



## Internal Migration Eye - IMigE

Vol 3 Issue 2

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[Women Moving Within Borders: Gender and Internal Migration dynamics in Ghana](#)

Journal of Asian and African Studies

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*The links above redirect to our website where you can click on the paper for download or abstract*

#### Working Papers

### Introduction

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Internal Migration Eye - IMigE - newsletter of the Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium. Apologies for the delay to this edition. We hope to make it up to you in depth of content - and in length!

#### Who we are

Migrating out of Poverty (MOOP) is a DFID-funded consortium of six research institutes based in Africa, Asia and Europe, working together to conduct research on the links between migration and poverty. Our research aims to deepen the understanding of migration within and between developing countries in order to better equip migrants, organisations supporting them, and policy makers, with evidence to inform their efforts to reduce poverty.

#### Key Contents

In this issue we showcase a large batch of Journal Articles, as our research projects' results from the past three years start to roll out into the wider academic community. These articles touch on topics such as work in the **informal sector** including **construction**, domestic and care work; **perceptions** around migration; the **negotiations of migrants** within their daily lives; and the impact of migration on **social relations** and **gender**.

In our Working Papers, we also look at policy around **domestic workers** in Singapore and around **seasonal workers** in New Zealand, the **perceptions held by some in-migrant communities** in South Africa, and some of the detail behind **agricultural migration** in Ghana.

We also have four new **briefings for policy makers**. Two from our partners in Bangladesh that result from our Intra-Household Dynamics and Youth Aspirations project and from our Policy Processes project and two from our Counterfactuals project in Ghana.

#### Research in the News

Our partner, CMS, consults on and helps facilitate Ghana's first ever **National Policy on Migration**

Working Paper 33: [Moving to greener pastures? Internal migration, land tenure and poverty in mid-Ghana](#)

Working Paper 34: [New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme: An Object Lesson in Policy Making - But for Whom?](#)

Working Paper 35: [Migration and Socio-Economic Development in African Cities: The Dual Challenge to the Aerotropolis Project of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality](#)

Working Paper 36: [The Dynamics of Policy Formation and Implementation: A Case Study of Singapore's Mandatory Weekly Day-off Policy for Migrant Domestic Workers](#)

All published working papers are available online at the [Migrating out of Poverty website](#).

## Briefings for Policy Makers

RMMRU - [Impact of Remittances on Education and Human Resource: Evidence from Bangladesh](#)

RMMRU - [Public Policy Formation: A Case Study of Domestic Workers in Bangladesh](#)

CMS - [Migration into Cities in Ghana: The Economic Benefits to Migrants and their Households](#)

CMS - [Social Benefits and Losses of Migrating into Cities in Ghana](#)

All Briefings for Policy Makers are available online at the [Migrating out of Poverty website](#)

## Research in the News

Ghana adopts a [National Policy on Migration](#)

## Other Activities

Our [Cambodian Research](#) results in a comic, a presentation at a Mahidol University conference, and more...

ACMS in South Africa help [launch XenoWatch](#), a new platform to help monitor and combat xenophobia

[Small Town, Big Dreams](#) - a short film from

## Other Activities

We debut our first [comic based on research](#) carried out in Cambodia and our strengthening of migration ties within the region at Mahidol University. We showcase a film from our Intra-Household Dynamics and Youth Aspirations project in Asia entitled [Small Town, Big Dreams](#). We announce our upcoming conference, [Migrating out of Poverty: From Evidence to Policy](#) and ask you to submit abstracts and share the Call for Papers and Multimedia, **OUT NOW, with deadline 15 September 2016**. We also reach out and ask you to get in touch if you know our research well, have engaged with it, and [would like to comment on the impact](#) of the Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium.

Finally, we highlight a [Good Read](#) and list some recent [blogs](#).

## Feedback

If you have any comments about this edition, or about the newsletter in general, please contact the Migrating out of Poverty secretariat at [migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk).

## Journal Articles

### Ghana Journal of Geography

[The life struggles and successes of the migrant construction worker in Accra, Ghana](#)

**by Joseph Awetori Yaro, Mariama Awumbila, and Joseph Kofi Teye**

Globally, the construction sector employs several millions of migrants and is a major entry point for rural-urban migrants into the urban labour force. Its role in sustaining livelihoods both at origin and destination is critical in the development process. This paper provides an empirical assessment of the livelihood struggles of the construction worker in Accra by examining the nature of the job, challenges and fulfilment of expectations. It draws mainly on qualitative data from individual interviews of migrants in the destinations and their families in the origin. [Read more...](#)

[Women Moving Within Borders: Gender and Internal Migration dynamics in Ghana](#)

