

GLOBAL MOBILITY HUMANITIES CONFERENCE 2024

HYBRID

MOBILITIES, ASPIRATIONS
AND AFFECTIVE FUTURES

24th - 26th

October 2024

Konkuk University, Seoul

Supported by



National Research
Foundation of Korea



Ministry of Education

Consortium
of Humanities
Centers and
Institutes

IDE-JETRO



AMHN
ASIA MOBILITY
HUMANITIES NETWORK



Mobility
Humanities

Partners

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This work was supported by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea and the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF-2018S1A6A3A03043497).

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CO-ORGANIZED BY

Academy of Mobility Humanities, Konkuk University
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore
International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University

SUPPORTED BY

Konkuk University
National Research Foundation of Korea
Korean Ministry of Education
Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes
The Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization

PARTNERS

Asia Mobility Humanities Network
Mobility Humanities

Academy of Mobility Humanities



<http://www.mobilityhumanities.org>

The Academy of Mobility Humanities (AMH) of Konkuk University intends to create innovative research platforms to deal with the development of mobility technology, the daily movement of things, and their connected issues. The HK+ Mobility Humanities Institute (MHI), a sub institute of the Academy of Mobility Humanities (AMH), is the leading research institute for Humanities Korea Plus (HK+), supported by the National Research Foundation in 2018. MHI hosts the annual GMHC. The AMH attempts to help to cultivate a better society for humanities-based thinking. In doing so, we aim to become one of the main representative institutes of mobility research internationally, which also fosters new researchers. The AMH continues to evolve as a center from where mobility-focused research engages practical as well as scholarly questions that are planetary in scope.

Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences



<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/>

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at National University of Singapore has a rich history going back from the year 1929 to present day, complementing its diverse subjects offered to its students. Initially having only four subjects (English, History, Geography and Economics); the Faculty has now grown to accommodate 16 departments with a variety of subject combinations to suit an individual's interest and expertise. Its mission is to contribute to society through the advancement of knowledge and learning in the humanities and social sciences. The FASS mission comprises three parts. It emphasises a) advancement of knowledge through research, b) advancement of learning through education, and c) service to society.

International Institute for Asian Studies



<https://www.iias.asia/>

The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) is a global humanities and social sciences research institute and knowledge exchange platform that supports programmes which engage Asian and other international partners. IIAS aims to contribute to a better and more integrated understanding of present-day Asian realities as well as to rethink 'Asian Studies' in a changing global context. IIAS works to encourage dialogue and link expertise, involving scholars and other experts from all around the world in its activities. IIAS is located in Leiden, the Netherlands. Originally established (1993) by the Dutch Ministry of Education as an inter-university institute, IIAS today is based at Leiden University, where it works as a globally oriented interdisciplinary institute with strong connections throughout the Netherlands, Europe, Asia and beyond.

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| PROGRAMME

| PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

24 OCT. (THU)

19:00-22:00	Official Reception
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25 OCT. (FRI)

PS: Panel Session **GS:** General Session

TIME	CONTENTS	
09:00-09:30	Registration	
09:30-10:00	Opening Ceremony	
10:00-11:00	Keynote Speech 1 Katarina Damjanov	
11:00-11:20	Coffee Break	
11:20-12:40	PS 01 (AMHN)	PS 02
12:40-13:40	Lunch	<i>Mobility Humanities</i> Editorial Meeting (Board Members only) KU's Dining (New Millennium Hall B1F)
13:40-14:40	PS 03	GS 01
14:40-15:00	Coffee Break	
15:00-16:40	PS 04	GS 02
16:40-17:00	Coffee Break	
17:00-18:00	PS 05	GS 03
18:00-18:20	Coffee Break	
18:20-19:00	PS 06	GS 04
19:00-21:00	Dinner	

26 OCT. (SAT)

TIME	CONTENTS	
08:30-09:30	Keynote Speech 2 Bradley Rink	
09:30-09:50	Coffee Break	
09:50-11:10	PS 07	GS 05
11:10-11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30-13:10	PS 08	GS 06
13:10-14:10	Lunch	
14:10-15:30	PS 09	PS 10
15:30-15:50	Coffee Break	
15:50-17:30	PS 11	GS 07
17:30-17:50	Coffee Break	
17:50-19:10	PS 12 (MH)	GS 08
19:10-21:00	Banquet	

Exhibition	Unidentified Luggage Will Be Removed and Destroyed [Sculpture] Ugok International Conference Hall (New Millennium Hall B2F)
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DETAILED PROGRAMME

24 OCT. (THU)

19:00-22:00	Official Reception Welcome Remarks: Inseop Shin (Director, Academy of Mobility Humanities) Outdoor Terrace at Student Union Bldg.
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25 OCT. (FRI)

Time (UTC+9)	Session
09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-10:00	Opening Ceremony Ugok International Conference Hall (New Millennium Hall B2F) Opening Address: Inseop Shin (Academy of Mobility Humanities, Konkuk University) Weiqiang Lin (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore) Paul Rabé (International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden University) Congratulatory Speech: Jongpil Won (President, Konkuk University) Celebratory Performance
10:00-11:00	Keynote Speech 1 Moderator: Haeri Park (Konkuk University) More-than Planetary Futures: Infrastructural Capital and the Makings of a Lunar Frontier Katarina Damjanov Ugok International Conference Hall (New Millennium Hall B2F) https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4504503768
11:00-11:20	Coffee Break
11:20-12:40	PS01: Mobility Humanities from a Southeast Asian Perspective [Asia Mobility Humanities Network] (Chair: Maria Luisa Torres Reyes) #201, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Discourse of "White Ideal" as a Constitutive Mechanism of Immigrant Subject-Formation and Its Corresponding Promise of the "American Dream" Maria Socorro Q. Perez - Mobility and the Art of Translation Hope Sabanpan-Yu - Panglima Awang : A Malayan Circumnavigation of the World Ramon Guillermo - Walking, Poetry, and Manila as Archipelagic City Vincenz Serrano
11:20-12:40	PS02: Reevaluating Asia-Pacific War Mobility: Historical Analyses through Aspiration-Capability Framework (Chair: Yasuko Hassall Kobayashi) #202, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Japanese Diplomats in the Pacific: Mobility / Immobility and Their Aspirations Rowena Ward Online - Aspirations and Capabilities in Conflict: Social Danger and Japanese Linguist Capabilities in Negotiation of Wartime Immobility in WW2 Sophie Constable - Divergent Aspirations, Different Fates: Following the WWII Mobilities of the Wang Family Niamh Hanrahan - An Aspiration to Survive in an Immobile Situation: A Case of the Japanese Imperial Army in Rabaul Yasuko Hassall Kobayashi
12:40-13:40	Lunch KU's Dining (New Millennium Hall B1F)

13:40-14:40	<p>PS03: Airports and Aspiration beyond the Global North [AIR-MAP III] (Chair: Benjamin Linder & Paul Rabé) #201, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871</p>	<p>GS01: Labour and (Im)mobility (Chair: Weiqiang Lin) #202, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contested Aerial Routes: Techno-politics of Civil Aviation Infrastructure in Nepal Krittika Uniyal - Historical and Contemporary Politics of Airports in Dakar, Senegal Elizabeth Ann Fretwell - Infrastructure of Expropriation: The Politics of Aerotropolis Development Zone in Periurban Indonesia Khidir Marsanto Prawirosusanto 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Embodied Methodologies of the Ssangyong Motor Protests Aimée Le - The Politics of Vertical Mobility in Colson Whitehead's <i>The Intuitionist</i> Wen-Tsing Cheng - 'My Work is a Gift': A Qualitative Study of Norwegian Freelancers' Self-understandings and Promises of Happiness in Affective Discursive Spaces Lin Prøitz Online
14:40-15:00	Coffee Break	
15:00-16:40	<p>PS04: Movement and Aesthetics (Chair: Peter Merriman & Peter Adey) #201, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871</p>	<p>GS02: Aspirations of Mobility in Literature and Art (Chair: Anna-Leena Toivanen) #202, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Movement and Aesthetics: An Introduction Peter Merriman - Forecast (An)aesthetics: Weathering the Movement-media of Emergency Kaya Barry & Peter Adey - The Aesthetic and Political Life of Transportation Theresa Enright - Generation, Movement, Epistemology: The Computational Condition of Anti-Aesthetics Ned Rossiter - (Dis)comforting Turbulent Skies Tina Harris (co-authors: Peter Adey, Kaya Barry and Weiqiang Lin) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listening to "African Jasmine": Chinese and Kenyan Aspirations in the University of Nairobi Confucius Institute Jonathan Wu - Film Noir in Korea: The Dark Side of Rapid Economic Development Caleb Kelso-Marsh - Getting in the Driver's Seat: Collective Futures and Mobilities in Post-transitional South African Rap Sophie U. Kriegel Online - <i>E Pur Si Muove</i>: Disorientation and Aspiration in Portuguese Road Novels Eduardo Nunes Online - Tracing the Spectres of Afrodiasporic Mobilities in Contemporary Francophone Literature Anna-Leena Toivanen
16:40-17:00	Coffee Break	

17:00-18:00	<p>PS05: Aspiring (Im)mobility: Strategies of Prolonged Staying among Skilled Migrants in Asia (Chair: Aimi Muranaka) #201, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871</p>	<p>GS03: Aspiration and Affect of Migration, Refugee, and Diaspora (Chair: Benjamin Linder) #202, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hope and Aspirations in Foreign Entrepreneurs' Practices of Future-making in Asia Helena Hof - Aspirations, Mobility, and Psychological Capital: Understanding Settling Experiences of Asian Skilled Migrants in Korea Joohyun Justine Park - Aspiring to Leave But Prolonged Stay(ing) of International Skilled Migrants: Reconsidering the Drivers of Leaving and Staying among Vietnamese IT Professionals in the Japanese Economy Aimi Muranaka 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flexible or Inflexible Citizenship: Ambivalence of Playing Basketball in and for Japan Michael Kentaro Peters Online - Transcending Obligation: Rethinking Early Modern Professional Migrations through the Lens of Dreams and Ambition Mario Grassi - The Bhutanese Diaspora: Thinking through Mobility, Hope, and Refugee Future Retika Adhikari
18:00-18:20	Coffee Break	
18:20-19:00	<p>PS06: Airports and Aspiration beyond the Global North [AIR-MAP IV] (Chair: Zhe Ren) #201, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871</p>	<p>GS04: Mobility Technologies and Transnational Agents (Chair: David Bissell) #202, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air Transport between Taiwan and ASEAN during the Tsai Ing-wen Era Hiroshi Ikegami - Airports and New Business in Nepal Kiyoyasu Tanaka 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self-Orientalism and Colonial Mentality in the Digital Curation of Online Transnational Relationship-Seeking Filipino Women Angelo Bill L. Cabonce Online - Aspiration, Avarice and the Affective Experiences of VR Travel David Crouch
19:00-21:00	<p>Dinner Gachihall </p>	

26 OCT. (SAT)

Time (UTC+9)	Session	
08:30-09:30	Keynote Speech 2 Moderator: Taehee Kim (Konkuk University) Drawing a Future Breath: Hope, Ambition, Mobility and Their Consequences Bradley Rink Ugok International Conference Hall(New Millennium Hall B2F) https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4504503768	
09:30-09:50	Coffee Break	
09:50-11:10	PS07: Airports and Aspiration beyond the Global North [AIR-MAP I] (Chair: Benjamin Linder & Paul Rabé) #201, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871	GS05: Migration, Labour, and Aspiration (Chair: Peter Merriman) #202, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incomplete Contracts, Residual Control Rights and Public Accountability in PPP Airport and Highway Projects in India Champaka Rajagopal - Kutaisi Airport: Migration, Infrastructure, and Development Dato Laghidze - Beyond Control: The Reconfiguration of the Skies and Our Relationship with Them Post-Decarbonisation René Catalán Hidalgo - Portals of Perilous Passages: Airports and the Precarious Aeromobility of Filipino Labor Migrants Juan Miguel Leandro Lim Quizon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desires and Milieus: Migration and Engagement in Agriculture by New Farmers from Non-farming Background in Japan Makoto Osawa - Im/mobility Aspirations of Japanese Migrants in Urban Germany in Intersectional Perspective Ruth Achenbach - Living as More Than Tourists, Yet Not Migrants: The Mobility and Community of Digital Nomads in Korea and Japan Daeun Lee - New Social Theory of Digitalized Mobilities: Affecting Mobilities by Mobilizing Affect Hideki Endo Online
11:10-11:30	Coffee Break	

11:30-13:10	<p>PS08: Aspirations in Motion: Labour, Capital and Imaginations of the Future (Chair: Weiqiang Lin & Naomi Irene Veenhoven) #201, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871</p>	<p>GS06: Mobility Aspiration and Mobility Regime (Chair: Noel B. Salazar) #202, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dreams and Realities: Aspirations of the People of Tijuana Ng Yiu Teng - Aspirations of Singaporean Malay Professionals in Dubai: Building Career and Retaining Cultural Identity Harith Hasanain - Digital Work: Aspirational Labour and Young People's (Im)mobilities in Asia Weiqiang Lin - Imagining the Future of Aviation: Datafication Discourses in the Aviation Industry Naomi Irene Veenhoven <p>(Discussant: Tina Harris)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aspiration, Education and Global Mobility in China's Post-Industrial Turn - An Ethnographic Study of a Chinese Overseas Educational Program Siyu Chen Online - Navigating an Emerging Pattern of Inter-Asian Educational Mobilities: The Case of 'Upgrade Mobility' from China to the Philippines Kris Hyesoo Lee, Madeleine Clare Shuttler - Going Public: Tourism and Collective Purpose in Republican China (1912-1949) António Eduardo Hawthorne Barrento Online - Dreaming the China Dream: Nationalistic Mobilization and Aspiration for Mobility among Taiwanese Young People Hsiu-Hua Shen - Meant to Endure: Verbal and Visual Narratives of (Im) Mobility and Aspiration among Filipino Domestic Workers in HK Laura Lamas-Abraira
13:10-14:10	<p>Lunch Ugok International Conference Hall (New Millennium Hall B2F)</p>	
14:10-15:30	<p>PS09: Airports and Aspiration beyond the Global North [AIR-MAP II] (Chair: Benjamin Linder & Paul Rabé) #201, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871</p>	<p>PS10: Itinerant Dreams: The Multiple Aspirations and Futures of Mobile Filipinos (Chair: Carlos M. Picos III) #202, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flying High, Landing Low: Imaginaries of Mariscal Sucre International Airport (MSA), Ecuador Alejandra Espinosa Andrade - Air Control: The Struggle for Aerial Dominance in Lebanon's Political Theatre Ahmad Baydoun - Locating the Aspirations for Establishment and Expansion of Dhaka International Airport (1980-2024) in Bangladesh: Contestations over Aviation and Airport in between Nation-State and Global Modernity Zakir Hossain Raju - Are Airports 'Castles in the Air' in Development? Lessons from China's "Air Silk Road" in Africa Xin Jin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academics Moving: Decolonial World-making Aspirations of Internationally Mobile Students and Professors Jazmin B. Llana - Pathways to Rest: Pilgrimage to Sacred Ruins and Aspirational Travel in Retirement Dinah T. Roma Video - The Japanese Dream? Examining Filipino Migrant Aspirations during Japan's Bubble Economy in <i>Underground in Japan</i> and "Mga Liham ni Pinay... Mula sa Japan" Mary Harmony I. Guevarra - Projections of Future: Filipino Male Migrant Trainees' Aspirations in Japan Carlos M. Picos III
15:30-15:50	Coffee Break	

15:50-17:30	PS11: Exploring Multifaceted Aspirations in Mobilities (Chair: Jinhyoung Lee) #201, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871	GS07: Mobility Justice in the Context of Gender and Ecology (Chair: Peter Adey) #202, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transnational Mobilities of North Korean Migrants in the UK: Aspiration, Migrant Capital, and Interculturalism Taehee Kim - Mobile Prison and Exploring a New Criminal Justice: Focusing on the Electronic Monitoring System in Korea Bomi Lim - Feeling the Erosion of Autonomous Aspirations in the Contemporary Mobile World: Caryl Churchill's <i>Love and Information</i> (2012) Haeri Park - Mobility and Aspirations in Postwar Japanese Suburbs: A Study of Abe Kōbō's <i>The Ruined Map</i> Yeonhee Woo - The Aspiration for Morality in the Mystery Novels of Zainichi Writer Myungsim Yang 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representation of Transgender Mobility: Studying Middle-Class's Hegemonic Aspirations in Indian Cultural Products Perna Subramanian - "A Woman Like Me:" On the Need for a Race-Conscious and Intersectional Approach to Gender and Mobility Marzia Milazzo Online - From Ecoambiguity to Eco-Aspiration: Empowering Real Stories of Animals' Mobilities Chengcheng You - Climate Mobilities in Contemporary Fiction Film Andrés Buesa Online - Sensing the Sky's Edge: Atmospheric Aesthetics as Insights into the Korean Demilitarised Zone Madelaine Joyce
17:30-17:50	Coffee Break	
17:50-19:10	PS12: Mobile Present and Aspired Futures [Mobility Humanities] (Chair: Jinhyoung Lee) #201, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871	GS08: Justice and Aspiration of Mobilities (Chair: Maria Socorro Q. Perez) #202, Hae-Bong Bldg. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Envisioning Future Mobilities: Individual Aspirations vs. Social Imaginaries Noel B. Salazar - Being Present for Mobilities David Bissell - Aspirations for Climate Resilient Caribbean Islands: Local Resilience Plans, Planning Scenarios, and Complex Mobilities Mimi Sheller 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobility (In)justice and Aspirations in Prison Narratives Honeylet L. Alerta - Navigating Aspirations and Mobility in Crisis Communication: Access to and Trust in COVID-19 Information among CALD Asian Communities in New Zealand Lynne Soon-Chean Park, Rebekah Jaung, Joohyun Justine Park - Beyond Infrastructural Aspirations: Roadside Entrepreneurs in Contemporary Russia Yakov Lurie Online - Haunted Legacies and the Jamaican Tourist Industrial Complex Jellisa Ricketts
19:10-21:00	Banquet Ugok International Conference Hall (New Millennium Hall B2F)	



**| KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND
ABSTRACTS**

Keynote Speaker 1 Katarina Damjanov**Katarina Damjanov**

Dr. Katarina Damjanov is a Senior Lecturer in Media and Communication at the University of Western Australia. Her research engages with the changing relationship between technology, society and environment, focusing on emerging infrastructures on and off the Earth. She is one of the key researchers leading the development of media and cultural studies of outer space and has widely published, presented and collaborated on a range of space-related academic, industry and community projects and events. She also has keen interest in Earth-based media and communication issues and is currently collaborating on a project on Digital Nomads. Her work features in top ranked (Q1) international journals.

