



Mahidol University
Wisdom of the Land



Mahidol University
Institute for Population
and Social Research

The 7th **MAHIDOL MIGRATION CENTER** **Regional Conference**

(Im)Mobilities in Turbulent Times:
Navigating Global Crises, Policy Shifts, and New Pathways
for Justice and Resilience

24–25 November 2025

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



www.mahidolmigrationcenter.com



www.ipsr.mahidol.ac.th



Mahidol University
Wisdom of the Land



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



Mahidol University
Institute for Population
and Social Research



**International
Labour
Organization**



University of Nevada, Reno



The 7th Mahidol Migration Center Regional Conference

“(Im)Mobilities in Turbulent Times: Navigating Global Crises,
Policy Shifts, and New Pathways for Justice and Resilience”

24-25 November 2025

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

MAHIDOL MIGRATION CENTER

Jointly supported by Mahidol University;
International Organization for Migration (IOM); International Labour Organization (ILO);
Asian Population Association (APA); Sussex-Mahidol Migration Partnership (SMMP);
Institute for Demographic Research FCTAS RAS; The Asian Institute of Technology;
SEA Junction; Kobe University and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science;
Khon Kaen University; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prince of Songkhla University;
University of Nevada, Reno; The Inclusive Education Foundation; Raks Thai Foundation;
World Vision Foundation of Thailand; Labour Protection Network; Thailand Migration Reform
and Institute for Population and Social Research





TABLE OF CONTENTS

AGENDA

DAY 1: Monday, 24 November 2025	5
DAY 2: Tuesday, 25 November 2025	13

ABSTRACTS

Presentation 1: Politics, Policy, and Migration Governance • Scenarios in Forced Migration and Conflict	21
Presentation 2: Families, Citizenship, Identities, and Integration	27
Presentation 3: Migrant Workers Gendered (Dis)Empowerment	33
Presentation 4: International Migration in Sex Work	39
Presentation 5: Migration Research Methodologies	45
Presentation 6: Climate and Environmental (Im)Mobilities	51
Presentation 7: Border Policies in Turbulent Times: Navigating (Im)Mobilities and Forging Pathways for Child and Family Resilience	57
Presentation 8: Migrant Vulnerable Groups: Quality of Life, Community, and Wellbeing	63
Presentation 9: Migrant Workers' Rights & Advocacy Research	69
Presentation 10: Diaspora, Conflict, Economic Development, Transnational Ties	75
Presentation 11: Transnational Mobility and Regional Interactions: Challenges of Our Time and Responses from Migration Policy	81



AGENDA

Masters of Ceremony (MCs):
Champangorn Holumyong, Ph.D
Pattaphol Yuktadatta, Ph.D

DAY 1: Monday, 24 November 2025

TIME	PROGRAM
08:00–08:45	Registration
08:45–09:00 (ROOM 101)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory Remarks <i>Associate Professor Dr. Chalermpol Chamchan</i> Director, Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR) • Opening Address <i>Professor Dr. Yodchanan Wongsawat</i> Vice President for Research, Mahidol University (MU)
09:00–09:30 (ROOM 101)	Welcoming Remarks from the MMC Partnership Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nopraenue Sajjarax Dhirathiti</i> Mahidol University (MU) • <i>Sabine Henning</i> United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) • <i>Wassana Im-em</i> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) • <i>Joanna Dabao</i> International Organization for Migration (IOM) • <i>Kaoru Aoyama</i> Kobe University and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Japan • <i>Marina Khramova</i> The People's Friendship University of Russia (RUDN) and Institute for Demographic Research FCTAS RAS, Russian Federation • <i>Rosalia Sciortino Sumaryono</i> SEA Junction • <i>Sureeporn Punpuing</i> Mahidol Migration Center (MMC)
09:30–10:00	<i>Group photo-taking and break</i>
PANEL DISCUSSION 1: Replacement Migration: Securing Thailand's Future Workforce	
<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Sakkarin Niyomsilpa</i> <i>IPSR, Mahidol University</i></p>	
10:00–11:00 (ROOM 101)	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Aphichat Chamratrithirong</i>, Mahidol University • <i>Pataraporn Laowong</i>, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) • <i>Marja Paavilainen</i>, International Labour Organization (ILO)

DAY 1: Monday, 24 November 2025

TIME: 11:00–12:00

(ROOM 101)

PRESENTATION SESSION 1:

Politics, Policy, and Migration Governance • Scenarios in Forced Migration and Conflict

Chair: Chalernpol Chamchan
IPSR, Mahidol University

1.1 Factors Influencing the Resilience of Migrant Workers Experiencing Recurrent Flooding in Mueang Pattani District, Thailand

• ***Anlaya Smuseneto***

Prince of Songkla University, Thailand

1.2 Sustainable Strategies for Recurrent Flood Management: The Role of Government and Community in Southern Border Provinces and Migrant Workers in Southern Thailand

• ***Surainee Sainui***

Prince of Songkla University, Thailand

1.3 Protecting Domestic Migrant Workers Amidst Incomplete Reforms: Indonesia and the Philippines' Strategies Under the GCC Kafala System

• ***Lulita Sauman Nur Fajriah***

Universitas Pasundan, Indonesia

1.4 Navigating Precarity in the Context of Southeast Asia's Migration Governance Systems: Theoretical and Empirical Insights into the Experiences of Urban Refugees

• ***Mary Rose Geraldine A. Sarausad***

Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

TIME: 11:00–12:00

(ROOM 326)

PRESENTATION SESSION 2:

Families, Citizenship, Identities, and Integration

Chair: Napaphat Satchanawakul

UNESCAP

-
- 2.1 Influence of Family, Religion, and Migration Contexts on the Intention of Youth Living in Thailand's Southernmost Provinces to Migrate for Work Abroad.

• **Kathleen Ford**

University of Michigan, United States

- 2.2 Childhood Experiences of Parental Migration and the Mental Health of Young Adults in Indonesia and the Philippines

• **Lucy Jordan**

James Cook University, Australia

- 2.3 Effect of Household Migration History on International Labor Migration Aspirations among Filipino Youth: An Inverse Probability of Treatment Weighting using Propensity Score

• **Queenie Rose E. Chico**

University of the Philippines Population Institute, Philippines

- 2.4 Living between Places in the Digital Era: Translocal Embedding and Anchoring among Thai Migrant Workers in South Korea

• **Reena Tadee**

University of Vienna, Austria

TIME: 12:00–13:00

Lunch and Poster Presentation

DAY 1: Monday, 24 November 2025

TIME: 13:00–14:00

(ROOM 101)

PRESENTATION SESSION 3:

Migrant Workers Gendered (Dis)Empowerment

Chair: Nucharapon Liangruenrom

IPSR, Mahidol University

3.1 Impact of International Labour Migration on Women's Empowerment: A Case Study of Urban 'Underserved' Community, Colombo, Sri Lanka

• ***Purnima Dehiwela***

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

3.2 Gender and Seasonal Migration from Thailand to Finland for Wild Berry Picking

• ***Sirijit Sunanta***

Mahidol University, Thailand

3.3 Mothers at the Margins: Displacement Pathways, Daily Stress, and Caregiving in Northern Thailand

• ***Stephanie M. Koning***

University of Nevada, Reno, United States

3.4 Evaluating Health Literacy and Stigma: Knowledge, Perceptions, and Gender-Based Participation in TB and HIV/AIDS Interventions Among Migrant Communities in Mahachai

• ***Wai Yan Phyo Naing***

Raks Thai Foundation, Thailand

TIME: 13:00–14:00

(ROOM 326)

PRESENTATION SESSION 4:

International Migration in Sex Work

Chair: Kaoru Aoyama
Kobe University

4.1 Crossing Borders, Crossing Narratives: Rethinking Migrant Sex Work and Trafficking

• **Kaoru Aoyama**
Kobe University, Japan

4.2 Using Sociogram as a Participatory Method to Visualise Networks of Migrant Sex Workers in UK

• **Chihiro Toya**
SOAS University of London, United Kingdom (UK)

4.3 Migration and Sex Work in France. Safety and Violence in an Abolitionist Context

• **Hélène Le Bail**
French National Research Center, Sciences Po Paris, France

4.4 Policy Challenges and Pathways: Thai Sex Workers' Migration Experiences Abroad

• **Nucharee Srivirojana**
Mahidol University, Thailand

DAY 1: Monday, 24 November 2025

TIME: 14:00–15:00

(ROOM 101)

PRESENTATION SESSION 5:

Migration Research Methodologies

Chair: Aree Jampaklay
IPSR, Mahidol University

5.1 Using Admin Data to Create Cost-Effective, Policy-Relevant Measures of International Migration

• **John Bryant**

Bayesian Demography Limited, New Zealand

5.2 Scenario-Based Migration Flow Projections: A Probabilistic Approach

• **Jakob Zellmann**

University of Bologna, Italy

5.3 From Local to Transnational: The Interconnectedness of Multi-Level Social Networks in Seasonal Migration of Thai Wild Berry Pickers in Finland

• **Sura Chandaeng**

Mahidol University, Thailand

TIME: 15:00–16:00

(ROOM 101)

PANEL DISCUSSION 2:

Climate Change and Migration

Chair: Marc Völker
IPSR, Mahidol University

Panelists

• **Hélène Syed Zwick**

Migration Data and Research Unit, IOM, Thailand

• **Raya Muttarak**

University of Bologna, Italy

• **Mongkon Thongchaithanawut**

University of Vienna, Austria

• **Evgenia Moiseeva**

Institute for Demographic Research FCTAS, Russian Federation

TIME: 16:00–17:00

(ROOM 101)

PRESENTATION SESSION 6:

Climate and Environmental (Im)Mobilities

Chair: Bradley Mellicker

Climate Mobility Innovation Lab, IOM

-
- 6.1 Climate Migration in European Soil? Exploring Drought Exposure and Internal Migration in Italy
• **Lorenzo Casprini**
University of Bologna, Italy
- 6.2 Between Eroding Resources and Emerging Pathways: Migration as an Adaptive Response to Environmental Change in the Rural Himalayas
• **Manish Mamgai**
International Institute for Population Sciences, India
- 6.3 Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh: A Humanitarian Crisis and Its Environmental Ramifications
• **Jannatul Ferdous**
Comilla University, Bangladesh
- 6.4 Impacts of Armed Conflict and Rare-Earth Extraction on Local Livelihoods and Environment in Chihpwi and Pang Wa, Kachin State, Myanmar
• **Sut Ring Htoi Awng**
Chiang Mai University, Thailand
-

DAY 1: Monday, 24 November 2025

TIME: 17:00–18:00

(ROOM 101)

PANEL DISCUSSION 3:

New Migration Trends in Eurasia and America During Turbulent Times

Chair: Sergey Ryazantsev

IPSR, Mahidol University

Panelists

- **Joni Virkkunen**

University of Eastern Finland, Finland

- **Bhavna Dave**

SOAS University of London, United Kingdom (UK)

- **Leila Delovarova**

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan

- **Seonjing Kim**

Duksung Women's University, South Korea

- **Irina Molodikova**

International Association "Dialog", Hungary

- **Dan Nguyen Anh**

Institute Sociology VASS, Vietnam

- **Biriz Karacay**

Istanbul Commerce University, Turkey

- **Andrei Korobkov,**

University of Tennessee, United States

- **Cynthia Pizzarro**

University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

TIME: 18:00–20:00

Welcome Dinner

DAY 2: Tuesday, 25 November 2025

TIME: 9:00–10:00

(ROOM 101)

PANEL DISCUSSION 4:

Mobilities in Turbulent Times: Navigating Global Crises, Policy Shifts, and New Pathways for Justice and Resilience

Chair: Rachapoll Phromyarat

Thai Community Development Center, Los Angeles/Bangkok

Panelists

- ***Panida Rzonca***

Thai Community Development Center, United States

- ***Phatchara Udomsin***

Thai Community Development Center, United States

- ***Rinrada Jongthawornsatit***

Thai Community Development Center, United States

DAY 2: Tuesday, 25 November 2025

TIME: 10:00–11:00

(ROOM 101)

PRESENTATION SESSION 7:

Border Policies in Turbulent Times: Navigating (Im)Mobilities and Forging Pathways for Child and Family Resilience

Chair: Gregory Tyrosvoutis

The Inclusive Education Foundation

7.1 Situational Update: Migration, Health Care and Protection on the Border

- **Saw Than Lwin**

Mae Tao Clinic, Thailand

- **Win Thandar Kyaw**

Help without Frontiers Thailand Foundation

7.2 Half Left Behind: Policy Pathways to Educational Equity Along the Thai-Myanmar Border

- **Sunantha Inkhamchuea**

The Inclusive Education Foundation

7.3 Mini Film Screening: “Being Family”: A Documentary about a Film Promoting Positive Parenting and Mental Health (Documentary film by Sermpanya Foundation)

- **Nway Nway Oo**

Mae Tao Clinic, Thailand

7.4 Well-being in Contexts of Migration: Strengthening Positive Parenting and Reducing Violence Against Children through a Community Film Intervention

- **Khaing Zar Lwin**

Global Parenting Initiative (GPI)

TIME: 10:00–11:00

(ROOM 109)

PRESENTATION SESSION 8:

