

## **Dr. Michiel Baas**

### *'Middling' Mobility and the Space In-Between: Professional Migrants from India in Singapore and Australia*

Studies on skilled migration tend to be strongly bifurcated in terms of their focus on either low- or highly-skilled ones and public debate generally also reflects this. However, since skills, education and income levels get lumped together there tends to be considerable difference in terms of how low- or highly-skilled a particular migrant actually is. This paper focuses on what it conceptualizes as the 'mobile middle'; professional migrants with (new) middle class backgrounds and whose ambitions towards permanent residency in the country of destination can be thought of in terms of 'middling' transnationalism. Drawing on fieldwork material from two research projects the paper will engage in the question how we can (further) conceptualize and think-through this middle field in terms of individuals' position in-between migration systems/structures and their relation with notions of settlement and mobility. For one it will present ethnographic material from ongoing research (2005-) among Indian student-migrants in Melbourne. While permanent residency was often a motivating and even determining factor for choosing Australia as a study-abroad destination, permanently residing was and often continues to be not the main objective. Balancing trans/national ambitions in and between India and Australia forces them into an in-between space where skills, education and socio-economic positions all face 'middling' one way or the other. The analysis will be complemented by recent ethnographic material collected on new professional migrants from India and Singapore. Often highly skilled, their job description, wage-levels and visa status all go through a process of negotiation and 'middling' to make a (temporary but potentially permanent) stay in Singapore possible. Ultimately the paper will ask how (Indian) migrants negotiate and navigate the transience and inherent duality of migration processes and transnational lifestyles/ambitions.

**Dr. Michiel Baas is a currently a research fellow with the Asia Research Institute (NUS). Previously he was a fellow with the new Nalanda University (Delhi and Rajgir, India); coordinator with the International Institute for Asian Studies (Amsterdam & Leiden, the Netherlands); lecturer with the Anthropology Department of the University of Amsterdam; and coordinator with the Amsterdam Institute for Social Sciences Research. He holds a PhD in anthropology from the University of Amsterdam. The book that was the result of his PhD research was published in 2010 titled *Imagined Mobility. Migration and Transnationalism among Indian Students in Australia* (London and New Delhi: Anthem Press).**

## Haifa Binsahl

### *Navigating the Social Networks of Saudi Female International Students in Australia*

Over the past six years, Australian educational institutions have welcomed a new group of temporary transient migrants coming from Saudi Arabia, an Arab country that is known for its strict religious and gender segregated culture. This gender-segregated culture was mainly to discourage any kind of interaction between Saudi women and unrelated men even in areas such as education (Al-Saggaf 2004). Yet, recently there has been an influx of Saudi women coming to Australia for higher education purposes under the King Abdullah Scholarship Program (KASP) (Lefdahl-Davis & Perrone-McGovern 2015). Therefore, with the transition to the Australian open and mixed environment, international Saudi students' strict religious practices and the difference in the treatment of men and women would result in Saudi students face challenges that are substantial and unique (Hall 2013). Being in a mixed class was the most cited challenge, which has adversely affected Saudi female international students' academic achievements due to the difficulty to communicate with the opposite gender (Al-Hazmi and Nyland, 2011, Binsahl and Chang, 2012). If not addressed, these challenges would adversely affect their cross-cultural adaptation (Binsahl & Chang, 2012). Given the influential power of the Saudi culture on every aspect of international Saudi students' lives, this paper aims to explore how the transition from gender-segregated culture to a mix environment may impact on international Saudi female students' social networks and identities. A recent study by Gomes et al. (2014) shows that during their stay in Australia international students form multiple and complex identities and social networks, which are influenced by many factors including, culture. International students' social networks were not exclusively made up of international students from their home countries. However, when it comes to Saudi female international students, the researcher assumes that SFIS will build social networks that not only different from the ones they have in Saudi but also different from other international female students' social networks. For instance, while on the one hand, SFIS in Australia will have the opportunity to have social networks with international students from different background, a social network that would be impossible to have if they were in Saudi. On the other hand, SFIS unlike other international female students may less likely to build social networks with males due to cultural reasons. Consequently, this paper aims to empirically examine how SFIS in Australia build up their social networks while they are transient migrants.