More-than Planetary Futures: Infrastructural Capital and the Makings of a Lunar Frontier

As human ways of life push the planetary environment towards the brink of collapse, the quest to sustain them steadily progresses outside the Earth. Offering opportunities for science and technology, travel and tourism, mining and industry, outer space provides a bountiful domain for envisioning a range of political, economic and socio-cultural futures over vast distances and scales of time. Its inhospitable expanses also bring into sharp relief the infrastructural condition of our futures-in-the-making. Out there, where any activity relies upon robust technical apparatus, precise logistics procedures and intricate communication networks, the capacity to effectively envelop space enterprise within elaborate set-ups and operations of infrastructure is capital.

Aspirations to secure a stake in designing the prospects of more-than planetary futures conspicuously align around the bounty of the Moon. Echoing the momentum of the financial investments, technological innovation and geopolitical competition of the mid-twentieth-century space race, another push to take hold of the satellite steadily gathers pace. This time around, evolving governmental and private space sectors set out to incorporate its bounty into the earthly processes of production, extraction and destruction. The next 'giant leap' will be apparently made by robots sent to commence excavations and build essential structures and bases.

In this keynote, I engage with the high-tech infrastructures that undergird and propel the pursuits of power, knowledge and wealth towards the Moon. I discuss how their unfolding inflects the strategic positioning of states, markets and communities around vital resources, engendering a gamut of desires and anxieties surrounding a contested lunar frontier. In doing so, I consider the role of infrastructural capital in the making and remaking of more-than planetary worlds, seeking to highlight its ongoing accumulations and investments on and off the globe.

Keynote Speaker 2 **Bradley Rink****Bradley Rink**

Dr. Bradley Rink, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Geography, Environmental Studies and Tourism at the University of the Western Cape, is a human geographer whose research and teaching focuses on mobilities, urban place-making, identities and tourism. His research foregrounds mundane and subaltern mobilities to make them visible in the everyday movements and circulations of African cities. Through his research, teaching and community engagement, he aims to better understand mobilities and the relationships they articulate between urban dwellers and the cities in which they live.

Drawing a Future Breath: Hope, Ambition, Mobility and Their Consequences

Amongst others, aspirations signal the hope or ambition of achieving something, moving somewhere, being otherwise. Aspirations shape our individual and planetary futures. Aspirations also require us to pause and reflect before enacting movement forward. Taking root from Latin *ad spirare* [to breathe], aspirations not only call for an inward drawing of breath, but also a pause before the inevitable expiration. This keynote invites us to consider both the metaphor and physical act of breathing in our mobile lives and the future of our planet. I invoke the metaphor through autoethnographic vignettes as well as reflections on mobilities in the African context. I argue that the parallel between the breath which sustains us and the aspirations that drive us provides a generative lesson for our affective futures.

| SESSION ABSTRACTS

PS01

Mobility Humanities from a Southeast
Asian Perspective
[Asia Mobility Humanities Network]

11:20-12:40 25 October
#201, Hae-Bong Bldg.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871>

Chair: Maria Luisa Torres Reyes (University of Santo Tomas)

The Discourse of “White Ideal” as a Constitutive Mechanism of Immigrant Subject-Formation and Its Corresponding Promise of the “American Dream”

Maria Socorro Q. Perez (Ateneo de Manila University), socorroqper@gmail.com

The aspiration or “desire to be white” (read as the “American dream”) by Filipinos, particularly the Ilocano-Hawaiian immigrants, is not just a determination rising from a private, personal resolve and settlement trajectories, but a contingency prompted broadly by the pressures of US hegemonic discourses and their ensuing consequences. In other words, the struggle for US naturalization and self-representation by Filipino/Ilocano-Hawaiian immigrants is very much informed by US immigration policies, pressures and specificities of diaspora or movement, and broad historical and political junctures- one of which is Hawaii’s Sugar Plantation Era and its consequences on Filipino/Ilocano sugar plantation labor, and how such “regulatory norms” and expectations come to bear and carried over onto the more recent immigrants. The discourse of so-called “white ideal” which the subjects are compelled to take and identify with, is constituted through the mechanism of “performativity,” defined as the “iteration of regulatory ideals and norms which acts to constitute or produce that which it enunciates” (Rottenberg following Butler). The compelled character of regulatory white ideals, which constitutes the Ilocano-Hawaiian immigrant subject into the US social order, in turn, promises the attainment of upward mobility or the elusive “American dream.” The paper will examine how the “desire to be” and the identification with “white ideal” are played out particularly through the mechanisms of two identification categories, “ethnicity” and “class,” as dramatized in one Ilocano-Hawaiian short fiction.

Mobility and the Art of Translation

Hope Sabanpan-Yu (University of San Carlos), imongpaglaum@gmail.com

Johanna Michelle Lim’s various essays in *What the Distance Tells Us* hold several puzzles. What does it mean for one to be footloose, to never be fully at home? Lim employs mobility with a specific attention to its influences on her understanding of the world. This focus captures not only the restlessness in her heart but also allows us to understand the desire to leave this dilemma behind. Her narratives build on the concept of travel as that which the anthropologist Hirokazu Miyazaki terms “the method of hope.” The promise of translation is to draw others in to the field of our attention so that we can connect with them and open up possibilities other than what might have ever thought we already knew.

Panglima Awang: A Malayan Circumnavigation of the World

Ramon Guillermo (University of the Philippines Diliman), rguillermo@up.edu.ph

Historical records show that the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan traveled with his slave / interpreter, whom he had named “Enrique de Malacca,” on the first circumnavigation of the world from 1519 to 1522. Four hundred years later, the Singaporean teacher and novelist, Harun Aminurrashid (1907-1986), wrote a fictionalized account of Enrique’s travels wherein he gave the latter the name “Panglima Awang” (1957). The novel is not as important from the perspective of historical fact as it is for providing a possible postcolonial and non-Eurocentric interpretation of Panglima Awang’s first circumnavigation of the world. By tracing the fictional account of his travels to Europe and within the Malayan archipelago, this paper is an attempt to develop the latter interpretation.

Walking, Poetry, and Manila as Archipelagic City

Vincenz Serrano (Ateneo de Manila University), vserrano@ateneo.edu

Manila’s development and form have been typified as “archipelagic.” For cultural theorist Neferti Xina M. Tadiar, analysing the function of flyovers in a rapidly developing yet uneven city, Manila’s “new metropolitan form” can be seen as “a network house, a decentralized spatial system resembling an archipelago whose islands are interconnected by bridges” (91). For Tadiar, Manila’s archipelagic condition is characterised by unevenness: flyovers—“elevated horizontal links”—“secure” (91) places of privilege and connect them with each other, at the same time setting them apart, as if they were separate islands, from poorer areas. Sociologist Edwin Wise, in addition, typifies Manila as an “archipelagic city” (11): for him, “the city would fluctuate between fracture / localization and cohesion / centralization” (78). Wise analyses these fluctuations with reference to the historical unfolding of political institutions, especially the ones which govern the city: American colonial period attempts to centralise Manila; Marcos Sr.-era projects to unify Manila; post-EDSA decentralisation of local government units, and the resulting establishment of the Metro Manila Development Authority. That said, walking offers a mode of mobility that engages, though not unproblematically, with Manila, in Wise’s phrasing, as a “city of islands.” For literary critic Matthew Beaumont—who researches on manifestations of walkers in Western literature—the walker is “most attuned to the contradictions of metropolitan modernity” (19). By living these contradictions “at the level of the pavement” (19), the walker is aware of, and is subject to, “not only the city’s alienating but its liberating possibilities” (19). By interpreting poems by Conchitina Cruz—an outstanding contemporary poet from the Philippines—I aim to show how poetry: (a) represents the archipelagic city; and (b) advances the prospect of walking “both aimlessly and attentively through the streets” as a kind of “everyday affirmation of individual, even of collective, freedom” (Beaumont 7).

Works Cited

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PS02

Reevaluating Asia-Pacific War Mobility:
Historical Analyses through Aspiration-
Capability Framework

11:20-12:40 25 October
#202, Hae-Bong Bldg.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681>

Chair: Yasuko Hassall Kobayashi (Musashi University)

Session Description

The framework of aspiration and capability has not been extensively used to analyse historical cases, particularly different forms of war mobility. This has two reasons. First, the generally accepted understanding of war mobility (e.g., soldiers, POWs, civilian internees, refugees) is that it served the nation under the total war system of WWII, either through blind obedience or coercion, leaving little room for the formation of aspirations based on free will. Second, the aspiration-capability framework views human mobility as “a freedom that is best understood as a function of the aspiration and capability to migrate” (de Haas 2014). Since war mobilities are often not based mainly on free will, they are situated outside the analytical scope of the aspiration-capability framework.

First, this panel will examine historical war mobility cases during the Asia-Pacific War through the aspiration-capability framework. Kushner argues in his book on the Holocaust and Forced Migration (2018) that “journeys away from persecution were ‘rarely choiceless choices,’” reminding us that freedom has a spectrum even in times of war. Therefore, this panel will investigate what sort of aspirations were formed by protagonists of war mobility over time, and how the protagonists formed those aspirations.

Second, the panel will examine how people’s aspirations were formed and transformed over time across various categories of mobility and immobility. The aspiration-capability framework (de Haas, 2021) categorises mobility into five individual categories based on aspiration and capability (voluntary mobility, voluntary immobility, involuntary mobility, involuntary immobility and acquiescent immobility). This static framework does not account for migrants who experience both mobility and immobility, and for how their experiences of different categories of mobility shaped their aspirations. Hence the panel aims to investigate the changing aspirations of protagonists across different mobility categories over time.

Lastly, by doing so, this panel will analyse WWII from a mobility perspective, and thereby offer an alternative to the ‘methodological nationalism’ approach to understanding war history.

Japanese Diplomats in the Pacific: Mobility/Immobility and Their Aspirations

[Online](#) Rowena Ward (The University of Wollongong), roward@uow.edu.au

Research on belligerent diplomats during World War II tends to focus on the European sphere of the war or the manoeuvres of the American and Japanese diplomats in Washington to avoid war (e.g. Clifford and Okusa 2016). In this context, the small number of Japanese diplomats who were posted to the French colony of New Caledonia and New Zealand at the outbreak of war in the Pacific in December 1941 are ignored. Immediately after learning of the declaration of war, the

local authorities placed the three diplomats in New Caledonia and the one in New Zealand under house arrest. The diplomats were therefore effectively immobile. Yet, over the ensuing six months or so, all five diplomats became mobile as they were transferred to Australia so that they could be included in a planned exchange of diplomats/civilians. All five were on board the City of Canterbury when it left Melbourne in August 1942 bound for then Portuguese East Africa (now Mozambique) as part of the only Anglo-Japanese Civilian Exchange. Importantly, as official representatives of the Japanese government, these diplomats (presumably) aspired to contribute to Japan war effort. This presentation discusses the mobility / immobility of the five diplomats in the context of the aspiration-capability framework. In doing so, it intersects with issues of involuntary immobility, voluntary mobility and some of the changes in these across time.

Reference: Clifford, J. Garry & Okusa Masako (eds) 2016. *The Desperate Diplomat: Saburo Kuru's Memoir of the Weeks before Pearl Harbour*, Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press.

Aspirations and Capabilities in Conflict: Social Danger and Japanese Linguist Capabilities in Negotiation of Wartime Immobility in WW2

Sophie Constable (Australian National University), sophie.constable@anu.edu.au

For the duration of WW2's Pacific Theatre, Australian governments aspired to control movement to enforce war-time security and maintain public morale by interning (involuntarily moving and immobilising) people on the dual assumption that they were a danger to society and that society was a danger to them. However, these governments lacked multilingual intelligence capabilities vital for immobilising Japanese military opposition. These conflicting aspirations and capabilities resulted in negotiation of involuntary wartime immobility as seen in the following cases:

1. A Japanese American released from American civilian incarceration to serve as a linguist with Australian army units deployed against the Japanese military.
2. A Japanese national serving with the Japanese military who became a POW of the Australian army in New Guinea, but who was released on parole in Brisbane to work with Australian military personnel encouraging Japanese military personnel to become POWs.
3. A first generation Japanese settler interned in Australia who objected to his internment, and with Australian community support, was released early to house arrest. This experience contrasts with that of his son, a Japanese Australian who became a POW of Japanese forces in South East Asia.

The three cases problematise the Australian government's premises that total internment was necessary because people of Japanese ancestry were all security risks and that the Australian public were incapable of accepting people of Japanese ancestry. These case studies show how, like migration, wartime mobility is a social process (de Haas 2021): how individuals with strong aspirations and social capital negotiated involuntary war time immobility as far as they were

capable, including negotiating release from internment and captivity. These cases also illustrate important social and environmental factors and complications when aspirations are in conflict.

Divergent Aspirations, Different Fates: Following the WWII Mobilities of the Wang Family

Niamh Hanrahan (University of Manchester), Niamh.Hanrahan@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

Faced with increasing antisemitic persecution, thousands of Jews fled from Nazi-occupied Europe in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Their subsequent mobilities often crossed multiple borders and sites, thus connecting local, national, and international contexts. Studying these movements allows us further insight into the choices available, or not available, to those engaged in migration at this time, and evidences the formation of aspirations centered around individual choices and the potential free will, rather than based on military or governmental strategy.

This paper focuses on the mobility and immobility of the Polish-Jewish Wang family, composed of father Szymon, mother Emilia and daughter Edwarda. Aspiring to create a new life in the US Szymon Wang obtained a US tourist visa in 1939, but Emilia refused to leave Poland- saying the US was unclean - instead choosing to remain in their home in Lvov, Poland. Szymon and his young daughter Edwarda travelled from Lvov to Istanbul, then continuing their migration through Bombay and Japan before settling in the USA. Whilst in Istanbul, Szymon managed to obtain Nicaraguan passports for the family, which he sent back to Emilia. Their last correspondence was in 1943, and in October of that year Emilia was deported to Auschwitz concentration camp, where she was murdered. These divergent choices show different aspects of the aspiration-capability framework being realised within the same family unit (for Szymon and Edwarda voluntary mobility and for Emilia voluntary immobility and later involuntary mobility into the camp system). This paper argues that Szymon and Emilia's differing conceptualisations of their futures affected how, despite being married, they made separate migration decisions and subsequently had very different fates.

Using a range of sources including official documentation, photographs and telegrams, this paper will highlight the global mobility of Szymon and Edwarda as they moved closer to their desire to settle in the USA, alongside the chosen immobility and then forced deportation of Emilia from Lvov into the Nazi camp system. Through their correspondence, the paper will further evidence that despite their distance apart, a shared, and tragically unfulfilled, joint aspiration of the Wang Family continued to be that they could be reunited as a family again.

An Aspiration to Survive in an Immobile Situation: A Case of the Japanese Imperial Army in Rabaul

Yasuko Hassall Kobayashi (Musashi University), kobayashi.h.yasuko@cc.musashi.ac.jp

War mobility and immobility are intertwined, and subjects of war mobility experience both mobility and immobility. An example is the Japanese Imperial Army soldiers in Rabaul during World War II. In 1942, the Japanese Imperial Army occupied Rabaul in New Britain Island and established

its Imperial Headquarters there. Soldiers from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and other parts of the Asian region were mobilised to fight for Imperial Japan. However, sea and land routes were cut off as the war progressed, leaving the soldiers confined in Rabaul. This confinement also led to a lack of supplies, including food and ammunition. Faced with this situation, the soldiers embraced their situation. They began cultivating the land and learning about the local climate and indigenous staple foods for survival. One soldier even described the fertile soil of Rabaul, resembling the narrative of settler colonists.

This presentation uses the Aspiration and Capability framework developed de Hass to explore the history of war mobility. Initially, the Japanese Imperial Army soldiers were mobilised to move to Rabaul to fight for Imperial Japan with a form of aspiration to move. However, this aspiration to move was constrained by involuntary immobility, when they found themselves confined to Rabaul. Yet during this confinement, their aspiration underwent a profound and intriguing shift. Their state of constrained immobility transformed into an active aspiration to remain in Rabaul, to stay for their immediate survival. This transformation suggests that immobility is not merely a result of constraints, but can also be an active aspiration, and that this aspiration is not static but can actively transform over time.

PS03

Airports and Aspiration beyond the Global North [AIR-MAP III]

13:40-14:40 25 October
#201, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871>

Chair: Benjamin Linder & Paul Rabé (International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden University)

Session Description

Recent decades have witnessed a burgeoning of research examining air travel, airport spaces, and the affective experience of aviation (e.g., Adey 2010; Adey, Budd, and Hubbard 2007; Cwerner 2009; Elliott and Radford 2015). Yet much of this work remains tethered to prominent airports of wealthy cities of the Global North. Meanwhile, “peripheral” parts of Asia, Africa, and South America have increasingly pursued airport mega-projects for a variety of strategic, economic, and geopolitical reasons, often within the funding and planning regimes dictated by wealthier countries. This session is part of a larger four-panel symposium – *Aspirational Infrastructure Research: Mobilities, Airports, Place (AIR-MAP)*– nested within the Global Mobilities Humanities Conference. As a whole, the symposium turns attention to the politics, imaginaries, and contestations of airports beyond the Global North. Our approach to airport development coalesces around four intertwined pillars: (1) Airborne Dreams: Imaginaries of Aviation; (2) Financing Aspirational Infrastructures: Geopolitics and Debt; (3) The Politics of Airports: Displacements, Ecologies, and Impacts; (4) Emerging Cartographies: Cities and Regions. Each of the four AIR-MAP panels aims to decenter existing “infrastructure” studies by attending to massive (and lesser-researched) aviation hubs of the Global South – whether planned or constructed, merely imagined or already operational. This AIR-MAP panel, organized and funded by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), comprises three analytical and empirical case studies from around the world. Papers explore the geopolitics of a China-funded airport in Nepal; the history and contemporary politics of airport construction and management in Dakar, Senegal; and the national and class politics of the Aerotropolis Zone (AZ) megaproject in periurban Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Contested Aerial Routes: Techno-politics of Civil Aviation Infrastructure in Nepal

Krittika Uniyal (University of Geneva), Krittika.Uniyal@etu.unige.ch

Investments in the civil aviation sector have emerged as distinctive tools for assessing transborder relations and indicating the conditionality of bilateral interactions. The paper explores the current involvement of China in Nepal’s civil aviation sector to understand how Nepali stakeholders utilise these infrastructure projects to enhance and further their development goals. Using a science and technology lens, the paper examines the discourses of critique and justification surrounding Nepal’s involvement in China’s Belt and Road Initiative. This paper focuses on the empirical case of the Chinese-funded Pokhara International Airport to comprehend the logic, conditions, and interests driving such contemporary developmental interventions and their implications for state relations in the region. Drawing on data gathered from nine months of fieldwork in Nepal, as well as from scholarly literature, government documents, and stakeholder interviews since 2019, The

paper emphasises the importance of socio-technical imaginaries, geopolitical factors, and historical tensions in explaining the construction, processes, and consequences of mega-projects within Nepal's civil aviation sector. Based on this study, I argue that infrastructure narratives are shaped by transboundary geopolitical imaginaries, influencing the creation of subsequent narratives. The paper offers insights into the regional political economy, adding nuance to materialist explanations and enhancing our understanding of the complex dynamics surrounding civil aviation infrastructure development in South Asia and beyond.