Migrant Vulnerable Groups: Quality of Life, Community, and Wellbeing

Chair: Bhubate Samutachak

IPSR, Mahidol University

8.1 Disability and Cross-Border Migration in Thailand: Examining the Gaps in Migration Research

• **Nara Khamkhom**

Mahidol University, Thailand

8.2 The Resilience of Chin Migrants Who Migrated to Bangkok after the 2021 Coup in Burma

• **Jimmy Rezar Boi**

Chiang Mai University, Thailand

8.3 Rohingya Refugees Family Dynamics: Stuck in a Limbo

• **Nur Nadia Lukmanulhakim**

University of Nottingham, Malaysia

TIME: 11:00–12:00

(ROOM 101)

PANEL DISCUSSION 5:

Safety at Work in Southeast Asia

Chair: Rosalia Sciortino Sumaryono

IPSR, Mahidol University

Panelists

• **Reiko Harima**

Asian Migration Center & Mekong Migration Network

• **Benjamin Harkins**

International Labour Organization (ILO)

• **Wasurat Homsud**

Raks Thai Foundation, Thailand

DAY 2: Tuesday, 25 November 2025

TIME: 12:00–13:00

Lunch and Poster Presentation

TIME: 13:00–14:15

(ROOM 101)

PRESENTATION SESSION 9:

Migrant Workers' Rights & Advocacy Research

Chair: Sunethra Perera

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

-
- 9.1 Recruitment and Employment Practices of Migrant Workers in Bangkok Metropolitan Region's Construction Industry

• ***Rosalia Sciortino***

SEA Junction & Mahidol University, Thailand

- 9.2 Empowering Migrant Workers: Lessons learned from ILO Migrant Worker Resource Centres in the ASEAN Region

• ***Andreas Schmidt***

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- 9.3 Examining the Impact of Exclusion of Migrant Workers from Freedom to Form Labour Union in the Thai Labour Law: A Case Study of Documented Migrant Workers in Fishing Industry in Songkhla Province

• ***Shwe Zin Thin***

Mahidol University, Thailand

- 9.4 Understanding International Migration Decisions of Sri Lankan Youth: A Life Course Perspective

• ***Wathsala Anuradhi***

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

TIME: 13:00–14:15

(ROOM 109)

PRESENTATION SESSION 10:

Diaspora, Conflict, Economic Development, Transnational Ties

Chair: Kanokchai Mangmesup

Thailand Migration Reform Consortium (TMR)

10.1 Thai Wild Berry Pickers in Finland under Contradictory Mobility Regime

• ***Kwanchanok Jaisuekun***

Mahidol University, Thailand

10.2 Conflict and Marginality: Understanding the War's Impact on Thai Migrant Workers

• ***Yahel Kurlander***

Tel-Hai Academic College, Israel

10.3 Crisis-Driven Solidarity: Migrant Workers and Employers in the Agricultural Frontier

• ***Avinoam Cohen***

College of Management, Israel

10.4 How Temporary Indian Migrants Get Entrepreneurship in Thailand

• ***Poonam Ingle***

Khon Kaen University, Thailand

DAY 2: Tuesday, 25 November 2025

TIME: 14:15–15:15

(ROOM 101)

PRESENTATION SESSION 11:

Transnational Mobility and Regional Interactions: Challenges of Our Time and Responses from Migration Policy

*Chair: Sudarat Musikawong
IPSR, Mahidol University*

11.1 Trends of Labor Migration in Central Asia and the Russian Federation

• **Sergey Ryazantsev**

Mahidol University, Thailand

11.2 Migration and Environment in Brazil: Internal Dynamic

• **Roberto do Carmo**

State University of Campinas, Brazil

11.3 From Tourist Enclave to Temporal Community: Transformation of Nha Trang's Russian-speaking Migrant Society in New Geopolitical Conditions

• **Kenichi Ohashi**

Rikkyo University, Japan

11.4 Highly Skilled Immigration to China: Current Status and Prospects

• **Marina Khramova**

The People's Friendship University of Russia (RUDN) and Institute for Demographic Research FCTAS RAS, Russian Federation

TIME: 15:15–15:45

Rapporteurs Report

(ROOM 101)

- **Marc Völker** (MMC/IPSR), Lead Rapporteur

TIME: 15:45–16:00

Closing

(ROOM 101)

- **Sureeporn Punpuing** (MMC/IPSR)

POSTER PRESENTATION

Day 1: 24 November 2025

- Educational Migration in Southeast Asia New Trends
Nikita Kuznetsov, Institute for Demographic Research FCTAS RAS, Russian Federation
- The Contribution of Russian-Speaking Tourism to Thailand's Economic Development
Abubakr Rakhmonov, Institute for Demographic Research FCTAS RAS, Russian Federation
- Migrant Vulnerability and Climate Risks
Patana Tonghuy, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand

Day 2: 25 November 2025

- Negotiating New Norms: A Multi-Level Analysis of Regendering in Java's Islamic Communities
Antonius Maria Indrianto, INVOLVEMENT Program, Yayasan Perdikan, Indonesia
- The Dynamics of Indonesian Migrant Labor Policy: A Systematic Review
Syahrul, Khon Kaen University, Thailand
- Can Thailand Incorporate Migrant Elderly Care Workers into its Long-Term Care System?
Sudarat Musikawong, Mahidol University, Thailand

EXHIBITIONS:

1. SEA Junction - Digital photo exhibition

- Rosalia Sciortino Sumaryono, *Founder and Executive Director*

2. International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Photo exhibition

- Ratchanon Kruenchit, *Multimedia and Campaign Support*

3. Raks Thai Foundation - Booth

- Wai Yan Phyto Naing, *Program and Field Technical Support Specialist*

4. World Vision Thailand

- Alisa Thongnuch, *Grant Acquisition and Technical Branding Specialist*

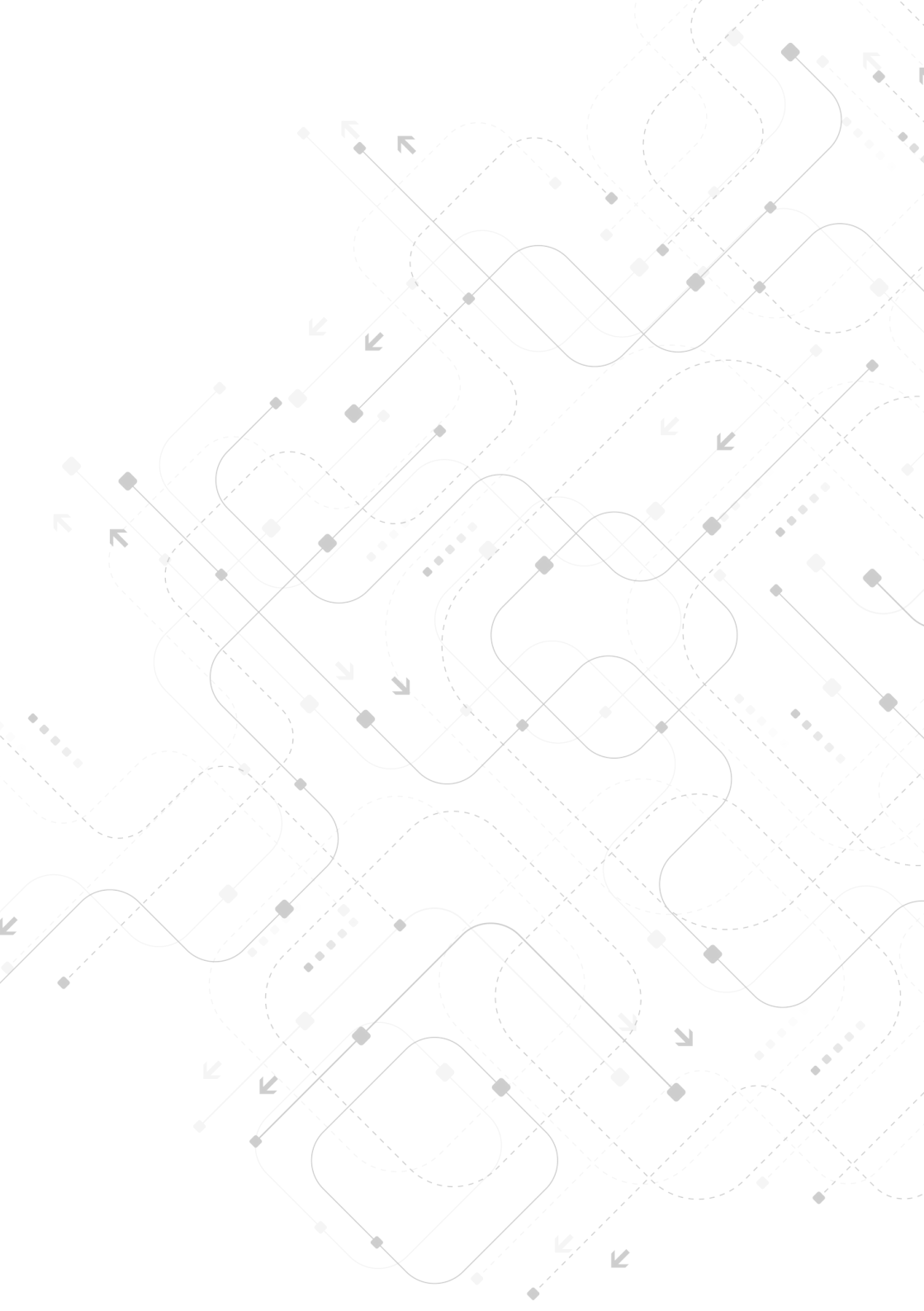
5. Labour Protection Network Foundation (LPN) - Film

- Sompong Srakaew, *Founder and Executive Director*

Room 102 (Phyathai Room):

Available throughout the conference period for side meetings and informal discussions.

Participants may reserve a time slot in front of the room on a first-come, first-served basis





ABSTRACT

PRESENTATION **1** SESSION

Politics, Policy, and Migration
Governance • Scenarios in Forced
Migration and Conflict

1.1 Factors Influencing the Resilience of Migrant Workers Experiencing Recurrent Flooding in Mueang Pattani District, Thailand

Anlaya Smuseneto

This study examined factors influencing the resilience of migrant workers affected by recurrent flooding in Mueang District, Pattani Province, emphasizing climate and environmental (im)mobilities. Guided by Resilience Theory (Ungar, 2011), the research explored interactions among individual attributes, social networks, and structural conditions. Data were collected from 300 migrant workers using a structured questionnaire covering demographics, flood exposure, disaster preparedness knowledge, community support, and resilience (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.89$). Analyses included descriptive statistics, Pearson's correlation, and stepwise multiple regression. Overall resilience was moderate ($M = 3.24$, $SD = 0.61$). Key predictors were income, disaster preparedness knowledge, length of residence in Thailand, and community support, explaining 52.3% of the variance in resilience. Findings highlighted those vulnerable migrant workers facing recurrent floods encounter mobility limitations due to environmental, social, and economic constraints. Enhancing economic security, improving access to disaster knowledge, and strengthening community support are essential to foster resilience and adaptive capacity over the long term.

Keywords: migrant workers, resilience, recurrent flooding, disaster preparedness, community support, environmental (im)mobilities

1.2 Sustainable Strategies for Recurrent Flood Management: The Role of Government and Community in Southern Border Provinces and Migrant Workers in Southern Thailand

Surainee Sainui

Pattani Province in southern Thailand faces recurrent flooding, affecting not only Thai citizens but also vulnerable groups such as migrant workers who live and work in flood-prone areas. This study examines the interactions among the state, local communities, and migrant workers in flood management. Using a qualitative research approach, data were collected through in-depth interviews with officials from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, community leaders, and migrant workers.

Findings reveal that while government policies exist, implementation often lacks continuity and fails to align with local realities, particularly neglecting the needs of migrant workers who face barriers to accessing public services. Local communities have developed adaptive strategies using local knowledge and mutual support networks, yet integration of migrant workers into these systems remains limited. Sustainable flood management therefore requires effective collaboration between state and community actors. The government should focus on policy coordination, funding, and inclusive mechanisms, while communities serve as key operational actors tailoring approaches to local contexts.

The study proposes a “multicultural management model” integrating state, community, and transnational dimensions. This includes multilingual early warning systems, accessible emergency channels, and recognition of migrant workers as integral members of the community. Ultimately, sustainable disaster management depends on embracing diversity and fostering unity between citizens and migrant workers, transforming humanitarian concern into an inclusive and practical strategy for resilience.

Keywords: recurrent flood management, migrant workers, southern border provinces, multicultural social integration

1.3 Protecting Domestic Migrant Workers Amidst Incomplete Reforms: Indonesia and the Philippines' Strategies Under the GCC Kafala System

Lulita Sauman Nur Fajriah, Iyan Septiyana

Indonesia remains the largest sending country of migrant workers in ASEAN, deploying not only skilled labor but also a considerable number of unskilled workers, particularly in the domestic sectors. These workers are not confined to intra-ASEAN destinations such as Singapore and Thailand but are increasingly deployed to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, including Saudi Arabia. To safeguard migrant workers, ASEAN adopted the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (2017). However, as a non-legally binding instrument, the Consensus has often been viewed as a diplomatic milestone rather than an effective protection framework.

Consequently, ASEAN member states continue to rely on bilateral arrangements with receiving countries through Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). This paper will focus specifically on female migrant domestic workers (FMDWs) employed in the GCC under the kafala sponsorship system. The kafala system structurally disadvantages workers by binding their residency to employers, restricting mobility, and excluding them from labor law protections. As a result, FMDWs are particularly vulnerable to physical abuse, sexual harassment, and exploitation. To address these vulnerabilities, Indonesia and the Philippines have actively advocated for structural reforms in the GCC states, such as implementing some moratorium actions and pursuing bilateral agreements. However, reforms undertaken in the GCC remain partial and often fail to include domestic workers holistically.