**Haifa Binsahl is a Saudi female student, who is sponsored by King Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz Scholarship Program. She received her Master degree in Information Systems from the University of Melbourne. Her Master thesis was about the use of social networking sites by Saudi females in Australia. The thesis was published and presented in a conference in 2012. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Computing and Information Systems. She is interested in topics of social media and social networking sites. Her Ph.D. research is focusing on the role of social media in helping Saudi female international students when they are in Australia and whether the movement from one culture to the other may impact their use.**

## **Xinru Chen**

### *Reaching Out For a Relationship When Living Overseas*

Being exposed to a totally new living environment in Australia, young transients from different countries are faced with challenges from different aspects such as cultural barriers, language limitations, employment hardness, academic pressures and etc. When coming to finding a boyfriend or girlfriend, young transients become more likely to turn to social media for help to reach out for a relationship and also to maintain a relationship whether it is long-distance or not. In this paper I explore the role social media play in helping young adults reach out for a relationship in a different living environment resulting from living overseas. In an ethnographic study of young Chinese adults studying or working in Australia, I argue that there are four ways in which social media have helped young adults to address different challenges in starting and keeping a relationship. First, in dealing with a smaller pool of prospective partners, young adults turn to social media to meet more friends who are in the same location with them. Second, social media help young adults to trace after their potential partners' digital presence online when they know nothing about each other. Third, social media provide a platform where young adults connecting their online and offline relationship and showing off their affection. Finally, when young adults living overseas need to seek advice for their relationships, many of them prefer to go on social media to find relationship experts' advice. In an ethnographic study of young Chinese adults studying or working in Australia, I argue that there are four ways in which social media have helped young adults to address different challenges in starting and keeping a relationship. First, in dealing with a smaller pool of prospective partners, young adults turn to social media to meet more friends who are in the same location with them. Second, social media help young adults to trace after their potential partners' digital presence online when they know nothing about each other. Third, social media provide a platform where young adults connecting their online and offline relationship and showing off their affection. Finally, when young adults living overseas need to seek advice for their relationships, many of them prefer to go on social media to find relationship experts' advice.

**Xinru Chen is undertaking her PhD study in the School of Media and Communication at RMIT University. She has a double Bachelor Degree in Japanese Language and Literature and TV Program Directing. Xinru is one of the Digital Ethnography Research Center members. The working title of her current project is "The Impact of Life Changes on Young Adults' Microblogging Practices". By applying an ethnographic approach to her study, Xinru explores the role microblogging plays when people are confronted by life changing events or circumstances.**

## **Dr. Bernardo Figueiredo**

### *Transient skilled migrants: identity construction and inversion of belonging in consumptionscapes*

With a focus on highly skilled professionals who have moved and resettled in different countries for reasons related to work, the aim of this paper is to discuss how transient flows of skilled workers further push migrants into the consumption sphere and promote an “inversion of belonging”, i.e. the perception that an individual does not belong to a national culture/ethnic group but that instead cultures/ethnicities “belong” to the individual. Two related datasets were used: 40 in-depth long interviews with globally mobile professionals and a multi-sited ethnography with a community of transnational mobile professionals. Participants reported multiple stories describing situations in which they expressed (and in some cases, actively sought) allegiances to former host cultures (instead of their culture of origin or current host culture), especially if their stay happened in a very early stage of life, or during the schooling age, or any other aspect that induced consumers to socialize on a deeper level with those cultural systems. For example, it was common to see these skilled migrants supporting sports clubs or engaging in consumption practices learned during their stay at some other country. Some of these allegiances express tastes that were formed during that period and therefore associated with life in that country. However, some other expressions of allegiances do not convey attachment, longing or nostalgia. Instead, these allegiances are articulated as a result of the benefits they might bring to consumers or the risks they might help avoid in each context. For example, Joanne, a Chinese-British citizen who lives in Canada, uses her capabilities of expressing allegiance to the three cultures to take advantage of social situations in which showing belongingness to one or the other is more desirable. These allegiances are expressed not only through language but also through consumption practices related to dressing, eating, socializing and entertaining. Memberships to different national cultures are claimed in order to help these transient consumers to deal with their contextual goals. In that sense, national identities become resources that are selected by consumers to help them achieve their temporary goals. In a more general sense, I observe that these circulating consumers invert the relationship of belonging to a culture. Instead of actually belonging to a national culture (i.e. behaving and being under the influence of a national culture), they perceive their national cultures as belonging to them (Hedetoft and Hjort, 2002), representing a pool of resources they have and that is subject to choice and performance. Their privileged position in consumptionscapes allows them to claim, express, consume and perform their chosen embodied allegiances when they want to (Oswald 1999). The research raises questions about the way flows of transient consumers shape the expansion of consumption (the individual as a choice maker) to vaster areas of social life and how this process inverts perceptions of belonging and identity construction in a globalising world.