Historical and Contemporary Politics of Airports in Dakar, Senegal

Elizabeth Ann Fretwell (Old Dominion University), efretwel@odu.edu

This paper explores the historical and contemporary politics around airport construction and management in Dakar, Senegal. In the 1920s and 1930s, French colonial administrators attempted to consolidate power over the land and functioning of Ouakam airport, coming into conflict with European aircraft enthusiasts and companies, the French military, and displaced Lebu people who appealed directly to France, attempting to circumvent local officials. With the expansion of commercial air travel and the Second World War, Dakar's airports achieved international importance by the 1940s, introducing even more actors into questions over their management and upkeep. At independence in 1960, Dakar's Yoff airport (DKR) was a key part of the Senegalese state's efforts to project a modernizing new nation, but Yoff began to slip into decline. To promote Dakar as a global aviation hub, the government opened Blaise Diagne International Airport (DSS) in 2017. This ambitious mega-project over 40 kilometers from Dakar took decades to complete, beginning with the resettlement of local Serer communities, and faced challenges in international funding and construction. Using archival sources from three continents and published accounts, this paper reveals how colonial and national governments sought to exert control over Senegalese airports, but state authority over airports has often been eroded by both international actors and displaced, disenfranchised Senegalese people. While the size of a mega-project like DSS might be unprecedented, looking at the long history of airport politics in Dakar reveals the deep roots of the ambiguities and challenges facing West African aviation hubs.

Infrastructure of Expropriation: The Politics of Aerotropolis Development Zone in Periurban Indonesia

Khidir Marsanto Prawirosusanto (University of Amsterdam), k.m.prawirosusanto@uva.nl

The Aerotropolis Zone (AZ) megaproject in periurban Yogyakarta, Indonesia, can be seen as an 'infrastructure of expropriation'. This paper demonstrates how the development of AZ and its international airport perpetually mediates the reconfiguration of space and social relations and also functions to preserve the political power of the Sultanate of Yogyakarta. At first sight, the aerotropolis development model seemed promising as an economic opportunity to transform 'unknown spaces' into a 'space of promise' that is productive and could bring prosperity to people

and initiate welfare improvements for the regional - and ultimately - the national economy. However, infrastructural projects in Yogyakarta are often used by local elites with the desire to produce, exercise, and transmit their power. This turns the AZ into what I call an 'infrastructure of expropriation', in which elites claim land ownership, gain full control over the territory, and make up myths to justify the construction of infrastructure. Within this context, the AZ project has grave repercussions for the local community; it has displaced local people, dispossessed them of their land, and transformed them from precarious agricultural workers into precarious unemployed individuals. Ethnographic insights on the politics of the aerotropolis development zone suggest that the territory does not only enable elites to accumulate capital, but also maintains the legacy of feudalism. It shows how the infrastructure of expropriation works, aligning with David Harvey's theory of the spatial fix (2001), where the social, economic, and political conditions of uneven development unfold through air transport and urban infrastructures megaprojects.

PS04

Movement and Aesthetics

15:00-16:40 25 October
#201, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871>

Chair: Peter Merriman (Aberystwyth University) & Peter Adey (Royal Holloway University of London)

Session Description

Over the past few decades, a significant number of scholars and arts practitioners have moved beyond Enlightenment preoccupations with visual aesthetics to focus on the sensations, affects, and aesthetics (*aisthêsis*) associated with moving bodies of different kinds (Hawkins and Straughan 2015). This session will bring together humanities and social science scholars undertaking explorations of movement and mobility which necessitate expanded and reconfigured conceptions of aesthetics, kinaesthetics, an-aesthetics and inaesthetics. This work builds upon a century or more of humanities scholarship, artistic engagement and cultural practices which reflect the importance of particular embodied dispositions, technologies, kinaesthetic sensations and affects in registering, apprehending and judging the dynamic movements underpinning social and cultural life, as well as long-standing philosophical traditions which highlight process, movement, rhythm and change.

Important research has explored how conceptions of kinaesthetics emerged in fields such as philosophy, physiology, dance, and performance studies in the 19th and 20th century, as well as within the history of photography, film, theatre and performance. Scholars have deployed phenomenological, post-structuralist and performative theories and approaches to explore the unfolding of kinaesthetic sensations and affects in particular movements, events and environments. Ideas of movement have been positioned as a 'leitmotif' running through non-representational traditions of thinking, doing and practising. Movement, mobility and liquidity have been repositioned as key to understanding contemporary social life. A focus on movement has been seen as important to the development of new forms of methodological experimentation and openness and a rich vein of practise-based thinking-doing. There are also important strands of cultural theory which focus on the intersection of technology and aesthetics, examining the role of different technologies for registering, representing or controlling movement, and advancing distinctive cultural interventions into fields like logistics, ergonomics, design, cartography, political theory, and architecture by reimagining the relationship between mobility and aesthetics.

Movement and Aesthetics: An Introduction

Peter Merriman (Aberystwyth University), prm@aber.ac.uk

In this introductory paper I will provide a critical account of different conceptual and theoretical approaches to movement and aesthetics in the humanities and social sciences, focussing on how conceptions of kinaesthetics emerged in fields such as philosophy, physiology, dance, and performance studies in the 19th and 20th century, as well as within the history of photography, film, theatre and performance. I will examine how scholars have deployed phenomenological, post-

structuralist and performative theories and approaches to explore the unfolding of kinaesthetic sensations and affects in particular movements, events and environments. I shall examine how ideas of movement have been positioned as a 'leitmotif' running through non-representational traditions of thinking, doing and practicing, and how movement, mobility and liquidity have been repositioned as key to understanding contemporary social life. Following this conceptual overview, I will draw upon my own research on the kinaesthetic practices associated with driving to examine how landscape architects and designers have understood the car driver's multi-sensory and kinaesthetic engagements with landscapes.

Forecast (An)aesthetics: Weathering the Movement-media of Emergency

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Peter Adey (Royal Holloway University of London), peter.adey@rhul.ac.uk

Meteorological forecasts are imbued with aesthetic cues and styles – enshrined in the familiar pictographic nature of sunny yellow circles, curved puffs of condensation hovering, and dramatic angles of lightning strikes, cleaved from any human-scale reference. These forecasting images and aesthetics, as well as the calm and neutral text that accompanies them, and sometimes even peculiarly 'cute' childish imagery (Ngai 2012), draw together aesthetic tropes found in emergency and wayfinding signage in a universalised weather and emergency aesthetic to simultaneously capture and subdue forms of threat that are inherently mobile, turbulent, and in-formation. In this paper, by exploring this movement-aesthetics of the forecasts of emergency and weather warnings, we see how these rely not (only) on the affective priming assumed of warning systems and threat indexes. These have been pursued in their affective tensing of an imminent and harmful future (Massumi 2005), inviting future-focused anticipations of moving; bodies sensitive to becoming mobile in order to escape different harms. We also consider the anaesthetics (Bissell 2022) of weather and emergency forecasts and alerts, that in turn are designed precisely in order to dull and subdue passions and responses emergency planners might consider excessive. The idea is to lessen and reduce felt expression and simplify cognitive judgements to a more limited option of responding amidst a storm of highly contingent, uncertain, and ambiguous environments and subjectivities. Meanwhile designers of these logics worry at the public's weathering of these alerts and instructions, wearing away response to complacency and potential numbness at the constancy of alerts. Affects without intensity (Colebrook 2011; Neimanis and Walker 2014). In this paper we elucidate these media as a new form of 'weather' and examine these stylised, simplified, and diagrammatic visual tendencies that surround us in clouds of expectancy, atmospheres of warning and oppressive boredoms – that are full of aesthetic ambiguities, torrents of contradictory visuals and aesthetics of climate communication, but which we live with, endure and wear.

The Aesthetic and Political Life of Transportation

Theresa Enright (University of Toronto), theresa.enright@utoronto.ca

The flourishing of art in transportation programs worldwide has occasioned a rethinking of the political economy of creative mobilities and the role of aesthetics in producing new imaginaries and material configurations of the sustainable, global, and smart city (Enright 2022a, 2022b; Orol 2017; Taylor-Hochberg, 2017). In this paper, I build on these insights to consider how different kinds of mobile aesthetic practices are implicated in contentious forms of urban politics. Unlike much public art, which is conceived and interpreted 'in place' through static topographical lenses (e.g. Hall and Robertson 2001; Markusen and Gadwa 2010; Miles 1997) transportation art suggests more dynamic and topological relations. It is sited within networks of flow and movement, it is received by an audience 'on the move,' and it is often itself mobile in its composition. With attention to these dimensions at multiple scales, I investigate how transportation art reveals constitutions of publics and processes of political formation shaped in circuits of flow. I argue that art here functions not only symbolically to communicate ideals and values, but that it also works biopolitically to organize bodies and sensations and capacities in space. I use these reflections on the representational and experiential capacities of art in transportation to theorize the mobile and relational nature of aesthetic politics.

Generation, Movement, Epistemology: The Computational Condition of Anti-Aesthetics

Ned Rossiter (Western Sydney University), n.rossiter@westernsydney.edu.au

The public debut of 'generative' AI tools in late 2022 spawned a flurry of excitement and also consternation among exuberant tech-bros, emoting politicians, conflicted creatives and the curious at large. Widespread anxieties about the impacts of this new wave of automation across society and the economy failed to restrain an almost feverish interest. Tinkering and 'prompt-engineering' swiftly inducted recombinations of text and images into computational training routines. This article critically probes the nexus between generative technologies such as ChatGPT (text-to-text) and Midjourney (text-to-image) and an emergent episteme figured around the movement of data. We argue that the proliferation of automated texts and images generated by large language models (LLMs) is accompanied by a subsequent depletion of sensation, registering the centrality of an anti-aesthetics specific to this machinic episteme. To the extent we may conceive this relation as a computational variation of kinaesthetics, the experience of sensation is sublimated into a form of neural hyperstimulation galvanized by a kind of libidinal drive not so different from that of the addict, frantic in their search for the next hit.

As much as we might indulge in poetic speculations figured around the technics of sensation, our focus instead is on how an anti-aesthetics pervades the technically-driven machine operations and infrastructural facilities that utilise neural networks to detect patterns and structures within existing data. We identify how new grammars of expression are organized computationally in the form of nascent typologies. Examining the history of generation as a term coincident with machine

procedures, we begin to discern an emergent episteme specific to generative technologies associated with LLMs. Within this technical episteme, we define movement and anti-aesthetics as a class of elements assigned to the training of AI models coextensive with the political economy of elastic computing able to scale client demands for transmission, storage and processing. The article considers how this episteme manifests through our own experiments with text and image generation via ChatGPT and Midjourney. We explore this computational condition in terms of a paradox of time peculiar to what Peter Osborne (2022) calls the 'disjunctive conjunction' of the contemporary.

(Dis)comforting Turbulent Skies

Tina Harris (University of Amsterdam), c.h.harris@uva.nl
(co-authors: Peter Adey, Kaya Barry, and Weiqiang Lin)

On 21 May, 2024, Singapore Airlines flight SQ321 from London to Singapore made an emergency landing in Bangkok due to severe turbulence, which resulted in over a hundred injuries and one death. Reports of precautionary measures on subsequent Singapore-bound flights included a passenger wearing a crash helmet and cancelled or rushed meal services. This paper (based on a collaborative work-in-progress with Peter Adey, Kaya Barry, Jean-Baptiste Fréigny, and Weiqiang Lin) uses turbulence both as a property and as a metaphor to explore the kinaesthetics of comfort and discomfort in the air. To what extent is this turbulent event a tipping point in relation to understanding the risks of air travel? How does increasing turbulence due to climate change (Gratton et al 2022; Williams and Storer 2022) prompt new or rehashed forms of aesthetics vis-à-vis existing hierarchies in mobility, such as cabin class? The paper highlights the entanglements between areas that are intended to make uncertain events such as turbulence more knowable, such as commodification (e.g., the introduction of new products or cost-cutting measures as part of the risk aversion industry) and temporality (e.g., disruptions in predictability such as ETAs). Ultimately, the paper demonstrates that turbulence deepens existing conditions such as anxiety that are broader than just aviation; in doing so, it aims to sharpen the relationship between mobility, risk, and aesthetics.

PS05

Aspiring (Im)mobility: Strategies of Prolonged Staying among Skilled Migrants in Asia17:00-18:00 25 October
#201, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871>

Chair: Aimi Muranaka (University of Duisburg-Essen)

Session Description

Various aspirations serve as drivers for individuals' decisions to cross national borders. Aspirational skilled migrants are often perceived to relatively easily enter the destination country, access the labour market, and project long-term stays. Nevertheless, skilled migrants, too, are compelled to navigate social, economic, cultural, and visa-related challenges. Skilled migrants are not passive actors who are pressured to follow the regulations and requirements of the respective regime and the labour market. Given their previous work experience or professional qualifications, they can rather actively utilise their agency by deploying their "skills", different networks, and resources in the pursuit of realising their migratory project in the host society. That said, even these so-called skilled migrants face structural obstacles, which in turn lead them to adopt hope, resilience, and social support networks as strategies guiding their migratory project of building viable futures in the host societies or elsewhere.

This panel consists of three papers discussing skilled migrants' aspirations, their strategies, and (im) mobility practices that shape their migratory trajectories in three Asian migration regimes, namely Japan, Singapore, and South Korea (hereafter Korea). Each presentation centres on skilled migrants with different national, ethnic, and occupational backgrounds and focuses on their settling process to capture how they mobilise their available resources to pursue their career and (im) mobility aspirations. In addition to examining migrants' agency, the comparative analysis of different migration regimes allows the panel to investigate how distinct migration policies shape migrants' trajectories within the host societies.

Presentations will be followed by an open discussion with the audience. This format allows us to have sufficient time to discuss the intricated dynamics of skilled migrants' aspirations and (im) mobility in the Asian migration region and to seek out the benefits of a comparative perspective on migration in Asia, which remains an under-researched region compared to "traditional" Western immigration countries.

Hope and Aspirations in Foreign Entrepreneurs' Practices of Future-making in AsiaHelena Hof (University of Zürich), hof.helena@gmail.com

This presentation uses the case of migrant entrepreneurs in Singapore and Tokyo to develop a better understanding of temporary labour migration through the lens of hope, aspirations, and future making. While migration has for long been conceived of as a linear process with settlement and implicit societal integration at its end migration regimes have become increasingly restrictive and scholarship has demonstrated a turn towards temporary labour migration (Beine 2016; OECD 2023). As such, an increasing proportion of those who sustain the economies of industrialised

capitalist states are temporarily admitted foreigners who have no certainty if and how long they can stay in their current host countries. This presentation engages with notions of hope, aspirations, and future-making in order to disentangle the processes of embedding in a given host society and labour market. It examines migrants' expectations towards the future and according strategies to establish host country networks that allow to root, to maintain transnational networks that offer a fall-back option or an infrastructure through which to return, and practices of home-making and anchoring through employment and legal stability. The presentation holds that expectations and strategies are not merely rational but are made-up of, negotiated, and reworked through hopes and aspirations. It proposes that disentangling the anthropological concept of hope from the sociological study of aspirations in migration research is fruitful for analysing how temporary migrants engage in practices of future-making, that is, practices directed towards building a viable, secure, and stable future and livelihood post-migration. Arguments are based on a qualitative study among 71 highly-educated foreign entrepreneurs in Singapore and Tokyo, the capital cities of two restrictive migration regimes which, albeit through different mechanisms, do not allow even skilled migrants to seamlessly engage in practices of future-making as foreign labour and 'aliens' in the host societies.

Aspirations, Mobility, and Psychological Capital: Understanding Settling Experiences of Asian Skilled Migrants in Korea

Joohyun Justine Park (Inha University), parkjj@inha.ac.kr

This paper delves into the aspirations and settling experiences of Asian skilled migrants residing in Korea. These individuals, equipped with varying levels of personal, social, and symbolic capital, embark on migration journeys driven by professional, values-oriented, and interpersonal aspirations. Their aspirations are shaped in comparison to the living conditions, social status, and developmental opportunities in their home countries, evolving continuously according to different life phases. To satisfy their aspirations and accomplish a successful life as a migrant, they strategically employ their agency. Drawing on interview data collected from 89 highly educated Asian skilled migrants, this study illustrates the diverse types of aspirations prevalent among them and the challenges they encounter in pursuit of these aspirations, including cultural, linguistic, customary, and legal barriers. It highlights how they navigate these challenges using (im)mobilisation and psychological capital. The participants demonstrated aspirations categorised into seeking better living conditions in the host society through comparative judgment, exploration of open possibilities and opportunities, and career advancement through the acquisition of professional knowledge, skills, and networks. Moreover, the study reveals the utilisation of (geographic, career, and relational) mobility as a means to pursue these aspirations. Despite encountering difficulties in achieving their aspirations and throughout the process of settling, participants exhibited a proactive stance, utilising psychological capital such as hope, optimism, self-efficacy, and resilience. In situations where aspirations remain unfulfilled, they demonstrate a willingness to opt for voluntary immobility, portraying themselves as active agents in their decision-making processes. This research sheds light on the nuanced interplay between aspirations, mobility strategies, and psychological capital among Asian skilled migrants in Korea, offering insights into the complex

dynamics of migration and individual agency within the context of global mobility.

Aspiring to Leave But Prolonged Stay(ing) of International Skilled Migrants: Reconsidering the Drivers of Leaving and Staying among Vietnamese IT Professionals in the Japanese Economy

Aimi Muranaka (University of Duisburg-Essen), aimimuramy53@gmail.com

Aspiring skilled migrants are often regarded as experiencing upward global career mobility without many obstacles. However, skilled migrants in a restrictive migration regime, such as Japan, are challenged to pursue an upward career mobility, and they do not necessarily plan a settlement in the host country. Some leave the host country, but despite the unsatisfactory working and social life in Japan, others keep staying while continuously thinking about leaving their employer or eventually the country. The presentation examines how Vietnamese IT professionals search for and experience (im)mobility in the migratory life in the Japanese economy. Drawn from interviews with 64 Vietnamese IT professionals in Japan and Vietnam, the findings are following. Vietnamese IT professionals seek to establish a foothold in the Japanese labour market through their first employment. These Vietnamese IT professionals experience job mobilities within the Japanese labour market, but their transnational mobility which leads to upward career mobility remains very limited. Additionally, they do not show signs of profound settling in Japanese society nor intention to stay long-term. However, job opportunities in Japan and their relational and family factors keep them in place and lead to their prolonged staying in the country. They are continuously considering job changes and often end up changing jobs within the country as a means to pursue their career aspirations. Moreover, some interviewees are unsatisfied with Japanese business culture and left Japan permanently for Vietnam. However, they often end up in a job closely related to Japanese business culture while being in Vietnam. The investigation of the Vietnamese IT professionals currently in Japan and the returnees in Vietnam teases out how skilled migrants' trajectories are centred on "leaving" driven by upward career aspirations, while simultaneously staying longer in the host country and certain working environments because of non-professional factors in their life.

