

# **Gendered Migration in Transnational Asia**

Fall 2012

Meeting time

Location

Instructor: Hsun-Hui Tseng

Office hours

Email address

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course will investigate contemporary women's transnational migration from developing countries to newly developed countries in Asia and beyond. We will look at Filipina, Vietnamese and Chinese women migrating to Taiwan, Korea, Japan and the United States for marriage and employment. We will discuss issues related to labor and marriage migrations, as well as trafficking in women, on both macro- and micro-levels. We are going to ask: how does the global economic restructuring shape the gendered migration today? What makes female labor different from male labor in the global labor market? What are push-and-pull factors that trigger these women to leave their hometown to be workers or wives in foreign countries? What difficulties do they experience after entering host societies and what impact would the migration flow bring to both laborer/bride receiving and sending countries? Moreover, we will explore the global market formation of transnational commodified marriages between women from developing countries and men from more developed countries. Taking the matchmaking industry in Taiwan and Vietnam for example, we will ask: how should we perceive the subjectivity of women who marry abroad through brokers? How could we challenge the assumption that the brokerage business in transnational marriage is part of human trafficking practice, and women involved in this activity are victims? To better address this issue, we may also need to address the question: what is trafficking in women? How are women as victims represented in the global anti-trafficking campaign and how the politics of charity influences the state's immigration policymaking and women's transnational mobility? We will approach these issues from a critical perspective in order to challenge given social perception that ignore women's agency at work.

To help students better understand the phenomenon in transnational Asia, this course will introduce socio-cultural and economic developments of some bride/labor-sending and receiving countries. Throughout the semester, we will read theoretical and empirical works from many disciplines, including anthropology, sociology, political economy and women's studies. In addition, we will read primary source materials including news reports, online forums and watch documentaries and film clips. To facilitate class discussions, students are requested to read all assigned materials before coming to class.

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

### **Books:**

Required:

Hung, C.H. 2008. *For Better or for Worse: Vietnamese International Marriages in the New Global Economy*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.

Faier, Lieba. 2009. *Intimate Encounters: Filipina Women and the Remaking of Rural Japan*. pp.1-102. Berkeley: University of California Press.

## **GRADING POLICY**

### **1) Class Participation (15 points)**

This class is combination of lecture and discussion. Therefore, you need to come to class to participate in discussions. 10 in-class writing assignments (either in group or in individual) will be given throughout the semester. Keeping quiet in class and being absent from class without notifying me in advance will lead to a low grade.

### **2) Independent Research Project (40 points)**

#### **A. Project Proposal** (3 pages) 10 points

You are asked to conduct an ethnographic study on migration. You can choose any topic covered in the course. Contents of the proposal should include research questions, methods, outline, and bibliography.

#### **B. Project Progress Report** 5 points

You are required to make an appointment with me to discuss your project during my office hours after week Four.

#### **C. Project Final Paper** (12-15 pages) 25 points

In your final paper you have to engage with some key concepts or perspectives you learn from readings and in-class discussion.

### **3) Three Response Papers (45 points)**

You are asked to hand in three response papers for three weekly topics of your own choice. You need to weave the main points or arguments of the readings together and give comments or suggestions. Borrowing ideas and quoting from other scholarly works is fine as long as proper citations are included.

### **4) Extra Credits**

Everyone has a chance to get extra credits by writing the fourth response paper. It will account for additional 5% of the final grade.

**Paper Format:** All written papers must be typed in Times New Roman 12-pt font, double-spaced, and formatted with one-inch margins.

**Late Work:** Papers are due at the start of class. You must submit all written work to pass this course. No late work is accepted without a legitimate excuse. You can make up lost grades by getting extra credit.

In case of family emergencies, illness, or other pressing circumstances, which force you to miss class, please let me know on an individual basis.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

W1 Sept 2-8: Class introduction

### Section I: Migration in the Global Economy

W2 Sept 9-15: Migration Theory: an Interdisciplinary Perspective

-- Brettell, Caroline, "Theorizing Migration in Anthropology: The Social Construction of Networks, Identities, Communities, and Globalscapes," and James Hollifield, "The Politics of International Migration" in *Migration Theory: Talking across Disciplines*, Pp.97-135, 183-237, 2008, edited by C. Brettell and J. F. Hollifield, New York: Routledge

*\*Film: Her Way to Work: The Road to Quality Jobs for Women (1999)*

(Summary: women are entering an unmapped landscape of new jobs spurred by globalization; this video explores some of the critical concerns surrounding migrant workers, micro-enterprise and informal sector jobs, home-work, as well as women working in export-processing zones)

W3 Sept 16-22: Gender and the New International Division of Labor (**Project Proposal Due**)

-- Mies, Maria. 1998. "Social Origins of the Sexual Division of Labor" and "Housewifization International: Women and the New International Division of Labour" in *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale*. Pp.112-144. London and New York: Zed books Ltd.