**by Mariama Awumbila**

Internal migration is an inherent part of the processes of development and structural transformation in any region. In Africa, while the focus is often on international migration, internal migration is far more significant for development in terms of the numbers of people moving and their poverty reduction potential and well-being outcomes. In Ghana, as the numbers of women and girls moving independently has been on the increase, a "feminisation" of migration is said to be underway. Many of these young women and girls move independent of their families from rural agricultural communities in the north to urban centres in the south, where they work in low scale, mostly unskilled occupations. [Read more...](#)

### Journal of Asian and African Studies

[Social Networks, Migration Trajectories and Livelihood Strategies of Migrant Domestic and Construction Workers in Accra, Ghana](#)

**by Mariama Awumbila, Joseph Kofi Teye, and Joseph Awetori**

our partners at ARI - reflecting on our Intra-Household Dynamics and Youth Aspirations project

**Our 2017 International Conference**  
**Migrating out of Poverty:**  
**From Evidence to Policy**  
**OUT NOW**

Call for Papers and Multimedia submissions  
**Deadline 15 September 2016**

**MOOP Annual Perception Survey**

If you have engaged with MOOP research and consider yourself to have strong links or opinions on our research, [please get in touch](#) before Mon 5 Sep

## A Good Read

**Human Smuggling and Border Crossings** by Gabriella E. Sanchez

Read our Gender and Qualitative Research theme leader, [Dorte Thorsen's book review here](#)

## Blogs

Julie Litchfield reflects on [remittances and gender in Zimbabwe](#)

Igor Bosc reflects on [women's rights](#)

Kellynn Wee explains how [domestic worker's in Singapore won a day off](#)

Shezane Kabura looks at [the politics of international migration](#)

Kudzai Vanyoro looks at [vehicle-based remittances from South Africa to Zimbabwe](#)

Tiffany Eng breaks down [how remittances are spent by migrant workers in Singapore](#)

Eva-Maria Egger reflects on [the play 'Queens of Syria'](#)

Blogs available at:

<http://migratingoutofpoverty.blogspot.co.uk/>

## About us

**Migrating out of Poverty** is a seven-year research programme consortium (RPC) funded by DFID. It focuses on the relationship between regional migration, internal migration and poverty and is located in five regions across Africa and Asia.

## Yaro

Recent studies indicate that poor migrants are more likely to depend on social capital among other resources for livelihoods in host communities. Relying on insights from the social networks theory and using qualitative data from two migrant sending regions and one migrant destination area in Ghana, this paper examines the role and effects of networks of social capital on migration processes and livelihood strategies of migrants in the construction and domestic work sectors in Accra, Ghana. [Read more...](#)

## Social & Cultural Geography

**Indonesian domestic workers and the (un)making of transnational livelihoods and provisional futures**

**by Brenda S.A. Yeoh, Maria Platt, Choon Yen Khoo, Theodora Lam, and Grace Baey**

Doreen Massey argued that space and time should not be reduced to a bounded locality of the 'here and now' and instead proposed re-imagining 'space as simultaneity of stories-so-far'. We build on her argument to suggest that an appreciation of migrant aspirations and future trajectories require us to go beyond simultaneous 'stories-so-far' but also consider 'stories-to-come' which may build upon, divert from, or even unmake the 'stories-so-far'. We apply these ideas to our study (based on a questionnaire survey and in-depth interviews) of the transnational journeys traced by Indonesian domestic workers employed in Singaporean middle-class homes. [Read more...](#)

## Asian Population Studies

**Towards contextualised, disaggregated and intersectional understandings of migration in India**

**by Priya Deshingkar**

New patterns of mobility are continuously shaping and being shaped by macro processes of liberalisation and capitalism on the one hand and local processes embedded in culture, class, ethnicity and race on the other hand. India is no exception and new trans-regional alliances as well as actors and institutions are shaping the 'power geometry' (Massey, 1993) of migration by determining who migrates, why, where and under what circumstances. There has been an increase in certain forms of migrant labour such as construction work, care work and industrial labour or, what Sassen (2001) calls the 'real work' of modern societies. [Read more...](#)

## GeoJournal

**Of silent maids, skilled gardeners and careful madams: gendered dynamics and strategies of migrant domestic workers in Accra, Ghana**

**by Mariama Awumbila, Joseph Kofi Teye, and Joseph Awatori Yaro**

Recent studies indicate that many migrants are engaged mainly in the informal sector in low-paid, short-term, and insecure occupations in cities. Using a qualitative research approach, this paper examines the gendered experiences, livelihood strategies and well being of migrants engaged in domestic work in Accra, Ghana. Employing structure-agency theoretical perspectives, the paper discusses how migrant domestic workers employ their own agency to counter exploitation. The findings show clear gendered patterns of employment in domestic work, with men having stronger agency to negotiate better conditions of work and remuneration. [Read more...](#)

## New Media & Society

**Renegotiating migration experiences: Indonesian domestic workers in Singapore and use of information communication technologies**

Our research aims to deepen the understanding of migration within and between developing countries in order to better equip migrants, organisations supporting them, and policy makers, with evidence to inform their efforts to reduce poverty.