This paper will investigate how Indonesia and the Philippines, as ASEAN sending countries of migrant workers to GCC, have persistently sought to protect their migrant domestic workers, particularly women, despite the limited and selective labor reforms implemented by destination countries. Employing a qualitative approach that combines policy analysis, literature review, and comparative assessment, the research is framed through constructivist and feminist perspectives. Preliminary results indicate that Indonesia has restructured its deployment procedures by introducing the One Channel System (OCS), aimed at increasing state control over the recruitment process, and the Philippines strengthened its system by establishing the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) to consolidate functions related to its migrant worker protection.

Keywords: ASEAN Female Migrant Domestic Workers (FMDWs), Kafala System, ASEAN Migrant Labor Governance, Gender-Responsive Protection, ASEAN-GCC.

1.4 Navigating Precarity in the Context of Southeast Asia's Migration Governance Systems: Theoretical and Empirical Insights into the Experiences of Urban Refugees

Mary Rose Geraldine A. Sarausad

The experiences of urban refugees and asylum seekers in Southeast Asia are characterized by persistent precariousness and invisibility within the socio-economic backdrop of the cities, demonstrating the complex realities of being forcibly displaced. The detailed accounts of their displacement depict the complex nature of forced migration within contemporary frameworks. The prolonged states of liminality and uncertainty as conceptualized in some studies (e.g., Conlon, 2011; Hyndman and Giles, 2011; Horst and Grabska, 2015) are predominantly shaped by stringent migration policies and the resultant invisibility of refugees in urban environments. As refugees navigate their precarious existence, often facing marginalization and fear of deportation, the consequences of their indefinite status extend beyond displacement, to that of “permanent temporariness”. Despite existing research, further exploration of the characteristics of the temporal aspects of precarity is fundamental. Butler expands on the concept of precarity as a state of vulnerability and insecurity produced by unstable income, lack of legal status, and restricted access to resources (2009); echoing Goldring's (2010) perspective on precarious status impacting wellbeing and work.

Empirical works on urban refugees in Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia are reviewed to provide an alternative lens to the enforced temporariness of urban refugees in the context of restrictive migration policies and perpetuating cycles of precarity. The findings necessitate a reevaluation of support frameworks and legal protections; for example, allowing refugees to exercise their rights and expanding sustainable support mechanisms as priority areas in policy agenda. These will ensure meaningful integration and stability of refugees within communities; thereby, enabling them to rebuild their lives with dignity while in the host country.





ABSTRACT

PRESENTATION SESSION 2

Families, Citizenship, Identities,
and Integration

2.1 Influence of Family, Religion, and Migration Contexts on the Intention of Youth Living in Thailand's Southernmost Provinces to Migrate for Work Abroad

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

The southernmost provinces of Thailand have been involved in a civil conflict for many years that has increased economic stress and led many people to migrate to Malaysia for work. Youth who have grown up in this area have been exposed to the unrest and many have had to deal with migration of family and community members. The objective of this study is to examine the plans of Muslim residents age 18-24 to migrate outside of Thailand for work. Data are drawn from a household survey conducted in 2021 that included 420 interviews. The influence of household and community migration, education, religiosity, mental health, and household wealth is evaluated in multivariate models. Gender differences are highlighted.

2.2 Childhood Experiences of Parental Migration and the Mental Health of Young Adults in Indonesia and the Philippines

Xiaochen Zhou, Lucy P. Jordan

Drawing on family instability theory, this study adopts a life course perspective to examine the cumulative effects of parental migration and family-related factors on the mental health of young adults in Indonesia and the Philippines (N=766). Given that left-behind children in these countries often face unique challenges related to parental absence and evolving family dynamics, this study examines the comparative impacts of family factors, childhood experiences and changes across the life course, including changes in household structure resulting from parental migration, on the mental health of young adults.

Findings reveal that, while cross-sectional parental migration status did not play a significant role, young adults in highly volatile households due to parental, especially fathers', migration throughout childhood had worse mental health compared to those in more stable households. Moreover, poor mental health of childhood caregivers, poor and declining family functioning, and education disruption during childhood also contributed negatively to young adults' mental health.

More could be done to develop policies that would mitigate some of these risks. Greater support for left-behind caregivers with poor mental health through early screening and intervention could help to reduce the intergenerational transmission of distress from caregivers to children. Interventions could be targeted to improve the well-being of children experiencing high volatility in household transitions. Pre-departure programmes could be extended to emphasise the importance of family stability and long-distance communication, as well as low-cost digital parenting support programs to facilitate the positive functioning of the "care triangle".

2.3 Effect of Household Migration History on International Labor Migration Aspirations among Filipino Youth: An Inverse Probability of Treatment Weighting using Propensity Score

Queenie Rose E. Chico, Elma P. Laguna, Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot

International labor migration is a defining feature of Filipino life. While migration culture is often invoked to explain the normalization of overseas work, few studies have quantified how household migration history influences young people's aspirations to work abroad. Guided by Glen Elder's concept of linked lives and using nationally representative data from the 2021 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS5), this study examined whether household migration experiences increase the probability of aspiring for short-term or long-term overseas work.

To empirically estimate the effect of having a migrant in the household on the formation of migration aspiration of the Filipino youth, Inverse Probability of Treatment Weighting (IPTW) using propensity scores was employed to estimate the Average Treatment Effect on the Treated (ATT). Results showed that youth from migrant households had significantly higher migration aspirations. On average, household migration history increased the probability of aspiring to work abroad by 7 percentage points for short-term migration and 8 percentage points for long-term migration, compared to peers in non-migrant households. Once a household participates in migration, the probability that the other household members will also aspire to migrate increases substantially. Heterogeneity analysis further revealed that these effects were strongest in Mindanao and other high-sending regions, where household migration history amplified already high aspirations, while in more developed regions, the household effect was less pronounced.

The findings conclude that household migration history is a powerful socializing force in shaping youth aspirations. In addition, the study puts importance on the methodological value of IPTW for migration research in data-scarce settings. Overall, the study provides empirical evidence of the transmission of migration aspirations in the Philippine households, with implications for policies that aim to harness the demographic dividend in the country while ensuring that migration remains a choice rather than a necessity.

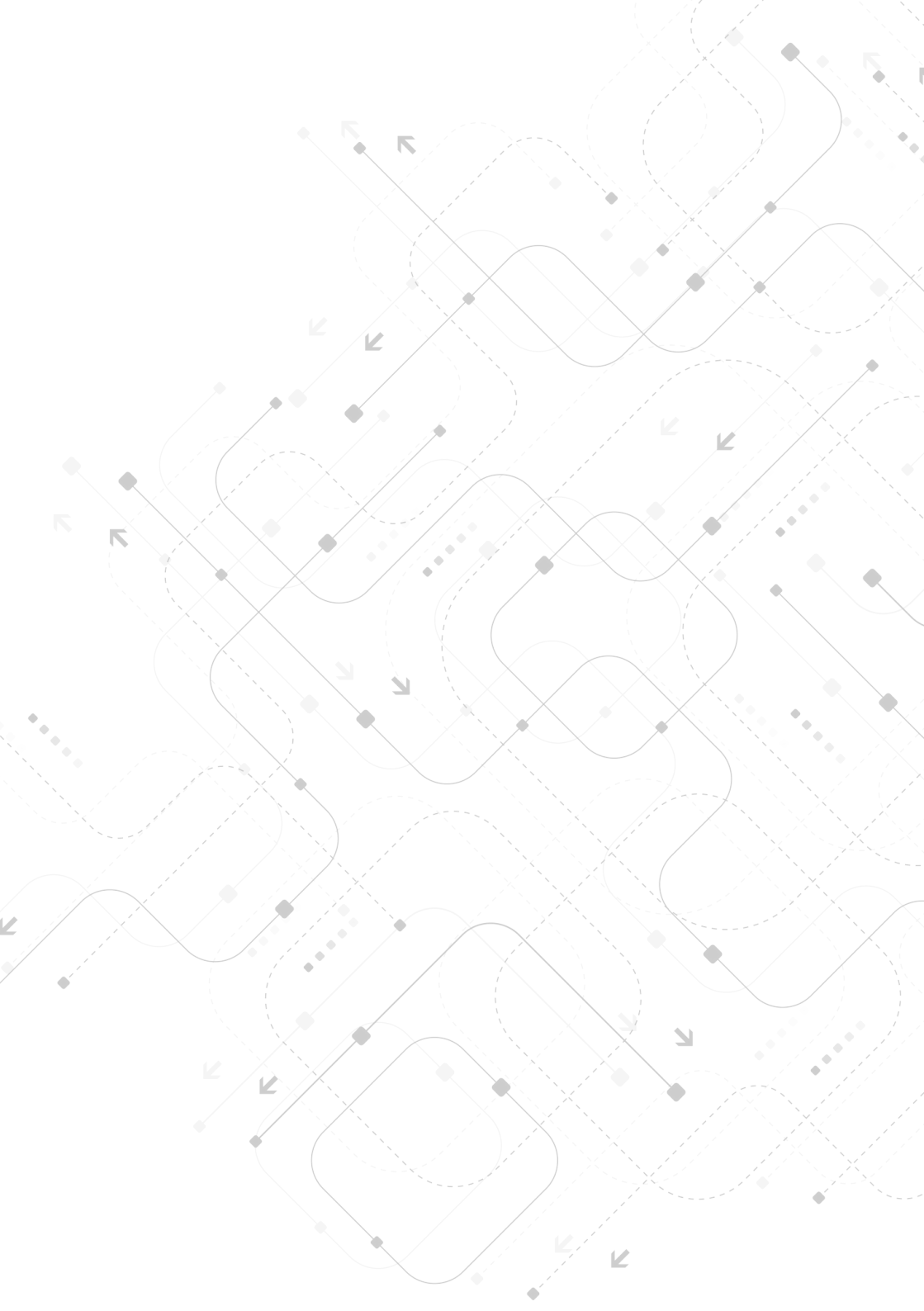
Keywords: migration aspirations, migrant households, transmission of migration aspirations, regional disparities, SDG-10, SDG-8, Philippines

2.4 Living between Places in the Digital Era: Translocal Embedding and Anchoring among Thai Migrant Workers in South Korea

Reena Tadee, Patrick Sakdapolrak, Harald Sterly, Raffaella Pagogna

This presentation is based on a published article titled “The Roles of Information Communication Technology in Translocal Embedding and Anchoring among Thai Migrant Workers in South Korea” . The article uses the concepts of embedding, anchoring, and translocality to investigate ICT use among Thai migrant workers in South Korea. Steering away from the dichotomy of migrants being either integrated or isolated in the host society, this article sheds light on embedding and anchoring beyond places of destination by focussing on the roles of ICT. We used a qualitative analysis of 86 interviews with Thai migrant workers and stakeholders, conducted during multi-sited fieldwork in Thailand and South Korea. We find that ICT facilitates translocal embedding and anchoring as it functions as an information platform, an entry point to co-ethnic migrant community, a way to access to markets and economic opportunities, and a means of communication. Drawing from the results, we argue that ICT facilitates migrants in embedding and anchoring and practising their translocal life as connected migrants whose life exists both at their destination and places of origin.

Keywords: translocality, translocal embedding, social anchoring, connected migrants, translocal connection, mediatised mobility





ABSTRACT

PRESENTATION SESSION 3

Migrant Workers Gendered
(Dis)Empowerment

3.1 Impact of International Labour Migration on Women's Empowerment: A Case Study of Urban 'Underserved' Community, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Purnima Dehiwela, Sunethra Perera

Women in International migration has been an important contribution through the economic development at macro level, and has a significant impact on the families left behind in labour sending countries. Sri Lanka has no exception. However, lack of attention has been paid to study women migration impacting their empowerment. Therefore, this study aims to understand the how the international female labour migration impacts their empowerment using Naila Kabeer's (2005), influential framework of resources, agency, and achievements. The study setting was a selected urban 'underserved' community in Colombo District, Sri Lanka. The study uses twenty qualitative in-depth interviews, with returned female migrants to discover access to resources, their ability to exercise agency, and the achievements in their lives before and after migration. A thematic analysis was based on themes such as access to financial and other resources, women agency, and achievements. Findings reveal that while international migration consistently enhances women's access to economic resources and agency. However, achievements are not the same and they are linked with socio economic and environmental conditions prior to migration thus do not automatically lead to overall empowerment for all underserved urban women. The study further reveals that with increase financial gain, women are empowered than pre migration status and have more access and power to make household decisions. Findings further suggest that while migration provides access to financial freedom and resources, the expected social empowerment ultimately depends on the social and cultural context in which they live. Therefore, policies should be focused not only on economic empowerment but also in improving social empowerment of migrant women, which is essential for achieving gender equality.

Keywords: international labour, women migration, women empowerment

3.2 Gender and Seasonal Migration from Thailand to Finland for Wild Berry Picking

Sirijit Sunanta

Seasonal migration of Isan farmers to pick wild berries in Finland has a link to a highly gendered migration from Isan-marriage migration of Isan women to men from Western countries. Thai women settled down in Finland as marriage migrants were the initial link between farmers in Isan villages and Finnish forests. Over time, as the Finnish wild berry businesses have grown, the mobility of Isan farmers for wild berry picking in Finland has become highly organized involving commercial intermediaries both in Thailand and Finland. Seasonal wild berry picking in Finland is labour intensive, involving long hours of work in challenging working and living conditions. Recruitment agencies prefer male workers, women are only considered when they travel along with their husbands. Apart from the heavy physical demand, working and living in group was cited as a reason for gender selective recruitment. Female wild berry pickers need to prove that they are as capable as men and not a liability to the group. Participating in this seasonal migration stream, women's aspirations, capabilities and decision making are gendered, involving the negotiation of gender stereotypes, care responsibilities, and gender role in the household and community.