**Dr. Bernardo Figueiredo is a marketing lecturer in the School of Economics, Finance and Marketing, at RMIT University in Australia. Bernardo is especially interested in understanding how the globalisation of markets and cultures shapes consumption and marketing practices. His main research interests include consumer culture, multiculturalism, cosmopolitanism, transnational mobility, circulation of consumers, goods and technologies. Dr Figueiredo has published in the Journal of Macromarketing, Journal of Marketing Management, Marketing Theory, Consumer Markets and Culture, and Advances in Consumer Research.**

## **Associate Professor Farida Fozdar**

### *We called for workers but people came*

'We called for workers but people came' In a recent Proposal Paper Simplification of the Skilled Migration and Temporary Activity Visa Programs, December 2014, issued by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, the vital and pressing need to attract productive migrants was framed in terms of the increased 'significant competition from ... developed and developing countries' and the need to shift from a passive recipient approach to an 'aggressively target(ed)' one, in a 'highly competitive environment'. Yet the rest of the document was entirely focussed on Australia's economic concerns, with no acknowledgement given to the fact that migrant workers are actually people, with social and cultural needs that have not really been addressed. The result is experiences of marginalisation and exploitation, potentially leading to a set of folk knowledges (distributed through transnational networks) that reduce Australia's likelihood of becoming a destination of choice. This paper discusses a set of recommendations for improving these experiences, based on research into service provision in Western Australia, a state with a high proportion of temporary labour migrants.

**Farida Fozdar is Associate Professor/Future Fellow in Anthropology and Sociology, at The University of Western Australia. Her research focuses on race relations, migrant settlement, racism/anti-racism, citizenship, nationalism, and issues to do with refugees and asylum seekers. She has published widely including 3 books, 14 book chapters and more than 40 journal articles, as well as authoring reports to government and research consultancies.**

## **Evelyn Kwok**

### *Foreign Domestic Helpers in Hong Kong: Constructing identity by informal place-making*

The Philippines has one of the world's largest migrant labor export sector in the world, with approximately five million workers overseas every year. A sizeable portion of this group are women who participate in unskilled labor. Hong Kong has been importing said unskilled labor from the Philippines since the 1960s and has over 300,000 Foreign Domestic Helpers working in the region every year. Foreign Domestic Helpers in Hong Kong are legally bound to live with their employers. Every Sunday - their weekly day off work - these migrant workers seek public spaces for freedom, privacy and self-expression. In the Central district, thousands of Foreign Domestic Helpers gather, appropriate and transform various public spaces into a particular social territory. Staircases, footpaths, open atriums, public forecourts and elevated walkways are saturated by groups socialising, eating, sleeping, dancing and engaging in virtual conversations using communication technologies. They dwell within temporary 'units' that they construct with inexpensive materials such as cardboard boxes, plastic sheets, umbrellas etc. At the end of every Sunday, these 'units' are dismantled and the public spaces return to normalcy. This temporary occupation is re-enacted every Sunday and has become synonymous with the identity of Foreign Domestic Helpers in Hong Kong. This paper explores how the Foreign Domestic Helpers in Hong Kong have constructed their identity through strategies of informal place-making - in effect produce culture in a city where they are deemed as transient bodies and have no citizenship rights. The ritualised event of temporary occupation is an act of civic participation and a demonstration of a unique network that has been established by their home culture and foreign identity as a group of transient and marginalised labor force. What may appear as an odd assortment of objects and people is in fact an exercise of resilience, resistance and resourcefulness.

