

**UC Berkeley / UCLA / University of Toronto Conference  
Migrations and New Mobilities in Southeast Asia  
April 27-28, 2018**

**Plenary Sessions  
Participant Biographies**

**Nicole Constable, University of Pittsburgh**

Nicole Constable is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from UC Berkeley where her dissertation examined a Hakka Protestant community in Hong Kong, later explored in her book *Christian Souls and Chinese Spirits: A Hakka Community in Hong Kong* (UC Press, 1994). For the past decade, her research has focused on issues concerning migrant labor and migrant women workers in Hong Kong, particularly those arriving from the Philippines and Indonesia. Her books include *Born Out of Place: Migrant Mothers and the Politics of International Labor* (UC Press, 2014), *Maid to Order in Hong Kong: Stories of Migrant Workers* (Cornell University Press, 2007), a revised and updated edition of *Maid to Order: Stories of Filipina Workers* (Cornell University Press, 1997); and *Romance on a Global Stage: Pen Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and "Mail Order" Marriages* (UC Press, 2003). She is editor of *Migrant Workers in Asia: Distant Divides, Intimate Connections* (Routledge, 2010) and *Cross-Border Marriages: Gender and Mobility in Transnational Asia* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005). Most recently, she contributed the article "Reproductive Labor at the Intersection of Three Intimate Industries: Domestic Work, Sex Tourism, and Adoption" to a special issue of *positions* 24:1 (2016) guest edited by Rhacel Parrenas, Hung Cam Thai and Rachel Silvey, and the article "Assemblages and affect: migrant mothers and the varieties of absent children" to a special issue of *Global Networks* 18:1 (2018).

**Rebecca Elmhirst, University of Brighton**

Rebecca Elmhirst is Reader in Human Geography and Deputy Head of Learning and Teaching in the School of Environment and Technology at the University of Brighton. She received her Ph.D. from Wye College, University of London, with a dissertation on transmigration in Indonesia. Her research interests focus on political ecology, gender and environmental change. Recent journal articles include "Displacement, Resettlement, and Multi-Local Livelihoods: Positioning Migrant Legitimacy in Lampung, Indonesia" in *Critical Asian Studies* 44:1 (2012), and "Gender and Generation in Engagements with Oil Palm in East Kalimantan, Indonesia: Insights from Feminist Political Ecology", with Mia Siscawati, Bimbika Sijapati Basnett, and Dian Ekowati in *Journal of Peasant Studies* 44:6 (2017). She is co-editor, with Carl Middleton and Supang Chantavanich, of *Living with Floods in a Mobile Southeast Asia: A Political Ecology of Vulnerability, Migration and Environmental Change* (Routledge, 2017).

**Michele Ford, University of Sydney**

Michele Ford is Professor of Southeast Asia Studies at the University of Sydney, and Director of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Wollongong. Her research focuses on labor movements and labor migration in Southeast Asia, specifically in Indonesia. She is the author of *Workers and Intellectuals: NGOs, Trade Unions and the Indonesian Labour Movement* (University of Hawaii Press, 2009) and *From Migrant to Worker: The Global Unions and Labor Migration in Asia* (forthcoming, Cornell ILR Press). Along with many journal articles and book chapters, she is the editor of *Social Activism in Southeast Asia* (Routledge, 2015); co-editor, with Marian Baird and Elizabeth Hill, of *Women, Work and Care in the Asia-Pacific* (Routledge, 2017); co-editor, with Tom Pepinsky, of *Beyond*

*Oligarchy: Wealth, Power, and Contemporary Indonesian Politics* (Cornell Southeast Asia Program, 2014); co-editor, with Lenore Lyons, of *Men and Masculinities in Southeast Asia* (Routledge, 2013); and co-editor, with Lenore Lyons and Willem van Schendel, of *Labour Migration and Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia* (Routledge, 2012). Prof. Ford is a Visiting Scholar with the Center for Southeast Asia Studies at UC Berkeley this semester

### **Johan Lindquist, Stockholm University**

Johan Lindquist is Professor of Social Anthropology and Director of the Forum for Asian Studies at Stockholm University. He received his Ph.D. from Stockholm University. His publications include *The Anxieties of Mobility: Development and Migration in the Indonesian Borderlands* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2009), which is based on his dissertation; and many articles and book chapters, including most recently "Reassembling Indonesian Migration: Biometric Technology and the Licensing of Informal Labour Brokers" in *Ethnos* (2018); "Of Figures and Types: Brokering Knowledge and Migration in Indonesia and Beyond" in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 21:S1 (2015), the chapter "Rescue, Return, In Place: Deportees, 'Victims', and the Regulation of Indonesian Migration" in *Return: Nationalizing Transnational Mobility in Asia* (Duke University Press, 2013) edited by Biao Xiang, Brenda Yeoh and Mika Toyota; and "The Elementary School Teacher, the Thug and his Grandmother: Informal Brokers and Transnational Migration from Indonesia" in *Pacific Affairs* 85:1 (2012). He is co-editor, with Joshua Barker and Eric Harms of *Figures of Southeast Asia Modernity* (University of Hawaii Press, 2013)

