

ICCS Thematic Special Issues

Global Supply Chains, International Labour Migration and Migrant Workers

2019-2026

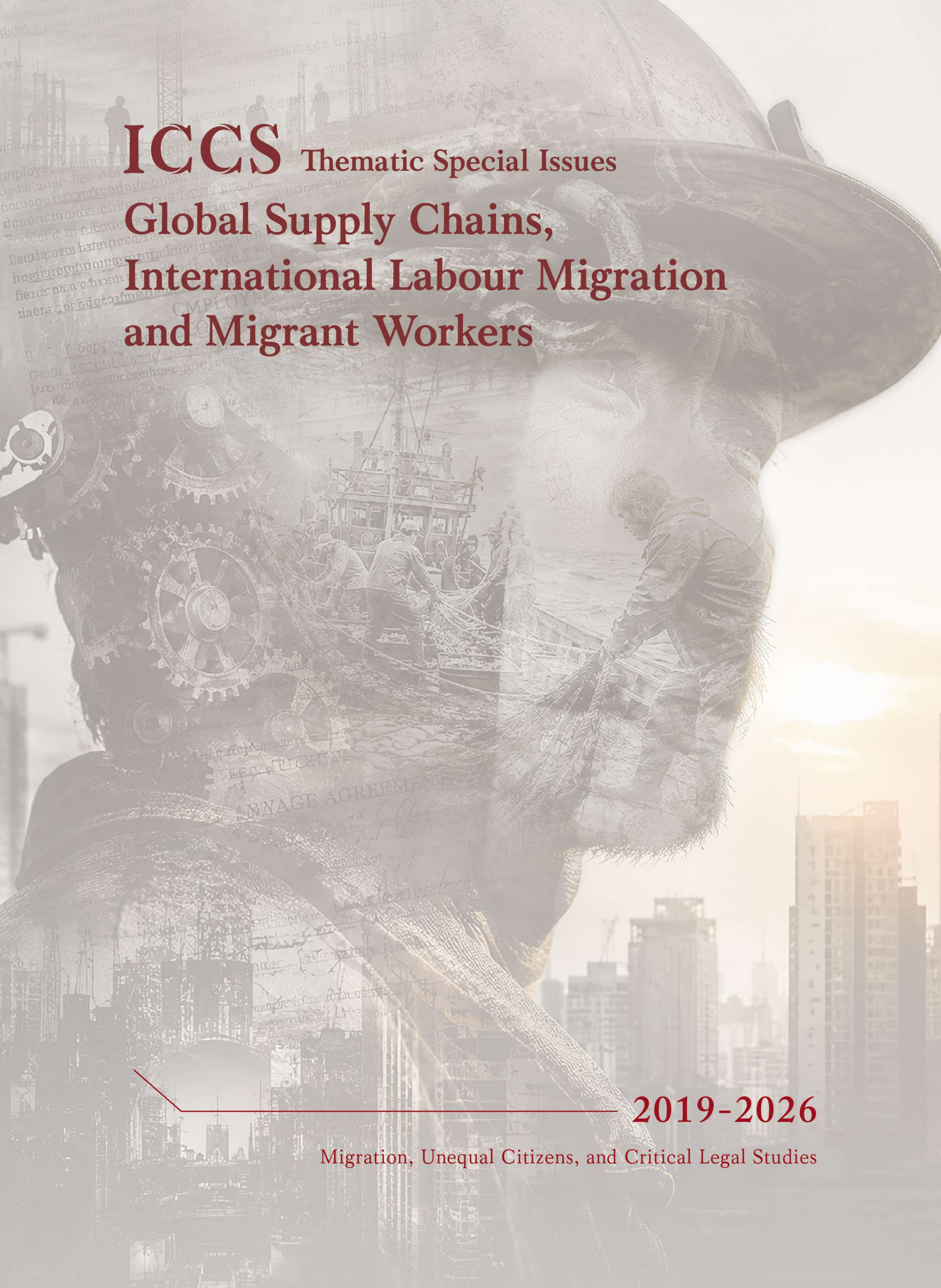
Migration, Unequal Citizens, and Critical Legal Studies



國立陽明交通大學 文化研究國際中心
International Center for Cultural Studies
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (ICCS-NYCU)



NYCU National Yang Ming Chiao Tung
LAW University School of Law
國立陽明交通大學科技法律學院



ICCS Thematic Special Issues

**Global Supply Chains,
International Labour Migration
and Migrant Workers**

2019-2026

Migration, Unequal Citizens, and Critical Legal Studies

Contents

01	ICCS Director: Joyce C.H. Liu_Foreword
04	Migration, Unequal Citizens, and Critical Legal Studies_ Sub-project Principal Investigator: Yu-Fan Chiu_Foreword
06	Introduction: International Center for Cultural Studies at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (ICCS-NYCU)
07	About Migration, Unequal Citizens, and Critical Legal Studies
08	Sub-project Researchers
10	© Migrant Worker Regimes and Transnational Labor Governance
11	1. A Policy Symposium on the Protection of Migrant Workers' Labor Rights
13	2. The Role of Ethnography in Studying Taiwan's Migrant Workers and the Broker System
14	3. Can Equal Protection for Workers Transcend State Borders? — The Hard Case of Temporary Migrant Worker Program
15	4. Practical Ethics of Responsibility and Protection
17	5. Migration, Racial Minorities and Gig Labor: Concept and Methods
18	6. Law as the Site of Statelessness and Contestation: Europe, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia, on Land and at Sea
20	7. Key Business and Human Rights Issues
21	8. Global Production Networks, the State, and Migrant Workers: Governing Labour in the Semiconductor Industry
22	9. Trade Policy and Labor Rights: Competition and Convergence
23	© Migrant Fishers and Human Rights at Sea
24	1. Exceptional Zone at Sea and Dysfunctionality of Law? Future Policies on Migrant Fishers and Marine Life
25	2. Future Labor Policies on Migrant Fishers and Flag of Convenience
26	3. Non-Flag State's Strategies for Human Rights Protection of Migrant Fishermen: Issues and Practice in Taiwan Law

27 © Global Supply Chains and Forced Labor

- 28 1. Corporate Accountability on Supply Chain Management and Forced Labor
- 29 2. Regulating Tech: Business and Human Rights for Technology Value Chains
- 30 3. Absent Labor Protections in Taiwan–U.S. FTA Negotiations:
 Cross-Border Dialogue on Human Rights in Global Supply Chains
- 31 4. Anniversary of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act Amendment &
 the Prohibition of Forced Labor Academic Seminar
- 32 5. Policy Developments to Eliminate Forced Labor:
 A Legal Dialogue Among Taiwan, the United States and Thailand

33 © Refugees, Statelessness, and Unequal Citizenship

- 34 1. Perceptions of Thais towards Refugees and Migrants from Myanmar
- 35 2. Refugee and Migrant Worker: Parallel Society in Malaysia
- 36 3. Understanding Durkheim in Multicultural Migration and the Crisis of Labor
- 37 4. Statelessness and Labour Exploitation
- 38 5. The Conundrum of Trafficking and Statelessness in India

39 © COVID-19 and Migrant Workers

- 40 1. Interventions from the South: Theoretical Perspectives and Pragmatic Issues
 of Migration, Logistics and Unequal Citizens in the Context of the Covid-19
- 41 2. Nervous Nation: Covid Anxieties and Mainland Migrant Struggles in Taiwan

42 © Migrant Worker Art and Cultural Activism

- 43 1. Migrant Workers Film Festival in 2019
- 45 2. “Nine Shots Teaser” -Mirror or Hammer? — An Exploratory Journey Towards
 Film Making and Social Practice
- 46 3. Lives from Perantauan
- 47 4. Book Launch: NYANYIAN DI PERANTAUAN

48 Event Achievements List (Chronology)

ICCS Director Joyce C.H. Liu Foreword



Since the International Center for Cultural Studies (ICCS) began implementing the first five-year phase of the Ministry of Education's "Featured Areas Research Center" program under the Higher Education Sprout Project in 2018, the phenomena arising from global migration — including immigrants, migrant workers, refugees, and stateless persons — as well as the conditions of unequal citizenship produced by international and domestic political forces, have remained among the Center's core research concerns.