**Evelyn Kwok is a spatial theorist and designer with expertise in cross-cultural situations of urban informality. She is currently undertaking PhD research into the politics of public space, as played out three-dimensionally every Sunday by Foreign Domestic Workers (FDHs) within the dense urbanity of Hong Kong. This research involves an interdisciplinary examination of the commodification of reproductive labour as a consequence of globalisation, and the dislocative experience of migrant domestic labourers. Integrating spatial analysis, ethnographic observations, interviews and photographs, this work explores the ways in which marginalised groups inhabit and augment public space, transforming urban zones into domesticised sites that produce a collective culture. Evelyn has taught in spatial design practice since 2011 and has run a variety of design studios and presented works in Sydney, Hong Kong and Lisbon. She has exhibited at the Critical Animals 2012 and Sydney Biennale 2012.**

**Dr. Susan Leong**

*The Transient Migrant and the Liminal Researcher: Insider-Outsider Migration and Media Research*

While the insider/outsider binary is more widely acknowledged these days as existing along a dynamic continuum, this paper argues for the position of the liminal researcher as a productive start-point in transient migration research. It begins with the observation of one factor common to both transient migrants and liminal researchers: they traverse multiple borders but rarely belong entirely within the limits of one place or space. Reflecting on the process of setting up a project investigating Chinese business migration and Chinese social media, this paper discusses the factors that render researchers insider-outsiders and thus, liminal. Along the way it queries the dilemmas that beset such positioning and the value it brings to media and migration research. It argues that whether informed by experience or adopted as a position, being poised on the threshold is a vantage point because it opens researchers to an empathic approach towards the desires and anxieties that drive and surround transient migration. Beyond the pragmatism of strategic essentialism and the leveraging of socio-cultural capital, then, the paper contends that liminality brings forth in researchers a deeper appreciation and understanding of the complex sensibilities that imbue the lived experience of transience.

**Dr. Susan Leong is an Early Career Research Fellow with Curtin University. She is the author of *New Media and the Nation in Malaysia: Malaysianet (2014)*. Her current project, *Belonging at the Borders: Diaspora Business in the Age of the Internet*, focuses on PRC business migrants' lived experience of temporary migration as facilitated, mediated and inflected by Chinese social media. Susan's research interests are transdisciplinary and especially concerned with the questions of transnational connectivity, migration and belonging. She has published in *Critical Asian Studies*, *Continuum* and *New Media & Society* on the online representations of the Malaysian Indian minority, the future of nations, Singaporean identity and the notion of Internet time. Other publications include chapters on virtual diasporas, satellite television and the Chinese community in Perth and Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor mega project.**

## **Amber Lim and George Mouratidis**

### *Deconstructing binaries through foreign talents' experience in Singapore*

While previous research on transient migration has highlighted the parallel worlds of the Asian foreign talent communities in Western/Occidental countries, there has been little discussion of the Asian migrants in an Asian country. The process of qualitative data collection in Singapore allowed us to observe and reflect upon the various and differing social dynamics that are present between the locals and the Asian foreign talent community. Similar to the observations of previous research carried out in the West, Asian migrants have experienced difficulties attempting to integrate with the locals. Furthermore, our findings have suggested that there is not only a tension between the locals and foreign talent community but also a different hierarchical status within the foreign talent community in Singapore. This research aims to trace and examine the experience of the foreign talent migrants in Singapore, not only with the locals but other nationalities in the community. In so doing, we aim to deconstruct the binary categories of "Asian" and "Caucasian".

