to raise the level of the motherland's cultural identity. The propensity to send their children back to the mother's homeland for studying rises substantially among foreign women with high levels of the motherland's cultural identity, and a strong perception of discrimination. For foreign women from countries where English or Chinese is mainly spoken, a high level of the motherland's cultural identity tends to facilitate children's education in their mother's homeland, while the effect of the perception of discrimination is not statistically significant. For foreign women from other countries, however, both the motherland's cultural identity and the perception of discrimination reveal significant positive effects on making their plans for children's education in their mother's homeland. The theoretical and policy implications of these findings are discussed in this paper.

4.2 Social Trust and Attitudes Toward Immigrants: A Comparative Analysis for China and Korea

Nayoung Heo and Jinjing Wu

Social trust has been often discussed as a non-economic determinant of public attitudes toward immigrants among natives in Europe. In East Asia, the association between social trust and public opinions on immigrants are underexplored or has been studied only in individual country settings. China and South Korea, two rising destination countries in East Asia, are comparable study settings as they share similar lengths of immigration history and proportions of immigrant populations, while the political system, educational composition, and labor market differences are apparent. We examine the association between social trust among natives and their attitudes toward immigrants, using a time-series World Values Survey dataset. With demographic, socioeconomic, national feeling variables as controls and wave and regional variations as random effects, we fit a series of mixed logistic regression models separately for China and South Korea. Social trust reduced negative attitudes toward immigrants in both countries. However, for China, the association was insignificant when it comes to the more financially sensitive issue. Contributions and implications of this study are discussed in this paper.

4.3 International Migration to Japan under COVID-19: Regional Patterns and Prospects

Masataka Nakagawa

This paper examines the impacts of COVID-19 on international migration to Japan, highlighting the geographical heterogeneities associated with the pre-pandemic trends and composition of foreign residents across the country. Data drawn from the Resident Registration System and the Immigration Statistics, as well as the latest results of the 2020 Census, is used to analyse changes in the geographical distributions and internal migration patterns of foreign residents under COVID-19. Findings are also compared with those for the local Japanese to further identify the demographic impacts and post-pandemic prospects of international migration trends in Japan.

During the period prior to the global outbreak of COVID-19, Japan had experienced unprecedented growth of international migration to the country. While the country had well entered a long-term process of population decline, the number of foreign residents increased by 40 per cent in the second half of 2010s, reaching nearly 3 million in the end of 2019. Significant increases were brought by young migrants mostly from other Asian countries under the visa categories of “student” and “trainee”, whose geographical distribution tended to be more spread out across the country. Therefore, the impact of the sudden and strict border measures in response to the pandemic, particularly aimed at controlling new arrivals, are observed to be more significant in non-metropolitan regions. The impact is relatively limited in some suburban areas outside the inner metropolitan that had become a new destination for “foreign settlers” during the pre-pandemic period. These areas are characterised by a large proportion of Brazilians and Chinese among the local foreign population. With regards to internal migration patterns, no significant shifts have been observed for foreign residents while there are short-term effects identified for the local Japanese in the metropolitan areas particularly at the early stage of the pandemic.

4.4 Research on Migrant Sex Work: Examples of Network Analysis from France and Japan

Kaoru Aoyama

This presentation is a small part of our project 'Between global sex work and human trafficking: an analysis of interviews and networks', to which a research team led by Prof. Sureeporn Punpuing at MMC also contributes. The overall project, funded by JSPS, is a 5-year project with 6 countries involved tapping into diverse experiences of migrant sex workers by in-depth interviews. It aims to reveal their networks of migration, too, which are often conflated with trafficking. In this conference, Kaoru Aoyama as the PI introduces the project via examples of tentative results from Japan and France, focusing on its methodological development. Its usage of sociogram to network analysis is particularly unique which contributes to this area of research as well as to the international collaborative research methodology as a whole.



ABSTRACT

SESSION 5:

Migration, the Well-Being of the
Left Behinds, and the Impacts of
COVID-19



5.1 Parental Absence, Family Environment, and Adolescents' School Performance: Evidence from the Three Southernmost Provinces of Thailand

Aree Jampaklay, Aksarapak Lucktong, Patama Vapattanawong, Kanchana Tangchonlatip, Kasama Yakoh, Aphichat Chamrathrithirong, and Kathleen Ford

The impact of parental absence on children left behind remains inconclusive and needs more contextualized research in the migration literature. This analysis examines the impact of parental absence on adolescents' school performance and whether the impact can be explained by the family environment. The outcome is measured using adolescents' assessment of their school performance compared with their classmates. The parent-adolescent living arrangement is classified as the adolescent living with both parents, with only mother and without mother. We measure family environment using the family function (APGAR), parental or carer monitoring, and the parent-adolescent relationship. We employ data from a household survey conducted in 2021 in the three southernmost provinces of Thailand where the migration of young people to Malaysia is common. The analytical sample includes 358 adolescents aged 13-17 years old currently in school. Findings show the significant negative impact of maternal absence on adolescents' school performance. Further findings suggest that the significant impact of maternal absence is mediated by the family environment, particularly family function and the parent-adolescent relationship. Significant evidence of the effect of family environment on adolescents' academic outcome, net of the parent-adolescent living arrangements, is highlighted, particularly a parent or carer monitoring.

5.2 Caregivers' Well-Being in the Context of Migration and the Unrest

*Kanchana Tangchonlatip, Aksarapak Lucktong, Aree Jampaklay,
Patama Vapattanawong, Kasama Yakoh, Aphichat Chamrathrithirong,
and Kathleen Ford*

There are studies looking at the impacts of migration on family members who stay behind. However, few studies focus on the caregivers of children whose parents migrate to work elsewhere. This study aims to investigate the consequences of parental migration on the well-being, in terms of psychological outcomes and quality of life of the caregivers who care for migrant children in the context of the three Southernmost provinces of Thailand.

Data is from a household survey conducted in 2021. The analytical sample is 735 caregivers in the parental migrant household. SRO-20 is used to assess psychological outcomes, and WHOQOL-BREF is utilized to measure the quality of life of caregivers. The logistic regression was used to predict the well-being of the caregivers.