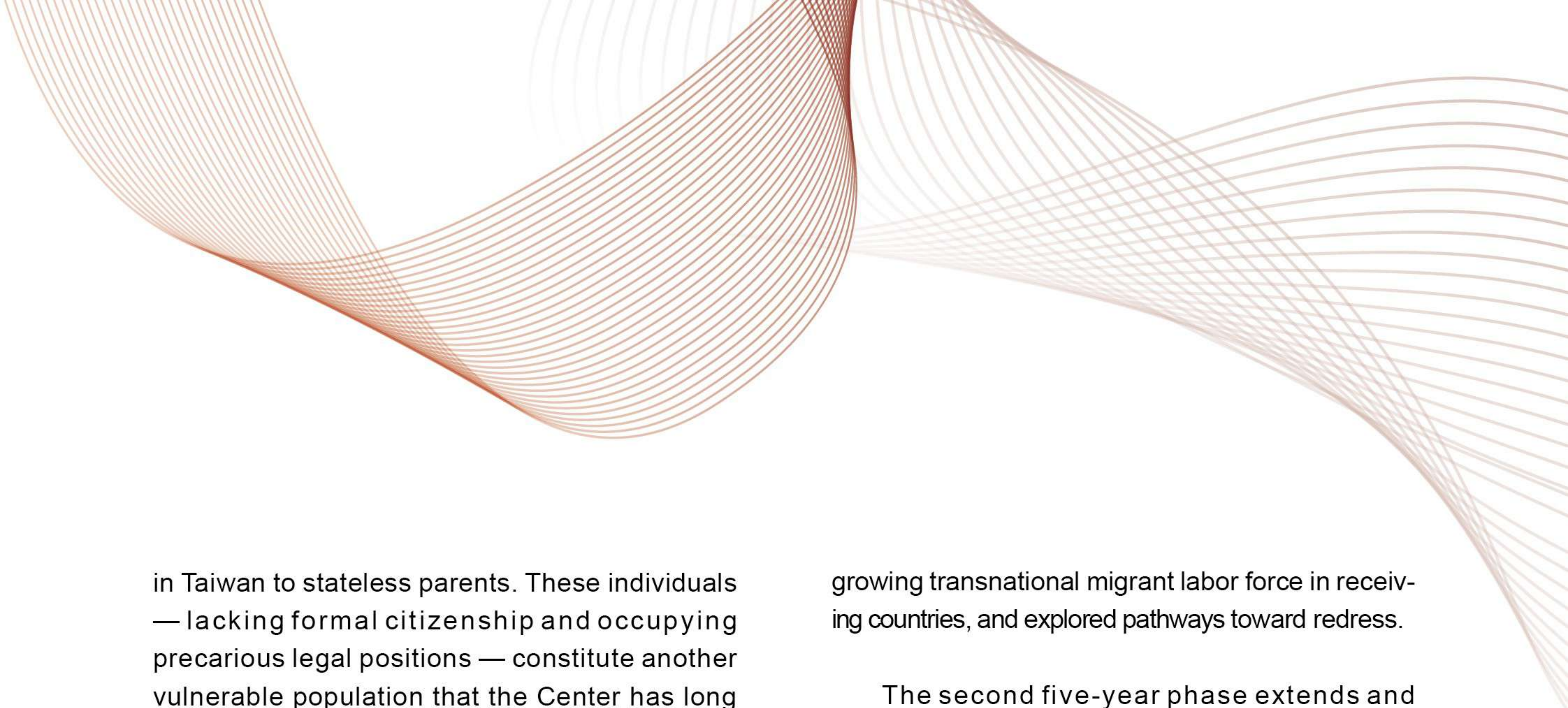
The twenty-first century is an era of intense human mobility. As of 2024, the number of international migrants worldwide has reached 304 million — an increase of over one hundred million compared to the 174 million recorded in 2000, and nearly four times the figure of 77 million in 1960.

This rapid growth in transnational migration reflects two overlapping forces: refugees fleeing war and conflict, and migrant workers displaced by the movements of global capital. Having left their homelands to live and labor elsewhere, these individuals become "non-citizens," rendered vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination, and violence, and frequently unable to exercise their most basic human rights. Their presence also generates profound social tensions in receiving societies. In contexts where communities are ill-equipped to absorb such globally driven trans-

formations, the exclusionary logic of citizenship politics tends to intensify quasi-colonial structures of internal marginalization and oppression — making critical analysis of global labor extraction all the more urgent.

Taiwan's own social realities compel us to pursue these questions with particular urgency. As of early 2025, the number of migrant workers in Taiwan has surpassed 870,000 — exceeding the total indigenous population of 629,000 — and migrant domestic caregivers now account for nearly forty percent of the caregiving workforce in that sector. These workers come primarily from Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand, and are employed across manufacturing, construction, fisheries, and domestic care. Though present in virtually every corner of Taiwanese society, they frequently endure conditions of exploitation bordering on servitude — circumstances that demand a searching examination of the unjust laws, institutional arrangements, and social attitudes embedded in Taiwan's industrial structure and civil society.

While official statistics record only a small number of stateless persons in Taiwan, a considerably larger population exists in legal grey zones: descendants of Nationalist army veterans who settled in Burma, children of some Southeast Asian marriage migrants, overseas students from Thailand and Burma, Tibetans, and children born



in Taiwan to stateless parents. These individuals — lacking formal citizenship and occupying precarious legal positions — constitute another vulnerable population that the Center has long sought to address.

The overarching title of our program — *Conflict, Justice, Decolonization* — signals the orientations that guide our work: analyzing the “conflicts” generated by asymmetrical power relations; advocating for those rendered voiceless by the limits of legal frameworks, whose situation constitutes an ongoing “injustice”; and critiquing and dismantling the colonial structures that persist through unreasonable institutional arrangements — what we call “epistemological decolonization.”

During the first five-year phase, in addition to partnering with local NGOs to examine issues including transnational labor migration, the human rights of offshore fishery workers, global supply chains and forced labor, refugees and statelessness, the conditions of migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and migrant arts activism, the Center also secured funding from the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) for a three-year Global Humanities Institute (GHI) grant under the project title “Migration, Logistics, and Unequal Citizenship in Global Context.” This initiative brought together interdisciplinary scholars from local and transnational contexts, twelve international academic institutions, thirty-six senior international scholars, twenty-four early-career transnational researchers, as well as NGO and community-based organizations, legal practitioners, and human rights groups. Collectively, we examined the structural factors underlying the unequal treatment experienced by the rapidly

growing transnational migrant labor force in receiving countries, and explored pathways toward redress.

The second five-year phase extends and deepens the research of the first, focusing more intensively on mobile populations and the unequal conditions they face within configurations of geopolitical economy. Our concerns encompass migrant workers' labor rights, the inhumane treatment of offshore fishery workers, human trafficking, forced labor, and the situations of refugees and stateless persons. We investigate the structural factors that produce inequality — including the exclusionary mechanisms of citizenship politics, the subordinate position of women, logistics governance in special economic zones, transnational criminal networks, cross-border supply chains and labor brokerage systems, states of legal exception, and the intersections and conflicts between international and domestic law. Methodologically, we draw on critical legal studies to advance human rights protection, explore the spatial agency through which mobile persons create new forms of belonging, and actively intervene in the reimagination of “citizenship” itself. Beyond analyzing how existing structures of unequal power produce marginalization, this research also aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals — contributing to quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), reduced inequalities within and among countries (SDG 10), peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17) — in pursuit of an inclusive, equitable, and mutually sustaining society.

The specific issues we address include:

1. **The precarious conditions and legal dimensions facing mobile laborers and stateless persons:** land-based migrant workers' rights, offshore fishery workers' rights, women migrant workers, statelessness and refugee issues, refugees in countries without refugee legislation, forced labor, human trafficking and transnational criminal organizations, human rights protection, and legal grey zones.
2. **Logistics and infrastructure:** labor supply chains and brokerage systems; port cities, export processing zones, offshore financial centers, tax havens, and flags of convenience; spatial zoning and special economic zones.
3. **Spatial and artistic creation by mobile persons:** mobile persons' rights to space and belonging; musical communities and cultural expression among migrant populations.
4. **Reconceptualizing "citizenship" and the commoning of space:** co-citizenship, processes of civicization, and the democratization of borders (drawing on Étienne Balibar's concepts of co-citizenship, civil process, and democratizing borders), as well as the commoning of cities and shared spaces.