Keywords: seasonal migration, wild berry picking, Thailand, Finland, women, gender, aspiration, decision making

3.3 Mothers at the Margins: Displacement Pathways, Daily Stress, and Caregiving in Northern Thailand

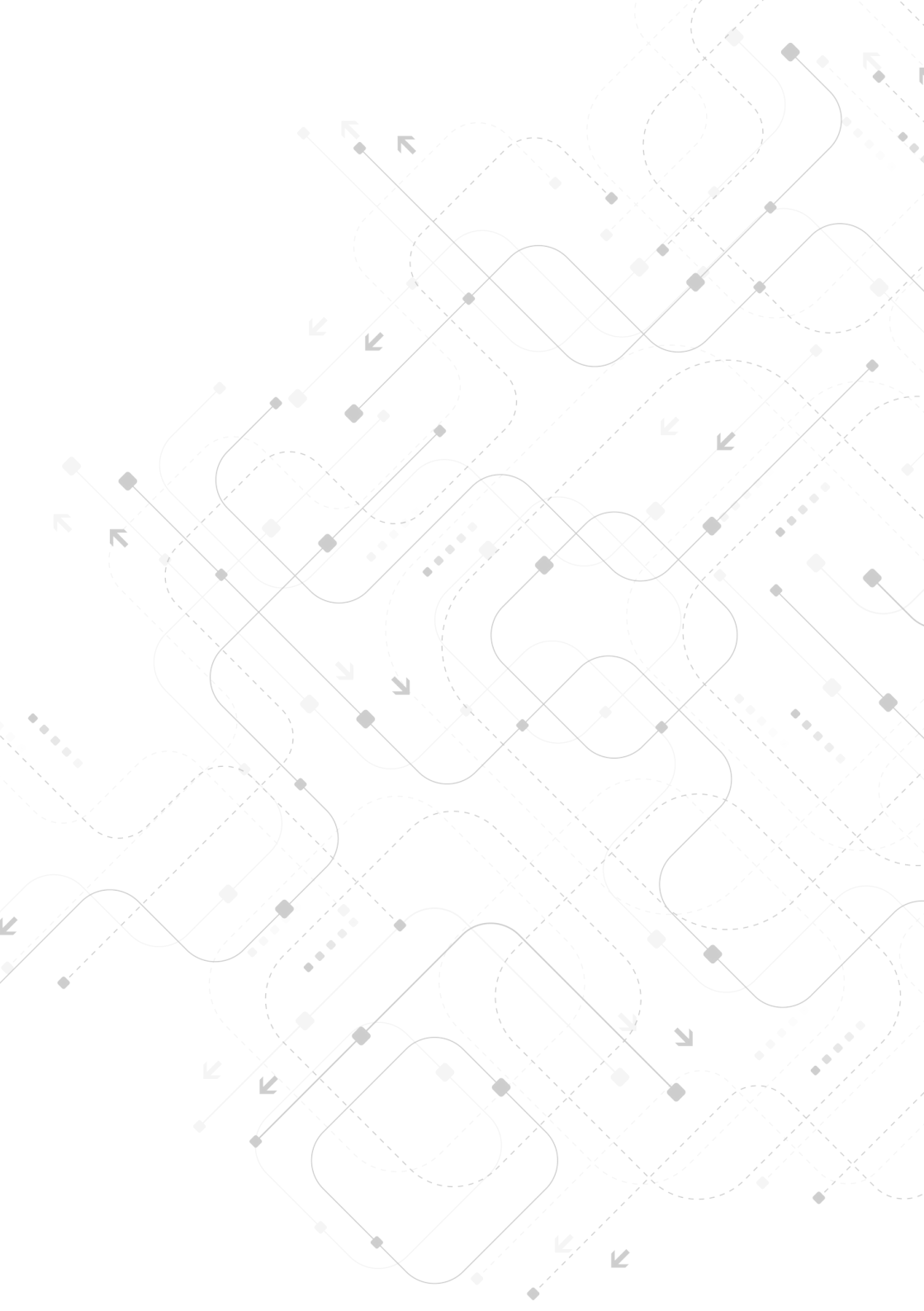
Stephanie M. Koning, Khaing Zar Lwin, Khin Shwe Oo, Sureeporn Punpuing

Displacement along the Thailand-Myanmar border unfolds amidst intersecting crises—armed conflict, economic instability, restrictive migration regimes, and heightened policing—that create turbulent conditions shaping the everyday mobility, immobility, and wellbeing of migrant families. This study integrates mixed-methods data collected from 2017 to 2025 to examine how gendered caregiving roles intersect with legal precarity, livelihood constraints, and shifting migration policies. It draws from a population-based maternal and child health survey of 701 mothers conducted in 2017-2018 in Fang and Wiang Heng, Chiang Mai Province—capturing experiences across camps, worksites, and residential homes—paired with in-depth interviews in 2025 with approximately 30 migrant mothers. Across both sites and timepoints, results reveal displacement as not a single episode of flight but an ongoing negotiation of chronic and acute stressors and persistent insecurity. In Wiang Heng, where women were predominantly full-time caregivers dependent on their husbands’ wages, daily stressors centered on domestic responsibilities, reduced autonomy, and financial strain within single-income households. In Fang, where mothers more often worked in agriculture or local schools, stress stemmed from balancing paid labor with childcare amid limited community support and social stigma. Across contexts, women reported fear of police checks, restricted mobility tied to undocumented status, and alcohol-related household tensions, all of which intensified emotional burdens and constrained decision-making. Mothers coped through silence, emotional restraint, and informal networks, yet these strategies often masked deeper vulnerabilities and unmet needs. These findings show how global and regional crises, border policies, and structural exclusions are embodied in mothers’ caregiving labor and daily stress, revealing a form of gendered immobility that persists even within migration. In sum, this study underscores the need for justice-oriented approaches that address structural insecurities, strengthen protection mechanisms, and support pathways for resilience centered on displaced women and their families along the Thailand–Myanmar border.

3.4 Evaluating Health Literacy and Stigma: Knowledge, Perceptions, and Gender-Based Participation in TB and HIV/AIDS Interventions Among Migrant Communities in Mahachai

Wai Yan Phyo Naing

This study explores health knowledge regarding Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS among migrant communities in Mahachai, Samut Sakhon. Addressing the complex social and health challenges faced by these groups, the research highlights significant gaps in understanding key health issues. Early findings show notable differences in awareness of TB and HIV/AIDS, affected by language barriers, cultural differences, and restricted access to healthcare. The migrant community demonstrates varying levels of knowledge about disease transmission, prevention, and treatment, with common misconceptions—particularly around HIV/AIDS stigma—emphasising the need for targeted educational programmes. These findings underscore the importance of culturally sensitive health promotion tailored to the specific needs of migrant populations. The research advocates for increased collaboration between local health authorities and community organisations to improve health communication and literacy, helping migrants reduce TB and HIV/AIDS rates. Using a multi-method approach, the study combines quantitative survey data—examining gender participation, age groups, and disease awareness—with qualitative insights from in-depth interviews with TB and HIV/AIDS patients. It investigates gender-based differences in knowledge and experiences. To gain a better understanding of the issues, this study employs a multi-faceted methodology, integrating both quantitative and qualitative analyses to address the following research questions: 1. What are the disparities in gender-based participation within community health initiatives? 2. What are the levels of awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB) among members of the migrant community? This comprehensive approach enhances the credibility of the study's conclusions and policy recommendations.





ABSTRACT

PRESENTATION SESSION **4**

International Migration
in Sex Work

4.1 Crossing Borders, Crossing Narratives: Rethinking Migrant Sex Work and Trafficking

Kaoru Aoyama

This presentation introduces the international cooperative research project Experiences and Networks of Migrant Sex Work and Trafficking: Research on Nine Countries for Good Supporting Practices (2023–2027, JSPS KAKEN Grant No. 23H00059). Bringing together researchers from Europe and Asia, the project investigates how migrant sex work and trafficking intersect, with the central question: under what conditions and with what resources can migrants' journeys into the sex trade be made safer?

The project challenges the entrenched dichotomy between “migrant sex work” and “trafficking for sexual slavery.” Evidence from nine countries—including Thailand, the Philippines, Romania, France, Spain, the Netherlands, and Japan—shows that these phenomena cannot be reduced to opposing categories. Instead, they exist along a spectrum shaped by migration policies, structural inequalities, stigma, and the agency of migrants themselves.

To capture these complexities, the research employs mixed methods, particularly interviews and sociograms, while emphasizing collaboration with those directly affected. Grounded in participatory action research and feminist epistemology, the project treats sex workers and migrants not only as subjects but also as partners in knowledge production. This involves co-developing informed consent, compensating participation fairly, and extending activist and research networks across borders.

Two ethical challenges are central: inequalities in access and rapport, intensified by criminalization and ideological divides; and the exploitation of consent, where power imbalances undermine agency. Addressing these issues, the project seeks to create more equitable research practices and contribute to safer, more just policies and support systems.

Ultimately, this cooperative effort aims to move beyond theoretical binaries and generate practical insights into how migrants' lived experiences can inform effective and humane responses worldwide.

4.2 Using Sociogram as a Participatory Method to Visualise Networks of Migrant Sex Workers in the UK

Chihiro Toya

The UK government has implemented increasingly repressive immigration controls in recent years. These border policies have created a hostile environment for migrants. Due to their visa status and the stigma attached to sex work, migrant sex workers are placed in particularly precarious and vulnerable situations. The common conflation between sex work and trafficking means that migrant sex workers are often targeted by anti-trafficking measures. In the name of “protecting” victims of trafficking, police raids and “rescue missions” are frequently justified, even though such state-led actions often undermine the safety and health of migrant sex workers.

This paper investigates current UK anti-trafficking policies that jeopardise migrant sex workers’ situations, particularly at a time when anti-migration sentiments are on the rise. It examines how the UK border control system functions as a form of biopolitics that regulates certain ways of life, drawing on police documents and interviews co-conducted with a migrant sex worker who is a member of several sex worker rights organisation based in London.

Using a sociogram as an interview method, the research seeks to visualise the relationships and connections of migrant sex workers to understand how they migrate, work, and live. The paper also explores methodological questions raised during the research process, such as who holds more control in the interview, what influences participants’ feelings when they speak, and how participatory methods can reshape researcher–participant dynamics.

4.3 Migration and Sex Work in France. Safety and Violence in an Abolitionist Context

Hélène LE BAIL

In France, a new law was voted in 2016 that decriminalized the act of selling sexual services and criminalized the clients, while third parties (procuring) have been heavily criminalized since the 1940S. The Act also had a social component regarding the implementation of a “prostitution exit program,” and an educational component focusing on the “prevention of prostitutional practices and recourse to prostitution.” The law was presented as a new step to fight against human trafficking since a majority of sex workers and people exploited for sex services are immigrants from Nigeria, South American countries, China and East European countries.

In spite of the implementation of the new law, and sometimes because of the new law, violence targeting sex workers is still very present and takes a variety of forms, from murder, to police harassment and everyday insults in the streets. In spite of an active network of health NGOs and activists’ network, the sex workers are still hardly heard from the legislators especially about what they considered protecting or not protecting in terms of law and regulations. The interviews conducted in France with sex workers of different nationalities and different legal statuses aim to highlight what pushes them towards exploitative networks and what hinders or helps them to build protective networks.