The study reveals no association between parental migration and the well-being of left-behind caregivers. However, it is found that the unrest has a negative impact on the well-being of the caregivers by increasing mental health symptoms and decreasing quality of life. In addition, caregivers' perception of being in good health is also the predictor of better well-being, both psychological outcome and quality of life. Family function (APGAR) positively affects the well-being of the caregivers as well. Better household economic status is found to have an impact on well-being. Interestingly, caregivers who reported being very strict in religious practice tend to have a better quality of life but found no association with psychological outcomes. Family support, household economic status, and good health are crucial to caregivers' well-being. Social policy focusing on individual and household aspects are suggested.

5.3 Children's Psychological Well-Being in the Two Settings of Thailand

Patama Vapattanawong, Aree Jampaklay, Kanchana Tangchonlatip, Aksarapak Lucktong, and Kasama Yakoh

The psychological well-being of children is a crucial concern in Thailand. This study aims to explore the level of this well-being and its potential factors among children who live in different parts of Thailand. The data from two research projects named 'The long-term impact of diverse parental migration experiences on transition to adolescent: A case study of Thailand' and 'Children's, elder caretakers' well-being, and parental migration in the context of the three southernmost provinces' were employed. The first survey was conducted in two provinces, one province was in the North, and the other one was in the Northeastern, while the second survey was conducted in three southernmost provinces. Both surveys were conducted in 2021. The pooled data analysis focused on 271 children aged 15 and 16 from both surveys. Psychological well-being was measured by the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). The binary logistic regression model was used to analyze the potential factors (i.e., child's sex, age, current schooling, living with parents, family function, inappropriate discipline, migration of family member, household wealth, geographical area of the household, relationship of a carer, and the mental problem of a carer) affecting children's psychological well-being. The results from this study indicate that 14.2% of studied children had risky/problematic behaviors. Family function and household wealth are two significant factors affecting the psychological well-being of children. These two factors are more pronounced among females than males.

5.4 Migrant Households' Economic Vulnerability and Resilience due to COVID-19 in the Far South of Thailand

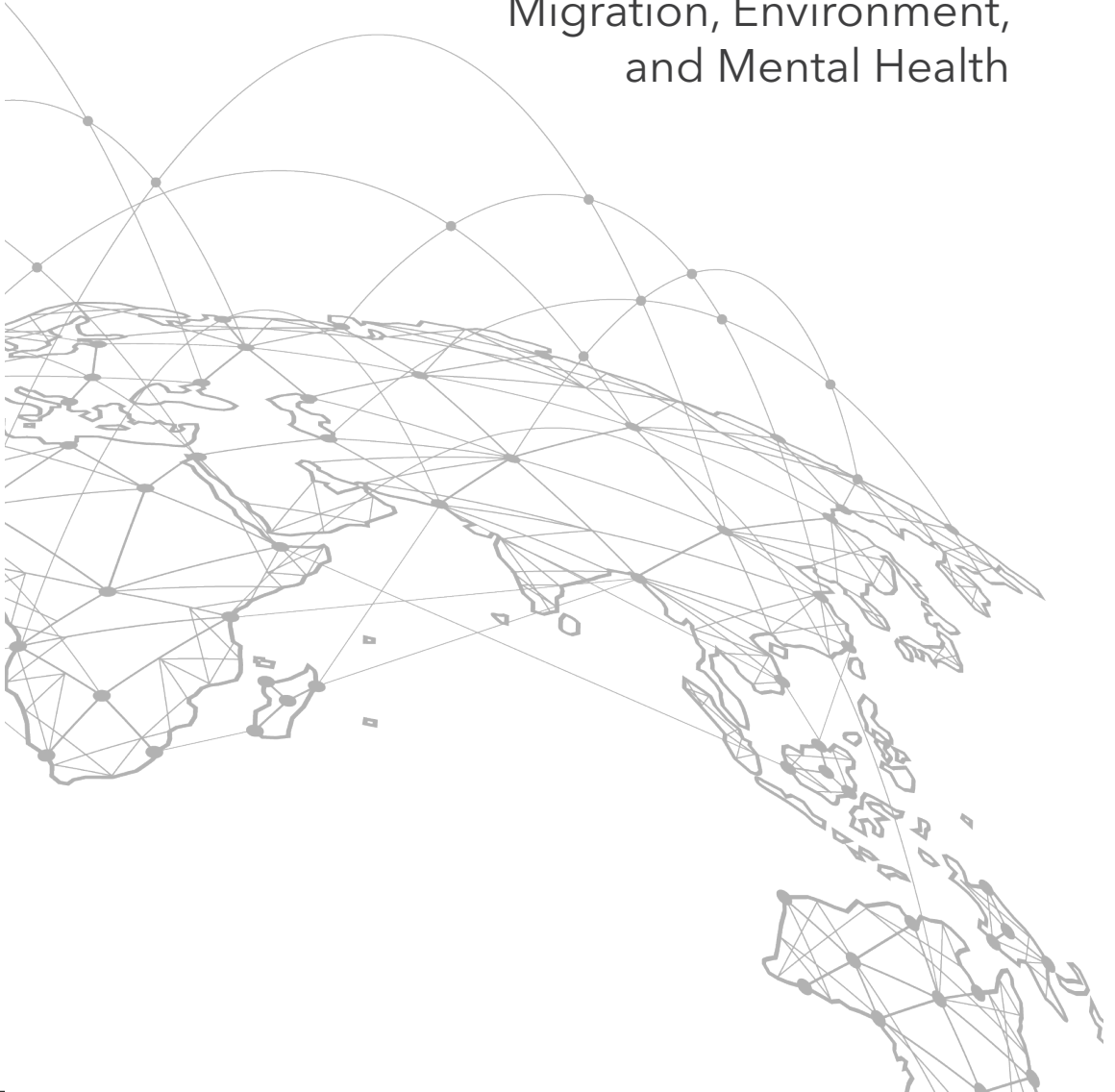
Suchada Thaweessit, Aree Jampaklay, Anlaya Samuseneto and Kasama Yakoh