This modest volume presents the interim findings of our research program. We offer it in the hope of casting a stone to invite jade in return — drawing greater attention to these issues and inspiring wider engagement from all who share our concerns.

劉紀蕓

Joyce C.H. Liu

Professor Emerita / Director
International Center for Cultural Studies,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan

Migration, Unequal Citizens, and Critical Legal Studies

Sub-project Principal Investigator **Yu-Fan Chiu** Foreword



Yu-Fan Chiu

Professor, School of Law;
“Migration, Unequal Citizens, and
Critical Legal Studies” Principal
Investigator, International Center
for Cultural Studies,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung
University, Taiwan

Preface

Since the implementation of the “Employment Service Act” on 8 May 1992, Taiwan has gradually institutionalized its migrant worker system, formally integrating its labour market into the broader system of transnational labour mobility and exchange in Asia. By 2026, the number of migrant workers in Taiwan had risen to approximately 895,000, accounting for around 7.5 per cent of the country’s total employed population. Yet, because of the multiple disadvantages and forms of discrimination associated with nationality and immigration status, migrant workers continue to be treated as an “exploitable source of labor” under a guest-worker regime characterized by restrictions on sectors of employment, numerical quotas, and duration of stay.

On 1 May 2019, International Workers’ Day, Taiwan’s National Immigration Agency changed the stated purpose of residence on foreign workers’ residence permits to “migrant worker.” In Taiwan, foreign nationals who leave their home countries to work abroad had conventionally been referred to as “Wai-Lao” (外勞), an abbreviation for “foreign worker,” which became stigmatized and acquired discriminatory connotations. The change was therefore more than a simple shift in terminology; it reflected growing awareness of the longstanding stigmatization of foreign workers in Taiwanese society. Beginning in 2016, “The Reporter” investigated Taiwan’s distant-water fishing industry and published the three-part series “The Blood-Stained Ocean” between 2016 and 2018. The series brought the conditions of migrant workers to wider public attention and heightened concern over their human rights. At the same time, the labour conditions and human rights of migrant workers were gaining greater public attention.

Since 2018, when the International Center for Cultural Studies (ICCS) began implementing the first five-year phase of the Ministry of Education’s “Featured Areas Research Center” program under the Higher Education Sprout Project, it has engaged with diverse issues concerning migrant workers in the context of global labour mobility. Researchers in the subproject “Migration, Unequal Citizens, and Critical Legal Studies” approach transnational labour migration from multiple perspectives, including society, culture, law,



and artistic practice, examining the forms of social inequality that these processes both reveal and reproduce, with particular emphasis on critical approaches to law. Beginning with migrant workers' human rights, the research has gradually expanded, alongside growing global attention to transnational supply chains, to address the problems of forced labour and transnational labour governance revealed within them.

This special publication brings together records of 26 ICCS events held since 2019 under six broad themes: "Migrant Worker Regimes and Transnational Labor Governance," "Migrant Fishers and Human Rights at Sea," "Global Supply Chains and Forced Labor," "Refugees, Statelessness, and Unequal Citizenship," "COVID-19 and Migrant Workers," and "Migrant Worker Art and Cultural Activism." Taken together, these records also trace the researchers' sustained engagement, dialogue, and reflection on these issues over the years.

This special publication presents the collective achievements of our work thus far, while also documenting the encounters and exchanges through which different research perspectives have intersected and enriched one another. We hope that the accumulation of these research and practical engagements will foster greater concern for the inequalities underlying transnational migration and labour, and that these "achievements" will serve as a starting point for further research, dialogue, and action.

Introduction

International Center for Cultural Studies at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (ICCS-NYCU)

The International Center for Cultural Studies at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (ICCS-NYCU) is a university-level research center established in 2015. The center adopts an interdisciplinary approach, uniting researchers and graduate students from diverse fields, including cultural studies, social theory, anthropology, communication technology, applied arts, literature, history, political philosophy, and other related disciplines.

The theme of ICCS's current project is "Conflict, Justice, Decolonization: Asia in Transition in the 21st Century," which comprises six research clusters:

1. The Geopolitics and Cultural Economy of Societal Relations in a New Greater China
2. The Chip Era and Digital Governance
3. Migration, Unequal Citizenship, and Critical Legal Studies
4. Environmental Crises and Multi-species Justice in the 21st Century: Toward Decolonization Beyond the Human
5. The Chinese Contemporary: Spiritual Problems, Sentimental Education, and Historical Narratives
6. Artistic Intervention and Social Activism



About Migration, Unequal Citizens, and Critical Legal Studies

This interdisciplinary research cluster belongs to the MOE SPROUT 2.0 “Conflict, Justice, Decolonization 2.0: Asia in Transition in the 21st Century,” operated by the International Center for Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan.

According to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the total number of international migrants had amounted to 272 million in mid-2019, up from 173 million in 2000. Compared to 70 million international migrants in 1960, the figure has increased by 200 million. Among the total number of international migrants, about 100 million international migrants were from Asia, and 83 million were migrating within Asia. Most countries in Asia still practice exclusionary politics of citizenship. The migrant workers and stateless persons suffer severe discrimination and even inhuman treatment because of their non-citizen status.

The first five-year ICCS project, “Unequal Citizens and Legal Reform in the Inter-Asian Context” (2018-2022), has discussed the theme of “Conflict, Justice, and Decolonization” to understand the crux of the problem from the scene of social conflict from the perspective of transnational migration and labor mobility. Our shared concerns include the different forms of social conflict and inequality in third-world countries within the global context. We paid particular attention to the issues of refugees, mobile laborers, stateless persons, and human trafficking under mass migration. We discussed the formation of severely excluded discrimination, oppression, and

violence as expressed in laws and institutions in different societies. However, the international labor migration under globalization constantly faces exploitation, forced labor, and human trafficking, particularly in Asia-Pacific.

The second five-year project (2023-2027) will focus on analyzing the forced labor risks in the global supply chain and addressing effective practices for eliminating forced labor, including law enforcement strategy. Our project will continue to deepen the transnational cooperation with research institutions, research scholars, and non-governmental organizations to develop more significant contributions to labor rights and access to justice for migrant workers, stateless populations, and undocumented workers. We orient our project toward a critical legal study in terms of empirical cases and emancipatory articulation of particular fundamental concepts, including citizenship.



Sub-project Researchers

2019-2026



Joyce C.H. Liu

Principal Investigator
Director, International
Institute for Cultural Studies, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- ◆ Flags of Convenience, Offshore Financial Centre, and 21st-Century Maritime Capitalism;
- ◆ The New World Order of Digital Tianxia and its Global Impacts;
- ◆ A Critical Genealogy of the Logistics of the Forced Migratory Labor in the Asian Mediterranean Sea;
- ◆ Trans-local Critical Curations and Video Essays



Yu-fan Chiu

Professor
School of Law, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- ◆ Legal Protection of Digital Remote Labor Relations in the Post-Epidemic Era: Perspective of The Intersection of Individual and Collective Labor Law, Gender Equality and Competition Law;
- ◆ A Legal and Policy Study on Human Rights Protection in Corporate Supply Chains and the Elimination of Forced Labor



Mei-Lin Pan

Professor, Department of Humanities and
Social Sciences, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- ◆ "Interpreting" the Model of Taiwan's Semiconductor Industry;
- ◆ Refugees in Countries without Refugee Laws



Bonny Ling

Executive Director of Work Better Innovations

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Challenges Faced by Taiwanese SMEs in Eliminating Forced Labor



Ya-Wen Yang

Assistant Research Professor, Institutum
Iurisprudentiae, Academia Sinica

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Exploitation, Unfree Labor, and Border Regimes