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## Partners

Refugee & Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) at Dhaka University, Bangladesh

Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) at the University of Ghana

African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC) in Nairobi, Kenya

The Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the National University of Singapore

The African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS) at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

Migrating out of Poverty RPC (MOOP) secretariat based at the School of Global Studies, University of Sussex, UK

## by Maria Platt, Brenda SA Yeoh, Kristel Anne Acedera and Choon Yen Khoo

This article considers the ways in which information communication technologies (ICTs) are embedded in foreign domestic workers' migration experiences in Singapore. Due to Singapore's stringent migration regime, whereby foreign domestic workers are required to live-in with their employers, domestic workers often find their access and use of ICTs subject to a high degree of surveillance and regulation by their employers. Using Massey's notion of power geometry, we consider how increasing reliance upon communications technology by both domestic workers and their employers necessitates a renegotiation of social relations in the household. [Read more...](#)

*The links above redirect to our website where you can click on the paper for download or abstract*

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## Working Papers

### **WP 33** [Moving to greener pastures? Internal migration, land tenure and poverty in mid-Ghana](#)

**By Jon Sward**

This working paper uses a multi-level approach to investigate the recent trend of semi-permanent migration of tenant farmers from Northern Ghana to Brong Ahafo's transition zone. Significant numbers of migrants have moved to this 'agricultural frontier' since the 1970s, for the purpose of accessing farmland through rental or sharecropping arrangements in order to engage in smallholder commercial agriculture of food crops such as maize, yam and cassava. Using both qualitative data collected at three migrant 'settler' communities in Brong Ahafo in 2014 as well as census data, the paper seeks to explore the relationship between migration and shifting conditions at migrant destinations, including evolving local customary tenure norms, changing land use patterns, and the emergence of trans-local migrant social networks.

[Download Working Paper 33](#)

### **WP 34** [New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme: An Object Lesson in Policy Making - But for Whom?](#)

**By L. Alan Winters**

Since 2007 New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme has been a very successful temporary migration programme allowing Pacific island residents to work for a season in New Zealand. This paper explores the interests, ideas and institutions behind its creation. The scheme solved the horticulture and viticulture sector's labour shortages, brought income to the Islands and cemented New Zealand's influence in the Pacific region. It was underpinned by research quantifying the advantages of migration and the decreasing ability of small isolated economies to generate satisfactory incomes in the global economy. It also benefitted from two built-in formal impact evaluations which reassured politicians that it would not survive if it was not effective.

[Download Working Paper 34](#)

### **WP 35** [Migration and Socio-Economic Development in African Cities: The Dual Challenge to the Aerotropolis Project of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality](#)

**By Jean Pierre Misago**

This paper engages with efforts by cities and municipalities across the developing world to find favourable positions within the global

economy. While many aim to attract highly skilled talent, tourists and industry, few adequately consider that economic success is likely to attract and, indeed, requires other migrants. The 'Ekurhuleni Aerotropolis' project illustrates this point. Indeed, this paper argues that South Africa's Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (one of the country's fastest growing cities due to migration) faces an acute dual challenge: negative perceptions towards low and medium skilled migrants and a lack of migration policy that threatens to derail its newly launched aerotropolis project. If not addressed, these challenges mean the city is unlikely to meet the minimum aerotropolis requirements including: a safe and stable environment that is attractive to foreign investment and skilled labour; adequate and modern infrastructure that ensures a successful global competitiveness.

[Download Working Paper 35](#)

**WP 36 The Dynamics of Policy Formation and Implementation: A Case Study of Singapore's Mandatory Weekly Day-off Policy for Migrant Domestic Workers**

**By Chiu Yee Koh, Charmian Goh, Kellynn Wee, and Brenda S.A. Yeoh**

Using the process-tracing methodology, this paper aims to outline the causal mechanisms that led to the formulation of the day off policy for migrant domestic workers in Singapore. Specifically, our analysis will focus on the three "I"s: ideas, interests and institutions. We argue that the day off policy was first brought to the agenda by the campaigning efforts of local migrant rights groups. The government's commitment to safeguarding Singapore's international reputation provided further impetus for the improvement of employment conditions for migrant domestic workers by means of the day off policy. Finally, Singaporeans' dependence on migrant domestic workers provided an economic imperative for the introduction of the day off policy: it was a means to enhance Singapore's appeal in order to attract a steady supply of migrant domestic workers, especially amidst fears of a supply crunch of these workers.