-- Cheng, S.-J. A. 1999. "Labor Migration and International Sexual Division of Labor: A Feminist Perspective," in *Gender and immigration*. Edited by G. A. Kelson and D. L. DeLaet, pp.38-58. New York: New York University Press.

-- Saskia Sassen. 2003. "Global Cities and Survival Circuits" in *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. Pp.254-274. Edited by Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild. New York: Metropolitan Books.

-- George, Sheba Mariam. 2005. "Contradictions of Gender When Women Migrate First" and "Work: Nursing, Women's Networks, and Men 'Tied To A Stake'" in *When Women Come First: Gender and Class in Transnational Migration*. pp.19-76. Berkeley: University of California Press.

### Section II: Gender Politics and Modernization in the Asian Context

W4 Sept 23-29

Taiwan and China

-- Simon, Scott. 2003. "Introduction," "Social Contexts of Female Entrepreneurship" and "Two Street Vendors." in *Sweet and Sour: Life Worlds Of Taipei Women Entrepreneurs*. pp.1-34. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

-- Edwards, Louise. 2000. "Women in the People's Republic of China: New Challenges to the Grand Gender Narrative" in *Women in Asia: Tradition, Modernity, and Globalisation*.

-- Datta-Ray, unanda K. 2003. "Women's Power Rises in Modern China," *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/11/opinion/11iht-edray.html>

-- Gaetano, Arianne. 2010. "Gender and Citizenship Inequality: The Story of Two Migrant Women" in *One Country, Two Societies: Rural-Urban Inequality in Contemporary China*. Pp. 265-286. Edited by Whyte, Martin King. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

\**Film: China Blue (2005)*

Summary: Following a pair of denim jeans from birth to sale, China Blue links the power of the U.S. consumer market to the daily lives of a Chinese factory owner and two teenaged female factory workers. Filmed both in the factory and in the workers' faraway village, this documentary provides a rare, human glimpse at China's rapid transformation into a free market society.

## W5 Sept 30- Oct 6 (First Response Paper Due)

### Japan and Korea

-- Tipton, E. K. 2000. "Being Women in Japan 1970-2000," in *Women in Asia: Tradition, Modernity, and Globalisation*. Edited by L. E. M. Roces, pp. 208-227. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

-- Abelmann, Nancy. 2002. "Women, Mobility, and Desire: Narrating Class and Gender in South Korea" in *Under Construction: The Gendering Of Modernity, Class, and Consumption in the Republic Of Korea*. Pp.1-24. Edited by Laurel Kendall. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

-- Choi, Elizabeth. 1994. "Status of the Family and Motherhood for Korean Women" in *Women of Japan and Korea: Continuity and Change*. pp. 189-205. Edited by Gelb, Joyce, and Marian Lief Palley. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

### Vietnam and Philippines

-- Le, B. D. and T. H. Khuat. 2008. "A Historical Political Economy of Migration in Vietnam," in *Market Transformation, Migration and Social Protection*. Edited by B. D. Le and T. H. Khuat, pp. 29-55. Hanoi: The Gioi publishers.

-- Werner, Jayne Susan. 2002. "Gender, Household and State: Renovation (Đổi Mới) as a Social Process in Viet Nam." in *Gender, Household, State: Đổi Mới in Việt Nam*. pp.29-48. Edited by Jayne Susan Werner and Danièle Bélanger. Ithaca, N.Y.: Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University.

-- Roces, M. 2000. "Negotiating Modernities; Filipino Women 1970-2000," in *Women in Asia: Tradition, Modernity, and Globalisation*. Edited by L. E. M. Roces, pp. 112-138. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

W6 Oct 7-13 Cultural Logics of Desire and Imaginary Modernity

-- Faier, Lieba. 2009. *Intimate Encounters: Filipina Women and the Remaking of Rural Japan*. pp.1-102. Berkeley: University of California Press.