4.4 Policy Challenges and Pathways: Thai Sex Workers' Migration Experiences Abroad

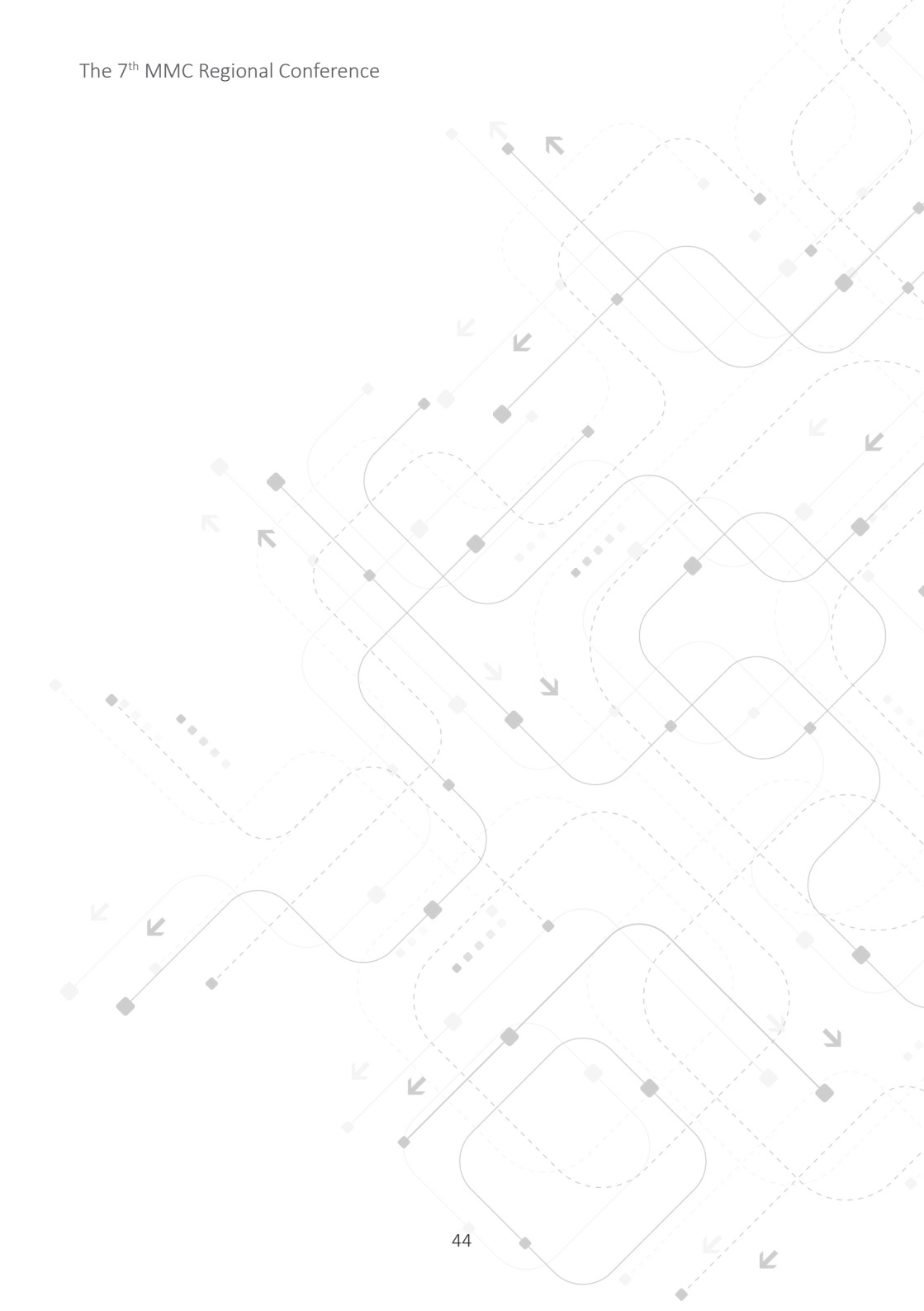
Niphon Darawuttimaprakorn, Dusita Phuengsamran, Nucharee Srivirojana, Sureeporn Punpuing

Migration of Thai sex workers illustrates both agency and vulnerability, raising critical policy questions about labor rights, trafficking, and protection. This study investigates how migration pathways shape the experiences of Thai sex workers abroad and identifies implications for policy reform. The rationale is to move beyond treating all sex work migration as trafficking and to highlight strategies for safer, rights-based migration governance.

Data were collected in Thailand through in-depth interviews with 14 female and 5 LGBTQ sex workers, a focus group with 5 female sex workers, and interviews with 10 stakeholders engaged in sex work and anti-trafficking. Purposive and snowball sampling were used.

Findings show that trusted networks, informal brokers, and traffickers play central roles in both voluntary and deceptive migration. Economic need and social stigma drive aspirations to work abroad. While some achieve financial security and send remittances—supported by safer conditions, debt repayment control, and peer solidarity—others face unsafe practices, exploitation, arrest, and criminalization. Those deceived by traffickers experience coercion, confinement, debt bondage, and lack legal protection. Repatriation processes are often punitive, further marginalizing sex workers.

The study highlights the urgent need to distinguish between trafficking and labor migration in policy frameworks. Reforms should focus on decriminalizing sex work, expanding legal and consular support, and developing safe migration channels. Additional measures—such as pre-departure training, awareness campaigns, and strengthening peer networks and labor unions—can reduce exploitation and enhance protection for Thai sex workers abroad.





ABSTRACT

PRESENTATION SESSION 5

Migration Research Methodologies

5.1 Using Admin Data to Create Cost-Effective, Policy-Relevant Measures of International Migration

John Bryant, Sunethra Pereira, Pubudu Senanayake

Sensible policy making and public debates about international migration need good data. In many countries, however, traditional forms of demographic data collection are in trouble, with census costs rising, and survey response rates falling. Demographers need new strategies for measuring international migration. One promising approach is to use the border-crossings data that immigration authorities routinely collect from international travellers. Countries such as Australia and New Zealand link together individual records to create ‘migration histories’ for everyone who has ever entered or left the country. They then use these histories to create official migration statistics, and to conduct policy analyses. We think that this approach would be feasible, and useful, in a much wider range of countries. With improvements in computing power, the data processing required by the migration-histories approach is no longer a major technical challenge. The method only provides information on migrants who enter or leave through formal border crossings, but in most countries this is still a large and important group. To illustrate the potential benefits and difficulties of the proposed approach, we look at the possibilities for using border crossings information to generate policy-relevant information on migrant workers from Sri Lanka.

5.2 Scenario-Based Migration Flow Projections: A Probabilistic Approach

Jakob Gregor Zellmann

Projecting migration is central to the understanding and coordination of socio-economic processes. Past migration trends help to understand future human mobility. Forming expectations about future human mobility solely based on its past behavior, however, has a major shortcoming: it ignores the fact that future migration patterns could differ significantly from the past due to novel changes in e.g. political, economic, and environmental circumstances. These changes can strongly affect migration push and pull factors and, consequently, influence emigration rates and the relative attractiveness of immigration countries (henceforth the relative attractiveness of immigration countries will be denoted as allocation probabilities).

To account for such effects, I propose a framework that allows the implementation of scenarios on origin-specific emigration rates and allocation probabilities in the common context of modeling a panel of origin- and destination-specific migration flows. In addition to scenarios on outflow rates and allocation probabilities, the proposed model allows the integration of covariate projections. Thereby, the impact of environmental variables on migration patterns can be estimated and projections of environmental variables can be used to inform migration projects. The framework also comes with statistical advantages: (i) it shares information between migration flows from different origin and destination countries while retaining sufficient flexibility to account for heterogeneities and (ii) provides estimation of uncertainty around projections. These properties are jointly achieved by applying a hierarchical Bayesian model that first estimates the total emigration for a given country and subsequently distributes the emigration to the respective destination countries.

The proposed model thus provides a transparent and flexible framework to formulate interpretable scenario-based migration assumptions, integrate covariate information, and assess their accumulated effect on migration projections.

5.3 From Local to Transnational: The Interconnectedness of Multi-Level Social Networks in Seasonal Migration of Thai Wild Berry Pickers in Finland

Sura Chandaeng

Every summer, 2,000 - 4,000 Thais travel to pick wild berries in Finland, the majority of whom hail from rural areas in the economically marginalised Isan Region. Drawing on 25 semi-structured interviews and 13 Social Network Canvas Mapping interviews, this study examines networks of individual and organisational actors that facilitate seasonal migration of Thai Isan farmers to supply labour to the wild berry industry in Finland. The findings reveal the interconnection between multiple levels of social networks and the crossover between formal and informal, public and private, paid and non-paid supports that migrants receive. Thai and Finnish government offices, berry companies, recruitment agencies, village and kin social circles play different but interconnected roles in mediating the migration of Thai wild berry pickers to Finland. Strong personal ties and village networks foster trust and teamwork crucial for the labour intensive, competitive and uncertain work in wild berry picking. On the other hand, migrants with weaker ties and connections face greater risks. Illustrating the critical role of social networks in shaping migration outcomes, this study emphasises the need for transparent recruitment and migration processes as well as mechanisms that protect all migrants in the wild berry picking trade.

Keywords: social network mapping, seasonal migration, wild berry picking, intermediary,



ABSTRACT

PRESENTATION SESSION 6

Climate and Environmental
(Im)Mobilities

6.1 Climate Migration in European Soil? Exploring Drought Exposure and Internal Migration in Italy

Emre Karabulutoglu, Raya Muttarak, Lorenzo Casprini

In recent years, studies on climate-induced migration have proliferated, yet the focus has been mainly on developing or least developed countries. This paper fills this gap by examining whether climate-driven migration patterns emerge in a developed countries, specifically Italy, one of the countries most severely affected by climate change due to its Mediterranean location. Using yearly data from the Italian Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) on bilateral migration flows (2002–2023) drawn from the National Register of the Resident Population at the provincial level (administrative level 2), and combining them with drought severity indices (SPEI and PDSI), we examine how worsening climatic conditions affect internal migration within Italy. To this end, we apply a panel data framework with a PPML estimator, which allows us to capture both spatial and temporal variation in climate shocks and migration responses across provinces and regions. Our findings provide three main insights. First, we find robust evidence of migration flows driven by deteriorating weather, showing that even developed nations with stronger resources are not immune to climate-induced movements. This challenges the assumption that climate migration concerns only less developed regions. Second, we reveal significant heterogeneity by citizenship status: foreign-born citizens display a markedly higher propensity to migrate in response to adverse conditions than Italian-born citizens. Third, migration responses occur with a time lag, suggesting that decisions involve complex adaptation processes, where individuals and households first attempt coping strategies before resorting to relocation. These results carry important implications for climate adaptation policy in developed countries, highlighting the need for proactive planning and early warning systems to anticipate and manage climate-induced mobility.

6.2 Between Eroding Resources and Emerging Pathways: Migration as an Adaptive Response to Environmental Change in the Rural Himalayas

Manish Mamgai, Kunal Keshri

Environmental degradation and climate variability pose major challenges for communities in ecologically fragile regions. In many developing countries, overuse of natural resources and increasingly unpredictable climatic events have disrupted agricultural cycles and weakened traditional livelihood systems. These pressures have reduced livelihood opportunities in rural areas, pushing households to adopt strategies beyond agriculture. Migration has become a key pathway for diversification and risk reduction; however, the ways in which environmental stress shapes migration and how migration influences household resilience remain underexplored in the Himalayan context. This study uses primary data from the Kumaun Himalayan region of Uttarakhand, India, collected through structured surveys of 300 households in ten purposively selected villages. The survey captured demographic, socio-economic, livelihood, and migration histories, supported by a household and migration roster. Quantitative findings were analysed using logistic regression to identify factors associated with migration outcomes. Results show that 65% of households reported declining agricultural yields, 45% noted shrinking water resources, and 46% experienced direct impacts of natural disasters such as floods and landslides. Seasonal shifts further intensified livelihood insecurity. Migration emerged as a key adaptive response, with 70% of households reporting male outmigration and 91% receiving remittances that strengthened consumption and livelihood security. Declining agriculture heightened vulnerability and contributed to distressed migration, particularly among unskilled and less-educated workers. Logistic regression findings indicate that caste and education positively shape successful migration trajectories, showing that migration supports resilience, but its benefits remain unevenly distributed. The study underscores the urgency of addressing environmental vulnerabilities while promoting socially inclusive and sustainable adaptation strategies in fragile mountain ecosystems.

Keywords: environmental degradation, climate change, migration

6.3 Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh: A Humanitarian Crisis and Its Environmental Ramifications

Jannatul Ferdous

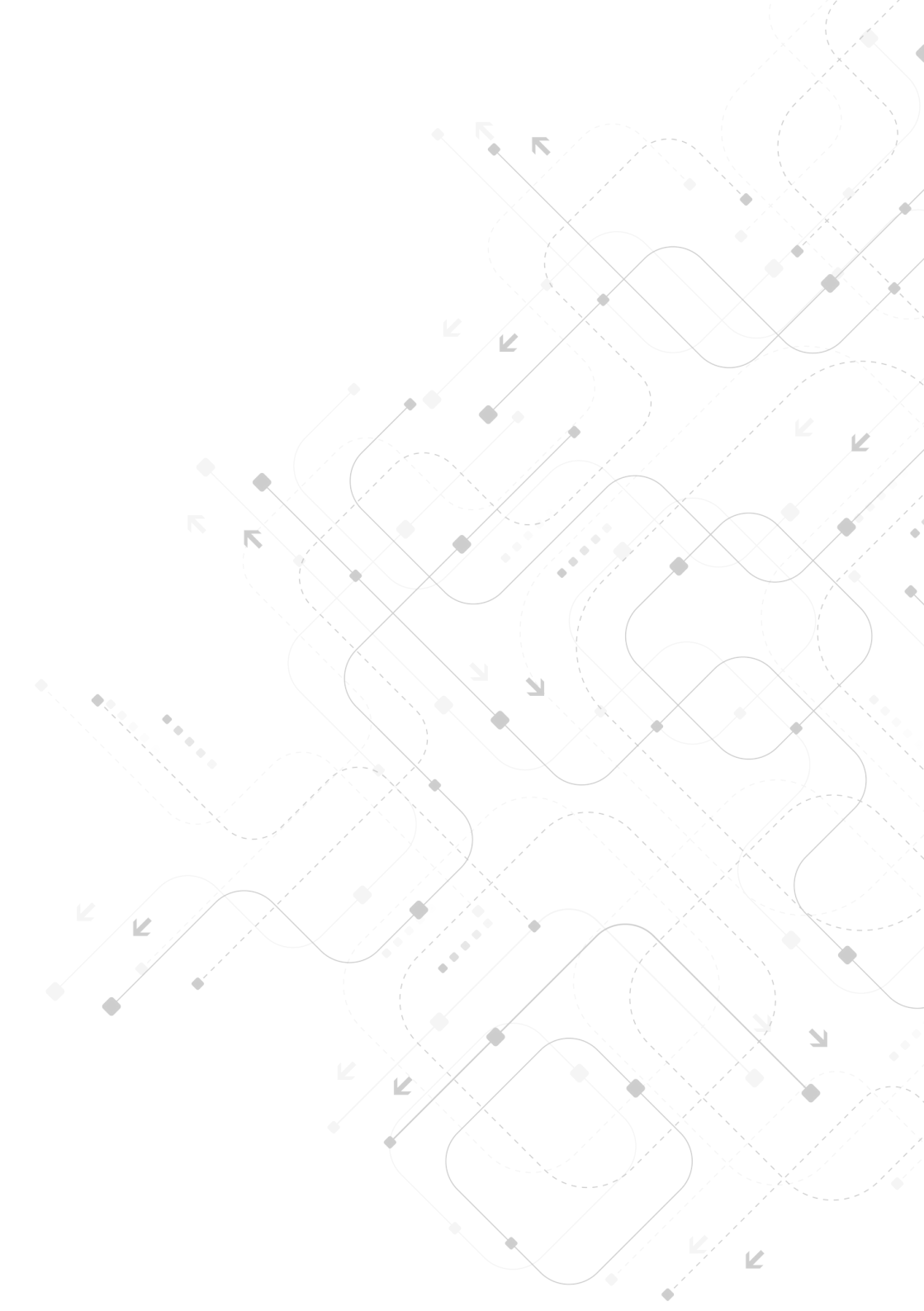
The mass displacement of over one million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh since 2017 is one of the biggest humanitarian crises in recent times. The refugees are settling in Cox's Bazar district, and the abrupt and massive influx of refugees has not only generated colossal socio-political and humanitarian problems but also yielded intense environmental effects. This paper critically examines the environmental implications of the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh on the basis of a systematic review of secondary literature consisting of peer-reviewed journal articles, governmental and nongovernmental reports, and credible news sources. Major environmental concerns identified are enormous deforestation, contamination of water and soil resources, degradation of biodiversity, and further stress on already fragile natural systems. The study further calls into doubt the effectiveness of existing environmental governance institutions, conservation activities, and international interventions that attempt to reverse ecological degradation in refugee-hosting zones. It stresses the need for a unified policy process that simultaneously promotes the imperatives of humanitarian relief and ecological sustainability. Ecologically friendly interventions such as afforestation schemes, the installation of renewable energy technologies, and the introduction of ecologically friendly waste managementsystems are known to be fundamental to curtailing further environmental degradation. The study suggests that there should be a coordinated effort by the Government of Bangladesh, international donors, humanitarian agencies, and local communities in a bid to bring about long-term environmental sustainability. By establishing the link between environmental degradation and forced displacement, this study fits into a growing corpus of literature on the environmental dimensions of humanitarian crises. It requires planning and future-oriented steps that reconcile refugee protection with the imperative of environmental sustainability and ecological responsibility to foster sustainable coexistence between displaced persons and hosts.

