

Introduction to the Special Issue on Migration

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Migration has risen in importance as a demographic force. In Asia, where fertility in many countries has dropped to below replacement levels and where life expectancy is at record levels, migration is often the most dynamic cause of demographic change. The Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University has made migration a key focus of study since its inception in 1971. Given the many changes in the field since that time—both in methodologies available to examine the topic and in our understanding of its complexity—the editors of *Journal of Population and Social Studies* decided to create a special issue on migration for its second issue of *Social Science Asia*, in conjunction with the National Research Council of Thailand.

Each of the papers in this issue takes a different perspective on migration in the Asian context. In her paper, Qian Dai explores how children vary in self-esteem based on their ethnic and national origin (Cross-cultural Comparison of Self-esteem among Mainland Chinese, Hong Kong Chinese, British born Chinese and White Scottish Children, pp. 1-12). Her research on children in three age groups (ages 8, 11 and 14) finds significant differences in sub-domains of self-esteem such as scholastic performance and physical acceptance. Dai discusses how differences in cultural expectations and context affect self-esteem. In the following paper, Natasha A. Webster and Karen Haandrikman examine the rising number of Thai immigrant women in Sweden (Thai Women in Sweden: Victims or Participants?, pp. 13-29). They use a variety of sources, including interviews and secondary data, to build a complex profile of this immigrant group.

The next two papers present research on migration in China. Miao David Chunyu, Ying Liu, Zhuping Zhou and Michael J. White use data collected at both the sending and receiving communities to investigate how migration experience is associated with differences in individual income (Internal Migration in China: Analysis of Origin-Destination Streams, pp. 30-47). Systematic comparisons among origin-destination pairs allow them to distinguish the effect of migration for active migrants, return migrants and non-migrants. The second paper compares environmental resettlement projects in two ethnic communities in Northern China (Environmental Resettlement Policies in a Multi-Religious and Multi-Ethnic Context: The Case of Inner Mongolia and Ningxia (China), pp. 48-59). François N. Dubé, Yang Hai Juan and Huang Lijun show how considering specific characteristics of ethnic minority migrants is an essential part of a successful environmental migration policy.

Turning to the Indian context, Vijay Korra uses household data to examine migration decision-making (Seasonal Labor Migration, Household Resources and Rural Markets:

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Empirical Evidence from Telangana State, India, pp. 60-76). His research finds that in this case, where households are driven by agrarian distress to send members to migrate seasonally, it is the migrant households who have fewer resources than non-migrants.

The final two papers both investigate Chinese migration to other countries, but in very different contexts. Suranjan Weeraratne gives a broad picture of Chinese migrant entrepreneurship in Southeast Asia by explicating how differing national policies have influenced their success (*State Policy and Entrepreneurial Ethnic Migrants: The Experiences of the Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia*, pp. 77-92). Antonella Ceccagno's in-depth research on Chinese entrepreneurship in the Italian fashion industry explains how economic forces drive ethnic compression of the workforce (*Compressing Diversity: Ethnicization of the Workforce and Outsourcing of Social Reproduction as Assets for the Italian Fashion Industry*, pp. 92-111).

The *Journal of Population and Social Studies* editorial team, in conjunction with the National Research Council of Thailand, is proud to bring you this diverse group of articles focusing on migration. We hope that this special issue effectively demonstrates the complexity of this topic, and increases knowledge of how this dynamic force affects nations, communities and individuals.