PS06

Airports and Aspiration beyond the Global North [AIR-MAP IV]

18:20-19:00 25 October
#201, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871>

Chair: Zhe Ren (Institute of Developing Economies of the Japan External Trade Organization)

Session Description

Recent decades have witnessed a burgeoning of research examining air travel, airport spaces, and the affective experience of aviation (e.g., Adey 2010; Adey, Budd, and Hubbard 2007; Cwerner 2009; Elliott and Radford 2015). Yet much of this work remains tethered to prominent airports of wealthy cities of the Global North. Meanwhile, “peripheral” parts of Asia, Africa, and South America have increasingly pursued airport mega-projects for a variety of strategic, economic, and geopolitical reasons, often within the funding and planning regimes dictated by wealthier countries. This session is part of a larger four-panel symposium – *Aspirational Infrastructure Research: Mobilities, Airports, Place (AIR-MAP)* – nested within the Global Mobilities Humanities Conference. As a whole, the symposium turns attention to the politics, imaginaries, and contestations of airports beyond the Global North. Our approach to airport development coalesces around four intertwined pillars: (1) Airborne Dreams: Imaginaries of Aviation; (2) Financing Aspirational Infrastructures: Geopolitics and Debt; (3) The Politics of Airports: Displacements, Ecologies, and Impacts; (4) Emerging Cartographies: Cities and Regions. Each of the four AIR-MAP panels aims to decenter existing “infrastructure” studies by attending to massive (and lesser-researched) aviation hubs of the Global South – whether planned or constructed, merely imagined or already operational. This panel is sponsored by the Institute of Developing Economies of the Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO). Panel sub-themes include the economic and governance motivations, and the economic effects of, airport planning and construction in Asia. Individual papers explore the politics and governance of airports in Bangkok, Thailand; the economic impacts of airport construction in Nepal; and emergent air links between Taiwan and ASEAN countries.

Air Transport between Taiwan and ASEAN during the Tsai Ing-wen Era

Hiroshi Ikegami (Osaka University), h-ikegami@keiho-u.ac.jp

Tsai Ing-wen stepped down from her eight-year term as the president of Taiwan in May 2024. Since taking office in May 2016, she has advocated for a “New Southbound Policy” to diversify direct investment away from China towards ASEAN and India. We will examine whether this policy has changed the movement of people and goods between Taiwan and ASEAN since the Ma Ying-jeou era, and if so, which countries and airlines have been affected.

Airports and New Business in Nepal

Kiyoyasu Tanaka (Institute of Developing Economies JETRO), Kiyoyasu_Tanaka@ide.go.jp

Airports are one of fundamental transportation infrastructures for cross-regional flows of people, goods, and information. Given that airports are constructed and maintained mainly by governments with subsidies, it is crucial to understand an empirical contribution of airports to local economic development. This study investigates the effect of airports on new businesses in Nepal. I use micro data in the Economic Census 2018 to measure newly established businesses and adopt a propensity-score weighting regression method to mitigate selection bias in airport regions. The results show that airports can generate a significantly positive impact on the number and employment of new business establishments within the local municipalities with airports. By dissecting the aggregate impacts, I find the positive impacts of airports for a variety of industries such as manufacturing, distribution, and tourism. Additionally, the results show that airports can promote both male and female employment in new businesses.

PS07

Airports and Aspiration beyond the Global North [AIR-MAP I]

09:50-11:10 26 October
#201, Hae-Bong Bldg.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871>

Chair: Benjamin Linder & Paul Rabé(International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden University)

Session Description

Recent decades have witnessed a burgeoning of research examining air travel, airport spaces, and the affective experience of aviation (e.g., Adey 2010; Adey, Budd, and Hubbard 2007; Cwerner 2009; Elliott and Radford 2015). Yet much of this work remains tethered to prominent airports of wealthy cities of the Global North. Meanwhile, “peripheral” parts of Asia, Africa, and South America have increasingly pursued airport mega-projects for a variety of strategic, economic, and geopolitical reasons, often within the funding and planning regimes dictated by wealthier countries. This session is part of a larger four-panel symposium – *Aspirational Infrastructure Research: Mobilities, Airports, Place (AIR-MAP)*– nested within the Global Mobilities Humanities Conference. As a whole, the symposium turns attention to the politics, imaginaries, and contestations of airports beyond the Global North. Our approach to airport development coalesces around four intertwined pillars: (1) Airborne Dreams: Imaginaries of Aviation; (2) Financing Aspirational Infrastructures: Geopolitics and Debt; (3) The Politics of Airports: Displacements, Ecologies, and Impacts; (4) Emerging Cartographies: Cities and Regions. Each of the four AIR-MAP panels aims to decenter existing “infrastructure” studies by attending to massive (and lesser-researched) aviation hubs of the Global South – whether planned or constructed, merely imagined or already operational. This AIR-MAP panel, organized and funded by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), comprises four analytical and empirical case studies from around the world. Papers explore Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Indian airport development, the configuration of airspace through Chilean airport spaces in an era of decarbonization, the role of Manila’s airport in the lives of Filipino labor migrants, and the Europeanization of post-Socialist Georgia through an ethnography of Kutasi International Airport.

Incomplete Contracts, Residual Control Rights and Public Accountability in PPP Airport and Highway Projects in India

Champaka Rajagopal (Independent Researcher and Practitioner)
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This paper explores politics, policy and bureaucracy in Public Private Partnership (PPP) contracts for airport modernisation projects in India. It examines the production of contentious state-business relationships in long-term PPP contracts through third-party opportunism, process innovations and risk aversion, impacting not just governments, but also businesses and the society. Political and social scientists investigating state led policy reforms for privatisation in India have contended that new institutional arrangements are predominantly guided by opaque, pro-business alliances

between business and political elite. Economists and legal scholars argue that as companies akin to 'gated clubs', mechanisms such as PPPs are designed to exclude democratic oversight. However, governments claim that the exclusion of political interference in PPPs is a precondition to efficiency. Notwithstanding government strategy, more than 50% of companies investing in airport projects have experienced bankruptcy or insolvency. So, what explains the production of risk-laden state-business relationships in PPP projects? In this paper, I argue that investigations of the state's pro-business motivations at the macro-level policy reforms must be accompanied by a study of micro-level contracts to investigate outcomes of gatedness in PPP projects. I adopt a hybrid methodology involving a critical reading of litigation between public and private agencies in PPP contracts, accompanied by interviews with shareholders and political agents. The study throws light on how porosity in long-term incomplete contracts produce information asymmetries when contracting parties claim residual control rights through control and resistance, promoting self-interest. The study also urges decision makers to systemically integrate democratic processes in PPP organisation structures.

Kutaisi Airport: Migration, Infrastructure, and Development

Dato Laghidze (Ilia State University), dato.laghidze.1@iliauni.edu.ge

Contemporary airports are critically important areas for research. Airports and vast infrastructure space and place have been discussed in the literature on mobility, migration, infrastructure, and development. For the present study, Kutaisi International Airport has emerged as the most attractive place for cheap flights in post-Soviet Georgia. Located in the middle of Georgia, it is observed and used as a place where most flights to Europe happen. Present anthropological work aims to study the airport as a way of political transformation and the logical aim of the Post-Soviet infrastructural ideals to re-make post-socialist Georgia. The work titled Kutaisi Airport: Migration, Infrastructure, and Development attempts to unravel the process of how the infrastructure has been used as a political means for the Europeanization of the society, how migration takes over the essence of the airport, and what roles development plays in making the airport as a source of income in deindustrialized/depopulated city of Kutaisi. I argue that the afterlife of the airport, the migration, informal employment, and cultural interaction in Kutaisi airports show how it can be theorized as a place. The present work is the result of fieldwork within the Kutaisi International Airport during and after the COVID-19. The research can contribute to contemporary studies about the airport, mobility/migration, infrastructure, and development.

Beyond Control: The Reconfiguration of the Skies and Our Relationship with Them Post-Decarbonisation

René Catalán Hidalgo (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), rlcatala@uc.cl

Air traffic management (ATM) is a central aspect of commercial aviation that aims to ensure safety, efficiency, and economy in the movement of aircraft. This goal has driven technological

development and regulatory changes in the industry. However, ATM faces two major challenges: the human factor, which involves the expectations and behaviors of both operators and passengers, and the atmospheric factor, which remains largely unpredictable despite scientific and technological advances. The latter is especially relevant in the context of the current climate crisis, which affects phenomena such as turbulence and avifauna. To address these challenges, the industry proposes the digitalisation of airspace, which is the basis of the future of aeromobilities post-decarbonisation. This research explores our relationship with the atmosphere and its phenomena, from the perspective of aeromobilities and beyond the concept of control. It seeks to provide new insights and perspectives to engage with the future imaginary proposed by the aviation industry. To do this, it uses ethnography as a methodology, focusing on the Santiago de Chile International Airport, its different spaces and actors.

The main contribution of this research is to offer a critical and reflexive analysis of the implications and consequences of considering airspace from the perspective of control, both for the industry and for society. It also proposes alternative ways of relating to the atmosphere and its phenomena, taking advantage of the point of view that aeromobilities give us.

Portals of Perilous Passages: Airports and the Precarious Aeromobility of Filipino Labor Migrants

Juan Miguel Leandro Lim Quizon (The Chinese University of Hong Kong),
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In his book *A Week at the Airport: A Heathrow Diary* (2009), Alain de Botton describes airport passengers as “creatures of appalling fragility and vulnerability.” This is true for millions of Filipino migrant workers confronting susceptibility inside airport zones. In the latest UN International Migration Report, the Philippines is one of the top countries of origin with the largest diaspora populations. While their plight in their host countries has been studied and documented, their perilous journeys beginning and ending in their home countries, including their embarkation ports, are often overlooked. In this paper, I examine the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), the main airport servicing the National Capital Region of Metro Manila, and how its spatial configuration contributes to the precarious aeromobility experienced by Filipino labor migrants. This spatial analysis is augmented by narratives collected from overseas Filipino workers and their experiences of ‘danger or risk’ inside airports. I argue that the spatial culture of NAIA produces tensions, contentions, and contestations that articulate the precarious aeromobility of Filipino migrant workers. In exploring the spatial and the experiential, we begin and optimistically sustain dialogues that situate airport spaces as infrastructures of hope where labor migrants can reclaim safer and protected passage toward their countries of destination.

PS08

Aspirations in Motion: Labour, Capital and Imaginations of the Future11:30-12:50 26 October
#201, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871>

Chair: Weiqiang Lin & Naomi Irene Veenhoven (National University of Singapore)

Discussant: Tina Harris (University of Amsterdam)

Session Description

One blind spot in mobilities research has been on the labour that support and abet mobilities—sometimes of themselves, but more often of others—amid the edifice of infrastructure. This session takes as its starting point the notion that (a lot of) ‘work’ usually has to be done before any circulation can ensue. Such labour can range from customer service staff in airports, to managers who plan and deploy resources for logistics, to even passengers and travellers who are increasingly (t)asked to engage in self-service to mobilise themselves. In contrast to Bastos, Novoa and Salazar’s (2021) thesis on ‘mobile labour’, this session hopes to hone in on, not so much the labour that moves, but the labour that ‘makes move’. In each of these scenarios, and others, we posit that such work 1) is often tedious; 2) masks the subjectivity of those who perform the tasks; and 3) is replete with personal stories and aspirations of workers wanting to become mobile themselves. Continuing from these tangents, the papers in this session will consider how aspiration manifests and resides within the deep recesses of mobilities, offering some new insights on personal futures—and capital’s ever-watchful spectres—hitherto untold.

Dreams and Realities: Aspirations of the People of TijuanaNg Yiu Teng (National University of Singapore), ngyuteng@gmail.com

Tijuana, the world’s most visited border city, is marked by its dynamic border crossings, violence, crime, and cultural diversity. This paper provides a narrative overview of the employment aspirations of Tijuana’s highly mobile and diverse populations, and delves into the sociocultural and political factors influencing these aspirations and the challenges faced in achieving them. Through a review of various literature and journalistic articles, the paper explores the aspirations of sex workers—many of whom migrate internally from other parts of Mexico—and the occupational ambitions and dreams of migrants and asylum seekers en route to, or deported from, the U.S. Despite their differences, a common human theme runs through all their aspirations: the hope for a better work life and future. By examining these varied groups, the study aims to illuminate the complex interplay of ambition, mobility, and resilience in a city uniquely positioned at the crossroads of two states.

Aspirations of Singaporean Malay Professionals in Dubai: Building Career and Retaining Cultural Identity

Harith Hasanain (National University of Singapore), hasanain@nus.edu.sg

This paper explores the aspirations of Singaporean Malay professionals who have relocated to Dubai, focusing on their career-related goals and the maintenance of their cultural identity, which intersects between being Malay, Muslim and Singaporean. While Dubai and Singapore share striking similarities as cosmopolitan cities, such as being economic powerhouses with advanced infrastructure and multicultural societies, Dubai appears to appeal to a growing number of Singaporean Malay professionals. This growth can be discerned through the availability of Singaporean Malay communities there, such as the Singapore Malay-Muslim Group, a Facebook group with over 3000 followers. This paper examines the motivations driving this demographic to seek employment in Dubai, and examines how they navigate and reconcile their professional and cultural aspirations in a foreign environment.

Digital Work: Aspirational Labour and Young People's (Im)mobilities in Asia

Weiqiang Lin (National University of Singapore), weiqiang@nus.edu.sg

Digital technologies, notably in the form of artificial intelligence (AI), has taken the world by storm especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. This has sparked debates about, at their best, increased worker productivity; or, more pessimistically, the further marooning of workers in roles they will lose even more bargaining power in. However, rather than subscribing to these 'hype' or 'fear' discourses, this paper seeks to explore young people's creative uses of digital technologies to generate new kinds of (im)mobilities for their work and lives in Southeast Asia. Offering an exploratory typology, this paper serves as a review that will countenance three worker profiles: telecommuters, content creators and travel nomads. It will discuss how a new kind of work mentality is emerging among the young, that skirts around the concept of digital nomadism, but also exceeds it. In particular, these individuals aspire to work smarter, not harder, crafting highly curated kinds of (im)mobile lifestyles that they so desire. The paper concludes with some caveats and implications.

Imagining the Future of Aviation: Datafication Discourses in the Aviation Industry

Naomi Irene Veenhoven (National University of Singapore), n.i.veenhoven@u.nus.edu

The management of aviation companies, consultancy firms and other innovators in the aviation industry envision future airports as technology-driven spaces. They talk of the future of sustainable 'Smart Airports', referring to the implementation of a smart ecosystems consisting of sensors and devices that constantly collect and collate data in a centralised digital hub, to be analysed and used for the planning and control of operations. With the design of the Smart Airport, the industry tries to address the prevalent challenges in the field, such as labour shortages, increased public

critique about the climate impact of the industry, as well as stricter climate policies and the fragility of the infrastructural assemblage. In the industry, these challenges are thus met with an optimistic solutionist view, heralding the latent possibilities of innovative technologies to gain further control of operations and pave the path towards sustainable aviation. In this techno-optimist tale, the practice of datafication and implementing data-led processes are key. This paper aims to investigate these particular aspirational discourses in the aviation industry that tie the practice of datafication to possible sustainable futures of aviation. Using the multimodal marketing materials and industry papers, this paper will critically analyse the data imaginaries and the way data is approached in this field. In sum, this paper critically assesses the role that data plays in imagining what it might look like to maintain the interconnected world through aviation in—what the industry calls—a sustainable way.

PS09

Airports and Aspiration beyond the Global North [AIR-MAP II]

14:10-15:30 26 October
#201, Hae-Bong Bldg.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871>

Chair: Benjamin Linder & Paul Rabé (International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden University)

Session Description

Recent decades have witnessed a burgeoning of research examining air travel, airport spaces, and the affective experience of aviation (e.g., Adey 2010; Adey, Budd, and Hubbard 2007; Cwerner 2009; Elliott and Radford 2015). Yet much of this work remains tethered to prominent airports of wealthy cities of the Global North. Meanwhile, “peripheral” parts of Asia, Africa, and South America have increasingly pursued airport mega-projects for a variety of strategic, economic, and geopolitical reasons, often within the funding and planning regimes dictated by wealthier countries. This session is part of a larger four-panel symposium – *Aspirational Infrastructure Research: Mobilities, Airports, Place (AIR-MAP)* – nested within the Global Mobilities Humanities Conference. As a whole, the symposium turns attention to the politics, imaginaries, and contestations of airports beyond the Global North. Our approach to airport development coalesces around four intertwined pillars: (1) Airborne Dreams: Imaginaries of Aviation; (2) Financing Aspirational Infrastructures: Geopolitics and Debt; (3) The Politics of Airports: Displacements, Ecologies, and Impacts; (4) Emerging Cartographies: Cities and Regions. Each of the four AIR-MAP panels aims to decenter existing “infrastructure” studies by attending to massive (and lesser-researched) aviation hubs of the Global South – whether planned or constructed, merely imagined or already operational. This AIR-MAP panel, funded by the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), comprises four analytical and empirical case studies from around the world. Papers explore the architecture and imaginaries of Mariscal Sucre International Airport (MSA) in Ecuador, the multi-scalar and multi-dimensional politics of Beirut’s airport in Lebanon, media representations of Dhaka’s international airport, and China’s ambitious “Air Silk Road” project in Africa.

Flying High, Landing Low: Imaginaries of Mariscal Sucre International Airport (MSA), Ecuador

Alejandra Espinosa Andrade (Independent Scholar), alejaespinosa@gmail.com

Approaching the airport as a space connected to the local, the national and the global context, and as a space shaped by emotional and social practices, my study examines the imaginaries and aspirations expressed by authorities and technicians in relation to the construction of the Mariscal Sucre International Airport (MSA), located in Quito- Ecuador and inaugurated in 2013. Following arguments about space by, among others, Marc Augé, Henri Lefebvre and Edward Soja, I explore the lived dimension of the space reflected in the old MSA (in its history, dynamics and sculptures), the conceived space of the new MSA and how these notions were reflected in the realized new airport structure. As a main result, I show how the new airport was conceived as a utilitarian space

that would allow Ecuador to present itself as a globalized nation through the transformation of Quito into a city-region. The spatial imaginary relied on connecting the new airport to narratives of progress and modernity, and it was materialized in and around the new structure. The conception of space underlying the construction of Quito's new airport separated the human from nature, geography, space, history and culture. As a result, the current structure reflects a detachment from national and local identities, instead attaching itself to a global identity composed of international and commercial symbols and brands. Ten years after its inauguration, the aspirations of becoming a city-region have vanished and with them, the idea of the airport as a focal point of progress and modernity.