Governments worldwide had implemented a border-closing measure to minimize the national public health problems which COVID-19 might cause. However, the measure has negative repercussions on the livelihoods of cross-border migrant workers and their families at home. This paper examines the effects of border closures on the case of Thai-Muslim households with returned migrant workers from Malaysia during the COVID outbreak, resulting from the Thai-Malaysia border closing. The study explores indicators that demonstrate the economic vulnerability and resilience of households with returned migrants. This study was carried out in three Far South provinces of Thailand, namely Pattani, Yala, and Naratiwat, which are experiencing multiple adversities, including the ethnoreligious conflict and the effects of COVID-19. An exploratory sequential mixed-methods study is utilized to collect and analyze data. Descriptive, ordered logistic regression, and thematic analysis was utilized to present the data. The study shows that border closures and country lockdown policies during the pandemic drove ethnic Malay-Muslim migrants from Deep South to return home, resulting in households' loss of the most significant portion of incomes received primarily from remittances. This has exacerbated the household's debts, savings, and expenditures, whereas the household's access to the Thai government's financial and non-financial rehabilitations is still minimum.



ABSTRACT

SESSION 6: Migration, Environment, and Mental Health



6.1 Climate Migration in Eurasia: Trends and Prospects

Artem S. Lukyanets

Global climate change and the resulting deterioration of environmental conditions have an increasingly noticeable impact on socio-demographic and socio-economic processes in the countries of the world. In particular, it is expressed in the intensification of migration processes.

Both sudden natural disasters and the slowly progressive deterioration of environmental conditions can have an impact on the migration of the population. In the first case, it leads to forced migrations, usually to internal one. The available statistics show that natural disasters today are the cause of migration of twice as many people as military clashes. So, for five years from 2017 to 2021 natural disasters caused internal displacement of an average of 23.1 million people per year, while armed conflicts led to the displacement of an average of 11.1 million people annually.

Statistics on migration caused by slowly progressing natural hazards are not available, but some estimates suggest that such migration flows may outnumber forced relocations due to natural disasters. For example, in 2020, in South Asia, the contingent of forced migrants whose displacement was caused by sudden natural disasters amounted to 3.2 million people, and the population that migrated due to the gradual deterioration of environmental conditions could number up to 6.1 million people.

The countries with the largest number of internally displaced persons due to natural disasters in 2011-2020, per 1000 population are: Philippines - 369; Sri Lanka - 100; Bangladesh - 82; Myanmar - 64; Cambodia - 43; Vietnam - 37; China - 33; Japan - 30; Laos - 28; Bosnia and Herzegovina – 28, Thailand – 27. The study made it possible to identify non-natural factors that have a significant impact on the intensity of migration of the population in the conditions of climate change and environmental degradation. According to the results of the study, the main trends of climate migration were identified and directions for improving the statistical accounting of climate migration were proposed. This study was funded by RFBR and VASS, project number 21-510-92008.

6.2 Migration Research Based on the TVSEP Long-Term Project

Ulrike Grote

The Thailand Vietnam Socio Economic Panel project, in short TVSEP, is a long-term project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) (www.tvsep.de). The TVSEP panel database consists of nine household survey waves which were collected since 2007, and a special COVID-19 survey conducted in 2021 in Thailand. The sample covers almost 4400 households from 440 villages in rural areas of three provinces in each Thailand and Vietnam. The household panel entails many important aspects of living standard measures, demography, geography, shocks, risks, expectations, subjective assessments and behavioral traits of individuals. The village data contains information on infrastructure and location variables that can be used to define instrumental variables in econometric models. Most importantly for this conference, migrant tracking surveys have been conducted in 2010, 2018 and 2021. These provide information on rural household members who have migrated to urban centers and from urban centers back to the villages in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These migrants can be nicely linked to the household surveys. The TVSEP data is available to the international research community and we promote its use in Thailand and beyond. So far, a cluster of studies (i.e. Quiñones, Liebenehm and Sharma 2021; Dimova, Grote and Basu 2022) used the TVSEP data to investigate the impact of shocks on migration decisions. Gender issues among migrants have been analyzed by Nguyen and Do (2022) and Sharma and Grote (2019). The links between remittances and natural resource extraction in Vietnam have been explored by Bierkamp et al. (2021). But much more research on migration and its impacts on well-being and sustainable development is called for.

6.3 Environmental Income and Remittances: Evidence from Rural Central Highlands of Vietnam

Sina Bierkamp, Trung Thanh Nguyen and Ulrike Grote

Extraction of environmental resources and migration are closely related livelihood strategies of rural households in developing countries. Therefore, a deeper understanding of the relationship between environmental income and remittances is needed to lower the existing pressure on environmental resources and to promote rural development. This study aims at investigating this relationship by using panel data at the household and village levels collected in 2013, 2016, and 2017 from three provinces in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. A Heckman model is applied to identify the factors of the decision to send remittances. A fixed effects two-stage least squares analysis is conducted to investigate the determinants of environmental income and a quantile regression shows the distribution of effects. The findings reveal differences between asset-poor and -rich households. Since the former are often more dependent on labour-intensive livelihood strategies such as extraction, a decrease in household labour due to migration leads to reduced extraction. For asset-rich households who are normally less capital-constrained, remittances lead to more extraction of natural resources. The findings support the claim for encouraging rural labour markets and education, especially for asset-poor people, and for a sustainable and collective natural resource management.