-- Suzuki, N. 2005. "Tripartite Desires: Filipina-Japanese Marriages and Fantasies of Transnational Traversal," in *Cross-Border Marriages: Gender and Mobility in Transnational Asia*. Edited by N. Constable, pp. 124-144. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

-- Constable, N. 2003. "Chapter 5: Political Economy and Cultural Logics of Desire" in *Romance on a Global Stage: Pen Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and "Mail-Order" Marriages*. Pp.116-144. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**Section III: Labor Migration**

W7 Oct 14-20 Global Care Chain and Negotiated Motherhood

-- Constable, Nicole. 2007. "Global Themes and Local Patterns" and "The Trade in Workers" in *Maid to Order in Hong Kong: Stories of Migrant Workers*. pp.17-39, 59-82. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

-- Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar. 2003. "The Care Crisis in the Philippines: Children and Transnational Families in the New Global Economy." in *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. Pp.39-54.

-- Madianou, Mirca, and Daniel Miller. 2011. "Mobile Phone Parenting: Reconfiguring Relationships between Filipina Migrant Mothers and Their Left-Behind Children". *New Media & Society*. 13 (3): 457-470.

\**Film: Chain of Love (2002)*

Summary: A film about the Philippines' second largest export product - maternal love - and how the international trade in love and care affects the women involved, their families, and families in the West

W8 Oct 21-27 Migrant Workers in Destinations (**Second Response Paper Due**)

-- Constable, Nicole. 2007. "Superior Servants" in *Maid to Order in Hong Kong: Stories of Migrant Workers*.pp.40-58. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

-- Lan, P.C. 2003. "Among Women: Migrant Domestic Workers and Their Taiwanese Employers across Generations," in *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. Edited by B. Ehrenreich and A. R. Hochschild, pp. 39-54. New York: Metropolitan Books.

-- Chung, Haeng-ja Sachiko. 2009. "Gender and Ethnicity at Work: Korean "Hostess" Club Rose in Japan" in *Gender and Labour in Korea and Japan: Sexing Class*. Pp.128-148. Edited by Ruth Barraclough and Elyssa Faison. London: Routledge

W9 Oct 28-Nov 3 Between Worker and Wife

-- Faier, Lieba. 2009. *Intimate Encounters: Filipina Women and the Remaking of Rural Japan*. Pp.103-210. Berkeley: University of California Press.

-- Mix, Prapairat R. and Nicola Piper. 2003. "Does Marriage "Liberate" Women from Sex Work? Thai Women in Germany" in *Wife or Worker? Asian Women and Migration*. Pp. 53-71. Edited by Nicola Piper and Mina Roces. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

#### Section IV: Marriage Migration

W10 Nov 4-10 Asian Marriage Migration

-- Hung, C. T. 2008. *For Better or for Worse: Vietnamese International Marriages in the New Global Economy*. Ch1-5, Pp. 1-93. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.

-- Clark, C. D. 2001. "Foreign Marriages, "Tradition," and the Politics of Border Crossing," in *China Urban: Ethnographies of Contemporary Culture*. Pp.104-122. Edited by N. N. Chen, pp. 104-122. Durham [N.C.]: Duke University Press.

-- Schein, Louisa. 2005. "Marrying out of Place: Hmong/Miao Women across and beyond China" in *Cross-border Marriages: Gender and Mobility in Transnational Asia*. Pp.53-79. Edited by Nicole Constable. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

--Freeman, Caren. 2011. "Chosŏnjok Maidens And Farmer Bachelors" in *Making And Faking Kinship: Marriage And Labor Migration Between China And South Korea*. Pp. 31-68. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

W11 Nov 11-17 Transnational Marriage Brokerage

-- Wang, Hong-zen, and Shu-ming Chang. 2002. "The Commodification of International Marriages: Cross-border Marriage Business in Taiwan and Viet Nam". *International Migration*. 40:93-116.

-- Tseng, Hsun-Hui. 2012. "Chapter Three: Racialized Representation and the Geopolitics of Desire in the Marriage Market" in *Stratified Foreign Bodies and Geopolitics of Desire: An Intersection of Gender, Class and Race in the Transnational Marriage Market in Taiwan*, Dissertation in Anthropology, Seattle: University of Washington

--MMIA Digest Online. 2010. "Debate and Prospect: What's Wrong with the International Marriage Brokerage Industry in Asia?"

<http://www.scribd.com/arenainseoul/d/32161066-MMIA-Digest-Online#download>

-- Vietnamese Mail Order Bride (Taiwan and Singapore)  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCk\\_kA2o4wk&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCk_kA2o4wk&NR=1)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FScBxMqC9cI&feature=relmfu>

\*Film: *From Asia with Love* (2003) 15mins

Summary: A critical look at the proliferation of the mail-order bride industry in Asia and its representations of Asian women in the West.