Air Control: The Struggle for Aerial Dominance in Lebanon's Political Theatre

Ahmad Baydoun (Delft University of Technology), a.b.baydoun@tudelft.nl

This study, situated within the "Politics of Airports: Displacements, Ecologies, and Impacts" theme, examines the geopolitics of air travel in Lebanon. Beirut's Airport stands as a testament to the nation's complex interplay of politics and infrastructure. The study delves into the implications of Lebanon functioning as a quasi-island, exacerbated by closed borders with Israel and the impact of the post-2011 Syrian revolution, which has led international airlines to bypass Syria, channeling air traffic exclusively through Beirut. Allegedly under Hezbollah's influence, the airport's role extends beyond transportation, becoming a symbol of political power and control. This research aims to unpack the challenges of transforming an existing military air base into a commercial airport within a Christian stronghold in Lebanon. The proposed development presents a double-edged sword: promising enhanced connectivity and decentralization of air traffic, yet potentially stoking fears of deepening sectarian divides and future national fragmentation. The methodology integrates a qualitative approach, including policy analysis, stakeholder interviews, and an examination of public sentiment through social media discourse. Additionally, the study employs satellite imagery to contextualize the geographic aspects of this proposed development. The analysis aims to contribute to the broader understanding of airport politics in the Global South, particularly in conflict-sensitive contexts like Lebanon. By investigating how airport infrastructure intersects with political power, sectarian dynamics, and national identity, this research offers a deeper comprehension of the socio-political impacts of aviation hubs in regions marked by division and conflict.

Locating the Aspirations for Establishment and Expansion of Dhaka International Airport (1980-2024) in Bangladesh: Contestations over Aviation and Airport in between Nation-State and Global Modernity

Zakir Hossain Raju (Independent University), zhraju@iub.edu.bd

This paper aims to locate and historicise the aspirations behind the major international airport of Bangladesh located in its capital Dhaka through its popular and artistic imaginaries. Here I investigate how both the popular and artistic cultural forms of Bangladesh imagined, contested and

appropriated the images of commercial aviation taking Dhaka airport as the centre—as a means towards the rapid cultural and economic globalisation of Bangladesh as/in Global South during the 1980s-2020s. Dhaka airport was opened in 1980. It was constructed with a French design as a globalising effort of the new nation. It is currently going through huge expansion. Designed by Singaporean architect Rohani Baharin and funded by Japan, a much larger new terminal is being built by global companies like Mitsubishi and Samsung, that is to open later in 2024. It has been termed as the flagship project for and by Sheikh Hasina government which is in power since 2009. I aim here to outline the complex transformation of the notion of aviation in a non-Western nation-space like Bangladesh through the popular narratives among Bangladeshi citizens and also the ones popularised by the State itself. I wish to ask here (and attempt to answer): how Dhaka airport as a space was imagined, positioned and questioned with/in such ‘worlding’ processes? This paper is thus going to be a very first initiative towards mapping out the relationship between commercial aviation and Dhaka airport with the rapid commercialisation as well as the modernist aspirations of Bangladesh nation-state.

Are Airports ‘Castles in the Air’ in Development? Lessons from China’s “Air Silk Road” in Africa

Xin Jin (City University of Hong Kong), xjin9007@gmail.com

Airports in the Global South often grapple with challenges due to limited investment, operational constraints, and potential social and environmental impacts. However, they are also seen as drivers of economic growth and national pride, leading to an “airport rush” in Africa, the least developed continent in terms of air connectivity. China, through its “Air Silk Road” scheme, has been a major player in this development, financing and constructing numerous new airports across the continent. This paper explores the complex relationship between Chinese-funded airport projects and national development in Africa. By critically analyzing the lessons learned from China’s involvement in several African countries’ latest aviation aspirations, we explore the potential risks and challenges related to sustainability and operability alongside their possible contributions to positive outcomes. Data for this research stems from our extensive fieldwork in Africa and an ongoing database project on China-Africa aviation cooperation. We aim to contribute to the ongoing debate on the role of mega-infrastructure projects such as airports and aviation in general in development by offering a nuanced perspective on China’s role in shaping Africa’s aviation landscape.

PS10

Itinerant Dreams: The Multiple Aspirations and Futures of Mobile Filipinos

14:10-15:30 26 October
#202, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681>

Chair: Carlos M. Piocos III (De La Salle University)

Session Description

This panel focuses on Filipino migrants, scholars and retirees whose border-crossings are driven by various historical conditions and aspirations that carve varying affective and political claims to ideas of securing versions of future. The first presentation centers on the cosmopolitanism of Filipino international students and professors whose global mobilities has opened up new directions on decolonizing knowledge systems deeply entrenched in Western epistemologies. Using autoethnographic accounts and global mobility reports of international scholars from the Global South, the presentation delves into the possibilities of decolonial world-making pathways and aspirations of academics on the move. The second presentation takes into account a different route for a different kind of cosmopolitan itinerants, reflecting on pilgrimages on ancient ruins of Filipino retirees and how this form of travel reveals interesting insights on the intersections of mobility, heritage tourism and ageing. Blending cultural studies, geography and anthropology, the study considers how personal aspirations are generated from these leisurely and ritualistic sojourns in one's twilight years. The last two presentations then shift to the changing migratory landscape of Filipinos into Japan across different historical junctures. The third presentation examines literary and cultural narratives of underground Filipino migrant workers—the undocumented male day laborers and female entertainers—in Japan during the 1980s. Through cultural studies, the presentation investigates how the precarious mobility of Filipino migrants in Japan through its economic boom and recession conditions their aspirations amid displacement. The last presentation continues this thread by studying the present-day Filipino male migrant interns and trainees in Japan and drawing out how their articulations of aspiration and sense of future reflect the changing foreign workers policy of the country. While Japan is opening up more permanent or longer-term stays for its foreign laborers due to its ageing population and lack of local workers, the study, through ethnographic interviews, examines male migrant Filipinos' articulation of their own aspirations in the host country to reveal tensions and contradictions in narratives of affective futures between the host society and their guest workers. Taken together, the four presentations probe into the varying itineraries of mobile Filipinos, from academics, tourist retirees to migrant workers, to reveal the multiple and shifting aspirations that global mobility produces and generates across time.

Academics Moving: Decolonial World-making Aspirations of Internationally Mobile Students and Professors

Jazmin B. Llana (De La Salle University), jazmin.llana@dlsu.edu.ph

Internationally mobile students are studying and being granted qualifications in the premier universities of the world's most affluent countries. Student mobility is on the rise after the pandemic. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reports giving residence permits in 2022 to over 1.9 million tertiary-level students, mostly from Asia*. Meanwhile, the professors of these students have also bounced back from the confinement of the pandemic to gather again in international conferences. My own professional association is gathering in London this year with more than 800 participants. In its almost 30-year history, Performance Studies international (PSi) has been to 25 countries, the most recent being South Africa and the United Kingdom, and yet PSi continues to write its name with a small 'i' to signal the aspirational nature of its international work. Drawing from reports on global mobility in higher education and autoethnographic notes from studying abroad and working with PSi, an international association in the field of performance, the paper asks why academics move and what this means for the decolonial world-making aspirations of both students and academics. Both aspire to change their world on personal and public activist terms. But both move in an age of global mobility driven by a neo-liberal qualifications framework and success metrics that link higher education learning and research to economic demands and market forces. The members of PSi, full-fledged academics and PhD students, aspire and work for decoloniality, inclusion and diversity, and yet must contend with the continuing dominance of knowledge and education systems rooted in colonialism and its new iterations in globalization. How should these conditions propel and shape international work that resists neoliberal cooption? And how might this resistant internationalism reveal alternative global mobilities?

*ICEF Monitor, 25 October 2023, <https://monitor.icef.com/2023/10/oecd-reports-that-international-student-flows-reached-a-record-high-in-2022/>.

Pathways to Rest: Pilgrimage to Sacred Ruins and Aspirational Travel in Retirement

 Dinah T. Roma (De La Salle University), dinah.roma@dlsu.edu.ph

This paper explores the profound interplay between pilgrimage to sacred ruins and the broader aspirations driving retirement travel. It investigates how retirees increasingly seek out ruins—spaces shaped by elemental forces like water, rain, and fire—as destinations for meaningful travel. These sites, from the ancient ruins of Cambodia to the stained glass-embellished medieval churches of Europe, offer a mystical appeal, invoking narratives of human redemption, fall, and triumph. Such sacred spaces vividly contrast the contemporary urban landscape, inviting retirees to reconnect with a storied past. Through a blend of cultural studies, geography, and anthropology, this study delves into how these pilgrimages are not merely leisure activities but ritualistic journeys that embody aspirations for self-discovery and personal fulfillment at life's twilight. By examining

narrative accounts and ethnographic data, the paper highlights the role of sojourns—temporary stays in spiritually significant locales—as pivotal experiences that reaffirm or transform retirees’ identities and life purposes. It posits that these travel behaviors reflect broader socio-cultural values and a deep-seated desire for legacy, completion, and peace in the final chapters of life.

The Japanese Dream? Examining Filipino Migrant Aspirations during Japan’s Bubble Economy in *Underground in Japan* and “Mga Liham ni Pinay... Mula sa Japan”

Mary Harmony I. Guevarra (De La Salle University), mary.harmony.guevarra@dlsu.edu.ph

Many Overseas Filipino Workers in present-day Japan occupy integral roles in country’s aboveground economy, and this degree of visibility owes much of its feat to the delicate history of Filipinos working in Japan’s underground during the 1980s Bubble economy. In the Philippines, there is a collective knowledge of the deployment of Filipino women as entertainers and hostesses in Japan in the latter part of the 20th century, and alongside this history exists the delicate past of Filipino male migrants who heavily participated in Japan’s shadow economy for day labor. The proximal histories of the women’s sexual labor and the men’s underground labor during the Bubble period have shaped the early migration history between Japan and the Philippines, serving as forebearers of the present-day migration trends between the two Asian nations. This literary to cultural analysis paper focuses on the intricate and communal dynamics of aspiration among Filipino female entertainers and male day laborers in late 20th century Japan, wherein Ventura claims that there is no “Japanese dream” yet it has become the Filipinos’ “second America.” This paper aims to provide further understanding on how Filipino labor in the sexual and underground markets has kept Japan afloat during its period of economic boom and eventual recession. Moreover, it can provide context to the development of Japan’s migrant worker policies and interventions in the 21st century, such as the Technical Internship Training Program. Rey Ventura’s autobiographical narrative *Underground in Japan* and Ruth Elynia Mabanglo’s poem “Liham ni Pinay... Mula sa Japan” will be used as primary cultural evidences for this examination of Filipino migrant aspiration during Japan’s Bubble period.

Projections of Future: Filipino Male Migrant Trainees’ Aspirations in Japan

Carlos M. Piosos III (De La Salle University), carlos.piosos@dlsu.edu.ph

Even though on paper, Japan still does not have an official foreign worker program for unskilled workers, the Technical Internship Training Program (TITP) has become the country’s stand-in mechanism to employ temporary migrants to small and medium-sized enterprises in dire need of laborers under the guise of skills and technology transfer. Recent expansion of TITP shows that the Japanese government sees the program as a permanent strategy to address the projected problems of a super-aging society, i.e. labor shortage and care crisis. Despite this, there are still

anxieties about how the massive influx of foreigners might disrupt the nation's social harmony down the line. Amid these contested visions of future from the host society, I examine how foreign workers themselves, particularly Filipino trainees in Japan, construct and envision their own future as they navigate and negotiate not just the particularities of temporary migratory landscape but also the many shifts and changes in the policies that condition their stay in the country. Through in-depth interviews, this presentation explores how Filipino trainees articulate their 'capacity to aspire' (Appadurai 2013) amid the risks and prospects of the shifting temporalities of their work and life in Japan brought about by the many changes and developments of TITP.

PS11

Exploring Multifaceted Aspirations in Mobilities

15:50-17:30 26 October
#201, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871>

Chair: Jinhyoung Lee (Konkuk University)

Session Description

Human mobilities are often undertaken, delayed, or abstained from because of aspirations for a desired or better life or state in the future, whether on an individual, societal, or planetary scale. For this reason, mobility technologies and infrastructures, as vehicles or obstacles of human mobilities, are also imbued with such aspirations. How, then, and which aspirations are involved in promoting or disrupting mobilities? Or, can aspirations be concealed, suppressed, or illegalised by the dominant system of mobilities? This panel thus explores multifaceted aspirations in different mobilities by examining the ways or forms in which human mobilities and mobility technologies and infrastructures engage with different kinds of affective pasts, presents, and futures through literary, migration, and criminal studies, traversing disciplines, geographies, and times. Specifically, it focuses on a desired future or ideal existence in destination countries such as the UK and Japan for immigrants or diasporas; criminal justice or mobility justice under the electric surveillance system of South Korea for the society of advanced mobility technology; disrupted affective communication and interaction in the contemporary mobile world of information bombardment; and better housing (the large apartment complex) for Japanese people in post-war Japan.

Transnational Mobilities of North Korean Migrants in the UK: Aspiration, Migrant Capital, and Interculturalism

Taehee Kim (Konkuk University), thcomm@konkuk.ac.kr

This presentation examines the transnational migration of North Korean migrants in New Malden, UK, from the perspective of transnational migration theory that emerged in the so-called age of migration, focusing on migrant capital and interculturalism. The mobility of those who typically move from North Korea to China, settle in South Korea, and then move back to the UK is characterized by a complex chain of movements. This presentation analyzes this mobility using the concept of migrant capital, which complements the aspiration/ability model of migration. Drawing on existing studies of North Korean migrants (in New Malden), it views the transnational migration of North Korean migrants as a continuous movement across multiple borders and the formation and maintenance of continuous social, economic, and cultural networks, and captures their migration aspirations and abilities as migrant capital. Furthermore, this presentation takes the New Malden area as a kind of contact zone and examines the contacts and interactions between North Korean migrants, Koreans and ethnic Koreans in the UK, and indigenous British people from the perspective of interculturalism, arguing that transnationalism provides insights that challenge assimilationism and expand interculturalism into critical interculturalism. Finally, this presentation

emphasizes that despite the new perspectives offered by transnationalism, transnational migrants should not be romanticized as active agents enjoying free and unbounded mobility.

Mobile Prison and Exploring a New Criminal Justice: Focusing on the Electronic Monitoring System in Korea

Bomi Lim (Konkuk University), bomilim@konkuk.ac.kr

At the end of the 19th century, positivism greatly influenced criminology, and the rehabilitation of offenders was evaluated as a primary function of punishment, consequently leading to the introduction of the concept of treatment into criminal sanctions. There was a growing recognition of the need for measures aimed at the rehabilitation and reintegration of individual offenders rather than punishment through confinement in closed and isolated prisons. Prisons diversified into treatment centres, probation offices, and other forms, necessitating individual offenders' classification, identification, and typification. The rapid advancement of mobility technology has also resulted in the enhancement of prison mobility. The electronic monitoring system has popularised the concept of a mobile prison within society by attaching electronic devices to the bodies of individuals, enabling real-time location tracking. Electronic surveillance dramatically stimulates an individual's mobility aspirations more than institutional confinement and puts them under an infinitely expanded scope of surveillance in a way that has less to do with the price of their past offences. This paper examines the trajectory of introducing and expanding the electronic monitoring system in South Korea, highlighting how it undermines constitutional values and strengthens the state's surveillance system. Moreover, it underscores the social aspiration for new criminal justice, or mobility justice, methods and specific solutions to overcome these challenges.

Feeling the Erosion of Autonomous Aspirations in the Contemporary Mobile World: Caryl Churchill's *Love and Information* (2012)

Haeri Park (Konkuk University), haeripotter@konkuk.ac.kr

The contemporary world seems to be on the move due to advancements of mobile technologies. John Urry argues that mobile technologies appear to be transforming many aspects of economic and social life by making people, machines, images, information, power, money, ideas, and dangers be 'on the move' (*Mobilities* 6). British playwright Caryl Churchill has renewed and evolved her dramaturgies to address the contemporary mobile world, which is complex and challenging to see, understand, and define. *Love and Information*, Churchill's recent innovative encounter with contemporary reality, explores shifts in how we live and love in the era of information overload accelerated by the development of mobile technologies. *Love and Information*, which premiered in 2012 at London's Royal Court Theatre, has 57 scenes, runs 110 minutes, and employs 16 actors to play more than 100 anonymous characters across age, race, and gender. Churchill requests that the 57 scenes can be played in any order within 7 sections and lists the "random" scenes at the end of the play text which can drop into any section. In effect, one scene follows another with

lightning speed like a camera shutter opening and closing, which reflects our habit of spectatorship, particularly how we see, cognise, and forget in daily life, especially in the era of high mobility in which information percolates everywhere. This paper, thus, aims to explore Churchill's dramaturgy in *Love and Information* which embodies and challenges the contemporary mobile world in which affective communications and interactions are undermined and autonomous aspirations are eroded by information bombardment.

Mobility and Aspirations in Postwar Japanese Suburbs: A Study of Abe Kōbō's *The Ruined Map*

Yeonhee Woo (Konkuk University), wooyh@konkuk.ac.kr

This paper aims to explore the aspirations of postwar Japanese people in Abe Kōbō's *The Ruined Map*, set against the backdrop of suburban apartment complexes formed during Japan's rapid economic growth, with a focus on the development of mobility technologies. The concept of aspirations encompasses values such as dreams, desires, and longing, making the large apartment complexes developed in postwar Japan a symbol of the aspirations of the Japanese people at that time. After Japan's defeat in 1945, the development of mobility systems and technologies that enabled mass movement and mass production played a crucial role in rebuilding the devastated country and achieving economic growth. Urbanisation and the concentration of the population in cities led to the development of large-scale apartment complexes. The suburban complexes, characterised by uniformity and homogenisation, vividly reflect the impersonal and standardised zeitgeist of the era. This presentation aims to explore Abe Kōbō's *The Ruined Map*, focusing on the development of mobility technologies and the formation of large-scale suburban apartment complexes. Additionally, it examines how the aspirations and emotions directed towards these complexes are concretely depicted in the novel.

The Aspiration for Morality in the Mystery Novels of Zainichi Writer

Myungsim Yang (Konkuk University), ms0611@konkuk.ac.kr

Originally, the Japanese word 'Zainichi' meant 'foreigners in Japan', but it came to be commonly used as a derogatory term for ethnic Korean residents in Japan. Zainichi usually refers to the Koreans and their descendants who migrated from the Korean Peninsula and settled in Japan during the Japanese occupation of Korea. The migration and settlement of Koreans to Japan was undertaken from because of aspirations for a better life in the future.

Katsuhiro Go(1981~) is known as a third-generation Zainichi writer. In 2015, He published his work "Lessons of Morality(道德の時間)"and won the 61st Edogawa Rampo Prize(江戸川乱歩賞), making his appearance in the Japanese literature world. At that time, Zainichi writer won Japan's most prestigious mystery literary award, making it a hot topic in both Korea and Japan.

"Lessons of Morality" is structured to solve current problems by examining a murder that occurred 13 years ago. Haruto Mukai's family, the perpetrators of the crime in the novel, have a background

of immigrating to Japan from colony. Mukai doesn't say anything after committing the murder, only repeating the words, "This is a moral issue."

Questioning the meaning of "morality" in terms of norms that regulate behavior, the novel critically presents various absurdities facing Japanese society from a non-Japanese perspective, prompting reflection.

In this presentation focuses on the novel "Lessons of Morality," exploring how author Katsuhiko Go reveals his aspiration for social justice and ethics from the perspective of Zainichi, a minority in Japanese society.