Keywords: environment, refugee, humanitarian crisis, Rohingya, Bangladesh

6.4 Impacts of Armed Conflict and Rare-Earth Extraction on Local Livelihoods and Environment in Chihpwi and Pang Wa, Kachin State, Myanmar

Sut Ring Htoi Awng

This study investigates the impact of rare earth mining on local livelihoods in Chihpwi and Pang Wa areas of Kachin State, Myanmar. Based on ten semi-structured interviews with community leaders, farmers, herders, mining laborers, and social activists, the findings reveal significant environmental, social, and economic disruptions. Respondents consistently reported severe water contamination, soil degradation, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity, which have undermined agricultural productivity and livestock health. Traditional livelihoods such as rice farming, orange orchards, and cardamom cultivation have declined due to reduced yields, crop failures, and market exclusion. Social consequences include land dispossession, widening income inequality, and youth vulnerability to drug addiction and related social breakdowns. Although some households benefited temporarily through land sales or short-term employment, these opportunities were marked by wage discrimination and lacked long-term security. Overall, the study reveals how the intersection of armed capitalism, weak regulatory enforcement, and the absence of corporate accountability has intensified livelihood insecurity and environmental degradation. The findings point out the urgent need for sustainable policies and governance mechanisms that protect community rights and ensure equitable development outcomes in resource-rich but conflict-affected regions.





ABSTRACT

PRESENTATION **7** SESSION

Border Policies in Turbulent Times:
Navigating (Im)Mobilities and Forging
Pathways for Child and Family Resilience

7.1 Situational Update: Migration, Health Care and Protection on the Border

Saw Than Lwin, Win Thandar Kyaw

The Tak border region hosts over 81,000 migrants from Myanmar, driven by four decades of political instability, conflict, and economic collapse in neighboring countries. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), only half currently possess legal documentation. Migrants face persistent barriers to healthcare, education, and employment due to irregular legal status, financial constraints, and language differences - creating pressure on both migrant and host communities. Civil society organizations provide essential services through key initiatives: the M-Fund health insurance scheme expands financial access; Migrant Learning Centers (MLCs) supported by BMWEC, BMTA, and HWF address educational gaps for children unable to attend public schools; and the Child Safeguarding Task Force led by community-based organizations promotes child protection. The Border Health Learning Center advances capacity-building, research, and coordination through the Joint Information and Coordination Center (JICC). Multiple crises have deepened vulnerabilities: Myanmar's 2021 military coup triggered new displacement; the 2025 U.S. funding cuts severely reduced refugee camp healthcare and nutrition. In response, the Tripartite Collaboration Project—uniting Mae Sot General Hospital, Mae Tao Clinic (MTC), and Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (SMRU)—strengthened coordination through five technical working groups under the JICC to sustain data sharing and service delivery. Sustained cross-sector investment and border policy dialogue remain crucial for livelihoods and dignity along the Tak border.

7.2 Half Left Behind: Policy Pathways to Educational Equity Along the Thai-Myanmar Border

Sunantha Inkhamchuea

Survey data triangulated within this study suggests that 5 in 10 school-aged migrant children in remote communities of Tak Province are out of school. This improves only to 3 in 10 in urban areas, representing a critical policy gap within Thailand's Education For All (EFA) policy. This presentation examines survey data from 225 migrant households in Tak Province to identify key policy interventions needed to address educational inequities. Despite 87% of surveyed migrant parents preferring to enrol their children into Thai public schools, systemic barriers prevent enrollment and perpetuate educational exclusion. Documentation barriers represent the strongest predictor of exclusion, with 34.2% of children possessing only Myanmar birth certificates that significantly limit Thai public school enrollment. Financial constraints affected

92% of surveyed households with out-of-school children, while geographic barriers limit walking-distance access to just 19.9% of at-risk elementary-aged students. Comprehensive support systems must address documentation pathways, transportation subsidies, and financial assistance. Each additional school-age sibling reduces enrollment odds by 45% which underscores the need for targeted interventions supporting larger households. Demand for education continues to overwhelm supply: future policy-practice interventions must integrate capacity expansion with systematic removal of administrative, financial, and geographic barriers to create sustainable educational pathways for Thailand's migrant border communities. Without coordinated policy action, educational inequities will deepen, undermining both community development and regional stability.

7.3 Mini Film Screening: “Being Family”: A Documentary about a Film Promoting Positive Parenting and Mental Health

Nway Nway Oo

Being Family is a film designed to improve caregiver and child outcomes among migrant and displaced families from Myanmar living on the Thailand-Myanmar border. The 66-minute entertainment-education narrative film illustrates parenting skills and mental health coping strategies within common stressors these families face. Co-created with migrant and displaced communities and produced by Sermpanya Foundation in partnership with Mae Tao Clinic, Help Without Frontiers Thailand Foundation, and Inclusive Education Foundation, the film depicts realistic parenting challenges through two families’ stories, demonstrating both positive and negative coping strategies. The film contains key messages adapted from Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH) evidence-based programs, focusing on four core skills: play and positive parent-child interaction; praise and positive family communication; non-violent behavior management; and parental stress management. Written and produced by migrants and displaced people with technical support from McMaster University, Duke University, University of Oxford, and Mahidol University, the film was co-created to ensure cultural relevance and community ownership.

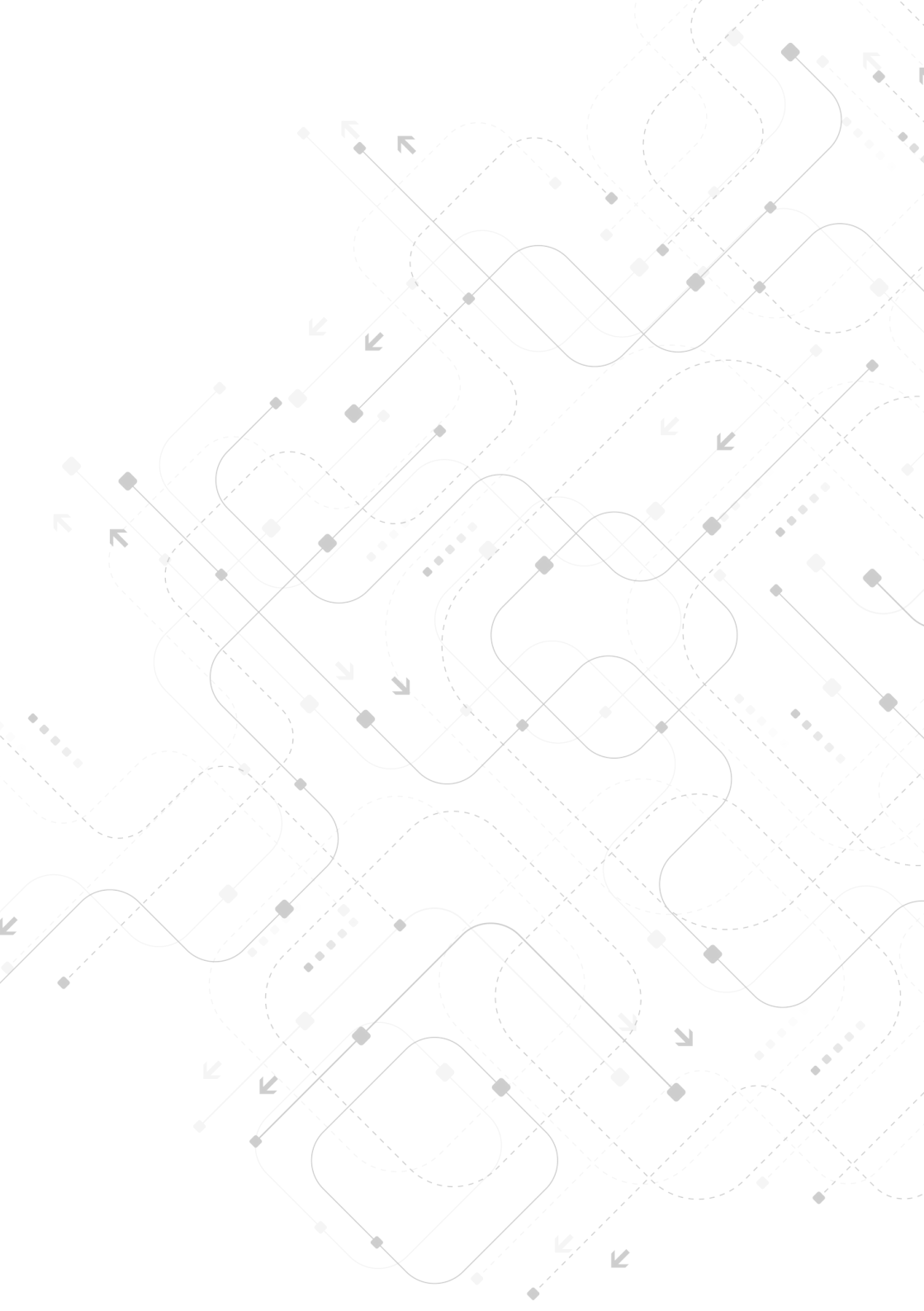
7.4 Well-being in Contexts of Migration: Strengthening Positive Parenting and Reducing Violence Against Children through a Community Film Intervention

Khaing Zar Lwin

In contexts of forced migration and prolonged displacement, caregivers often face multiple stressors that threaten family well-being. This presentation shares findings from a community-based film intervention designed to promote well-being and reduce violence among migrant and displaced caregivers from Myanmar living along the Thailand–Myanmar border.

This study was conducted in a two-arm, cluster randomized trial in Tak province, Thailand, near the Myanmar border. A total of 44 communities (n=2,249 caregivers) were stratified by district and randomly assigned to either the intervention or control group. The intervention group participated in screenings of a 66-minute narrative drama portraying everyday parenting challenges and coping strategies in migration contexts. Eligible participants included primary caregivers aged 18 or older with a child between 4 and 17 years at the time of enrollment. Surveys were administered at baseline, approximately four weeks after the intervention, and again about four months later. Results showed significant reductions in caregivers' use of physical violence (IRR 0.91, 95% CI 0.85–0.97) and increases in positive parenting (β 0.46, 95% CI –0.03 to 0.95), alongside modest gains in parenting knowledge, family functioning, and social support.

Beyond its measurable impacts, this intervention demonstrates how soft-power media narratives can foster dialogue, empathy, and social change within marginalized border communities. The findings highlight the transformative potential of low-cost, scalable interventions in shaping healthier, more connected migrant communities amid global crises and mobility constraints.