[Download Working Paper 36](#)

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## Briefings for Policy Makers

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RMMRU, our Bangladesh partner, summarises research from our Intra-Household Dynamics and Youth Aspirations project: [Impact of Remittances on Education and Human Resource: Evidence from Bangladesh](#). They have also created a [Public Service Announcement](#) to work on the perceptions of migration.

RMMRU also looks at policy formation for Domestic Workers in our Policy Processes project: [Public Policy Formation: A Case Study of Domestic Workers in Bangladesh](#)

CMS produces two briefings on benefits and losses, in the economic arena, but also in terms of social relations and status in: [Migration into Cities in Ghana: The Economic Benefits to Migrants and their Households](#) and [Social Benefits and Losses of Migrating into Cities in Ghana](#)

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## Research in the News

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Ghana adopts its first ever [National Migration Policy](#)  
Migrating out of Poverty's partner, the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) at the University of Ghana, and our colleague Professor Mariama Awumbila consults on and presents at the launch of Ghana's first ever National Migration Policy in April 2016.

[Read more here...](#)

## Other Activities

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In addition to conducting research, partners in the Migrating out of Poverty Consortium present their work to a variety of non-academic audiences including policy makers, civil society - including migrant organisations - the media and the general public.

Our Cambodian research looks at precarious migration over the Thai-Cambodia border. After the 2014 Thai Coup it is estimated that 220,000 undocumented Cambodian migrants fled Thailand for their homes. Our project spoke with the migrants and their families. Read our comic, [Precarious Migration: Voices of Undocumented Cambodian Migrants](#), derived direct from the transcripts, to learn their stories.

Our Executive Director, Robert Nurick, presented this work on the involuntary return of undocumented migrants at a recent conference with Paul Statham of the Sussex Centre for Migration Research in a conference to celebrate a new migration relationship with Mahidol University. [Read more about SMMP here...](#)

ACMS, iAfrikan, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees launch [Xenowatch](#), a newly-created platform to monitor xenophobic threats and violence across South Africa. [Read more here...](#)

[Small Town, Big Dreams](#) is a short film from our partners at ARI, reflecting on our Intra -Household Dynamics and Youth Aspirations project. It focuses on the impact of parental migration on young people's aspirations in Ponorogo, Indonesia. Miko and Nisa are children of overseas labour migrants. Miko majors in business administration in the university while Nisa is pursuing a diploma in nursing at a private polytechnic. What dreams do they have for the future?

### OUT NOW

**Our 2017 International Conference will take on March 28th and 29th in London. [Migrating out of Poverty: From Evidence to Policy](#)** is accepting abstracts for both papers and multimedia presentations around a large variety of migration themes. We invite both academic and professional submissions for the following themes: Migration Brokerage, Labour Market niches, Policy processes, Remittances, Youth, Return & Reintegration, Social networks, Social policy, Urbanisation & Climate change, Migration Crisis, Journeys, and Organisation & Activism. [Read more and keep up-to-date on conference plans here...](#)

Call for Papers & Multimedia submissions - **Deadline 15 September 2016**

[MOOP's Annual Perception Survey](#)

If you've engaged with Migrating out of Poverty research and you are

a researcher or academic, government official, policy maker or influencer, NGO worker, or journalist or media person and would like to comment on the impact of the work, please [send an email](#) before Mon 5 Sep and we will send you a survey link. Please do not share the link randomly. We have to report response rates and so need to know who has received it.

## Blogs

Julie Litchfield reflects on [remittances and gender in Zimbabwe](#)

Igor Bosc reflects on [women's rights](#)

Kellynn Wee explains how [domestic worker's in Singapore won a day off](#)

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Blogs available at: <http://migratingoutofpoverty.blogspot.co.uk/>

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## A good read

### Human Smuggling and Border Crossings

by Gabriella E. Sanchez

Graphic narratives of tragedies involving the journeys of irregular migrants trying to reach destinations in the global north are common in the media and are blamed almost invariably on human smuggling facilitators, described as rapacious members of highly structured underground transnational criminal organizations, who take advantage of migrants and prey upon their vulnerability. But this is not necessarily the case...

Read our Gender and Qualitative Research theme leader, [Dorte Thorsen's review of the book here](#)

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