PS12

Mobile Present and Aspired Futures
[*Mobility Humanities*]17:50-18:50 26 October
#201, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9618737871>

Chair: Jinhyoung Lee (Konkuk University)

Envisioning Future Mobilities: Individual Aspirations vs. Social Imaginaries

Noel B. Salazar (KU Leuven), noel.salazar@kuleuven.be

One of the attractions of mobility as a concept-metaphor is that it links geographical movement to some type of symbolic 'climbing' that individuals aspire to, be it economically (in terms of resources), socially (in terms of status) or culturally (in terms of cosmopolitan disposition). Actual mobilities, then, are used as an indicator of the variable access to and accumulation of these various types of symbolic capital. In practice, however, there is often a lack of correspondence between the imagined ideals and aspirations on the one hand and the perceived and experienced reality on the other (e.g. the 'American dream'). The social imaginaries underlying individual aspirations of mobility warrant closer scholarly examination, a task that is taken up in this paper. Imaginaries are historically laden, socially shared and transmitted. They play an important role in the formation of aspiration, influencing *why* people aspire to move and *where* they aspire to move to. While the reasons and motivations to undertake mobilities, particularly of the border-crossing type, are usually multiple, they are linked to the ability of those traveling (and their social networks) to imagine the 'elsewhere'. The imaginaries that inspire and guide people do not really prepare them, neither for the fact that their aspirations cannot be realised immediately nor for the multiple risks or potential failure of their endeavour. Not surprisingly, therefore, one common expression of social imaginaries are utopias, critical visions of good and possibly attainable alternative styles of live, located either spatially (elsewhere) or temporally (in another period) distant. As such, the study of imaginaries forms an important connection between macro- and micro-level analyses of aspiring mobilities.

Being Present for Mobilities

David Bissell (University of Melbourne), david.bissell@unimelb.edu.au

The recent surge in working from home prompts a re-evaluation of foundational concepts in mobility studies concerning the interplay between virtual presence and face-to-face presence. In this paper, I explore how working from home reshapes our understanding of different forms of presence. Previously, mobility scholars have typically viewed shifts in the feeling of being present through the lens of technological meditation. However, I propose that understanding these shifts in terms of attention is a crucial but often overlooked aspect of presence. Drawing on fieldwork conducted in Melbourne, I explore how remote workers navigate presence in various contexts: work tasks, interactions with colleagues, and engagement with others. These interactions involve different interplays of attention and, importantly, dissociation. I argue that the dissociative dimensions of

being present have far-reaching political and ethical consequences—and can provide us with clues about how socio-spatial relationships concerning work and home life are being reconfigured in the wake of the pandemic.

Aspirations for Climate Resilient Caribbean Islands: Local Resilience Plans, Planning Scenarios, and Complex Mobilities

Mimi Sheller (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), msheller@wpi.edu

The Caribbean Climate Adaptation Network, is a NOAA-CAP/RISA team for the US Caribbean territories of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands (<https://ccan-upr.org/>), of which the presenter is a co-principal investigator. Our mission is to form a regional knowledge-action network of researchers and stakeholders that can evaluate needs, provide technical-scientific expertise, facilitate communication, and build cross-regional connections and capacity in climate adaptation from the community micro-level, to territorial meso-level, and macro-level of regional networks. One of our working teams is deploying a particular methodology known as Vulnerability, Consequences, and Adaptation Plannings Scenarios (VCAPS). This talk will focus on how this methodology seeks to elicit people's aspirations for the future and build towards climate resiliency plans that can be implemented at the local level. It considers the implications of local Caribbean resiliency aspirations in relation to wider mobility regimes of tourism, migration, and sustainable mobilities.

GS01

Labour and (Im)mobility

13:40-14:40 25 October
#202, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681>

Chair: Weiqiang Lin (National University of Singapore)

Embodied Methodologies of the Ssangyong Motor Protests

Aimée Le (Pusan National University), aimee.mai.le@gmail.com

In 2009, Korean auto company Ssangyong Motor announced mass layoffs targeting thousands of workers. This sparked fierce resistance from trade unionists, who waged a strike and occupation of the factory and met with violent reprisals and persecution in turn. This paper analyzes the performance strategies utilized by Ssangyong Motor workers in their struggles. On the one hand, strikes and occupations create zones of immobility – most famously demonstrated through Lee Chang-kun and Kim Jeong-wook’s chimney protest or sky protest, where they occupied the top of a 70-meter-high plant chimney (in Lee’s case, for 101 days). Yet worker protests deliberately activate mobilities as well. After Ssangyong was acquired by the Indian company Mahindra & Mahindra, workers pursued justice across borders, internationalizing their protest. Remarkably, workers placed on leave also continued to demonstrate their manufacturing abilities, launching the *H-20000 Project*, where workers fully reconstructed a Korando SUV. These performance examples are not simply practical, but also operate as figurations of economic and political ideas. For example, strategies of immobility can be linked to an economic project which seeks to ‘freeze’ ‘melting labor.’ Through their use of (im)mobilities, workers express embodied methodologies with economic, political, and affective implications.

The Politics of Vertical Mobility in Colson Whitehead’s *The Intuitionist*

Wen-Tsing Cheng (Teikyo University), wqcheng@main.teikyo-u.ac.jp

Focused on Colson Whitehead’s debut novel, *The Intuitionist* (1999), this study explores how whitehead’s work represents the characters’ aspirations for mobility, the impacts of infrastructural innovation on black Americans, and the constraints they encounter when seeking social and spatial mobility. The main character of Whitehead’s novel is Lila Mae Watson, an “ambitious” young woman who relocates to the American north to attend the highly esteemed Institute for Vertical Transport and successfully rises to the position of the first black female inspector in the city’s Department of Elevator Inspectors. However, when an elevator she supervises suddenly crashes, Lila Mae becomes entangled in political fights between two factions of elevator inspectors—the empiricists and intuitionists. To clear her record, she embarks on a “journey” in search of the blueprint for the “black box,” the “perfect” elevator designed by the late James Fulton, the founder of the intuitionist school of theory. In Whitehead’s fantastical fiction world, elevators are the controlling trope with multiple layers of meanings. Elevators are a significant infrastructural innovation that facilitate the construction of skyscrapers and catalyzes mass migration to major cities. Furthermore, it signifies progress, modernity, and upward mobility, or “elevation” in James Fulton’s words. But

elevators also represent “vertical hierarchies” of race and gender, as demonstrated by the white male-dominated Department of Elevator Inspectors. Though Lila Mae’s status as the only black student in an elite school for elevator inspectors and her surprising promotion can be interpreted as emblems of “racial uplift,” her cramped room in a janitor’s closet and the “black box” serve as examples of the “trapped” or “still” state of black Americans. The study concludes by suggesting that Whitehead’s narrative offers insights into the role of mobility in the “construction of black identities.” Moreover, Whitehead’s narrative also illustrates that technological and infrastructural advancements don’t always bring about positive changes to the socially and physically immobile state of African Americans.

‘My Work is a Gift’: A Qualitative Study of Norwegian Freelancers’ Self-understandings and Promises of Happiness in Affective Discursive Spaces

[Online](#) Lin Prøitz (Østfold University College), Lin.proitz@hiof.no

In Norway, the government helps freelancers by providing financial work assessment allowances and institutional support. However, the number of people working in ‘non-standard labour’ remains small. Based on feminist theories of emotion and affect, this article explores how the digitalisation of society influences the ways in which freelancers talk about work, as well as how they understand themselves in these affective discursive spaces. I ask: How do participants talk about and understand themselves as freelancers, and what consequence does this subjectivity-formation have for what they aspire and ultimately how they navigate (in) these affective discursive spaces? The empirical material consists of ten qualitative interviews with Norwegian freelancers who are involved in businesses where digital platforms enable temporal and spatial flexibility. The article shows that the participants are truly emotionally invested in their work and experience feelings of freedom and mobility. However, this sense of autonomy – the ability to work anytime and anywhere – leads to high expectations to work *all the time and everywhere*. This results in a workload under huge pressure in an often idealised world of freelancing where issues of vulnerability and insecurity are seldom talked about.

GS02

Aspirations of Mobility in Literature and Art

15:00-16:40 25 October
#202, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681>

Chair: Anna-Leena Toivanen (University of Eastern Finland)

Listening to “African Jasmine”: Chinese and Kenyan Aspirations in the University of Nairobi Confucius Institute

Jonathan Wu (University of California, Berkeley), jonathan_wu@berkeley.edu

This paper conceptualizes the University of Nairobi Confucius Institute and its musical pedagogy as a sonic infrastructure that creates and sustains a China-Kenya socio-cultural imaginary. The institute has long been a pillar of China’s Belt and Road Initiative, which encourages the internationalization of Chinese enterprise. As a sonic infrastructure, the institute, I argue, shapes a “China-Kenya” transnational sphere by producing, leveraging, and circulating representations of Chinese musical culture in Kenyan classrooms. Drawing from the anthropology of infrastructure and studies of musical hybridity and mediation, I approach music at the institute as a site of creation and negotiation that embraces multivocality, collectivity, and counterpoints. Music in the institute, thereby, configures social, political, and economic processes into day-to-day relational assemblages, power relations, and negotiations that drive China-Kenya engagements and mobilities. By emphasizing music and sonic infrastructures, I foreground the socio-cultural dynamics of China’s presence in Africa, an aspect that is infrequently discussed in popular and academic discourses.

As a case study, I examine the experiences of Ruth Njeri, a former standout student at the University of Nairobi Confucius Institute. As part of the inaugural cohort when the institute was established in Nairobi in the early 2000s, Ruth quickly gained prominence for her propensity in Mandarin. Her abilities led to an opportunity to give a speech and perform the Chinese folk song “Jasmine Flower” to President Hu Jintao during the leader’s visit to Kenya in 2006. This performance earned her the nickname “African Jasmine,” attention from Chinese media, as well as study and work opportunities in China and Kenya that continue into present day. In presenting Ruth’s experiences—which are based on interviews, fieldwork observations, and media analysis—I show how Chinese and Kenyan aspirations for influence, recognition, and opportunities intersect and are negotiated on institutional and individual levels in contemporary China-Kenya relations.

Film Noir in Korea: The Dark Side of Rapid Economic Development

Caleb Kelso-Marsh (The University of Western Australia), caleb.kelso-marsh@uwa.edu.au

A vast body of scholarship considering the factors underlying Korea’s rapid modernisation exists, the bulk of which cites class mobility as evidence of Korea’s ‘economic miracle’ (Koo 2022). While these studies aptly recognise South Korea’s somewhat unique path to modernity, having “condensed what Westerners had experienced socially, politically, and above all economically

for over two centuries into an experience of less than half a century” (Chang 2010, 5), their focus on economic aspiration and mobility as measures of success ignores the inequalities that have stemmed from it. Since the IMF crisis, economic inequality has become only more heightened in Korean society, emphasising the need to reconsider the meaningfulness of aspiration and mobility as markers of success in Korean society today. While post-IMF studies have begun to reflect upon the dark side of Korea’s development, these have primarily done so through an economic lens. Little consideration has been given to the role of cultural narratives in articulating the underbelly of Korean modernity.

The medium of film provides one source by which to analyse “the way past eras functioned economically”, thereby revealing “the underside of a society and its lapses” (Ferro 1988, 48, 28-29). In terms of cinematic modes, film noir has long been considered an aesthetic response to conditions of modernity; its pessimistic depiction of crime, corruption, inequality, and urbanisation rendering it both a transnational and subversive cinematic form. Uncoincidentally, recent decades have seen numerous urban crime films emerge from Korea that display characteristics associated with film noir. Taking films such as *The Evil Stairs* (1964) and *Burning* (2018) as examples, this paper suggests Korean noir films provide a set of subversive narratives that run counter to the predominant ones of aspiration and success surrounding Korea’s economic development, thereby pre-empting more recent socio-economic critiques of Korea’s experience of modernity.

Getting in the Driver’s Seat: Collective Futures and Mobilities in Post-transitional South African Rap

[Online](#) Sophie U. Kriegel (Freie Universität, Berlin), suk@posteo.de

The proposed paper will analytically engage with notions of aspirational modernities in representations of automobility in South African post-transitional rap. I argue that representations of automobility in post-transitional South African rap are used to evoke the simultaneous presence of different temporalities to express dreams for socio-economic progress build on the emancipation from the past for a desirable future. However, depending on race and gender, the evoked temporalities and discursive meanings of automobility differ. Employing automobility imageries as visual anchors in rap music videos allows the performers to relate to discourses of technological progress and modernity but also past oppression. The car is a global symbol of the good life and forms a system that reaches beyond the materiality of the vehicle (Urry 2004), so much so that roads turn into sites of enchantment since they are considered to deliver progress and technology (Harvey and Knox 2012). The process that links cars to the discourse of (technologically) progressing into a better future is complicated in a postcolonial context where different racialisations and gendering of automobility turn it into a paradox symbol of past persecution and future freedom (with a dash of commodification).

This is particularly observable in South Africa, where larger infrastructure projects represent past colonial (and white) aspirations that impact politics, mobilities, and cultural production to this day (Pirie 2015). Yet, they also symbolise the desire for a better future marked by the freedom to move (upward and forward), to which the car is seen as essential. To account for the complex meanings

and temporalities surrounding automobility in South African rap, the paper will focus on English and Afrikaans post-transitional rappers and purposefully include queer as well as female artists such as Dope Saint Jude, Shane Eagle, AKA, Jack Parrow, Jodas, and Angie Oeh.

E Pur Si Muove: Disorientation and Aspiration in Portuguese Road Novels

[Online](#) Eduardo Nunes (University of Aveiro), emdiogonunes@ua.pt

Road narratives do not necessarily recount stories of migration. In fact, most commonly the genre presents characters moving to places other than the ones they usually live in not with the purpose of finding new residence there, but with the perspective of either returning home eventually or continuing to wander indefinitely on the road. This does not imply, however, that the concept of aspiration, to which migration studies have paid much attention, is not adequate when addressing road narratives as well. As Tim Cresswell argues («Towards a politics of mobility»), *why* someone moves is the first aspect that analyses of mobility – particularly, political ones – must address. And so, even if many characters in road narratives do not move as a result of absolute necessity, they must still have their own reasons to do so. Sometimes, these reasons can be clearly identified; in other cases, not so much.

In this paper, building on research that I have been conducting for the past four years, I propose to consider a group of Portuguese road novels (by Lobo Antunes, José Saramago, and others) that fall into the second category. In other words, these are novels in which the travelling protagonists' motivations and aspirations are not immediately discernible, either because the purposes of their journeys were never obvious from the start or because they keep on moving even after the goals spelt out in the beginning have been achieved. In both cases, then, the reader must presume the existence of some mysterious, hidden force (or aspiration) impelling them to move – one which the characters themselves seemingly struggle to identify. Following other academic works on road novels (and movies), this paper thus seeks to contribute to the identification and characterization of such a force/aspiration, so often found (or presumed to be found) in the genre.

Tracing the Spectres of Afrodiasporic Mobilities in Contemporary Francophone Literature

Anna-Leena Toivanen (University of Eastern Finland), anna-leena.toivanen@uef.fi

Despite the ongoing humanities turn in mobility studies (Merriman & Pearce 2017; Aguiar et al. 2019), representations of the tangible mobilities of African diasporas remain understudied. The gains of enhancing dialogue between mobilities research and migration, diaspora, and postcolonial studies frameworks include the recognition of the multiplicity and relationality of mobilities as well as the weight of the (colonial) past on contemporary mobilities (e.g., Hui 2016; Cresswell 2016; Kleist 2018; Toivanen 2021). This paper focuses on three Francophone literary texts addressing Afrodiasporic mobilities: Edem Awumey's *Les Pieds sales* (2009) [Dirty feet], Fabienne Kanor's *Louisiane* (2020) [Louisiana], and Khalid Lyamlaḥy's *Évocation d'un mémorial à Venise* (2023)

[Evocation of a memorial in Venice]. Their protagonists'/narrators' transnational mobilities are motivated by an aspiration to trace the path of a disappeared person. Awumey's protagonist, an undocumented Guinean migrant and driver of a clandestine taxi in Paris, searches for his father who disappeared decades ago; Kanor's Franco-Cameroonian main character travels to Louisiana to investigate the mystery of an unknown uncle; and in Lyamlahy's text the diasporic Moroccan author-narrator goes from Paris to Venice to reconstruct the story of Pateh Sabally, a Gambian undocumented migrant who drowned himself in Grand Canal in 2017. These pursuits, motivated by the aspiration to 'fill the gaps' in stories of previous mobilities, produce a complex picture of multiple, relational, and transtemporal mobilities. The trajectories of individual mobile subjects do not only intertwine with each other but also with wider contexts of different contemporary and historical mobilities (e.g., tourism; the Middle Passage). While the aspiration to find the 'truth' about the mobilities of the disappeared turns out to be fruitless and leads to chasing evasive spectres, the texts suggest that if we are to understand contemporary Afrodiasporic displacements, 'individual' mobilities should be read against wider spatiotemporal networks.

GS03

Aspiration and Affect of Migration, Refugee,
and Diaspora17:00-18:00 25 October
#202, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681>

Chair: Benjamin Linder (International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden University)

Flexible or Inflexible Citizenship: Ambivalence of Playing Basketball in and for Japan

Online Michael Kentaro Peters (Shizuoka University), peters.michael@shizuoka.ac.jp

The careers of athletes are short-lived, underscoring the fragility of their mobility. The decision to naturalize is one that some athletes presume will augment their longevity to compete, and increase their earning power through sport. While attaining citizenship can be life-changing and perceived as offering more “flexibility,” the choice is also one that may present unexpected obligations and sacrifices – exposing inflexibilities. Within almost every team’s roster in the Japanese professional men’s basketball league known as the B.League, there is one player who has naturalized, officially becoming a Japanese citizen. Moreover, some of their teammates who are foreign nationals also weigh whether or not a similar road ahead would be beneficial. Exploring how these men exercise agency through the process of naturalization and make meaning out of their journeys unveils not only advantages, but also the ambivalence and struggles that may ensue from an opportunity that they initially perceived as flexible citizenship. The findings from following the trajectories of these athletes contribute to furthering understanding of how aspirations of mobility in sport can be buoyed or deflated by pledging allegiance to a new flag.

Transcending Obligation: Rethinking Early Modern Professional Migrations through the Lens of Dreams and Ambition

Mario Grassi (Yale University), mario.grassi@yale.edu

Within the framework of the MSCA SILKRAA project, funded by the European Union, this study aims to explore the social, cultural, and economic narratives surrounding historical migrations of craftsmen through new lenses. Focusing on the movement of artisans during the early modern period, and their permanent migration in another country, my paper will present the initial findings highlighted by the database produced within the SILKRAA project.

Trough the presentation of some case studies, I will delve into the exploration of relationship between mobility, ambition, and opportunity in an historical perspective. By reexamining the trajectories of artisan migrants through this conceptual framework, my aim is to uncover nuanced narratives of ambition, risk-taking, and resilience. Were these migrants propelled by a proto-American Dream, seeking better prospects in distant lands? How did their experiences shape and reshape the socio-economic landscape of both their countries of origin and destination?