LEUNG Yuk-ming Lisa

Associate professor in the Department of
Cultural Studies at the Lingnan University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Media and Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Discourse,
Gender and Cultural Identity, Global-Local Interactions,
Cultural Policy, and Hong Kong Media History



Dolma Tsering

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of
Humanities and Social Sciences, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- ◆ Exploring the Impact of Digital Authoritarianism and the China Model in Nepal;
- ◆ Refugees in Countries without Refugee Laws



Poonam Sharma

Postdoctoral Fellow, International Center for
Cultural Studies, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- ◆ How "Chip" Strategies and Technologies Transform "Migration" and "Mobility" in Asia?;
- ◆ Migration Politics and the "Ambiguity" of Citizenship Concepts in Postcolonial Asia



Monika Verma

Ph.D, Institute of Social Research and
Cultural Studies, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- ◆ Securitization and Exclusionary Policies Regarding Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh and South Asia: Cyber Security and Digital Infrastructure in the Case of India;
- ◆ The Plight of the Rohingya in India: Hindu Exclusionary Policies and Practices



Jonathan S. Parhusip

Doctoral student, Institute of Social Research
and Cultural Studies, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Migrant Fishermen and Port Rights

Sub-project Researchers

2019-2026



Qi Li

Doctoral Candidate, Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Zone studies, Urban-Rural Relation, Land Reform, Economic Democracy Practice



Muhammad Irfan

MA Student, Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Empowering Indonesian Migrant Workers in Taiwan Through Underground Music



Aubrey Kandelila Fanani

MA Student, Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Female Migrant Workers, Art and Discourse Power



Wen-Chi Chang (2023 - 2024)

L.L.M, School of Law, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

A Study on Legislation Prohibiting Forced Labor in Distant-Water Fisheries: Focusing on Corporate Supply Chain Management



WU Ting-Kuan

Master of Arts in Advertising, National Chengchi University | Independent Researcher & Arts and Cultural Worker

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Papuan Music Documentary Screening & Forum and Fieldwork on Eastern Indonesian Migrant Worker Communities



LAN Yu-Chen

Master of Arts in Anthropology, National Tsing Hua University | Independent Researcher & Arts and Cultural Worker

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Papuan Music Documentary Screening & Forum and Fieldwork on Eastern Indonesian Migrant Worker Communities



Ke-lun Chen

Postdoctoral Fellow, International Center of Cultural Studies, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Intellectual History of Modern Theatre in Taiwan, Cultural Theory, Contemporary Political Thought, Aesthetic Theory



Chiung-chih Chen (2018 - 2020)

Postdoctoral Fellow, International Center of Cultural Studies, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Transnational Labor Migration



Jian-xing (Raymond) Lim

(2020 - 2021)

MA Student, Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, NYCU

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Migration, Indie/Underground Music Scene, Cultural Movements, Social Movement, Ethnic/National Identity

TOPIC 1

MIGRANT WORKER REGIMES
AND TRANSNATIONAL
LABOR GOVERNANCE

1 A Policy Symposium on the Protection of Migrant Workers' Labor Rights

2019.11.16-17

Humanities and Social Sciences Building 2,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

The “Dialogue between Law and Society: A Policy Symposium on the Protection of Migrant Workers' Labor Rights Symposium” was held on November 16–17, 2019, co-hosted by the School of Law at National Chiao Tung University, the International Center for Cultural Studies, and partner research institutions. The conference focused on the labor rights challenges faced by migrant workers in Taiwan, examining structural and institutional gaps in recruitment systems, wage protection, working conditions, and union rights from both legal and policy perspectives, with the aim of advancing concrete policy proposals.

The conference was chaired by Prof. Joyce C.H. Liu, Prof. Chih-Chieh Lin, Prof. Chiung-Chih Chen, Prof. Yu-Fan Chiu, and Prof. Shu-Fen Lin. The discussants spanned academia, the legal profession, and labor organizations, working to build a platform for dialogue between policy and scholarship and to promote deeper legal protections and institutional reform for migrant workers' labor rights.

法律與社會之對話
移工勞權保障與政策研討會

至今移工在台已超過70萬人口，為台灣社會的重要一分子，然而移工在我國所適用的法律不同於本國勞工，在工作轉換與勞動過程中因法律上之差別對待而衍生爭議。

本研討會以我國當前移工所面臨之勞動權益問題為中心，分別由法律與政策兩面進行分析，並以釐清我國法律適用於移工上之問題，並期待經由多方之對話，能對移工勞權問題提出保障與政策與革之建議。

2019
Nov. 16-17
交通大學人文電影館
(新竹市東區大學路1001號人社二館三樓)

Nov/16 開幕 劉紀惠教授、張文貞教授、陳建文副教授
第一場：仲介、直聘制度與移工勞動保護
作為移民與移工的移工轉讓許可制度 張志偉助理教授
移工直聘制度之興衰 陳建文博士後研究員
10:00-12:00
主持人：劉紀惠教授
與談人：陳建文(勞動部勞動力發展署國際勞務中心主任)
暨張志偉教授
第二場：移工自由轉讓與主東工作限制與爭議
一兼論移工之生涯與爭議 邱登凡助理教授、宋國勝助理教授
移工勞動契約之終止之法理適用與爭議 周洪恩助理教授
13:00-15:00
主持人：陳建文博士後研究員
與談人：蔡明學(仲介業者)、謝美蘭助理教授
第三場：移工之工資保障與適用基本工資之爭議 楊柏輝助理教授
潘淑珍移工之工作條件及仲介抽傭之情形 宋一心律師
15:30-17:30
主持人：林志潔教授
與談人：汪美蓮(桃園市許厝港服務移工服務暨服務中心主任)
劉貴南助理教授

Nov/17 第二場：勞動保護與勞動條件之保障
移工之勞動保護—以雇主之性騷擾防治責任為中心 李玉春副教授
家事勞動的文學世界、人權思想與勞動時間 陳建文副教授
10:00-12:00
主持人：邱登凡助理教授
與談人：黃安華(桃園市家庭看護工職業工會理事)、謝梅君教授
第三場：移工與社會之法律與政策
一兼論移工之法律與政策之探討 林鳳榮副教授
13:30-14:40
主持人：林鳳榮教授
與談人：李寶華(宜蘭縣漁工職業工會秘書長)、吳靜如(TINA工作人員)
15:00-17:00 綜合座談

報名方式
網址: <http://conference.iti.nctu.edu.tw> 報名截止日期: 10/27/19
主辦單位
國立交通大學文化研究與國際中心
國立交通大學科技法律學院
國立交通大學社會與文化研究所
亞洲文化研究碩士學位學程(台灣大學系所)





The first panel, “Brokers, Direct Hiring, and Labor Protection,” addressed intermediary control, direct-hire reforms, job mobility, wage disputes, and contract termination, with presentations by Prof. Chih-Wei Chang, Prof. Chiung-Chih Chen, Prof. Yu-Fan Chiu, Prof. Chao-Yu Chou, and Prof. Bo-Shone Fu, alongside cross-sector discussants. The second panel, “Labor Protection and Working Conditions,” focused on sexual harassment prevention, legislation for domestic workers, and union rights, featuring Prof. Yue-Chune Lee, Prof. Chien-Wen Chen, and Prof. Liang-Jung Lin. Selected papers were later published in the December 2020 special issue on Labor Law of the *NYCU Law Review*.

Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU NYCU LAW

Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

International Master's Program in Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan (IACS-UST)

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=600>

2 The Role of Ethnography in Studying Taiwan's Migrant Workers and the Broker System

2020.04.01

Humanities and Social Sciences Building 2,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

Delivered by Prof. Sudarat Musikawong (Mahidol University), this lecture drew on her ongoing fieldwork project, “A Qualitative Study of Brokers’ and Employers’ Practices and Migrant Workers’ Working Conditions (2019–2020).” She discussed fieldwork design and challenges, particularly strategies for interviewing brokerage agencies and building trust with migrant workers. The talk also reviewed the development of Taiwan’s migrant labor system, compared labor-sending and receiving country models (such as Thailand and Korea’s G-to-G approach), and highlighted the human rights and labor risks arising from Taiwan’s continued reliance on private brokers.



Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU IACS-UST

Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University;
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University;
TAIWAN FELLOWSHIP (MOE)

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=624>

3 Can Equal Protection for Workers Transcend State Borders? —The Hard Case of Temporary Migrant Worker Program

2022.04.20

Online

On April 20, 2022, the second workshop in the *Law, Human Rights, and Transnational Labor Mobility* series—"Why Temporary Migrant Worker Regimes Challenge International Labor Equality"—was held by ICCS-NYCU and the School of Law. It was co-chaired by Prof. Joyce C.H. Liu and Prof. Yu-Fan Chiu, with Prof. Pei-Lun Tsai (National Taiwan Ocean University) and Dr. Samia Dinkelaker (Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica) as discussants.

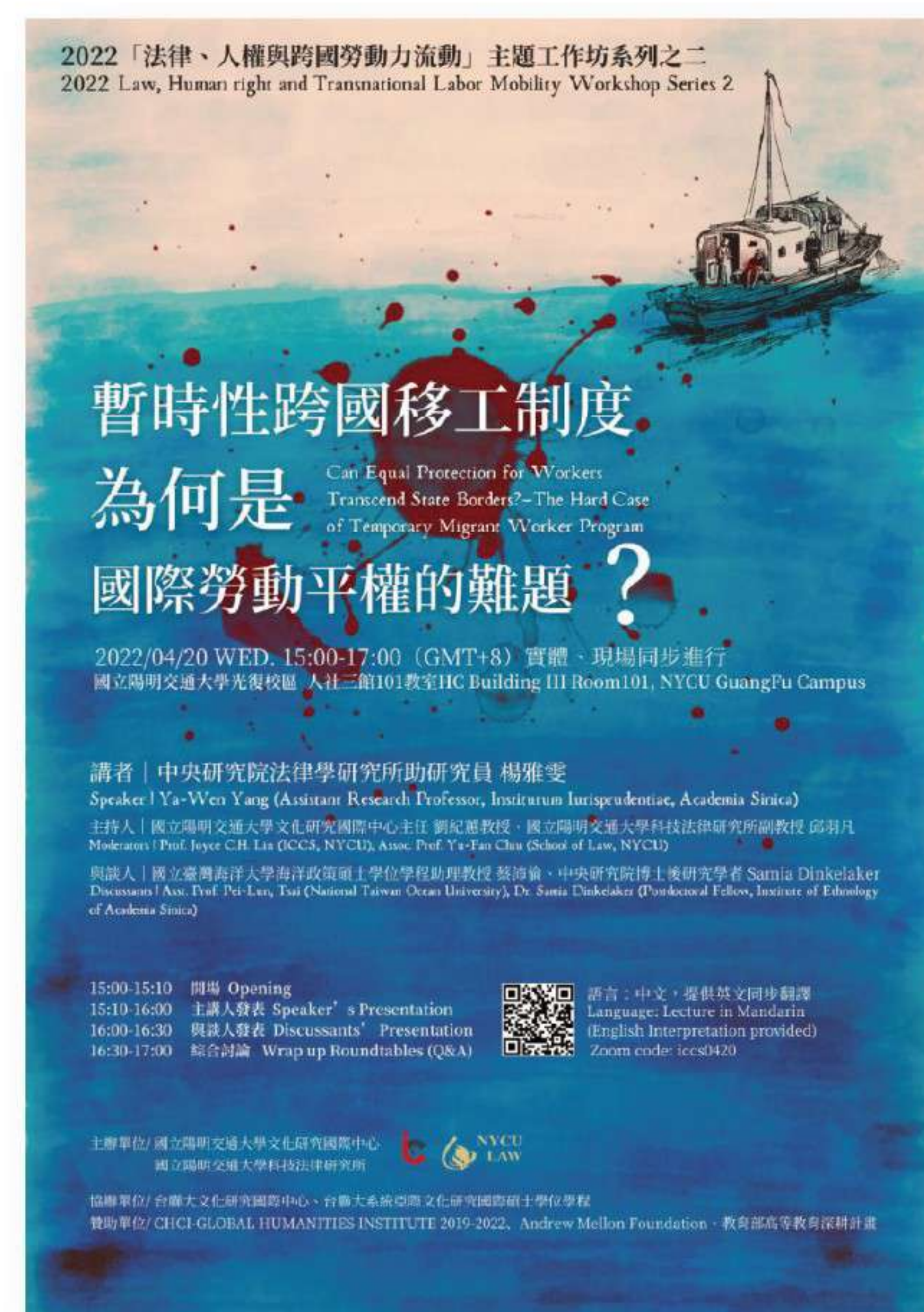
Dr. Ya-Wen Yang argued that Taiwan's temporary migrant worker regime—through border controls, job-change bans, and fixed-term contracts—creates structural inequality despite claims of legal equality, and called for full inclusion of migrant workers under general labor law after entry. Prof. Pei-Lun Tsai emphasized gaps caused by Taiwan's non-adoption of the Migrant Workers Convention and urged learning from transnational governance and inter-organizational cooperation. Dr. Samia Dinkelaker, drawing on Indonesia, showed how sending states also participate in exploitative systems and highlighted community support and migrant self-organization as strategies of resistance.



Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU and NYCU LAW.

Co-organizers: International Center for Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan
International Program in Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan (IICS-UST)



In the concluding discussion, attention focused on structural labor shortages, constraints on equal rights, and policy implementation. The speakers agreed on the need to strengthen policy coordination, grant migrant workers greater residence and bargaining rights, and pursue more human rights-compliant frameworks through transnational comparison.

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1098>

4 Practical Ethics of Responsibility and Protection

2023.08.10

Humanities and Social Sciences Building 2,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

The discussion on responsibility is full with philosophical, quasi-philosophical, sociological, and legal reflections while political reflection and analysis is relatively less. This is because political power is suffused with the idea of sovereignty, and very little with responsibility. While a theory of separation of powers and the constitutional principle of division of powers imply responsibility as an intrinsic element of power, yet power is measured not by responsibility but by the extent of constraints or fetters. Power inherently transgresses restraints and is therefore inherently violent. Even though power is honed with prudence to be exercised in a measured manner, yet power has the capacity to turn itself into a centre, a univocal sovereign signifier of capacity. A capillary existence of power does not guarantee the federalisation of political power or, to be precise, its existence in a responsible mode.

Our study of responsibility as an essential component of politics has suffered from a top-down approach. Posing from the margins the question of responsibility is a post-colonial reflection of the way power is organized. A post-colonial framing of responsibility will mean taking into account the background of decolonization, partitions, structural reforms, environmental disasters, and neoliberal development against which population flows continue, and bio-political responses from below to events of crises. It is important to study local dynamics of power and responsibility in protection of the victims of forced migration.





We need to study local and variegated experiences of refugee protection, because there is a greater burden of protection at the micro level – at the margin. We need to study the neglected histories of sovereignty as responsibility. The dual figure of migrant and refugee has emerged as a significant subject under conditions of globalization, aggressive wars, transgression of borders, and a political economy that allows differential inclusion of migrant labour. In this context, post-colonial experiences suggest plural responsibilities for protection and hospitality, and it means that we must accept legal pluralism and regional mechanisms as the foundational principle for rebuilding the architecture of protection. The salient feature of the situation at the margins is that there is no transfer of will here from the ruled to the ruler or the other way round. The feature is that of a flexible juridical structure, and a flexible sense of direction: therefore, responsibility does not have a monolithic structure asking the subject to be directed towards a point of direction. Autonomy and responsibility enmesh each other in unpredictable ways. Responsibility becomes essential to the government of the living. Mutual responsibility creates a community. It becomes the name of solidarity, the name of a collective. Solidarity, a sense of the common, and a stake in the common produce responsibility as a collective virtue.

Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU

Western Sydney University, Australia

International Center for Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan

IICS-UST

Co-organizers:

Calcutta Research Group, India

Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1387>

5 Migration, Racial Minorities and Gig Labor: Concept and Methods

2023.08.12

Humanities and Social Sciences Building 2,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

The rise of ‘platformed economy,’ a product of rapid advancement in digital technology in recent years has radically transforming business organisation and labour conditions globally, and in Asia. Extensive studies have articulated the diverse ‘precarities’ that arise from what is now commonly known as the ‘platformed/ gig labour’ (Woodcock and Graham, 2020; Friedman, 2014 quoted by Gandini, 2019: 1040). While the algorithmically organized business management enhances work and labour conditions that low entry requirement and flexibility in work arrangement. However, it also allows metrics as a method of control and surveillance, resulting in ‘everyday algorithmic labouring’ (Sun, 2019). The algorithm-centered surveillance also inadvertently poses ‘additional’ precarities to migrant and racial minority employees, who have been drawn into often lower-end gig work, especially as COVID-19 struck. Racial minority gig workers, thus, are left to struggle with the exploitative employment and assessment practices of platformed businesses on the one hand, and additional precarities which also associated with the embedded racisms in society.

In this seminar, I aim to share with you my most recent research that examines and articulates the ‘intersectionality’ between race, gender and labour in the context of Hong Kong. Focusing on the case of ethnic minority food deliverers in Hong Kong, I aim to map the Hong Kong case with situations across Asia. Conceptually, the research fills a serious gap in local scholarship by infusing ‘race’ as a critical lens in labour and media studies, in the hope of uncovering ‘racial labor subjectivity’ as an Inter-Asia project. The workshop then, serves the following objectives: i) to discuss some useful notions (such as ‘(in)visibility’), that could arise from such intersectional interrogation (where race, media and labour studies might converge); ii) to outline the range of methods and methodologies that could satisfy research of such interdisciplinary nature.



Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU

Western Sydney University, Australia

International Center for Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan

IICS-UST

Co-organizers:

Calcutta Research Group, India

Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Event Report

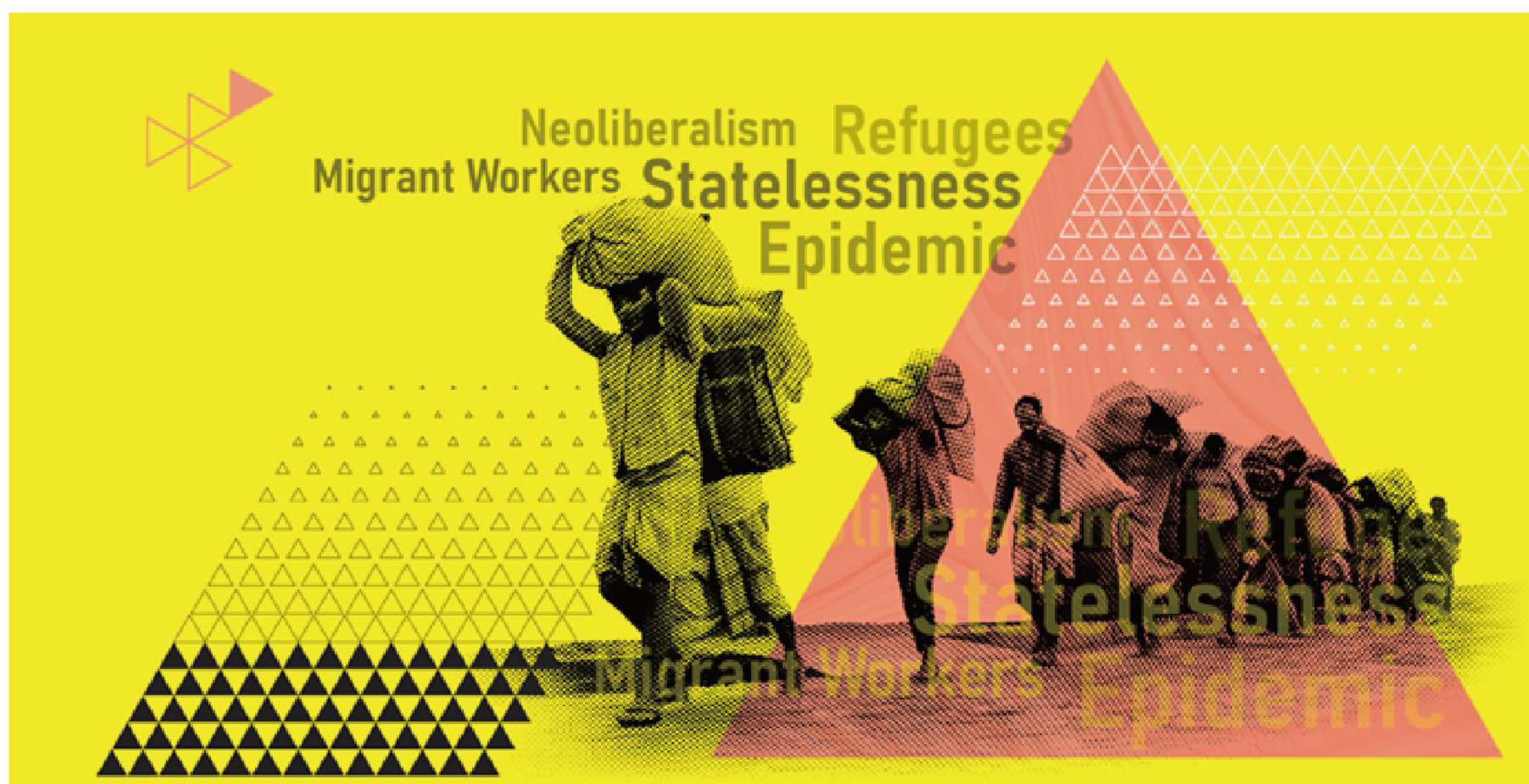


Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1389>

6 Law as the Site of Statelessness and Contestation: Europe, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia, on Land and at Sea

2023.08.14

Humanities and Social Sciences Building 2,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University



National laws across the globe, as well as regional and international legal instruments, have been framed, and judicial decisions proclaimed, supposedly to foreclose policies that may create a situation of statelessness. Nevertheless, the number of stateless people has been on the rise immediately after the Second World War and in recent neoliberal times. If Europe was the major site of statelessness in the immediate post-war era, which provoked Hannah Arendt to foreground the causes of the people without the right to have rights, of late, more people living historically in the plural societies of Asia and Africa, at a certain place for generations, have turned into sans papers in the context of nation-building exercises, enactment of new citizenship laws or modification of the existing ones, growing populist, and often xenophobic politics and increasing securitization of migrants and “outsiders.”

When the “inside” of a state is freshly distinguished from its “outside,” the human beings inhabiting a space within begin to be considered “aliens,” “outsiders,” and therefore the usual suspects for the “security” of the state. There has been a tendency in South Asia to endorse the ostensible binary between the legal and the illegal due to the anxiety of the negative value judgment the term “illegal” carries. The tendency overlooks how “illegalization” operates alongside “legalization” as if conversing with each other, as part of a more extensive process of making and unmaking particular relations of power through the operations of law. Legality, undeniably, is a constant source of cultural connotation and authority, making sense of the social fabric it “orders” and “disorders” in a particular way, often in spectacularly violent ways. Citizenship and statelessness are integral parts of the same continuum in this milieu. Against this backdrop, the primary purpose of this roundtable will be to lay bare how the dominant legal discourses often illegalize different groups of people in postcolonial Europe, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia on land at Sea.

This endeavor will be from the perspective of critical jurisprudence and legal pluralities, along with brief references to the postcolonial states, power, ethics, and the relevant laws. The law seems to suppose the generality of a rule, a norm, or a universal imperative. In this manner, we will argue that it is not due to certain categorical imperatives that human beings are “legalized” or “illegalized” (and thus the citizens and the stateless); they are rendered so within specific contexts of power and politics. We argue that national laws and international legal discourses, in many ways products of late modern coloniality, have caused the dispossession and precarity of the stateless persons, as neoliberal economic arrangements have been. In addition to the problematic aspect of illegality and statelessness on land, we also want to cover the issues of statelessness at Sea. Every corner of the land is claimed to be ruled by some government, but what about the ocean? Two-thirds of the earth is covered by water, and more than 56 million people worldwide work on fishing boats. However, maritime areas such as the high seas are unregulated and treated by international law as the global commons and can be described as an exceptional zone at Sea.