### **Deirdre McKay, Keele University**

Deirdre McKay is Senior Lecturer in Social Geography and Environmental Politics at Keele University in Staffordshire, England. She has a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of British Columbia. Her research in particular focuses on economic development, livelihoods and out migration in the Philippines. Her books include *An Archipelago of Care: Filipino Migrants and Global Networks* (Indiana University Press, 2016) and *Global Filipinos: Migrants' Lives in the Virtual Village* (Indiana University Press, 2012). Author or co-author of numerous book chapters and journal articles, she has most recently co-authored, with Katherine Gibson and Amanda Cahill, the chapter "Diverse Economies, Ecologies, and Ethics: Rethinking Rural Transformation in the Philippines" in *Making Other Worlds Possible: Performing Diverse Economies* (University of Minnesota Press, 2015), edited by Gerda Roelvink et al., and the journal article "Sent Home: Mapping the Absent Child into Migration through Polymedia" in a special issue of *Global Networks* 18:1 (2018).

### **Aihwa Ong, UC Berkeley**

Aihwa Ong is Robert H. Lowie Distinguished Chair in Anthropology at UC Berkeley. She is also the Chair and Head Adviser for the Group in Asian Studies, an interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate program at UC Berkeley. Her research interests cover a number of areas, including the role of science and technology in society, issues of neoliberalism and modernity, and the anthropology of citizenship. Her books include *Fungible Life: Uncertainty in the Asian City of Life* (Duke University Press, 2016), *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty* (Duke University Press, 2006), *Buddha Is Hiding: Refugees, Citizenship, the New America* (UC Press, 2003), *Flexible Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality* (Duke University Press, 1999), and *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline: Factory Women in Malaysia* (SUNY Press, 1987). She is co-editor, with Ananya Roy, of *Worlding Cities, or the Art of Being Global* (Routledge, 2011); co-editor, with Nancy Chen, of *Asian Biotech: Ethics and Communities of Fate* (Duke University Press, 2010); co-editor, with Li Zhang, of *Privatizing China: Socialism from Afar*

(Cornell University Press, 2008); and co-editor, with Michael Peletz, of *Bewitching Women, Pious Men: Gender and Body Politics in Southeast Asia* (UC Press, 1995). Prof. Ong received her Ph.D. from Columbia University.

### **Christine Padoch, New York Botanical Garden**

Christine Padoch is Senior Curator Emerita of the Institute of Economic Botany at the New York Botanical Garden. She was Director of Research on Forests and Human Well-Being at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Jakarta from 2011-17. She has a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Columbia University, where her dissertation examined migration by the Iban in Sarawak, Malaysia. Among her many publications, she is a co-author, with Susanna Hecht, Anastasia Lucy Yang, Bimbika Sijapati Basnett, and Nancy Peluso of "People in motion, forests in transition: trends in migration, urbanization, and remittances and their effects on tropical forests", CIFOR Occasional Paper 142 (2015); co-editor, with Susanna Hecht and Kathleen Morrison, of *The Social Lives of Forests: Past, Present, and Future of Woodland Resurgence* (University of Chicago Press, 2014); co-editor, with Devra Jarvis and H.D. Cooper, of *Managing Biodiversity in Agricultural Ecosystems* (Columbia University Press, 2007); a guest editor, with Ole Mertz, Jefferson Fox, Robert Cramb, Stephen Leisz, Nguyen Thanh Lam and Tran Duc Vien of a special issue on swidden agriculture in Southeast Asia in *Human Ecology* 37:3 (2009); and co-author, with Nancy Peluso, of *Borneo in Transition: People, Forests, Conservation, and Development* (Oxford University Press, 1996).