6.4 The Trauma of Flight or Flight from Trauma? Untangling the Relationship between War, Migration, and PTSD in a Vietnamese Cohort

Yvette Young, Kim Korinex and Nguyen Huu Minh

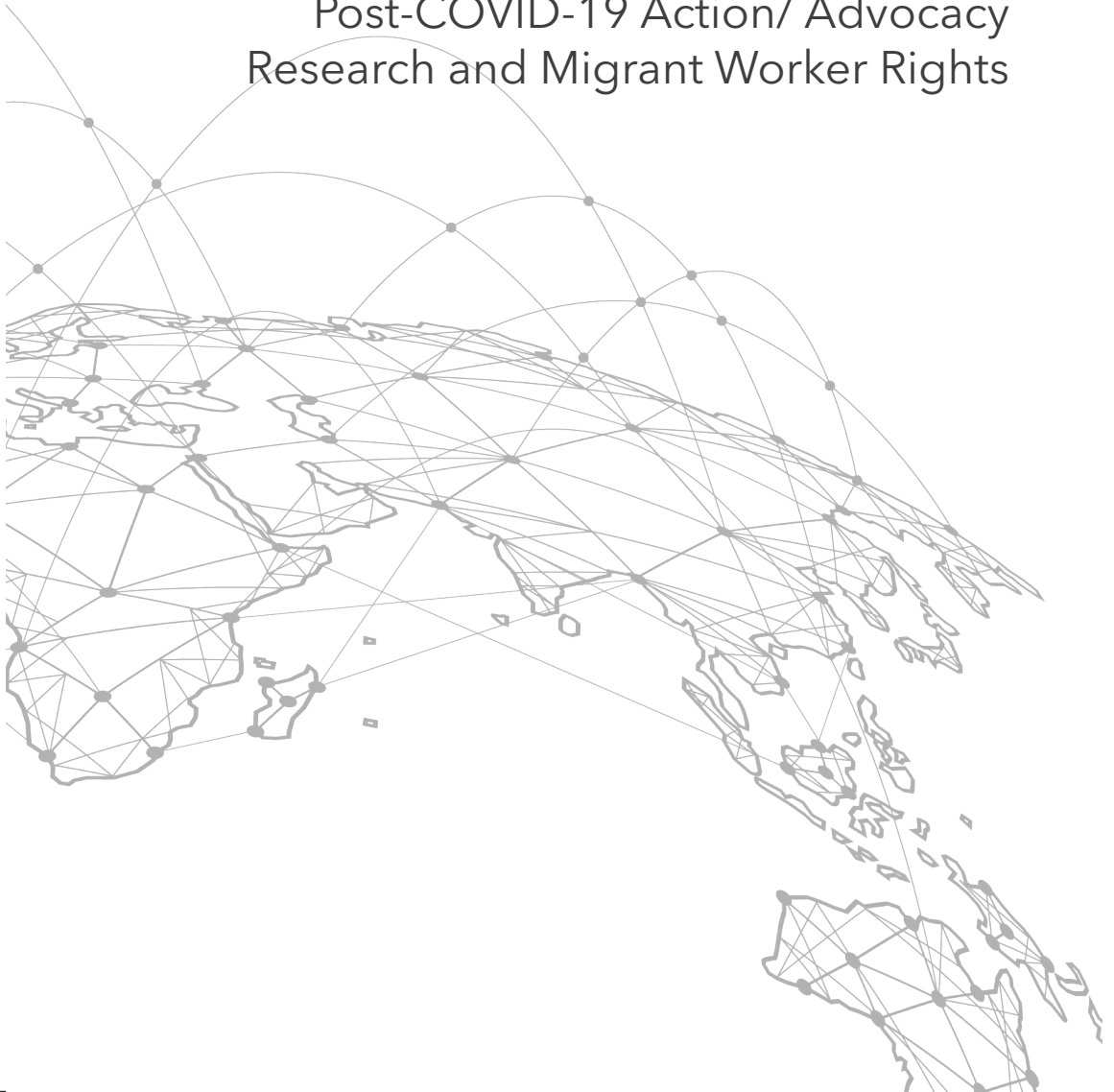
The American War in Vietnam saw population-wide exposure to violence, social upheaval, and extensive migration. Although research documents that both war and displacement are detrimental to mental health, studies assessing mental health in Vietnam are few. This study examines the relationship of war and displacement with later life mental health, specifically posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), in the Vietnamese context. The data come from the 2018 Vietnam Health and Aging Study and comprise retrospective survey data capturing family background, early childhood circumstances, military service, stress exposures during the American War, migration history, occupational history, current health, and current social support structures. We use this data to construct mediation models to understand how war and migration volume, timing, and context intervene in the life course to shape later life mental health. Our results indicate that the mental health effects of displacement are fully mediated by the exposure to violence and death experienced by this cohort. Our findings suggest that studies linking wartime migration to mental health should contextualize migration as embedded within a social ecology of war to disentangle potential sources of poor mental health outcomes.



ABSTRACT

SESSION 7:

Post-COVID-19 Action/ Advocacy
Research and Migrant Worker Rights



7.1 International Return Migrants: Human Capital and Policies

Dusadee Ayuwat and Nattawat Auraiampai

For more than half a century, the labour migration of Thai migrants abroad has played a role in improving the quality of life at the household and community levels. Since the first generation of migrants began this trend, largely to Middle Eastern countries, international labour migration has become a livelihood strategy, especially among rural households. In later years, the Thai government began to manage outgoing international labor migration to decrease the potential for risk by establishing bilateral cooperation agreements with certain countries. Thailand now documents the legal international migrants of about 60,000 per year, with most migrants managing their travel through employment companies or the Department of Employment. This demonstrates that Thailand has mechanisms to manage and support international labour migration, providing opportunities for Thai migrants to accumulate capital or gain skills while abroad. This class of labourers can be considered “human capital,” to development at the household and community levels. Nevertheless, upon their return to Thailand, labourers are often neglected, with no system in place to follow up with them. Without surveying the skills, knowledge, abilities, and experience that these labourers gained while abroad—for example, skills relevant to agricultural management, water management, or using digital technology or modern equipment—relevant agencies lack data on human capital and lack systems to support or help labourers during their return migration. Return migrants then find themselves needing to start over as unskilled labour, either when they migrate abroad again or when they seek a return to the workforce at their origin. Therefore, the Department of Employment and the Department of Skill Development, the Ministry of Labour, and the Department of Consular Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, should develop a system to follow up with returned migrants that reflects the human capital these laborers have gained while abroad. A certification system should also be developed to track returned migrants’ work experience, enabling them to seek work as semi-skilled or skilled labourers.