**Amber Yew-Chen Lim graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelors of Arts (Geography). She is currently interested in looking at how increasing migration and global flows can affect sustainability of cultural identities within spaces for her upcoming Masters in Geography and Spatial Planning. Between 2012- 2014, Amber also has assisted in various qualitative research projects for RMIT and NUS, involving media and identity, liveability and sustainable living, as well as transient migration of foreign talents in Singapore.**

**George Mouratidis is a Greek-born poet, translator and Beat Generation scholar. He earned his MA in literary studies on Dada and Surrealist literature from The University of Melbourne, where he is currently completing his PhD in Beat literature with the title "Becoming Beat: Re-cognising the 'Beat Generation' and the Search for Authenticity". George was a contributing editor of Jack Kerouac's On the Road: The Original Scroll, for which he wrote a critical introduction. His work has been published locally and internationally, most recently in the Soulbay Press short story anthology, 13. His research interests include criticism of theory, Existentialist philosophy, 20th century American literature and history, Beat studies and post-war countercultures, post-war Australian migration history and migrant cultures, Modern Greek poetry, history and politics, as well as East and Southeast Asian poetry and post-war history. George currently teaches cultural studies at RMIT University, and is working on a bilingual (Greek-English) anthology of Greek-Australian poet Nikos Nomikos, which is due at the end of the year. His first book of poetry, titled Angel Frankenstein, is also due out soon.**



## **Dr. Glenda Meija**

### *Transient Migration in Australia: Catalans Adapting to Everyday Life in Melbourne*

The economic crisis in Europe has precipitated new waves of migration, to more thriving OECD economies including Australia. This study is part of larger project examining sense of place and the process of migration among Spanish speakers and Catalans in Australia. It draws on visual narratives, semi-structured interviews, and participant observation undertaken with 10 Catalan migrants from the Cataluña region of Spain in Melbourne. It looks at how participants experienced a 'European atmosphere', a sense of familiarity and a place they can call home in Melbourne, whilst at the same time experiencing a longing to return to Barcelona and needing social network connections with other Catalans while they are in temporary visas. This study contributes to exploring how the movements of people – in this case, Catalans – help constitute contemporary ways of being and experiencing for migrants in a world that is increasingly globalised. In particular it looks at how for Catalans in Australia a 'foreign space' becomes a 'familiar place' and how that experience of belonging or non-belonging ascribes meanings to these spaces during their transient migration.

**Dr. Glenda Mejía is a Lecturer in Spanish Language Studies at RMIT University, and the Coordinator of the Spanish Program. She has published various articles in the area of women studies in Cuban cinema such as *Dos épocas en el cine cubano*, *Madagascar: Un viaje interno*, *Mujer transparente: In search of a woman and the impact of power domains on irregular migrants as seen in *La vida precoz y breve* de Sabina Rivas*. Her research interests include: women studies, Latin American Cinemas, place-making, language and Identity, and Spanish-speaking migration in Australia. Currently, she is conducting an ethnographic research project: 'Senses of Place: the experience of Catalans and Spanish-speaking people in Melbourne'. She is also researching the topics of women representation, migration and place in Mexican cinema. Areas of expertise: Latin American cinema, women's studies, place-making within the Spanish community, sociolinguistics (identity and language), and pedagogy (teaching and practice).**