### **Nancy Lee Peluso, UC Berkeley**

Nancy Lee Peluso is Henry J. Vaux Distinguished Professor of Forest Policy in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management at UC Berkeley. She received her Ph.D. from Cornell University. Her research, on resource policy and politics and forest and agrarian change, focuses on Indonesia. She is the author of *Rich Forests, Poor People: Resource Control and Resistance in Java* (UC Press, 1992). She is co-editor, with Christian Lund, of *New Frontiers of Land Control* (Taylor and Francis, 2012); with Joseph Nevins, of *Taking Southeast Asia to Market: Commodities, People and Nature in a Neoliberal Age* (Cornell University Press, 2008); with Christine Padoch, of *Borneo in Transition: People, Forests, Conservation, and Development*, revised edition (Oxford University Press, 2003); and, with Michael Watts, of *Violent Environments* (Cornell University Press, 2001). Her recent journal articles include, with A.B. Purwanto, "The remittance forest: Turning mobile labor into agrarian capital" in *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 39:1 (2018); and "Entangled Territories in Small-Scale Gold Mining Frontiers: Labor Practices, Property, and Secrets in Indonesian Gold Country" in *World Development* (January 2018). Her latest research project, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, is examining labor migration and the effect of remittances on agriculture and forest landscapes in Indonesia.

### **Rachel Silvey, University of Toronto**

Rachel Silvey is Richard Charles Lee Director of the Asian Institute and Professor of Geography at the University of Toronto. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington. Her research examines the gender dimensions of migration and economic change, with a focus on Indonesia. She recently collaborated with Prof. Rhacel Parrenas (University of Southern California) on a project funded by the National Science Foundation that examined Indonesian and Filipino domestic workers in Singapore and the UAE. Their work led to the co-authored journal articles "Not One of the Family: The Tight Spaces of Migrant Domestic Workers" in *Harvard Design Magazine* 41 (2015) and "Domestic Workers Refusing Neo-Slavery in the UAE" in *Contexts* 15:3 (2016); as well as their co-editing, with Hung Cam Thai, a special issue of *positions* 24:1 (2016). Her other journal articles and book chapters include "Mobilizing Piety: Gendered

Morality and Indonesian–Saudi Transnational Migration” in *Mobilities* 2 (2007); “Consuming the transnational family: Indonesian migrant domestic workers to Saudi Arabia” in *Global Networks* 6:1 (2006); “Engendering Social Capital: Women Workers and Rural–Urban Networks in Indonesia’s Crisis”, with Rebecca Elmhirst, in *World Development* 31:5 (2003). She is co-editor, with Isabella Bakker, of *Beyond States and Markets: The Challenges of Social Reproduction* (Routledge, 2008) to which she contributed the chapter “Managing migration: reproducing gendered insecurity at the Indonesian border”. The Asian Institute is home to the Asian Pathways Research Lab, which is working to develop theoretical and methodological frameworks to understand human migrations and mobilities with a focus on Asian life histories and experiences

### **Brenda Yeoh, National University of Singapore**

Brenda Yeoh is Professor of Geography and Vice Provost of Graduate Education at the National University of Singapore. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Oxford. Her research is concerned generally with the politics of space in urban environmental, gender and migration and geographies of health. Her publications include the important study *Contesting Space in Colonial Singapore: Power Relations and the Urban Built Environment* (Oxford University Press, 1996), and, co-authored with Lily Kong, *The Politics of Landscape in Singapore: Constructions of ‘Nation’* (Syracuse University Press, 2003). She has edited or co-edited many other books including *Gender Politics in the Asia-Pacific Region* (Routledge 2002), with Peggy Teo and Shirlena Huang; *State/Nation/Transnation: Perspectives on Transnationalism in the Asia Pacific* (Routledge, 2004), with Katie Willis; *Asian Women as Transnational Domestic Workers* (Marshall Cavendish, 2006) with Shirlena Huang and Noor Abdul Rahman; *International Marriages in the Time of Globalization* (Nova Science, 2010) with Elli Heikkila; *Return: Nationalizing Transnational Mobility in Asia* (Duke University Press, 2013) with Xiang Biao and Mika Toyota; and *Transnational Labour Migration, Remittances and the Changing Family in Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) with Lan Anh Hoang. Her recent journal articles include “Indonesian domestic workers and the (un)making of transnational livelihoods and provisional futures” in *Social & Cultural Geography* 18:3 (2017) with Maria Platt, Choon Yen Khoo, Theodora Lam and Grace Baey; “Migration and gender politics in Southeast Asia” in *Migration, Mobility, & Displacement* 2: 1 (2016); “Immigration and its (Dis)Contents: The challenges of highly skilled migration in globalising Singapore” in *American Behavioral Scientist*, 60: 5-6 (2016) with Theodora Lam; and “Cosmopolitan beginnings? Transnational healthcare workers and the politics of carework in Singapore” in *The Geographical Journal* 181:3 (2015) with Shirlena Huang.