When not involving slavery, migrations have often been usually viewed as responses to traumatic moments for populations or certain social or religious enclaves. However, our contribution aims to

shift this perspective by highlighting that people's movements can also stem from other motives, such as the pursuit of new professional, social, or economic opportunities.

I argue that migration can be a conscious movement, driven by the desire to enhance living conditions, even in historical or geographical contexts where there were no natural disasters or significant social problems to which migration is responding. Through this inquiry, this study not only sheds light on the intricacies of early modern migration patterns but also provides valuable insights into the motivations and aspirations that drove artisans to seek new horizons.

The Bhutanese Diaspora: Thinking through Mobility, Hope, and Refugee Future

Retika Adhikari (University of Michigan), retika@umich.edu

In this paper, I seek to complicate the tenet of mobility and migration studies as engaged by anthropologists that movement affords a “way out” (Jackson 2013) or that migration provides the *possibility* of trajectories that are perceived to be absent in one's homeland (Hage 2021). Scholars argue that it is irrelevant whether these potentialities become material realities, but they nevertheless allow one to hope. Based on a decade long ethnographic research with Bhutanese refugees as they move from refugee camps in Nepal to the United States, I contend that not all migratory bodies are hopeful toward a future or see a future laden with potential. Bhutanese citizens of Nepali ancestry, who resisted cultural homogenization policies of Bhutan in the late 1980s, were expelled from their country and forced to live in refugee camps in Nepal. Nearly three decades later, the United States funded the resettlement of approximately 100,000 Bhutanese refugees to various postindustrial American cities. By intimately following the life of a Bhutanese refugee elder who understood his movement to the United States as “resignation and surrender,” I meditate on how one aspires to feel worthwhile and how that feeling of “worthwhileness” is intricately linked with simultaneously rejecting migratory physical mobility and existential mobility, a symbolic movement where life is assumed to “go somewhere” to a supposed better future (Hage 2005, 2021).

GS04

Mobility Technologies and Transnational Agents

18:20-19:00 25 October
#202, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681>

Chair: David Bissell (University of Melbourne)

Self-Orientalism and Colonial Mentality in the Digital Curation of Online Transnational Relationship-Seeking Filipino Women

[Online](#) Angelo Bill L. Cabonce (University of the Philippines Diliman), ablcabonce@gmail.com

As advancements in technology enable a heightened digital world, transnational interactions have become easily accessible, especially with how the introduction of dating platforms has dismantled barriers in relationship-seeking among its users. However, in transnational relationship-seeking, there is a presence of gendered discourses which may be byproducts of either Orientalism or colonial mentality—both being postcolonial concepts that reflect how the West continually exercises its superiority, which subjects the East even in the present. An instance of these gendered discourses rooted in such inequalities is the perception that women who engage in transnational relationship-seeking aspire upward mobility, both in economic and geographical viewpoints (e.g., migration). In this study, we analyzed how self-Orientalism and colonial mentality manifest in the digital curation of dating profiles among Filipino women in the online dating websites *filipinocupid.com* and *pinalove.com* by using Fairclough's (1995) critical discourse analysis and Davis' (2016) Curation. A case study method was utilized in interviewing 12 Filipino women, with their dating profiles subject to complementary analysis. The presumption of dating profiles initially reveals how self-Orientalism and colonial mentality underpin Filipino women's online dating practices, but a post-structuralist feminist lens further allowed us to dive into deeper critique the forces which allow these discourses to exist. As such, this surfaces how inequalities and culture play considerable roles in enabling and shaping these discourses, part of which is the aspiration for migration. Social and economic inequalities permit Filipino women to strategically position themselves within discourses. Contingent to this is how Filipino women's exercise of their agency allows them to separate from discourses that associate them as opportunists for upward mobility, such that migration, rather than being an initial expectation, necessitates negotiation following a successful match with a Western companion. Therefore, online transnational relationship-seeking Filipino women, through dating websites, manifest their transnational desires, which personal agency interestingly foregrounds companionship over migration opportunities.

Aspiration, Avarice and the Affective Experiences of VR Travel

David Crouch (University of Western Australia), david.crouch@uwa.edu.au

VR (MR/AR) technologies are increasingly used to promote aspirational tech startups. New players in various commercial ventures strategically leverage the perceived potentialities and radicalities of VR interfaces, aesthetics and content, attempting to harness the affective aura of innovation

and future orientation that doggedly clings to this perennially emergent technology. VR packages and platforms now offer all manner of ‘moving experiences’ – from death-defying adventures on Everest to guided meditations designed for travelling towards Nirvana. Amplifying the promise of access to remote settings, luxurious escapes, or hitherto impossible perspectives, those attempting to harness VR’s untested status as a so-called ‘empathetic technology’ embrace it as a mode of technosocial experience capable of erasing boundaries, diluting difference and connecting the disconnected.

This paper considers a selection of VR, MR and AR products marketed as desirable or recuperative experiences of travel, highlighting tensions between the ways in which these so-called ‘VR experiences’ are promoted, and their actual aesthetic and relational affordances. Using recent examples of VR travel, it examines how sensational interfaces, pre-coded spaces of negotiated agency and forms of curated mobility are used to reproduce, organize and condition affective experience, and in doing so, suggests a disjuncture between the liberatory potential and avaricious application of the medium itself. Aiming to shed light on the intersections between virtually mediated, imagined and aspirational mobilities, it explores how VR travel dovetails with wider political economies.

While only one dish in the moveable feast of current tech-savvy solutions, mass-produced and distributed VR travel content indicates how immersive media experiences might, on one hand, supplement states of ‘being-in-relation’, or on the other, become a means of conditioning social and sensorial life. At very least, their virtual itineraries appear to indicate the mass scale on which perceptual life is increasingly technologized, standardized and capitalized upon.

GS05

Migration, Labour, and Aspiration

09:50-11:10 26 October
#202, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681>

Chair: Peter Merriman (Aberystwyth University)

Desires and Milieus: Migration and Engagement in Agriculture by New Farmers From Non-farming Background in Japan

Makoto Osawa (Okayama University), makotootokam@icloud.com

This paper examines the transition of individuals from non-agricultural backgrounds to new farmers in Japan, focusing on their “desires” and the “milieus” that facilitate their entry into agriculture (Biehl and Locke, 2017).

The primary motivation for these new farmers is the desire to adopt a simpler work style and lifestyle, which includes self-employment and living in a natural setting. Such a shift is perceived as a means of avoiding the stress and pressures associated with conventional employment in urban settings, where teamwork frequently results in a competitive and high-pressure environment. Farming provides them with the opportunity to work independently, set their own business objectives, and directly experience the rhythms of natural life. This inclination towards a more sustainable lifestyle and work ethic reflects a broader societal shift towards eco-consciousness and the pursuit of more flexible and meaningful work arrangements.

The study indicates that the growth of the new farmer is not merely a reflection of individual preferences but is also influenced by significant shifts in social institutions. The decline in the number of agricultural workers has prompted the development of various forms of support for the new farmers, including financial assistance, training programs, and systems designed to facilitate the conversion of land to new farmers. Moreover, the advent of information and transportation technologies has diminished the logistical challenges associated with residing and working in rural areas, rendering it more viable for individuals with urban backgrounds to relocate. Moreover, regional development initiatives have been instrumental in equipping migrants with the requisite skills to thrive in rural settings and facilitating their transition into farming.

This paper posits that the emergence of new farmers is, in fact, enabled by the transformation of contemporary discourses and social systems, contrary to the back-to-the-land movement’s apparent nostalgia in its embrace of the countryside.

Im/mobility Aspirations of Japanese Migrants in Urban Germany in Intersectional Perspective

Ruth Achenbach (Goethe University Frankfurt), achenbach@em.uni-frankfurt.de

De Haas’ (2014) widely cited aspirations-capabilities framework has influenced how scholars conceptualize migration decisions. However, as Kokkalainen and Kyle (2015) have criticized, there is still a lack of empirical research to support the analysis of the psychological impact of prospective

thinking in migration decision making, a gap even more severe for immobility and return migration. What remains undertheorized, therefore, is how (potential) (re)migrants envision alternative futures in their current and future destinations and how this influences the forming of mobility aspirations. The present study aims to narrow this gap by focusing on locational decision-making processes of privileged migrants from a non-traditional sending country in intersectional perspective: Most publications have depicted Japanese migration to Europe as a professional necessity or a lifestyle luxury (as in the case of expatriates, students of working holiday makers), yet usually seldom a long-term endeavor. However, the profile of the Japanese migrant in Germany differs: more people are staying mid to long-term than short-term (up to four years). This study analyzes mobility aspirations of Japanese nationals working in urban Germany, based on 30 semi-structured interviews supported by social network analysis. At the heart of the study stands the question of how participants imagine their lives if they decided to return to Japan or move on to a different place, analyzing the formation of mobility or immobility aspirations. This paper zooms in on prospective thinking concerning professional and family lives from an intersectional perspective. The paper therefore helps narrow the gap in research on im/mobility decision making that concerns the psychological effects of prospective thinking and its affective dimension, thereby adopting a humanizing approach to migration research.

Living as More Than Tourists, Yet Not Migrants: The Mobility and Community of Digital Nomads in Korea and Japan

Daeun Lee (National University of Singapore), daeun_lee@u.nus.edu

Since the pandemic, remote work has become a lasting trend and the desire for mobility to go abroad and explore the world is increasing. “Digital nomads” are emerging as a new mobile population in this changing environment. To keep up with this trend, Korea and Japan introduced “digital nomad visas” (or workation visas) in 2024. What is the logic and context behind this new visa introduction?

This study explores the digital nomad population in Korea and Japan, focusing on their mobility, lifestyle, and community-building. It examines: who digital nomads are, their lifestyle living as “more than tourists but not migrants,” and the ecosystems, such as policies and industries, that enable their mobility.

Conducting multi-sited ethnography in Seoul, Busan, and Fukuoka, the researcher has lived in co-living houses, hostels, and Airbnbs while working in coworking spaces alongside digital nomads. By participating in various digital nomad events in Korea and Japan in 2024, the researcher conducted in-depth interviews and interacted with over one hundred nomads from around the world.

As part of this ongoing ethnographic fieldwork, the study follows the evolution of interview questions, shifting from an initial focus on ‘Why do you leave or move?’(mobility) to ‘Where do I belong?’ (community). These concepts of mobility and community have emerged as key words in the early stages of research.

Initial key findings include: (1) states are adapting to new mobility patterns by introducing a new visa category to attract foreign investors and populations; (2) a growing trend in lifestyle and remote

work culture is shaping new work and lifestyle practices since the pandemic; and (3) provincial city governments are working to attract digital nomads as a response to population declines in both Korea and Japan, implementing initiatives to revitalize their cities. These findings illustrate the emergence of a new and unique form of mobile lifestyle of digital nomads.

New Social Theory of Digitalized Mobilities: Affecting Mobilities by Mobilizing Affect

[Online](#) Hideki Endo (Ritsumeikan University), h-endo@fc.ritsumei.ac.jp

Media advertising is now used by fans as an activity to support their favorite idols and actors. This presentation discusses the connection between mobilities and digital technology, using the phenomenon of “Sen-iru Events” (Sen-iru means birthday in Korean language) held by K-pop idol fans as the main example. “Sen-iru Events” have become an important element of South Korean fan culture. On special days such as birthdays of K-pop artists, fans from China, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Thailand, and other countries hold various events to celebrate their favorite idols and actors, such as posting their pictures on advertising billboards around the city, or through bus wrap advertisements. They take photos of these advertisements with a smartphone and post them on social media, unconsciously reinventing themselves as tourist, tourism “subjects”. Fans use digital technology to communicate globally, mobilize their affects, and move to the place where they themselves have realized the event. The event venue and the objects used at the event are then transformed into “tourism attractions”, the object tourists gaze. As a result, using N. Luhmann’s concept, the code that forms the distinction between tourism and non-tourism undergoes a major metamorphosis, and mobilities are affected by mobilizing tourists’ affects. At the same time, the nature of advertising as a medium in South Korea has begun to change significantly, and a need has arisen to reconsider the way media has been utilized until now. This presentation will discuss a new social theory that combines mobilities research, tourism research, digital media research, representation research, and affect research by discussing various aspects of this case.

GS06

Mobility Aspiration and Mobility Regime

11:30-13:10 26 October
#202, Hae-Bong Bldg.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681>

Chair: Noel B. Salazar (KU Leuven)

Aspiration, Education and Global Mobility in China's Post-Industrial Turn - An Ethnographic Study of a Chinese Overseas Educational Program

[Online](#) Siyu Chen (Harbin Institute of Technology), siyu.chen06@gmail.com

The recent expansion of the overseas education market in China has led to the rise of “Background Promotion Projects” designed to strengthen the applications of elite university aspirants. Based on ethnographic findings of a particular Background Promotion Project, a Chinese high school entrepreneurship competition, this study analyses how international applicants to elite Western universities learn “the art of aspiration” by constructing and performing entrepreneurial subjectivities.

Situating this entrepreneurship competition in the context of Chinese globalization and industrial upgrade, this ethnographic study offers a glimpse into the overseas education service where different capitals – the material, social and cultural – are mobilized for the (re)production of aspirational subjectivities through the performances of entrepreneurship. The preparatory services provided by overseas education agencies, as a form of concerted cultivation, not only prepare applicants to navigate the admission systems of elite schools, but also enhance their capacity to aspire by offering a continuing record of individuated and skill-based experiences.

Building a link between Arjun Appadurai's concept of “the capacity to aspire” and Elizabeth Currid-Halkett's theory of “the aspirational class”, this study reveals how deepening social stratification in China and the rise of a global meritocracy reinforce each other. Demonstrating how privilege is consolidated and justified through the (re)production of aspirations, this study further contributes to the theorisation of class reproduction and education during a time of post-industrial change and international mobility.

Navigating an Emerging Pattern of Inter-Asian Educational Mobilities: The Case of ‘Upgrade Mobility’ from China to the Philippines

Kris Hyesoo Lee (National University of Singapore), k.lee@nus.edu.sg

Madelein Clare Shuttler (Technical Assistance and Management Services), madeleine.shuttler@u.nus.edu

Despite ongoing territorial disputes and geopolitical tensions, Chinese students make up a significant portion of the international student body in the Philippines. Drawing on interviews with university staff and international students, our findings reveal a distinctive emerging pattern of International Student Mobility (ISM) between China and the Philippines, representing a shift towards emerging South-to-South educational mobilities and underscoring the evolving landscape of ISM beyond traditional South-to-North frameworks.

Contrary to the assumption that internationalisation predominantly relies on host nations' efforts in response to neoliberal marketisation and global competition, our study uncovers a symbiotic relationship: demands from China's increasingly competitive labour market and the education brokerage industry significantly contribute to the internationalisation initiatives of Philippine higher education institutions and the education-migration infrastructure. This relationship forges a novel pathway for mobile individuals in the region, with 'upgrade' mobility emerging as a key pattern of student movement from China to the Philippines. This challenges conventional perspectives on the driving forces behind internationalisation in higher education and education-migration infrastructure. By emphasising the profound influence wielded by actors in the country of origin, our study calls for a nuanced understanding of the active involvement of actors from the international students' home country. This offers insights into the complex interplay of factors propelling the internationalisation of higher education and the development of regional education-migration pathways.

Going Public: Tourism and Collective Purpose in Republican China (1912-1949)

[Online](#) António Eduardo Hawthorne Barrento (University of Lisbon), abarrento@campus.ul.pt

This paper looks into how in Republican China, especially from the late 1920s, pronounced signs appeared of the establishment of links between tourism and collective purpose. These are only partly to be found in the springing up of a new set of nation-, progress- and production-related attractions, such as the West Lake Exhibition and the new sites in Nanjing. During the Nanjing decade (1927-1937), a discourse linking tourism and society and in particular the nation also came into full bloom. It was present in a wide variety of sources, including in material published by the China Travel Service (CTS) and the Unison Travel Party (UTP) and in individual travel accounts. It was voiced by an eclectic range of contributors, such as primary school children and older youngsters, writers, politicians, members of the UTP, and staff from the CTS. It was during that period as well that the concept of tourism as an individual responsibility emerged visibly. Both the collective discourse in connection with tourism and the specific idea of a duty to tour (or to compel others to tour) appear to have received important boosts also from the Japanese invasion and the New Life Movement. Coincidental with their sharpening up was the establishment of the summer health camps, that pursued collective aims. What all this appears to show is a growing permeation of the tourist culture by two facets of modernity in its social dimension, namely a heightened sense of collective consciousness and national identity and a perception of an urgent imperative of individual contribution and subjection to the interests of the community. Tourism, a matter of private life, was going public and this paper examines the reasons and trends behind this new reality.

Dreaming the China Dream: Nationalistic Mobilization and Aspiration for Mobility among Taiwanese Young People

Hsiu-Hua Shen (National Tsing Hua University), hhshen@mx.nthu.edu.tw

For decades, the Chinese government has systematically built-up various aspects of migration

infrastructure to attract Taiwanese youth to China for short terms of visit or longer terms of residency in the attempts to make them submit into Chinese nationalistic discourse and shape their perception of China. This paper explores the relationships between Taiwanese young people's aspirations for mobility in China and the Chinese government's strategies and policies in mobilizing Taiwanese young people to China. Data come from documentary analyses of news reports, event contents, and various levels of governmental policies, and from in-depth interviews with Taiwanese youth who have gone to China for short terms of academic exchanges or internships or longer terms of studying, employment, or entrepreneurship. This paper finds that the Chinese government developing and articulating a "China Dream" discourse in which China is represented as the nationalistic homeland and global economic hub providing numerous preferential policies and great opportunities for Taiwanese young people to gain cultural, social, and economic capital. The Chinese government's China Dream discourse as dividends and resources acts to motivate some Taiwanese young people to take China as an international stage to dream big on developing a cosmopolitan career and self. Yet, the China Dream discourse as disciplinary power imposes Chineseness upon Taiwanese young people if they are to envisage any development in China. This paper argues that Taiwanese young people's particular trajectories of aspiration for mobility in and beyond China are highly state projects by the Chinese government's nationalistic aspiration to claim Taiwan's sovereignty. However, it is also important to point out that the significance of China Dream discourse to Taiwanese youth is situated within changing global political economy.

Meant to Endure: Verbal and Visual Narratives of (Im)Mobility and Aspiration among Filipino Domestic Workers in HK.

Laura Lamas-Abraira (Spanish National Research Council), laura.lamas@cchs.csic.es

Since the 1970s Hong Kong has been a primary destination for female Filipino labour migrants. The foreign domestic workers (mainly Filipino and Indonesian) constitute the 4.5% of the HK population, even though they are largely exposed to very hard living and work conditions, frequently characterised by abuse and exploitation. Often HK is not the first stop in their migratory journeys, having previous experiences in other countries such as Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore and specially the Gulf countries. Similarly, HK is not always imagined as the final destination, with other countries such as Canada, Finland or Japan being positioned at the top of the target list.