## **Dr. Rebecca Olive**

### *Moving to the home of cycling: Regional migration and elite sport*

The increasing centralisation of elite sport means that pathways increasingly rely on regional migration within countries. This creates regional centres of sporting excellence rich with resources, knowledge and role-models, which is further perpetuated by aspirational athletes and families moving to those resources in the hope of accessing resources, facilities and visibility. Yet moving to a new region based solely on access to training facilities and resources might have other self-perpetuating factors such as an increased focus on training as the centre of life and lifestyle – a focus that is viewed as an advantage by coaches and encouraged as part of the culture. Other issues include a drain of talent and resources from regional areas leading to a lack of opportunities for athletes and families not willing to relocate on the hope of meeting the highly competitive criteria of training programs. However, when things go wrong and athletes are dropped from training programs, they face a challenging choice that is made more stressful by their regional dislocation and lack of community connection. With such short windows for high-level success and performance, there is understandable. However, in terms of transience and community development, it has interesting implications for whether and how athletes are active participants in the community, beyond their elite identity. This discussion will present preliminary findings about the experiences of athletes who have migrated to the 'Home of Cycling', a high-performance cycling facility in Cambridge, New Zealand, and will explore how the different cycling disciplines negotiate the tensions that centralisation of sport and athletes can bring.

**Dr. Rebecca Olive is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at The University of Waikato. She has published about sport and physical cultures, gender power relations, feminist theory, social media and ethnographic methodologies in journals including: 'International Journal of Cultural Studies'; 'Sport, Education & Society'; and 'Sociology of Sport Journal'. Her current projects explore athlete mobilities and regional migration in New Zealand, and self-representation on Instagram.**

## **Prof. Sarah Pink**

*'Digital media and washing machines: student migration, domestic improvisation and future lives'*

In this paper I develop a future-focused approach to transient migration studies. While the study of migrant's aspirations forms part of this, my agenda is to advance this further by proposing that, particularly in the case of student migration, which is my concern here, the study of the past-present-future temporalities of migrants's experiences and everyday activities offers new insights into possible and probable future ways of living everyday life. This focus contributes to student migration studies by offering an analysis of the adaptive, improvisory and aspirational elements of migrant trajectories. However it goes beyond this to argue that by gaining a deeper understanding of the future orientation of these trajectories we are able to identify transient (student) migration as a way of making elements of the future in the present. These go beyond simply researching the 'obvious' in terms of gaining educational qualifications and the experience of living in another culture, and shifts in identity. Instead they reveal how migrants might also imagine and influence their futures through their experiences of tacit improvisory ways of being and knowing with domestic and ICE (information communication and entertainment) technologies. To demonstrate this approach I discuss the findings of a video ethnography project, which explored the past, present and future everyday domestic lives of postgraduate students from Indonesia to Melbourne, through a focus on their relationships with their washing machines and digital media.

Sarah Pink is an international and interdisciplinary scholar who combines theoretical and methodological research with applied practice. She has expertise and experience in themes including digital media, energy, consumption, everyday life, sustainability, activism, tacit and sensory ways of knowing and occupational safety and health. She researches across urban, domestic and workplace environments. Sarah is also global authority on digital visual and sensory ethnography methodologies. Originally trained as an anthropologist she now works and collaborates across design, engineering and arts disciplines to which she brings social and cultural research expertise. She simultaneously pursues her own theoretical and methodological agenda to develop ways of understanding change and intervention.

## **Ms. Catriona Stevens**

*'Now I can never go back': The unintended permanence of temporary migration for lower income migrants from Mainland China*

Australia's temporary labour migration program, responsive to cyclical and impersonal market demand, fails to adequately anticipate or accommodate the realities of lives lived in transience. Between 2003 and 2007 many Mainland Chinese migrants with low educational attainment and poor English arrived in Australia as 457 holders. Extensive formal and informal interviews conducted in Perth reveal that a large portion of this cohort found that despite originally departing with the mindset of a sojourner, return to China soon became a more difficult option. Reasons cited include rapid economic growth in China and the rising cost of housing, the challenges of re-entering the competitive Chinese education system for children accustomed to Australian schools, and the realisation that time spent overseas limited work opportunities upon return. This study further unpacks the false dichotomy of temporary and permanent migration. Economic calculations may drive policy but individual concerns drive outcomes. The outcomes of these 'accidental Australians' and their children need to be contextualised alongside other temporary-permanent streams, including international students.