\*Film: *In the name of Love* (2002) (recommend)

Summary: One consequence of Russia's dismal post-Soviet economy is that many desperate young Russian women turn to marriage agencies in a bid to escape--those linking Russian women with "rich" American men are thriving. This film examines the motivations of two agency heads and follows several of these women as they seek a brighter future.

W12 Nov 18-24 Social Consequences of the Flow of Marriage Migration (**Third Response Paper Due**)

-- Tseng, Yen-Fen. 2010. "Marriage Migration to East Asia: Current Issues and Propositions in Making Comparisons" in *Asian Cross-Border Marriage Migration Demographic Patterns and Social Issues*. Pp. 31-45. Edited by Yang, Wen-Shan, and Melody Chia-Wen Lu. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.

-- Tseng, Hsun-Hui. 2012. "Chapter 5: State, Market, and Knowledge Production of Real/Fake Marriages." in *Stratified Foreign Bodies and Geopolitics of Desire*. Dissertation. University of Washington.

-- Freeman, Caren. 2011. "Brides and Brokers under Suspicion" in *Making and Faking Kinship: Marriage and Labor Migration between China And South Korea*. Pp.69-108. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

-- Kim, Doo-Sub. 2010. The Rise of Cross-Border Marriage and Divorce in Contemporary Korea in *Asian Cross-Border Marriage Migration Demographic Patterns and Social Issues*. Pp. 127-153.

-- Abelman Nancy and Hyunhee Kim. 2010. "A failed attempt at transnational marriage : maternal citizenship in a globalizing South Korea" in *Asian Cross-Border Marriage Migration Demographic Patterns and Social Issues*. Pp.101-123

## Section V: Trafficking Issues

W13 Nov 25-Dec 1 Representation and Victimization of Transnational Migrant Women

-- What is Trafficking? Mainstream perspectives

A mainstream perspective from CNN *the Freedom Project: Ending Modern-day Slavery*:

<http://thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com/category/in-the-news/>

UNODC website: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html>

<http://www.heart-intl.net/HEART/030106/TheNewUNTrafficking.pdf>

Raymond, Janice G. 2002. "The New UN Trafficking Protocol" in *Women's Studies*

*International Forum*, 25 (5), pp491-502.

<http://www.heart-intl.net/HEART/030106/TheNewUNTrafficking.pdf>

-- Constable, N. 2006. Brides, Maids, and Prostitutes: Reflections on the Study of "Trafficked" Women. *Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies* 3:1-25.

-- Lainez, Nicolas. 2010. "Representing Sex Trafficking in Southeast Asia? The Victim Staged" in *Sex Trafficking, Human Rights and Social Justice*. Pp.134-149. Edited by Tiantian Zheng. London: Routledge.

-- Agustin, L. M. 2003. Forget Victimization: Granting Agency to Migrants. *Development* 46:30-36.

*\*Film: Dying to leave (2006)*

Summary: Explores the current worldwide boom in illicit migration, and looks at the dire circumstances that drive desperate people from their homes. Part 1, Human cargo, tackles the unseen world of people smuggling, usually involving voluntary passage in search of better economic or social conditions. Part 2, Slaves of the free market, looks at human trafficking--smuggling activity that includes a new kind of indentured servitude, where impossible debt is combined with brutal working conditions.

W14 Dec 2-8 Women's Agency and Resistance (**Optional: Forth Response Paper Due**)

-- Constable, N. 2003. "Chapter 6: Women's Agency and the Gendered Geography of Marriage" in *Romance on a Global Stage: Pen Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and "Mail-Order" Marriages*. Pp.145-174. Berkeley: University of California Press.

-- Freeman, Caren. 2011. "Gender logics in conflict" in *Making and Faking Kinship: Marriage And Labor Migration Between China And South Korea*. Pp.109-151. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

-- Nakamatsu, T. 2005. "Complex Power and Diverse Responses: Transnational Marriage Migration and Women's Agency," in *the Agency of Women in Asia*. Pp.158-181. Edited by L. Parker. Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Academic.

-- Wang, H.Z. 2007. Hidden Spaces of Resistance of the Subordinated: Case Studies from Vietnamese Female Migrant Partners in Taiwan. *International Migration Review* 41:706-727.

W15 Dec 9-10: Summary (**Project Final Paper Due**)