7.2 Transversals and Migrant Workers Rights: MMC Social Lab Inter-Sectoral Dialogues and Alter-Politics

Sudarat Musikawong and Adisorn Kerdmongkol

According to the IOM, as of 2019 Thailand has close to 4million migrant workers from neighboring Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia, which about half are undocumented. The 2017 reforms in Thailand’s migrant worker regulations sought to integrate the in-country undocumented into the regularization process through various complex and costly country identification, work visas and permits, and health security protocols. The most recent 2021 COVID registrations increased the costs and complexity of procedures, which in-turn increased the exploitative practices by some brokers’ overcharging, employers’ excessive deductions, and government low-level corruption. In all, the situation has increased worker precarity.

We will discuss findings from Mahidol Migration Center Social Lab’s project aimed at addressing complex challenges in Thailand’s intersectoral dialogues and participatory research. Our project is focused on shifting national-level discourse about employment industry and brokerage practices, as well as migration policies and their implementation toward rights-based agendas. Currently, we will detail two sectors: agriculture and fisheries.

The paper will also substantially update the migrant worker situation in Thailand from the perspective of migrant advocacy. Lastly, the paper will discuss the degree to which the local impacts of the program were achieved and the challenges experienced in: 1) building local government connections with NGOs/ CSOs and migrant leadership and 2) developing a depth of understanding by sharing of evidence and research co-produced (in the form of research and policy briefs at the social lab activities).

7.3 Migration Journalism: Policies, Trainings, Solutions

tammy ko Robinson

Reporting on migration can shape both public perception and responsibility. In contrast to news stories that are seasonal, sensational and/or stereotypical, I argue for a kind of reporting that critically engages dualities that are often reproduced in news narratives (citizen/immigrant, receiving/host, legal/illegal). These dualities often exacerbate the difficulties in developing and implementing policies articulating migrant contributions, rights and wellbeing. In addition to critical engagement, I examine the emergent solutions journalism discourse, from which to articulate competencies in transversal literacy strategies required of journalists covering migration today. Based on participatory action research findings and experiences with professional, community and student journalist trainings, this project recommends increasing journalistic competencies, include lateral readings in migration-related aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals across sectors. We need collective intelligence in cross-border collaborations that foster migration journalisms that are engaged in transmedia navigation within a transnational justice framework.

7.4 The Condition of the Migrant Worker in Taiwan under the Global COVID-19 Pandemic

Lennon Ying-Dah Wong and Sherry Torres Macmod Wang

This paper will discuss the crisis of COVID-19 upon the migrant workers in Taiwan. Crises include the criminalization of undocumented migrant workers, the struggle for an amnesty for workers who over-stay, negotiations with government against the suspension of the re-entry permits. As of April 2022, Taiwan has over 600,000 workers (a decrease from previous years) and is dominated by private brokers sourcing migrant workers and providing dormitories for standardized workers. In particular, the paper outlines the gray areas like the use of the Flag of Convenience in the shipping and fisheries industries and stranded shipping and fisheries workers, legal forms of lowering working and living standards, and increasing hardship through lockdowns disabling freedom of movement, restrictions on controlling their own pay and remittances. During the height of COVID, workers who were testifying about their hardship on social media gone viral were often fired for being whistle-blowers. Lastly, we will comment about the role of international media and community.



ABSTRACT

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION



ROUNDTABLE 1:

Replacement Migration: A Policy Shift of Thailand

COVID-19 has forced a re-examination of immigration law and policies around the world. Replacement migration policy has been increasingly adopted in many advanced economies and newly industrialized countries to slow down the dwindling numbers of local workforce in their ageing societies. Thailand's labor force (population age 15-59) will decline from 43 million in 2017 to only 36 million by 2037. Therefore, Thailand has launched the replacement migration policy by introducing long-term resident visa (LTR Visa), Smart Visa, and other measures to attract wealthy individuals and professional workers to reduce the socio-economic impacts of its ageing society. In addition to its visa policies, Thailand should incorporate other initiatives and carry out immigration reforms to enhance replacement migration policy in the Kingdom, for example, the naturalization of its indigenous peoples and stateless children, the integration policy of refugees and migrants in the country, the human capital development and settlement of migrant children, and the formulation of foreign talent policy to realize Thailand's 4.0 industrial development strategy.

Chair:

- Sakkarin Niyomsilpa
Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University

Speakers:

- Aphichat Chamrathirong
Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University
- Chalernpol Chamchan
Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University
- Mary Rose Sarausad
Asian Institute of Technology

ROUNDTABLE 2:
'New' or 'Better' Normal for Migrants in Southeast Asia

This roundtable organized by SEA Junction aims to explore the increased vulnerability and exploitation of migrants during COVID-19 in Southeast Asia and their evident lack of health care and social protection. This to advocate for greater policy attention to the need to formulate fairer migration management system and social protection mechanisms, including on the issue of intra-regional portability of health and social insurance benefits.

Chair:

- Rosalia Sciortino Sumaryono
IPSR, Mahidol University and SEA Junction

Speakers:

- Benjamin Harkins
Ship to Shore Rights South-East Asia Program
International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Naruemon Thabchumpon
Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
- Paul Buckley
ASEAN Australia Counter-Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT), Australian Aid
- Poonsap S. Tulaphan
Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion Bangkok
(HomeNet Thailand)

ROUNDTABLE 3:

Post COVID-19 Era and the Emerging Issues in Migration Research and Policy

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the face of global migration and mobility. Concerning on the spread of the virus, many governments have prompted to limit unprecedented international movement and migration. The changing face of international movement could lead to far-reaching consequences for migrants and countries at both ends of their journeys and through which they travelled.

This roundtable aims to explore the emerging issues and policy challenges of migration in the changing world. Emerging challenges that varied by countries and regions will be discussed in this session. Example of how a nation and regions has tackled the changing world through their migration policies will also be commented in this session.