ABSTRACT

PRESENTATION **8** SESSION

Migrant Vulnerable Groups:
Quality of Life, Community, and Wellbeing

8.1 Disability and Cross-Border Migration in Thailand: Examining the Gaps in Migration Research

Nara Khamkhom

Migrant workers from Thailand's neighboring countries—Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos—are vital to the country's economic growth. While global studies often explore the migration experiences of these workers, the inclusion of migrant workers with disabilities is alarmingly overlooked. This study addresses this gap by reviewing migration and disability research from both Thai and international academic databases. Findings reveal that migrant workers with disabilities in Thailand remain largely invisible in migration literature and data collection, which hampers societal awareness and an informed policy response. Current policies aimed at improving the quality of life for people with disabilities may not adequately address their unique challenges, exacerbating their vulnerability due to their migration status, gender, and impairment. This study highlights the importance of government, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations prioritizing the inclusion of migrants with disability in their research agendas to facilitate effective policy development.

Keywords: migrant workers, disability, Thailand

8.2 The Resilience of Chin Migrants Who Migrated to Bangkok after the 2021 Coup in Burma

Jimmy Rezar Boi

The 2021 military coup has severely affected the livelihoods of many communities and people in Burma, many of whom had migrated to other countries for their survival and livelihood security. Chin people who are students, civil servants, private sector staff, and religious and revolutionary personnel also migrated to neighboring countries including India and Bangkok, Thailand, both legally and illegally. Because of the precarious status and conditions, these Chin migrants face numerous adversities such as livelihood challenges, language barriers, undocumented status, insecurity, and uncertain future. To address these challenges and to explore the resilience of Chin migrants amidst political disaster entangled with the precarity of migration, this paper investigates the case of Chin migrants in Bangkok to comprehend how they cope with, adapt to, and transform the adversities they experience in the new, unfamiliar environment, with limited livelihood opportunities. Based on a series of interviews conducted in early 2025 with diverse groups of Chin migrants and their social and religious networks in Bangkok, this paper provides an initial assessment of the individual, social, and community resilience of Chin migrants in Bangkok to better understand their coping strategies, adaptation, and transformability.

Keywords: Chin migrants, resilience, livelihood security, Bangkok

8.3 Rohingya Refugees Family Dynamics: Stuck in a Limbo

Nur Nadia Lukmanulhakim

The first time I engaged with a large Rohingya refugee family, I saw the life routine the young 3rd generation Rohingya refugee children went through, while their parents either was working or becoming a housewife while living with their 1st generation parents at the same time. This paper aim to examine the dynamics of multigenerational Rohingya refugee families who have been displaced in Malaysia for more than a decade, starting from their 1st generation parents who made the journey from Myanmar to Malaysia, to their grandchildren, who is now stuck in Malaysia, unable to access basic education or better lives for themselves. This paper is based on the participant observation conducted by the researcher onto a multigenerational Rohingya refugee family, via home and workplace visits to the family members. Findings from the participant observation revealed the dilemma faced by the multigeneration families, from the 1st generation Rohingya refugees' access to medical care and finance to the 2nd and 3rd generation Rohingya refugees limited access to job markets due to limited basic education, care work responsibilities and mobility. Despite the limited agency the family members acted upon, these multigenerational Rohingya refugee families have made Malaysia their home by crafting their own strategies to continue their lives. This paper highlighted identities and integration of Rohingya refugees in protracted displacement in Malaysia.



ABSTRACT

PRESENTATION SESSION 9

Migrant Workers' Rights
& Advocacy Research

9.1 Recruitment and Employment Practices of Migrant Workers in Bangkok Metropolitan Region's Construction Industry

Rosalia Sciortino

The collapse of a high-rise building in Bangkok and the death of almost 100 workers, most of them migrants during the recent earthquake originated in Central Burma, have been a stark reminder of the contribution of migrant labour to Thailand's construction sector and of the risks workers in construction are exposed to. The disaster also raised questions on compensation to victims and their families in relation to their employment and immigrant conditions in light of the difficulty of identifying workers hired on a daily or part-time basis, often irregularly, through subcontractors. This ongoing debate frames and highlights the research findings presented in this article on the interrelation between recruitment and employment practices in the construction sector in Thailand and the resulting human rights risks for migrant workers from Myanmar and Cambodia and their children.

The qualitative study, conducted by the Institute for Population and Social Research or IPSR from June 2024 to June 2025, explored contracting patterns in two construction sites in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR) as part of the Baan Dek "Building Social Impact (BSI) in the Thai construction sector" project supported by Kindernothilfe (KNH) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In-depth interviews were conducted with stakeholders of the construction industry and their responses analysed to understand the impacts of recruitment and subcontracting practices on migrants' occupational and living conditions. The findings presented in this article highlight how the intersecting of labour outsourcing, irregularity and informality in the construction industry continues to favour the hiring of undocumented and poorly protected migrant workers, while undermining the often-cited benefits of regularization, including access to health and social protection, ultimately affecting migrants' health and overall well-being.

Keywords: migration, construction industry, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, subcontracting, recruitment

9.2 Empowering Migrant Workers: Lessons Learned from the International Labour Organization's Migrant Worker Resource Centres in the ASEAN Region

Andreas Schmidt

This presentation shares selected lessons learned from the International Labour Organization's (ILO) decade of experience supporting Migrant Worker Resource Centres (MRCs) across the ASEAN region.

Background:

- Despite their crucial contributions to ASEAN economies, migrant workers face widespread labour exploitation and abuse. They remain underserved by formal service infrastructure.
- The ILO established the MRC model as a migrant-centric institutional framework to address these challenges directly.

Selected impact:

- 65 MRCs were operating across nine ASEAN countries by 2023, sustained through strong, multi-stakeholder partnerships (governments, trade unions, and civil society organizations).
- MRCs deliver a comprehensive set of services to migrant workers and their families, including pre-migration counselling and training, psychosocial support, settling-in support to return migrant workers, and targeted services to vulnerable groups, such as migrant workers with disabilities. In addition, legal assistance services secured over US\$13 million in compensation awarded in approximately 15,600 cases between 2014 and 2024.

Key takeaways:

- Effective MRC operation requires three foundations: a) cultivating trust within migrant communities; b) developing strategic inter-country networks to enable cross-border support; c) ensuring long-term institutionalization of MRC services into partner organizations' mandates.
- It is essential to advocate for dedicated public investments in community-based support structures and encourage governments to leverage MRC data to inform policies and allocate adequate budgets for these critical community-based structures.

9.3 Examining the Impact of Exclusion of Migrant Workers from Freedom to Form Labour Union in the Thai Labour Law: A Case Study of Documented Migrant Workers in the Fishing Industry in Songkhla Province

Shwe Zin Thin

The fishing sector of Thailand, which heavily depends on migrant workers for manpower, has been strongly criticized by human rights groups for profiting from labour exploitation and human rights abuses. Labour unions are important agencies for amplifying workers' voices, achieving fair wages, and ensuring decent working conditions. Nonetheless, migrant workers' rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining are not recognized in Thailand, even though the country is a signatory to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights.

The 1975 Labour Relations Act of Thailand strictly prohibits migrant workers from establishing unions. The law only allows migrant workers to become members of labour unions registered by Thai nationals. However, the fishing sector in Thailand is predominantly dominated by migrant workers, with only a small number of Thai nationals present. There is no space for migrant workers to join trade union in the industry. Therefore, this research aims to examine the impact of excluding migrant workers from the right to form labor unions in terms of wage and working conditions in the seafood sector, using Songkhla province as a case study. This research employs a qualitative research method, including semi-structured interviews and a thematic data analysis approach, to address the research question. The interview target groups include migrant workers in the fishing sector, trade union members, and experts in the field of migrant labor. This research hypothesizes that restrictions imposed by the 1975 Labor Relations Act, which prohibit migrant workers from forming a labor union, being board members, and playing an active role, have a significant impact on migrant workers' ability to engage in a collective bargaining agreement on fair wages and decent working conditions with employers.

Keywords: labor union, migrant workers, fishing industry, 1975 Labor Relations Act, Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining

9.4 Understanding International Migration Decisions of Sri Lankan Youth: A Life Course Perspective

Wathsala Anuradhi, Sunethra Perera

Youth migration has become a significant feature of international labour migration in Sri Lanka. Migration decision-making is a process, and it can be understood through various factors. Life course transitions serve as proximate determinants of individual migration decisions. This study aims to explore when, why, and how youth make migration decisions and their relationship with the life course transitions. The study employs a mixed-methods research design, and data were collected from current migrants who have experienced at least one overseas migration. The sample size consists of 70 migrants, equally divided between males and females, aged 18-29. The analysis uses the proximate determinants framework of migration presented by Bernard et al., (2014). The data were analysed by employing descriptive statistics, chi-square test and content analysis. Findings revealed that average age at first migration is relatively young about 22 years. Micro, macro and meso level, economic factors were identified as the key proximate determinants of youth migration decisions in Sri Lanka. Chi-square test statistics showed a significant association between gender and continuation of migration. The data on migrants' recent life events revealed that the majority of respondents were employed in Sri Lanka prior to migration (67.1%) and they migrated "leaving employment in Sri Lanka" as their most recent significant life event. Other reported events include "leaving professional education" (11.4%), "termination of school education"(8.6%), "entering marriage"(8.6%), and "leaving higher education"(4.3%). Qualitative finding also revealed that employment, educational milestones and marriage are interconnected life events with their migration decisions.

Keywords: international youth migration, labour migration, life course





ABSTRACT

PRESENTATION SESSION 10

Diaspora, Conflict, Economic
Development, Transnational Ties

10.1 Thai Wild Berry Pickers in Finland under Contradictory Mobility Regime

Kwanchanok Jaisuekun

This study examines the contradictory mobility regime governing seasonal migration of Thai nationals who travel to pick wild berries in Finland. Migration policy analysis and 14 semi-structured interviews with key social actors reveal the contested status of Thai wild berry pickers within both the sending and receiving states, as well as within the EU migration regime. This case highlights the incongruence of the Schengen visa policy and practice, where the visa granted does not align with the migrants' intention. Recognized by Thai authorities as overseas migrant workers, Thai wild berry pickers are issued short-stay Schengen visas for tourism. Under Finland's right to public access, Thai migrants pick wild berries as tourists without formal employment and labor protections, although their mobilities have been highly organized by both the sending and receiving states as well as Finnish berry companies and recruitment agencies in Thailand. This regulatory gap increases the vulnerability of Thai workers and demonstrates how migration regime creates a matrix that places Thai seasonal migrants in a precarious condition.

Keywords: Thai wild berry pickers, Finland, seasonal migration, migration regime, Schengen visa, labor precarity

10.2 Conflict and Marginality: Understanding the War's Impact on Thai Migrant Workers

Yahel Kurlander

On October 7th, 2023, Hamas terrorists murdered 39 Thai agricultural migrants and kidnapped 31 workers. The horrifying massacre and the ensuing war that followed it was an extreme event in which lives were tragically cut short. However, beyond the immediate loss of life, war has far-reaching health implications, including psychological distress and deteriorating living conditions for those who survive. In the lecture, the impact of the war on Thai migrant agricultural workers in Israel will be presented. The research aims to highlight the extreme vulnerabilities of this population, particularly in times of conflict, and to explore the implications for policy and migrant labor protections. The study is based on a survey of the workers, content analysis of multiple sources, and an autoethnographic reflection on participation in an aid team assisting migrant workers during wartime. The workers were more vulnerable due to their residence in temporary structures lacking shelters and their employment in unprotected agricultural fields, and the study will present firsthand accounts of the impact of the war on them. The study suggests that Thai migrant workers in Israeli agriculture endure systemic neglect in their living and working conditions, which is magnified during wartime. The October 7th attack and the war exposed the acute risks they face due to inadequate security measures, underscoring their extreme vulnerability in conflict zones. The urgent need for policy interventions, emergency response strategies, and reinforced labor protections, to safeguard migrant health and well-being in times of crisis will be highlighted in the study. Furthermore, it invites reflection on our role as engaged researchers.

Keywords: migrant workers, occupational health, conflict zones

10.3 Crisis-Driven Solidarity: Migrant Workers and Employers in the Agricultural Frontier

Avinoam Cohen, Yahel Kurlander

Our paper examines how the war erupted on October 7 temporarily reconfigured relationships between agricultural migrant workers and their employers along Israel's agricultural frontiers. Using qualitative analysis of media coverage and firsthand insights, the paper investigates how the shared vulnerability of workers and employers during the war exposed deeper transformations in the agricultural sector. Specifically, it highlights how processes of state withdrawal and the gradual erosion of national ideals of Hebrew labor produced a system where migrant workers are both indispensable and invisible. While the war briefly fostered crisis-driven solidarity between local employers, migrant workers and civil society, this solidarity remains highly situational and conditional. The findings contribute to a broader understanding of the precarity produced by neoliberal restructuring in peripheral agricultural communities.