This research is based on a seven-months multimodal ethnography, which includes intensive participant observation, over 40 in-depth interviews, and the development of mental-emotional cartographies of Hong Kong through participatory inquiry (30 participants). It is worth mentioned that although these maps were theoretically bounded to HK, in practice the vast majority incorporate references to places beyond the HK borders and along different temporalities (past/present/future). In dialogue with factors such as age, class, social capital and institutional barriers, this presentation explores how affects and emotions shape the verbal and visual narratives of (im) mobility and aspiration of these women.

GS07

Mobility Justice in the Context of Gender and Ecology

15:50-17:30 26 October
#202, Hae-Bong Bldg.<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681>

Chair: Peter Adey (Royal Holloway University of London)

Representation of Transgender Mobility: Studying Middle-Class's Hegemonic Aspirations in Indian Cultural Products

Perna Subramanian (OP Jindal Global University), perna.subramanian@jgu.edu.in

In this presentation of my PhD research, I propose an alternative lens for analyzing trans representation in Indian cultural products. Departing from traditional visibility-centric approaches, my method focuses on understanding the mobility and spatial dynamics of trans communities within contemporary Indian film and television media. Inspired by film geographers and queer/trans film studies scholars, this approach emphasizes tracking the relational journey and purposeful placement of characters on screen in relation to dominant class interests and aspirations that shape everyday mobilities.

Illustrating this method through Indian pop cultural products, I explore how the mobility of transgender characters aligns with middle-class, Hindu, cis-heteropatriarchal life agendas and class interests. These interests regulate trans people's movement, dictating their walking patterns, limiting their use of public transportation, and compelling them to conform to binary gender norms, speak English, practice Hinduism, seek approval from men, and aspire to entrepreneurship. Characters' movements, actions, and interactions are geared toward proving their harmlessness and suitability for the middle-class family, defining their journeys and life agendas primarily by the imperative to meet the demands of the Indian middle-class family.

Rather than solely interrogating the legibility of a trans character in reinforcing specific definitions of transgender identity, my approach explores how transgender relationships with other characters evolve through their distinct mobilities and on-screen encounters, thereby contributing to a broader narrative agenda. (Whose operational knowledge of trans embodiment and experience is at play here?) Thus, even questions of identity and visibility become inflected by the challenge posed by questions of mobility—how characters move also informs who they are allowed to become.

“A Woman Like Me:” On the Need for a Race-Conscious and Intersectional Approach to Gender and Mobility

[Online](#) Marzia Milazzo (University of Johannesburg), marziam@uj.ac.za

Presenting itself as an altruistic work that seeks to “give voice” to the struggles of undocumented Mexican women farmworkers in the United States, Adriana Páramo's *Looking for Esperanza: The Story of a Mother, a Child Lost, And Why They Matter to Us* (2012) provides important insights into the politics of race and gender in relation to mobility and migration. Documenting the daily lives of Indigenous women who work in Florida's vegetable fields and packaging houses for very little pay,

Páramo aims to elicit empathy their plight. Yet, she depicts poor undocumented women as helpless and dysfunctional. Nonetheless, Páramo analogises her own condition to that of Esperanza Vasquez, a migrant woman who in 2001 lost her youngest child to dehydration while crossing desert from Mexico into the United States on foot, and whose story Páramo tells in the book. As it reproduces some of the logics of white feminism, *Looking for Esperanza* serves as a deterrent example against much scholarship on gender produced in mobility studies, in which the category *woman* is often taken at face value, without enough consideration for differences among women, and which often silences racism itself.

From Ecoambiguity to Eco-Aspiration: Empowering Real Stories of Animals' Mobilities

Chengcheng You (University of Macau), ccyou@um.edu.mo

Our modern human society, if characterized by unrestrained or relatively easy mobility (post-pandemic), seeks comprehensive control over animals' movements through technologies of spatial confinement (Berger 1980; Netz, 2004; Hodgetts and Lorimer, 2020). As the reality of the mass extinction of species looms, literary voices rise to speak for the ethical dilemma and restricted mobility of wild animals under human surveillance.

In May 2021, the story of a family of wild elephants, who ventured into human territory after straying from their migration route in the jungles of Southern China following months of trek, gripped the hearts of an entire nation. The widespread media coverage surrounding the real-time mobility of this elephant family later inspired the creation of two environmental novels: Xiangnv's *Young Elephants at Mengbao* (2022) and Zhijun Yang's *Elephants* (2024). This blend of realism and fiction is not unique to Chinese literature; its resonance can also be found in Western narratives such as Kate Applegate's *The One and Only Ivan* (2012), an animal autobiography recounting Ivan, a western lowland silverback gorilla who spent 27 years in captivity, or extreme immobility, within a concrete cell at a shopping mall.

Situated at the intersection of mobility studies, animal studies, and literary studies, my focus lies in examining how these selected narratives draw on the actual mobility of animal subjects. Noting the generic features and debates of wild animal stories and documentaries, this study explores the delicate equilibrium between ethical imperatives and aesthetic appeal that shapes these narratives. Expanding upon Karen Thornber's concept of "ecoambiguity," in particular, the presentation will propose a shift towards narratives infused with "eco-aspiration" that aim to engage readers with pressing environmental challenges of our time and entrains a series of aspirational ecological values through the lens of animals' mobilities in the Anthropocene.

Climate Mobilities in Contemporary Fiction Film

[Online](#) Andrés Buesa (Universidad de Zaragoza), abuesa@unizar.es

Climate disruption is a factor (among many) in the alteration of contemporary patterns of (im) mobility—from linear, long-term migration to more localized, circular movements—, a dimension recently conceptualized under the notion of “climate mobilities” (Wiegel et al. 2019; Boas et al. 2022). And yet, while the material and conceptual connections between cinema and the environment have increasingly gained prominence in film studies, mobility concerns remain largely overlooked in the field. Bringing together scholarship from the mobilities turn, childhood studies, and film studies, this paper seeks to fill that gap by exploring the ways in which cinema articulates the relationship between mobility and environmental degradation by means of the child figure. Defined by Nicole Seymour as the “sacred cow of environmental art, activism, and discourse” (2018, 180), the figure of the child features prominently in representations of climate mobilities, both in non-fictional and fictional works. The set of cultural values associated to childhood in Western thought—in particular innocence, victimhood, and futurity (Jenks 2005)—make of the child a powerful ideological vehicle from which to articulate environmental concerns.

Adopting Ric Roman Waugh’s *Greenland* (2020) as case study, this paper contends that contemporary fiction films use the figure of the vulnerable child to present climate mobilities as de-contextualized phenomena. Inasmuch as the child is conceptualized as a victim, combining a complete lack of responsibility over environmental destruction with a raised vulnerability to its effects, these films prompt viewers to understand mobility as resulting from the need to “save” the child. The implicit call to “protect the child” emphasizes the role of climate events as the only factor which shapes mobility patterns, and this way diverts attention from the rest of factors at play. In other words, such representational choices obscure the varied aspirations and larger sociopolitical frameworks embedded in climate mobilities.

Sensing the Sky’s Edge: Atmospheric Aesthetics as Insights into the Korean Demilitarised Zone

Madelaine Joyce (Royal Holloway University of London), Madelaine.joyce.2017@live.rhul.ac.uk

The Korean Demilitarised Zone’s (DMZ) status as the world’s most hermetically sealed border inevitably creates a set of methodological difficulties to those researching it: How does one go about investigating a space which, through its restrictions and inaccessibility, eschews and refuses traditional methods of enquiry? In this paper, I demonstrate that novel and creative “atmospheric methods”, not only provide us with a means of overcoming difficulties around access to border spaces, but more importantly afford us new insights into more-than-human entanglements which occur within and through bordering atmospheres. Utilising my own experiments in the production of radio-generated weather data at the Korean DMZ together with (auto)ethnographic perceptions, I posit that the aesthetics and experiences of the meteorological atmosphere become mediums through which we can sense and understand borders, both conceptually and empirically. Exploring the interplay between the atmosphere and the inter-Korean border, I consider how borders become

extended vertically into the skies above them, alongside the implications of traversing these airy territories, particularly via the mobilities of more-than-human entities. Simultaneously, I reflect upon the ways that the atmospheres of the shifting political climate of the region are in turn projected into and onto the layers of the atmosphere, in ways that continue to shape the future aspirations for this borderland, including the ways it may be overcome and traversed.

GS08

Justice and Aspiration of Mobilities

17:50-19:10 26 October
#202, Hae-Bong Bldg.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5469152681>

Chair: Maria Socorro Q. Perez (Ateneo de Manila University)

Mobility (In)justice and Aspirations in Prison Narratives

Honeylet L. Alerta (University of the Philippines Diliman), halerta@up.edu.ph

At the onset of the 1972 Martial Law in the Philippines, everyone, regardless of their gender, age, and affiliation, who were suspected of political revolutionary movement against the government of former President Ferdinand Marcos, were illegally arrested and detained. Such context served as the backdrop of most prison narratives in the Philippines. Case in point is Dolores Stephen Feria's 1993 prison novel, "Project Seahawk: The Barbed Wire Journal" that accounts the horrors of the Marcos rule when she was imprisoned in 1974 for being part of a protest movement - an effort to integrate with the Filipino people the struggle for national liberation and for the attainment of national freedom. Feria's novel illustrates the human condition, specifically those of women in detention centers: being caged in a filthy, limited space, receiving constant threats of torture and death, unmet medical needs especially for pregnant women, forced to declare untruthful testimonies in exchange of a privilege, protection, and 'freedom' of their family members, and the constant moving of women detainees from one prison to another. This paper argues that women are more vulnerable than men in prison, dictating an uneven kind and quality of mobility within their confined spaces in prison, and their constant moving from one prison camp to another. Using Mimi Sheller's theory on mobility justice, the representation and meaning of aspiration in relation with mobility of women prisoners in the novel will be examined to assert that the sociopolitical, economic, and gendered conditions of prisoners must also be considered when studying injustices in relation with differential mobility. This argument will be validated in this paper by careful attention to tracing the kind of future do women prisoners imagine with the mobility and immobility dynamics they experience especially as they are classified as political prisoners or enemies of the state.

Navigating Aspirations and Mobility in Crisis Communication: Access to and Trust in COVID-19 Information among CALD Asian Communities in New Zealand

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The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of effective communication strategies, particularly for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. This study examined the dynamics of COVID-19 information access and trust of the information sources within one such community during the pandemic, offering insights into their aspirations and mobility within a global health crisis context. Utilising a cross-sectional online survey conducted in 2021 with

1,267 Asian participants in Aotearoa New Zealand (New Zealand), this research engaged in descriptive analyses to elucidate patterns of information access and trust levels among different sociodemographic subgroups.

Our findings illuminate that CALD Asian communities actively navigated a complex information landscape for COVID-19 information updates, amidst the backdrop of inconsistent and delayed governmental communication strategies. These communities predominantly accessed information via mainstream media, social media, and government websites. Notably, preferences for information sources varied with age and ethnicity, with older and Korean respondents demonstrating a distinct inclination towards local ethnic media channels. Trust levels in various information sources revealed a significant trend: formal institutions such as government websites, mainstream media channels, and workplaces were trusted more compared to online platforms and personal networks.

This study highlights the intersection of aspirations and mobility in the realm of crisis communication. It illustrates how aspirations for reliable and timely information shape mobility towards diverse information channels. Our findings underscore the critical need for institutions serving diverse communities to invest in linguistically and culturally tailored crisis communication strategies. It advocates for establishing and utilising robust networks to disseminate pertinent information to CALD communities effectively, thus enhancing their capacity to navigate and trust information in times of crisis. The implications of these findings extend to future global challenges, emphasising the importance of understanding the aspirational and mobility dimensions in crisis communication, particularly within CALD communities.

Beyond Infrastructural Aspirations: Roadside Entrepreneurs in Contemporary Russia

[Online](#) Yakov Lurie (University of Amsterdam), yakovlurie@gmail.com

The paper examines how aspirations in road development induce anxiety among small roadside entrepreneurs in Russia. It presents three cases of different scales: 1) the development of a new high-speed expressway alongside the 'old' one, 2) plans for a bypass road to circumvent specific towns, 3) the construction of road fences. The three cases exemplify 'the difficulty of differentiating where (and for whom) function ends and malfunction begins' (Joniak-Lüthi, 2019, p. 146), shedding light on the social ramifications of state ambitions manifested through 'improvements' in mobility infrastructure.

The advent of the expressway, while alleviating congestion and ostensibly enhancing safety, introduces unforeseen uncertainties for entrepreneurs. Previously buoyed by thriving trade, they now grapple with economic unpredictability and existential angst. Similarly, promises of a bypass road create anxiety among vendors long before the physical road's arrival. Apart from the large-scale changes, roadside entrepreneurs are also highly sensitive to small infrastructure adjustments, like the installation of fences separating the road and the roadsides, which many saw not as a 'safety measure' but a scheme by local authorities and road services to eliminate their informal workplaces.

In each case, repair, development, and infrastructural modernization, lauded in public discourse as symbols of progress, improved connectivity, and enhanced efficiency and safety, disrupt the familiar social fabric for roadside entrepreneurs. These changes pose tangible risks: economic instability, a loss of meaning in their work, fractured social relations with peers and drivers, and fears about the future.

Haunted Legacies and the Jamaican Tourist Industrial Complex

Jellisa Ricketts (York University), jrick@yorku.ca

The tourist industrial complex is one of great polarity. What to some is an escape from the harsh realities of a mechanistic life and its laborious daily routines; is to others, a modicum of survival in the midst of a life of tremendous adversity. In other words, these industries produce spaces in which there is a stark distinction between those who enjoy the luxuries of hedonism, and those who serve the ones who enjoy the luxuries of hedonism, having little identity or value beyond their service. These binary experiences rarely, if ever transpose. Rather, the tourist-local dynamic permeate the socio-structural ways in which the island is navigated and experienced. Indeed, this can be understood through politics of mobility within the island. That is, to what extent does the politics of mobility influence the ways the island is entered, navigated and exited by the hedonistic tourist versus the often impoverished local.

This essay intends to inquire into these legacies and politics of movement and what they reproduce in the Jamaican tourism industry through a mobility justice lens. Issues surrounding climate, including the harmful environmental impacts of tourism that is contributing the damage of the island's renowned ecosphere that leaves the local to deal with its consequences will be explored in detail (Sheller, 2021). In addition to climate, topics of access will also be discussed. This includes the ways in which politics of mobility have monetarily restricted access to local beaches that are now suffering erosion due to rising sea levels (Peduzzi, 2022). Such monetary restrictions create significant barriers for the often-impooverished locals to access their native beaches, leaving them primarily accessed by those visiting from abroad.

Works Cited:

Peduzzi, Pascal, et al. "Assessment of the Role of Nearshore Marine Ecosystems to Mitigate Beach Erosion: The Case of Negril (Jamaica)." *Environments (Basel, Switzerland)*, vol. 9, no. 5, 2022, pp. 62-, <https://doi.org/10.3390/environments9050062>.

Sheller, Mimi. "Mobility Justice and the Return of Tourism after the Pandemic." *Mondes Du Tourisme*, vol. 19, no. 19, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.4000/tourisme.3463>.

EXHIBITION

Unidentified Luggage will be Removed and Destroyed [Sculpture]

25-26 October
Ugok International Conference Hall
(New Millennium Hall B2F)

Sophie Constable (Australian National University), Sophie.Constable@anu.edu.au

Early 20th century Nikkei (Japanese diaspora) carried kori (woven suitcases) along their journeys, just as they carried private hopes, fears and aspirations - represented by the transparent balls inside. Which aspirations can travel with you, and which do you leave behind?



Mise family kori. Cane, wool, silk, cotton, leather, metal, plastic balls, pearl shell. Each kori approximately 55cm x 35cm.

I propose submitting a group of three embellished kori embodying early 20th century Nikkei journeys. From the Meiji period, Nikkei carried kori on their journeys of trade, colonisation and resettlement across Asia, Oceania and the Americas. I have woven in materiality and imagery from each location settled by three families who faced civilian internment during WW2 in Australia: the Mise, Ide and Nakashiba families. Their places of settlement include Broome, Darwin, Thursday Island, Sydney, and Hay and Tatura internment camps in Australia, Surabaya in the Dutch East Indies, Vancouver, Hamilton and Sandon interment camp in Canada, Panama, Taiwan and China. Ignoring their lived experience, internees were given the identity 'Japanese'. These civilian internees, if remembered, are often publicly remembered as a dehumanised concept, or a flat black and white image: these kori invite affective engagement being vividly coloured and richly tactile, entwining self and place:

As you Live in this land
as you Breathe in and eat
from this land
it becomes part of you
And when you breath out, and when
you're buried here
you become part of it

Many families could only bring one suitcase with them when they were arrested and interned in WW2. An open suitcase with balls strewn poses the question of what effect arrest, incarceration in civilian internment camps, separation from homes, business, education, community and family, had on their aspirations.

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AMHN is a research network focused on enhancing research, teaching and academic exchange about Mobility Humanities studies, particularly centered on Asia. The network provides a forum for academic exchange for scholars with an interest in any aspect of mobility humanities studies in Asia and acts as an umbrella organization for members working across a wide range of disciplines and geographies. AMHN is hosted by the Academy of Mobility Humanities at Konkuk University, Seoul, South Korea.

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The Academy of Mobility Humanities launched the English international academic journal *Mobility Humanities* in January 2022. *Mobility Humanities* is an open access journal contributing to the universal knowledge sharing. The journal is published online twice a year (in January and July). The recently published *Mobility Humanities* (Vol. 3 No. 2) carries eight articles and an interview with Harriet Hawkins. It also has a Special Issue section on “Pausing, Waiting, and Dwelling in Mobilities,” guest edited by Michael Anranter and Manuel Moser.

Aims and Scope

Mobility Humanities is a peer-reviewed, international and interdisciplinary journal published two times per year by the Academy of Mobility Humanities at Konkuk University, Seoul, South Korea.

While seeking vibrant interdisciplinary discussions on the phenomena, technologies, and infrastructures of mobility and its ramifications from the humanities perspective, *Mobility Humanities* encourages papers that delve into their cultural political, ethical, and spiritual and emotional meanings, focusing on the representation, imagination, and speculation that surround mobility.

Mobility Humanities welcomes original articles that make an innovative contribution to the humanities-based mobility studies from philosophical thoughts, literary, cultural and communication inquiries, historical, geographical, and sociological research around the world. We especially welcome research from and about Asia and the Global South.

Mobility Humanities consists of articles, review articles, and scholarly interviews, as well as special issues and mobile forum.

Mobility Humanities boasts a strong editorial board composed of respected scholars from across the globe. Also, the journal collaborates with distinguished scholars as guest editors.

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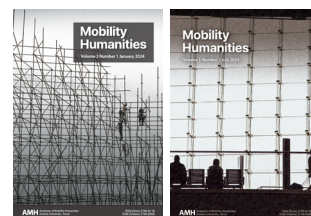
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