Chair:

- Charamporn Holumyong
Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University

Speakers:

- Kaoru Aoyama
Kobe University and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Japan
- Paul Statham
Sussex Centre for Migration Research, University of Sussex, UK
- Sergey V. Ryazantsev
Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia and FedUSC, Brazil
- Ulrike Grote
Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany



LISTS OF CHAIR, SPEAKER, MC, RAPPORTEUR, AND EXHIBITOR



OPENING SESSION

Dr. Banchong Mahaisavariya

President, Mahidol University (MU)

Dr. Aree Jampaklay

Associate Professor and Director
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University
Chair MMC Advisory Board
E-mail: aree.ude@mahidol.ac.th

Dr. Kyoko Kusakabe

Professor
Department of Development and Sustainability
Asian Institute for Technology (AIT)
E-mail: kyokok@ait.ac.th; kyokok@ait.asia

Dr. Doo-Sub Kim

Professor Emeritus
Department of Sociology
Founding Director, The Center for SSK Multicultural Research (CSMR)
Hanyang University
South Korea
E-mail: duskim@hanyang.ac.kr

Dr. Kaoru Aoyama

Professor
Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University
and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Japan
kaoru@tiger.kobe-u.ac.jp

Edgard Rodriguez

Senior Program Specialist/Myanmar Initiative Lead
International Development Research Centre (IDRC),
Asia Regional Office for Asia, India
Email : erodriguez@idrc.ca

Dr. Sergey V. Ryazantsev

Professor and Director
Institute for Demographic Research of the Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia
and Visiting Professor, Federal University of Sao Carlos, Brazil.
E-mail: riazan@mail.ru

Dr. Rosalia Sciortino Sumaryono

Associate Professor
Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University
Founder and Executive Director, SEA Junction Thailand
E-mail: rosaliasciortino@yahoo.com; rosalia.sci@mahidol.ac.th

Dr. Paul Statham

Professor and Director
Sussex Centre for Migration Research (SCMR), University of Sussex
Editor, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies (JEMS)
United Kingdom
E-mail: paul.statham@sussex.ac.uk

Dr. Sureporn Punpuing

Associate Professor
Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University
Director Mahidol Migration Center Thailand
sureporn.pun@mahidol.edu,

LIST OF CHAIRS, AUTHORS AND SPEAKERS

SESSION 1: GENDER, FISHERIES AND MIGRATION

CHAIR

Dr. Kyoko Kusakabe

Professor, Department of Development and Sustainability
Asian Institute for Technology (AIT), Thailand
E-mail: kyokok@ait.ac.th; kyokok@ait.asia

Ms. Carli Melo

Ph.D. Candidate
Graduate Program in Geography
York University, Canada
E-mail: crmelo@yorku.ca

Ms. Sokha Eng

University of Massachusetts Boston
Visiting Ph.D. Student
Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
E-mail: Sokha.Eng001@umb.edu

Ms. Nang Lun Kham Synt

Master Student
Gender and Development Studies
Department of Development and Sustainability
School of Environment, Resources and Development
Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
E-mail: st122548@ait.asia

Mr. Si Thu Lin

Master Student
Gender and Development Studies
Department of Development and Sustainability
School of Environment, Resources and Development
Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
E-mail: st122570@ait.asia

SESSION 2: WOMEN MIGRANTS ON THE MARGINS

CHAIR

Dr. Paul Statham

Professor and Director

Sussex Centre for Migration Research (SCMR), University of Sussex

Editor, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies (JEMS)

United Kingdom

E-mail: paul.statham@sussex.ac.uk

Dr. Pattraporn Chuenglertsiri

Lecturer

Institute for Population and Social Research

Mahidol University, Thailand

Email: pattraporn.chu@mahidol.edu

Ms. Kwanchanok Jaisuekun

Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia (RILCA)

Mahidol University, Thailand

E-mail: k.jaisuekun@gmail.com

Dr. Sirijit Sunanta

Associate Professor

Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia

Mahidol University, Thailand

E-mail: sirijit.sun@mahidol.edu

Ms. Poramintorn Vongtrirat

PhD Candidate, Sussex Centre for Migration Research (SCMR)

University of Sussex

The United Kingdom

E-mail: p.vongtrirat@sussex.ac.uk; poramintornv@gmail.com

SESSION 3: NEW LABOR AND EDUCATION MIGRATION TRENDS IN EURASIA

CHAIR

Dr. Malee Sunpuwan

Assistant Professor
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
Email: malee.sun@mahidol.edu

Mr. Roman V. Manshin

Chief Researcher, Institute for Demographic Research
The Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology
The Russian Academy of Sciences
Associate Professor, People's Friendship University of Russia, Moscow, Russia
E-mail: manshin@list.ru

Dr. Marina N. Khramova

Deputy Director, Institute for Demographic Research
The Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology
The Russian Academy of Sciences
Associate Professor, MGIMO University
Moscow, Russia
E-mail: kh-mari08@yandex.ru

Mr. Alexei V. Smirnov

Junior Researcher, Institute for Demographic Research
The Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology
The Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
E-mail: sofetel@mail.ru

Mr. Nikita S. Ryazantsev

Junior Researcher, Institute for Demographic Research
The Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology
The Russian Academy of Sciences
MA Student, People's Friendship University of Russia, Moscow, Russia
E-mail: ryazantsev080700@ya.ru

Mrs. Do Huong Lan

Associate Professor
National Economic University
Vice Director of the Center for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship,
Hanoi, Vietnam
E-mail: dhlan6576@yahoo.com

Mr. Nikita G. Kuznetsov

Junior Researcher, Institute for Demographic Research of the Federal Center of
Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences,
Moscow, Russia
E-mail: nick_smith@mail.ru

Dr. Kenichi Ohashi

Professor
College of Tourism, Department of Culture and Tourism Studies
Rikkyo University, Tokyo, Japan
E-mail: ohashik@rikkyo.ac.jp

SESSION 4: TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION LANDSCAPE EAST ASIA

CHAIR

Mr. Jerrold Huguet
Consultant on Population and Development
E-mail: jwhuguet@yahoo.com

Dr. Doo-Sub Kim

Professor Emeritus
Department of Sociology
Founding Director, The Center for SSK Multicultural Research (CSMR)
Hanyang University, South Korea
E-mail: duskim@hanyang.ac.kr

Dr. Nayoung Heo

Assistant Professor
Asian Demographic Research Institute
School of Sociology and Political Sciences
Shanghai University, China
E-mail: heon131@naver.com

Dr. Jinjing Wu

Assistant Professor

Asian Demographic Research Institute, School of Sociology and Political Sciences
Shanghai University, China