Keywords: agriculture, migrant workers, neoliberalism, precarity, solidarity

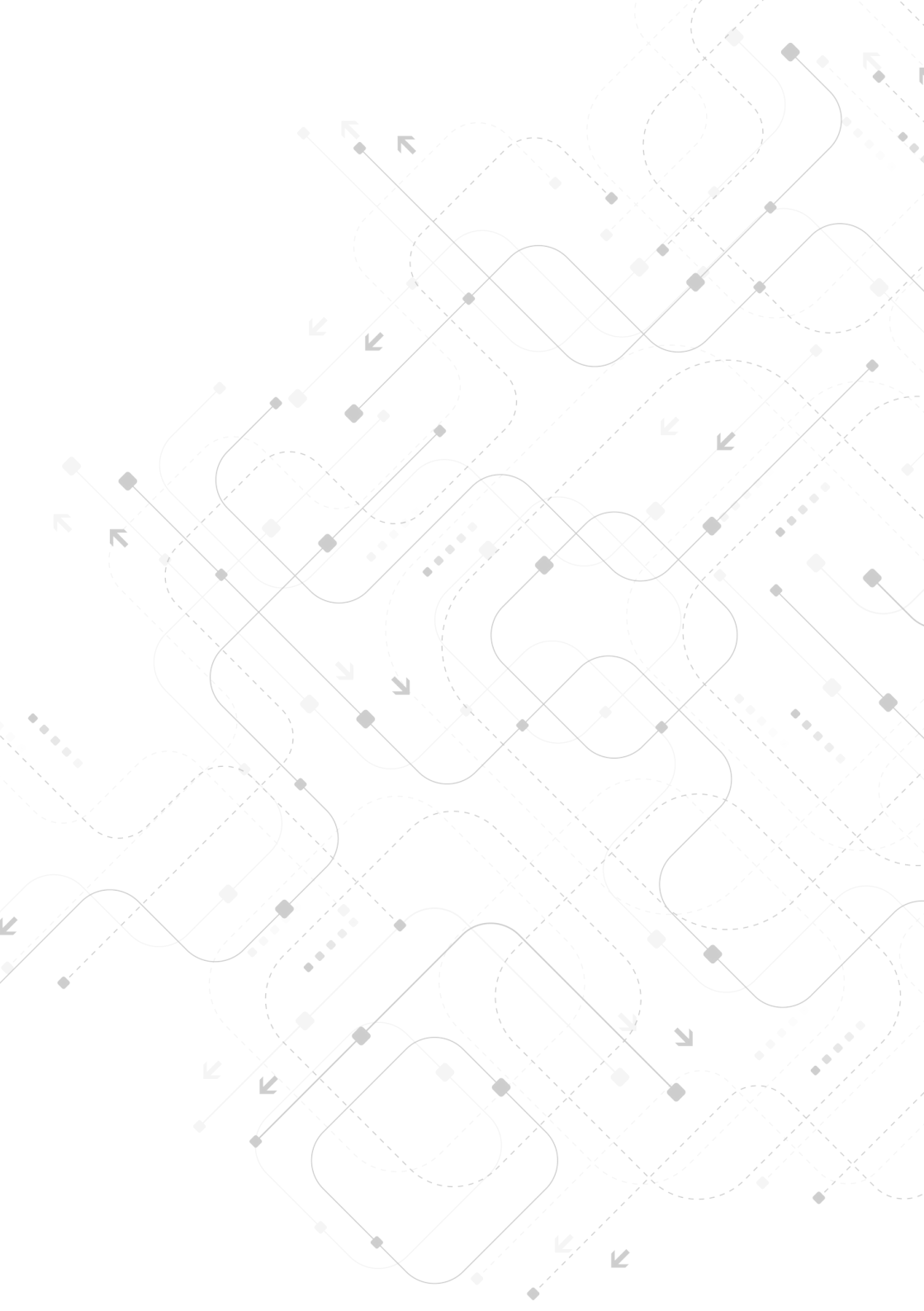
10.4 How Temporary Indian Migrants Get Entrepreneurship in Thailand*

Poonam Ingle, Dusadee Ayuwat, Rukchanok Chumnanmak

This study investigates how the temporary Indian migrant entrepreneurs (TIME) entrepreneurship in Thailand. The research employed a qualitative phenomenological approach. The unit of analysis is the individual level. The study evaluated 14 officials and members from governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) selected via inclusion criteria for their insights into Indian migrant entrepreneurship support systems, and 30 TIME, who had conducted entrepreneurial activities in Thailand for under five years in Bangkok and Pattaya. Data collection utilizing in-depth interviews, semi-structured interviews, and non-participant observation occurred between February and October 2024, and triangulation ensured validity. Data were analysed using descriptive content analysis. Findings indicate that TIME, largely urban-origin migrants from North and West India, are predominantly male, middle-aged, and university-educated, with vocational skills and experience, which led them to pursue entrepreneurial activities in the service sector in Pattaya. Entrepreneurial development among TIME in Thailand requires hybrid policy support. In the young stage (0–1 year), NGOs provide mentoring, informal financing, and multilingual orientation, complementing the BOI and DBD's business registration services, which remain underused due to language barriers. In the growth stage (1–2 years), NGO-led training and networking align with local government permits and SME schemes, enabling Thai partnerships. By the established stage (3–5 years), agencies like the Ministry of Commerce and Revenue Department support trade and taxation, while NGOs sustain dialogue and diaspora linkages. Across all stages, TIME faces limited access to formal credit, relying instead on personal savings, family remittances, and trust-based networks.

Keywords: temporary Indian migrant entrepreneurs, social capital, organisational support systems, migration

*This paper is a part of my Ph.D. dissertation, "Social Capital of Temporary Indian Migrant Entrepreneurs in Thailand," and this project gets support from the government of India through the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme under Grant 11015/193/2018-SCD-V.





ABSTRACT

PRESENTATION **11** SESSION

Transnational Mobility and Regional
Interactions: Challenges of Our Time and
Responses from Migration Policy

11.1 Trends of Labor Migration in Central Asia and the Russian Federation

Sergey Ryazantsev, Evgenia Moiseeva

Labour migration has remained the most significant form of migration in the sub-region over the past twenty years. Despite geopolitical and geo-economic transformations, the main direction of migrant workers from Central Asian has been the Russian Federation and then Kazakhstan. Since the 2020s, the trend of diversification of labor migrant flows to new destinations has become increasingly noticeable. The trend of reorientation of labour migrant flows from Central Asian countries to new geographical destinations is due to several factors.

The Russian Federation and Kazakhstan actively use labor migration as a means of compensating for the growing deficit in the labor market. Despite the objective need for labor resources from Central Asian countries, migration policy in the field of labor migration has been developing ambiguously in the destination countries over the past few years. First of all, there is no explicitly declared policy for attracting labor migrants from Central Asia at the level of strategic documents.

In addition, migration policy towards labor migrants is periodically tightened. However, the strategic documents of the migration policy of the host countries include approaches to attracting and documenting the status of labor migrants, employing ethnic returning migrants, attracting highly qualified and skilled specialists, and opening access to the labor market for foreign students. Migration policies in the field of regulating labour migration in Central Asian countries have developed asynchronously over time.

11.2 Migration and Environment in Brazil: Internal Dynamic

Roberto do Carmo

The Brazilian territory is occupied by six distinct biomes: Amazon, Caatinga, Cerrado, Atlantic Forest, Pampa, and Pantanal. Each biome has its own environmental characteristics and a unique history of human settlement. The aim of this study is to present how demographic occupation of Brazilian biomes has changed in recent years, with a particular focus on the dynamics associated with recent migratory processes.

The analysis considered data from two census indicators related to migration: length of residence and fixed date of arrival. The findings show that all biomes received relatively significant numbers of migrants. However, despite this, the Pampa and Pantanal biomes experienced a population decline during the period.

Migration processes were particularly intense in the Cerrado biome, which is undergoing expansion of agricultural activities, mainly related to grain production such as soybeans, corn, and millet. There has also been the establishment of industries linked to meat production, largely aimed at the international market. The Cerrado holds critical environmental importance for Brazil, especially as the source of some of the country's major rivers.

An unexpected highlight is the significant immigration recorded in the Caatinga biome, with 2.5 million migrants, likely resulting from substantial return migration processes. The fragility of the Caatinga biome, marked by water scarcity in its semi-arid region, remains a challenge.

The Atlantic Forest biome concentrates the largest population volume in the country. It has been heavily devastated over time and continues to attract the highest migratory flows, despite undergoing major economic changes in recent years.

11.3 From Tourist Enclave to Temporary Community: Transformation of Nha Trang's Russian-Speaking Migrant Society in New Geopolitical Conditions

Kenichi Ohashi

Since the mid-2010s, the number of Russian tourists to Nha Trang, a beach resort in southern Vietnam has increased sharply, and Russian-speaking tourism economic system and tourism enclave have been established and developed in Nha Trang. However, due to the pandemic from 2020 and the subsequent Ukrainian war from 2022, the number of tourists from Russia, which reached approximately 300,000 per year at its peak, has drastically decreased, and the Russian-speaking tourism economic system and tourism enclave in Nha Trang have been experienced a major change.

While the situation is changing, with direct flights between Russia and Nha Trang resuming in 2025 and the number of tourists from Russia gradually recovering, tourists from Central Asia have emerged as a significant force in Nha Trang's tourism market since 2022. The increasing number of tourists from Central Asia to Nha Trang has led to a noticeable shift in the tourist enclave, which was previously centered around Russian tourists, towards catering to Central Asian tourists. On the other hand, the Russians visiting Nha Trang are increasingly becoming long-term stayers rather than mass tourists, and a residential area for these long-term stayers is emerging in northern part of Nha Trang, forming a temporary community that differs in nature from the tourist enclave.

This report is going to describe about these changes in the structure of the Russian-speaking migrant society in Nha Trang under the new geopolitical conditions since 2022, based on the findings of an ethnographic field study conducted in 2025.

11.4 Highly Skilled Immigration to China: Current Status and Prospects

Marina Khramova, Ju Yuna

Under the background of deepening economic globalization and the rise of the knowledge economy, China's high-skilled labor recruitment policies have undergone a strategic transformation from passive acceptance to proactive shaping. Our report analyzes the evolutionary logic and practical characteristics of China's high-skilled labor recruitment policies from two perspectives: factors of historical transition and international comparative analysis.

Research shows that China has developed a unique policy system integrating utilitarianism, communitarianism and Marxism: in the economic dimension, it emphasizes national strategic needs, with programs like the "Thousand Talents Plan" cumulatively generating 2.3 trillion yuan in added value for key industries; in the cultural dimension, it establishes identity mechanisms such as the HSK examination (with a 62% pass rate) and community participation; at the institutional level, it creates a "state-market" dual-drive model.

International comparisons indicate that China's policies differ from both the market liberalism of the U.S. H-1B visa system and the social welfare direction of the EU Blue Card, achieving a balance between efficiency and equity through regional innovations like the Bay Area Greater (Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macao). Current policy challenges include insufficient cultural inclusiveness and household registration restrictions. Looking ahead, guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind and empowered by digital governance technologies, China needs to construct a more inclusive talent ecosystem.

In our report, we will also present a case study on attracting highly qualified Russian specialists to the Chinese labor market.

This research was supported by a grant from the Russian Science Foundation (grant No. 22-68-00210).

MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2025

TIME	PROGRAM	ROOM
08:45–09:00	Introductory Remarks Associate Professor Dr. Chalernpol Chamchan Opening Address Professor Dr. Yodchanan Wongsawat	101 Fl.1
09:00–09:30	Welcoming Remarks from the MMC Partnership Members	101 Fl.1
09:30–10:00	Group photo-taking and break	
10:00–11:00	Panel Discussion 1 Replacement Migration: Securing Thailand’s Future Workforce	101 Fl.1
11:00–12:00	Presentation Session 1 Politics, Policy, and Migration Governance • Scenarios in Forced Migration and Conflict	101 Fl.1
11:00–12:00	Presentation Session 2 Families, Citizenship, Identities, and Integration	326 Fl.3
12:00–13:00	Lunch/Poster Presentation	Fl.1
13:00–14:00	Presentation Session 3 Migrant Workers Gendered (Dis)Empowerment	101 Fl.1
13:00–14:00	Presentation Session 4 International Migration in Sex Work	326 Fl.3
14:00–15:00	Presentation Session 5 Migration Research Methodologies	101 Fl.1
15:00–16:00	Panel Discussion 2 Climate Change and Migration	101 Fl.1
16:00–17:00	Presentation Session 6 Climate and Environmental (Im)Mobilities	101 Fl.1
17:00–18:00	Panel Discussion 3 New Migration Trends in Eurasia and America During Turbulent Times	101 Fl.1
18:00–20:00	Welcome Dinner	101 Fl.1

TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2025

TIME	PROGRAM	ROOM
09:00–10:00	Panel Discussion 4 Mobilities in Turbulent Times: Navigating Global Crises, Policy Shifts, and New Pathways for Justice and Resilience	101 Fl.1
10:00–11:00	Presentation Session 7 Border Policies in Turbulent Times: Navigating (Im)Mobilities and Forging Pathways for Child and Family Resilience	101 Fl.1
10:00–11:00	Presentation Session 8 Migrant Vulnerable Groups: Quality of Life, Community, and Wellbeing	109 Fl.1
11:00–12:00	Panel Discussion 5 Safety at Work in Southeast Asia	101 Fl.1
12:00–13:00	Lunch/Poster Presentation	Fl.1
13:00–14:15	Presentation Session 9 Migrant Workers' Rights & Advocacy Research	101 Fl.1
13:00–14:15	Presentation Session 10 Diaspora, Conflict, Economic Development, Transnational Ties	109 Fl.1
14:15–15:15	Presentation 11 Transnational Mobility and Regional Interactions: Challenges of Our Time and Responses from Migration Policy	101 Fl.1
15:15–15:45	Rapporteurs Report	101 Fl.1
15:45–16:00	Closing	101 Fl.1

Online via ZOOM

- **Room 101**
Meeting ID: 924 1293 7555
Passcode: mmc2025
- **Room 109 and 326**
Meeting ID: 933 5948 7943
Passcode: mmc2025

The 7th MMC Regional Conference

The 7th MMC Regional Conference

The 7th MMC Regional Conference

The 7th MMC Regional Conference



Mahidol University
Wisdom of the Land



Mahidol University
Institute for Population
and Social Research



University of Nevada, Reno



World Vision