The high seas are beyond the territorial Sea claimed by any state and are considered free to use by all states. Only the vessel’s flag state has jurisdiction over the vessel sailing on the high seas. This practice presents a serious challenge for implementing human rights obligations on the high seas, where the vessel can become a brutal place or even a vast prison for individuals who work onboard. “Everything that happens at sea may be beyond our imagination,” claimed in the recent publication of *The Outlaw Ocean: Journeys Across the Last Untamed Frontier* by the journalist Ian Urbina. The complexities of jurisdictional issues at Sea intersect with the precarity of the refugees and migrant fishers, who may be legally excluded from the protection of their state of origin if they are stateless and face inequalities despite legal guarantees of equality and non-discrimination.

Furthermore, they can be irregular migrants recruited to work on the vessels without the requisite legal documentation and are vulnerable due to their undocumented status. These issues of documentation and citizenship make it increasingly difficult for individuals to claim their rights both within and outside their countries of origin, especially if they work for a prolonged period at Sea without any possibility of reporting their abuses other than at port visits.

Our roundtable extends beyond the laws and territorial jurisdiction of any country by focusing on the fundamental issues of democratic belonging and inclusion when the statelessness problem for the Asia-Pacific has increased due to political instability across the region, especially in Afghanistan and Myanmar. We will also consider the practice of decolonization in the age of the 21st century with an interdisciplinary dialogue between law, policy, society, and human rights activists.

Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU

Western Sydney University, Australia

International Center for Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan

IICS-UST

Co-organizers:

Calcutta Research Group, India

Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

7 Key Business and Human Rights Issues

2024.04.10

Beimen Campus, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

This roundtable, part of the course *Corporate Responsibility and International Human Rights in Supply Chains* co-taught by Prof. Yu-Fan Chiu and Dr. Bonny Ling, focused on the ten key business and human rights issues for 2024, with Guna Subramaniam and Neill Wilkins from the Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) in dialogue with the instructors.

The discussion highlighted how climate change and automation are reshaping labor conditions in agriculture and manufacturing, increasing health risks and job insecurity, while the pandemic has transformed office and online work. Neill Wilkins responded that hierarchies, gender, and power inequalities in office culture are often conflated with labor disputes, leaving companies ill-equipped to address exploitation. Prof. Yu-Fan Chiu emphasized the need for a legal right to disconnect in response to excessive working hours during remote work.

Speakers stressed the importance of a just transition in climate and net-zero policies, warned that fisheries debates often overlook women and child labor, and agreed that migrant worker recruitment fees should be borne by employers. Overall, the roundtable underscored the urgency of strengthening supply chain human rights due diligence and aligning labor rights with environmental sustainability.



Organizers:
ICCS-NYCU NYCU LAW Work Better Innovations

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1466>

8 Global Production Networks, the State, and Migrant Workers: Governing Labour in the Semiconductor Industry

2026.05.04

Online and Onsite:
A401, Assembly Building I, Guangfu Campus,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

The semiconductor industry is one of Taiwan's core industries. In view of the labor issues embedded in this sector, NYCU School of Law and the International Center for Cultural Studies (ICCS) have, for many years, engaged with issues concerning migrant workers and labor. This event, organized under Subproject 3, "Migration, Unequal Citizenship, and Critical Legal Studies," features a lecture by Assistant Professor Ting-Chien Chen of the Department of Geography at National Kaohsiung Normal University. The session will also include responses from Associate Professor Yu-Fan Chiu, the project's principal investigator, Professor Mei-Lin Pan, and Postdoctoral Researcher Chiung-Chih Chen, who will jointly focus on the governance of migrant labor in Taiwan's semiconductor industry. Specializing in economic and population geography, Assistant Professor Ting-Chien Chen will adopt a Global Production Network (GPN) perspective to examine how the state, corporations, and labor-market intermediaries jointly shape the migrant labor regime in Taiwan's semiconductor industry. She will also guide us in reflecting on broader issues of labor governance, risk shifting, and power asymmetries.



Organizers:
ICCS-NYCU and NYCU LAW

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1702>

9 Trade Policy and Labor Rights: Competition and Convergence

2026.06.02

Online and Onsite:
A402, Assembly Building I, Guangfu Campus,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

Amid the restructuring of global supply chains and intensifying geopolitical competition, trade policy is no longer limited to tariff reductions. It has increasingly become an important policy instrument for advancing labor rights protection and human rights standards. ICCS have long been concerned with this issue and have continued to explore related institutional developments. This event is organized by ICCS Subproject III, "Migration, Unequal Citizenship, and Critical Legal Studies," and features Associate Professor Ying-Jun Lin of the Fu Jen Catholic University School of Law as the keynote speaker. The event will be moderated by Associate Professor Yu-Fan Chiu, the principal investigator of the project, with Attorney Yen-Po Chen of InfoShare Tech Law Office and Bonny Ling, Executive Director of Work Better Innovations, serving as discussants. Together, they will explore the complex relationship between trade policy and labor rights protection. This lecture will approach the issue from the perspective of international trade law, analyzing the interaction between trade liberalization and labor rights protection, while also examining the development and institutional implications of labor provisions in contemporary trade agreements.