E-mail: jinjingwu1105@gmail.com

Dr. Masataka Nakagawa

Senior Researcher

National Institute of Population and Social Security Research Tokyo, Japan

E-mail: nakagawa-masataka@ipss.go.jp

Dr. Kaoru Aoyama

Professor

Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University and
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Japan

E-mail: kaoru@tiger.kobe-u.ac.jp

**SESSION 5: MIGRATION, THE WELL-BEING OF THE LEFT BEHINDS,
AND THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19**

CHAIR

Dr. Nara Khamkhom

Department of Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities
Ratchasuda College

Mahidol University, Thailand

E-mail: nara.kha@mahidol.ac.th; nrktommy@gmail.com

Dr. Aree Jampaklay

Associate Professor and Director

Institute for Population and Social Research

Mahidol University, Thailand

Chair MMC Advisory Board

E-mail: aree.ude@mahidol.ac.th

Dr. Kanchana Tangcholati

Associate Professor

Institute for Population and Social Research

Mahidol University, Thailand

E-mail: kanchana.tag@mahidol.ac.th

Dr. Patama Vapattanawong

Professor
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
E-mail: patama.vap@mahidol.ac.th

Dr. Suchada Thaweessit

Associate Professor and Deputy Director for Research, Finance and Procurement
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
E-mail: suchadean@gmail.com

Dr. Aphichat Chamrathrithirong

Emeritus Professor and Senior Advisor
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
E-mail: aphichat.cha@mahidol.ac.th; chamrathrithirong@gmail.com

Dr. Kathleen Ford

University of Michigan
E-mail : kford@umich.edu

Dr. Aksarapak Lucktong

Senior Officer
Panyapiwat Institute of Management, Thailand

Dr. Anlaya Smuseneto

Associate Professor
Prince of Songkla University
E-mail: anlaya.s@psu.ac.th

Ms. Kasama Yakoh

Project-based researcher
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
E-mail: gomphrenalinn@gmail.com

SESSION 6: MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH

CHAIR

Dr. Marc Völker

Assistant Professor
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
Email: marc.voe@mahidol.edu

Dr. Artem S. Lukyanets

Deputy Director, Institute for Demographic Research
The Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology
The Russian Academy of Sciences;
Associate Professor at MGIMO University
Moscow, Russia
E-mail: artem_ispr@mail.ru

Dr. Ulrike Grote

Professor
Institute for Environmental Economics and World Trade
Leibniz University Hannover
Hannover, Germany
E-mail: grote@iuw.uni-hannover.de.

Mrs. Sina Bierkamp

Institute for Environmental Economics and World Trade
Leibniz University Hannover
Hannover, Germany
E-mail: bierkamp@iuw.uni-hannover.de.

Dr. Trung Thanh Nguyen

Senior Lecturer
Institute for Environmental Economics and World Trade
Leibniz University Hannover, Hannover, Germany
E-mail: thanh.nguyeniuw@uni-hannover.de

Dr. Yvette Marie Young

Department of Sociology, The University of Utah
Email yvette.young@soc.utah.edu

Dr. Kim Korinex

Professor
Department of Sociology, The University of Utah
E-mail: kim.korinek@soc.utah.edu

Dr. Nguyen Huu Minh

Professor and High Senior Researcher
Institute for Family and Gender Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences. E-mail:
minhnh.ifgs@vass.gov.vn

**SESSION 7: POST-COVID-19 ACTION/ ADVOCACY RESEARCH AND MIGRANT
WORKER RIGHTS**

CHAIR AND SPEAKER

Dr. Sudarat Musikawong

Associate Professor and Deputy Director for International Relations, Networking, and
Academic Service
Mahidol University, Thailand
E-mail: sudarat.mus@mahidol.edu

Dr. Dusadee Ayuwat

Professor Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Khon Kaen University
E-mail: dusayu@kku.ac.th

Mr. Adisorn Kerdmongkol

Co-ordinator
Migrant Working Group
Thailand
E-mail: manager@mwgthailand.org; adisorn.keadmongkol@gmail.com

tammy ko Robinson

Associate Professor
School of Education, Hanyang University, South Korea
E-mail: tammyko@hanyang.ac.kr

Mr. Lennon Ying-Dah Wong

Director, Department of Policies on Migrants Workers
Serve the People Association (SPA)
Taoyuan, Taiwan
E-mail: ydwong@gmail.com

Ms. Sherry Macmod Wang

Vice Director, Service Center and Shelter for Migrant Workers
Serve the People Association (SPA)
Taoyuan, Taiwan
E-mail: smwang@spa.org.tw

ROUNDTABLE 1:
REPLACEMENT MIGRATION: A POLICY SHIFT OF THAILAND

CHAIR

Dr. Sakkarin Niyomsilpa

Assistant Professor

Institute for Population and Social Research

Mahidol University, Thailand

E-mail: sakkarin.niy@mahidol.ac.th; sakkarin.ni@gmail.com

Dr. Aphichat Chamrathirong

Emeritus Professor and Senior Advisor

Institute for Population and Social Research

Mahidol University, Thailand

Former MMC Director

E-mail: aphichat.cha@mahidol.ac.th; chamrathirong@gmail.com

Dr. Chalernpol Chamchan

Associate Professor

Institute for Population and Social Research

Mahidol University, Thailand

E-mail: chalernpol.cha@mahidol.ac.th

Dr. Mary Rose Sarausad

Language Specialist and Researcher

Research Support Program, AIT Language Center Asian Institute of Technology

E-mail: maryrose@ait.asia

ROUNDTABLE 2:

'NEW' OR 'BETTER' NORMAL FOR MIGRANTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA?