**Ms. Catriona Stevens' research project addresses questions of belonging and identity among lower income migrants from Mainland China living in Perth. Themes include: the discourse of transience and permanence; education and the second generation; early childhood, aging parents and transnational care giving; and the ways class structures originating in China are reproduced in the Chinese Australian social setting.**

## Dr. Ly Tran

### *Mere 'PR hunter' as an imposed transnational identity and international students' agency in the migration-education nexus*

A large body of the literature on international students uncovers uncomfortable accounts about international students as a marginalized and disadvantaged group in the host society. There is however a critical lack of empirical work that investigates the impact of such social positioning upon their learning and wellbeing and to what extent they enact agency to mitigate the risks associated with those positioning and define themselves. This presentation draws on a research project funded by the Australian Research Council that examines the learning and engagement of international students within the migration-education nexus in the vocational education and training sector. The project includes more than 150 interviews with international students and teachers as well as fieldworks in 25 colleges. The research shows that for many international students, a mere 'PR hunter' is an unwanted and unjust transnational identity imposed on them by the structural and social conditions. This fails to recognise their career aspirations and multiple identities defined and redefined by their own subjectivity as well as their interaction with the transnational social spaces. Notably, these subjects aspire not only for being individuals with multiple identities, future aspirations and determination for success in the academic and professional trajectories but also for social change. The paper addresses how the structural conditions associated with international students' disadvantage, disconnectedness and position of vulnerability or 'outsider' status has led them to develop some strategic responses to cope with, protect themselves and fight against the injustices ascribed on them.

**Dr. Ly Tran is a senior lecturer in curriculum and pedagogy at Deakin University and an ARC DECRA fellow. Her research focuses on the teaching and learning for international students, the education-migration nexus and staff professional development in international education. Ly has been awarded various fellowships, prizes and awards for her works on international education. Her book "Teaching international students in vocational education: New pedagogical approaches" won the International Education Association of Australia Excellence Award for Best Practice/Innovation in International Education. Ly is the recipient of the prestigious Discovery Early Career Researcher Award from the Australian Research Council (2014-2017).**

## **Dr. Peidong Yang**

### *Indian doctors made in China: India-to-China medical educational mobility - preliminary insights and fieldwork reflections*

In recent years, an interesting form of educational mobility has emerged, consisting of Indian students heading to China for degree level education in medicine and surgery (MBBS). Conducted in English language, these made-in-China MBBS degrees offer a “second chance” to Indian students who aspire to the medical profession but fail to secure admission domestically. Current estimates suggest that close to 10,000 Indian students are being trained in over 50 medical colleges in China; indeed, China has apparently emerged as the “top choice” destination for the 9,000 Indian students who head overseas for medical education every year. Based on preliminary ethnographic fieldwork carried out in a Chinese college offering English-medium MBBS degrees to Indian and other international students, and a trip to south Indian trailing four Indian students to their hometowns, this paper offers methodological reflections on the research process and substantive insights into the phenomenon of “Indian doctors made in China” as intertwined findings. I discuss how ethnographic fieldwork, which in this case involved me visiting and staying at the homes of my research interlocutors, presented certain challenges and risks. Specifically, I show how these challenges and risks are related to issues of class, power, trust, and insider-outsider relation. However, confronting such challenges and facing such risks also opened up opportunities for gaining unique insights into the phenomenon under research. Specifically, I discuss how close interactions with my research participants enabled me to understand a few key characteristics to the Indian students’ China medical educational endeavour: contingency, compromise, and complicity.

**Dr. Peidong Yang is Postdoctoral Fellow at the Division of Sociology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He obtained his doctorate from the University of Oxford, UK, and his dissertation is an ethnographic examination of the Singapore government’s “foreign talent” policy in the context of education and, specifically, the experiences of students from Mainland China who were recruited under the “foreign talent” scholarship schemes. Apart from education and migration, Peidong’s other main area of research interest is contemporary Chinese society, particularly in the fields of internet/media and cultural studies. He has published articles in journals such as *SOJOURN*, *Asian Journal of Social Science*, and *Media, Culture & Society*. He keeps a blog at <https://peidongyang.wordpress.com/>**