CHAIR

Dr. Rosalia Sciortino Sumaryono

Associate Professor

Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Thailand

Executive Director, SEA Junction

E-mail: rosaliasciortino@yahoo.com; rosalia.sci@mahidol.ac.th

Mr. Benjamin Harkins

Technical Officer (Research and M&E)

Ship to Shore Rights South-East Asia Program

International Labour Organization

E-mail: Harkins@ilo.org

Dr. Naruemon Thabchumpon

Associate Professor and Director

Asian Research Center for Migration,

Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

E-mail: naruemon.t@chula.ac.th; <nthabchumpon@gmail.com>

Mr. Paul Buckley

Policy Dialogue and Partnerships Director

(ASEAN Australia Counter-Trafficking - ASEAN-ACT)

Australian Aid

E-mail: <paul.buckley@aseanact.org>

Ms. Poonsap S. Tulaphan

Director

Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion

Bangkok (HomeNet Thailand)

E-mail: tps499@hotmail.com

ROUNDTABLE 3:
POST-COVID-19 ERA AND THE EMERGING ISSUES IN MIGRATION RESEARCH
AND POLICIES

CHAIR

Dr. Charnporn Holomyong

Associate Professor
Deputy Director for Planning and Quality Assurance
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
E-mail: charnporn.hol@mahidol.ac.th

Dr. Kaoru Aoyama

Professor, Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University and
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Japan
kaoru@tiger.kobe-u.ac.jp

Dr. Paul Statham

Professor and Director
Sussex Centre for Migration Research (SCMR), University of Sussex
Editor, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies (JEMS)
United Kingdom
E-mail: paul.statham@sussex.ac.uk

Dr. Sergey V. Ryazantsev

Professor and Director
Institute for Demographic Research of the Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia
And Visiting Professor, Federal University of Sao Carlos, Brazil.
E-mail: riazan@mail.ru

Dr. Ulrike Grote

Professor
Institute for Environmental Economics and World Trade
Leibniz University Hannover
Hannover, Germany
E-mail: grote@iuw.uni-hannover.de

CLOSING

Dr. Aphichat Chamratrithirong

Emeritus Professor and Senior Advisor
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
E-mail: aphichat.cha@mahidol.ac.th; chamratrithirong@gmail.com

MASTER OF CEREMONIES (MCs)

Dr. Napaphat Satchanawakul

Lecturer
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
Email: napaphat.sat@mahidol.edu

Dr. Pattraporn Chuenglertsiri

Lecturer
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
Email: pattraporn.chu@mahidol.edu

RAPORTEURS

Dr. Marc Völker (*Lead Rapporteur*)

Assistant Professor
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
Email: marc.voe@mahidol.edu

Dr. Charamporn Holomyong

Associate Professor and Deputy Director for Planning and Quality Assurance
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
Email: charamporn.hol@mahidol.ac.th

David D. Perrodin

Foreign Expert
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
Email: davidd.per@mahidol.ac.th; daviddperrodin@gmail.com

Dr. Sarunya Sujaritpong

Lecturer
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
Email: sarunya.suj@mahidol.edu

Dr. Truc Ngoc Hoang Dang

Lecturer
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University, Thailand
Email: truc.ngo@mahidol.edu

LIST OF INVITED EXHIBITORS

Labour Protection Network (LPN)

Mr. Sompong Srakaew

Founder and Director of Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation

E-mail: somponglpn@gmail.com

Website: www.lpnfoundation.org

SEA Junction

Dr. Rosalia Sciortino Sumaryono

Founder and Executive Director, SEA Junction

E-mail: rosaliasciortino@yahoo.com

Website: seajunction.org

World Vision Foundation of Thailand (WVFT)

Dr. Sarawut Rachasrimuang

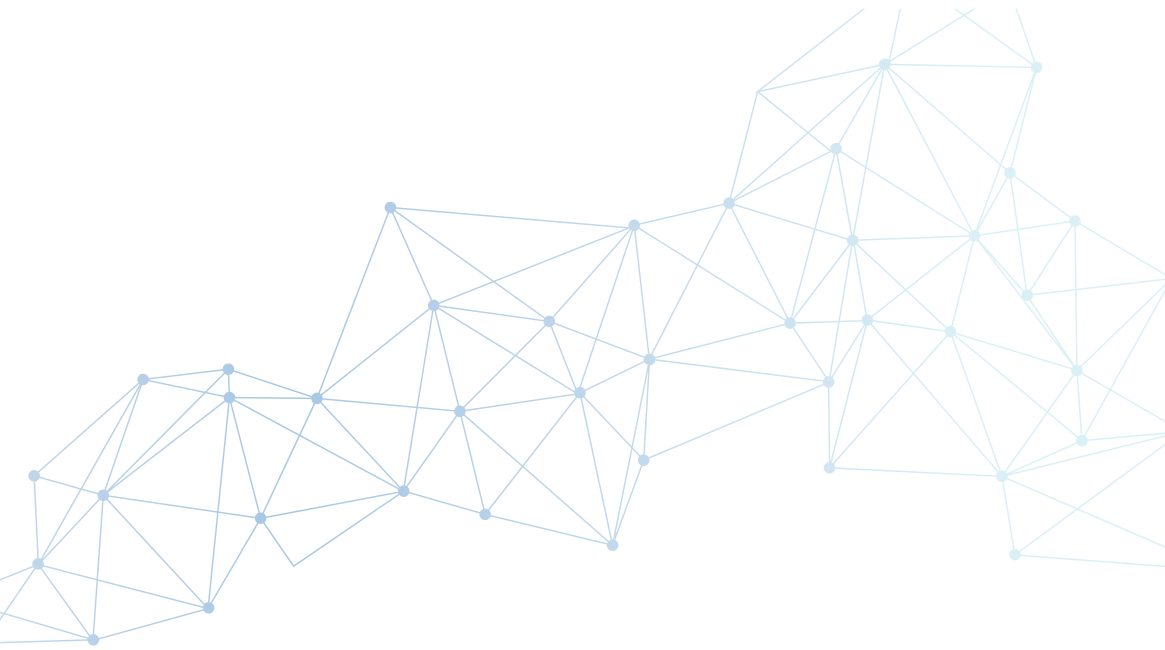
National Director of World Vision Foundation of Thailand

E-mail: sarawut_rachasrimuang@wvi.org

Website: www.worldvision.or.th

The 6th MMC Regional Conference

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Mahidol University
Wisdom of the Land



Mahidol Migration Center (MMC)
Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR)
Mahidol University



[LPN] LABOUR PROTECTION NETWORK



IDRC - CRDI
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER - CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



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World Vision
World Vision Foundation of Thailand

ILO International Labour Organization