Organizers:
ICCS-NYCU and NYCU LAW

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1706>

TOPIC 2

MIGRANT FISHERS AND
HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA



1

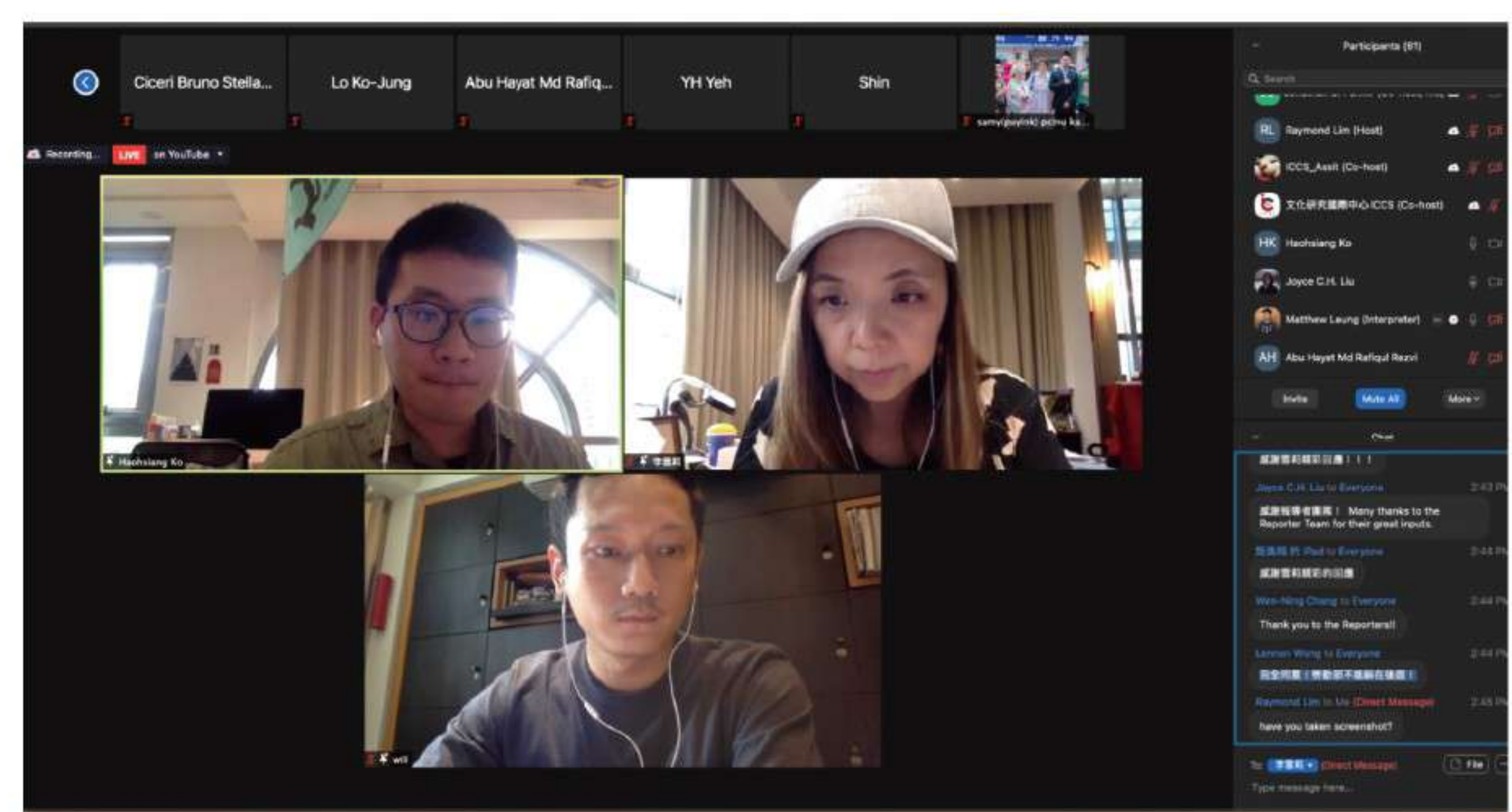
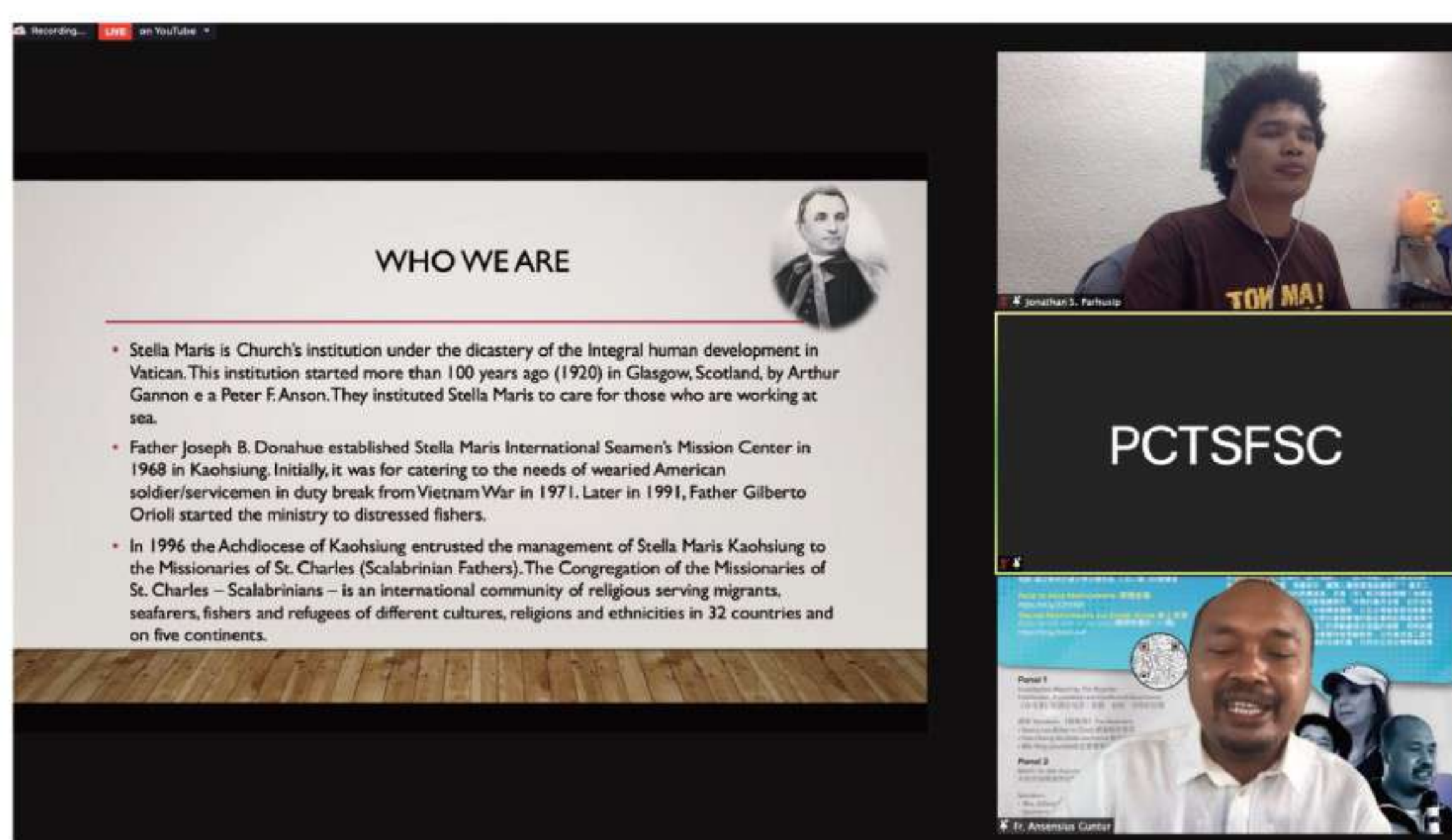
Exceptional Zone at Sea and Dysfunctionality of Law? Future Policies on Migrant Fishers and Marine Life

2021.05.26

Online

This forum addresses the human rights challenges and legal gaps faced by migrant fishers in Taiwan's distant-water fishing industry and explores directions for policy and legal reform. The first session featured *The Reporter* team. Lee Hsueh-li (Sherry Lee) reviewed five years of investigations exposing systemic labor exploitation and migrant fishers' exclusion from the Labor Standards Act. Hao-Hsiang Ko analyzed 520 penalty cases (2017–2020), showing illegal employment as the most common violation but with very low fines. Yang Chih-chiang (Will Yang) examined the illegal shark fin trade, highlighting regulatory asymmetry where ecological protection outweighs human rights.

The second session presented NGO perspectives. Chen Wu-chang (Joshua Chen) shared frontline experiences at Qianzhen Fishing Port, pointing to opaque contracts, lack of remedies, and broker monopolies. Father Guntur described the work of Stella Maris Kaohsiung, which sheltered 759 abused migrant fishers and revealed severe onboard conditions and weak maritime enforcement. The third session focused on legal analysis. Prof. Meng-Bin Lee discussed obstacles to incorporating ILO Convention No. 188 into domestic law, while Prof. Liang-Jung Lin argued that Taiwan must confront the "human rights vacuum" in distant-water fisheries and advance reform through corporate responsibility, international legal standards, and regulatory integration, so that human rights protection does not remain an empty exception at sea.



Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU and NYCU LAW

Co-organizers:

Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes - Global Humanities Institute (CHCI-GHI)

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=869>

2 Future Labor Policies on Migrant Fishers and Flag of Convenience

2021.11.19
Online

This forum focuses on flags of convenience in distant-water fisheries and the protection of migrant fishers' labor rights, bringing together speakers from law, policy, practice, and NGOs across two themes.



Theme 1 opened with Li Yu-tong of Greenpeace, who argued that flags of convenience weaken oversight and heighten human rights risks, calling for the abolition of the dual recruitment system and higher labor inspection standards. Prof. Chiu Yu-fan noted that Taiwan already has regulatory mechanisms, but the core problem lies in enforcement gaps, urging laws to be effectively implemented in offshore labor realities. Prof. Wen Yen-ching (Vivianne Wen) emphasized the importance of understanding the historical development of the flags-of-convenience system to avoid one-size-fits-all reforms, and proposed adopting France's duty-of-vigilance framework. Prof. Chang Wen-chen highlighted that Taiwan already has a solid legal foundation under the Two Covenants Implementation Act and should strengthen domestic enforcement. Union representative Li Li-hua criticized current policies as largely symbolic.

Theme 2 featured Prof. Lin Liang-jung, who analyzed key provisions of ILO Convention No. 188 on working hours, rest, and wages, calling for stronger institutional governance and modernization of the crew system. Human Rights Commissioner Chi Hui-jung presented investigation findings and reform recommendations, and supported empowering unions. Shih Yi-hsiang of the Taiwan Association for Human Rights criticized governance failures and called for reforms modeled on the Two Covenants Implementation Act. In the concluding discussion, Wang Ying-dah and Jonathan emphasized stronger contract management, worker-led social oversight, and international collaboration.

Organizers:
ICCS-NYCU and NYCU LAW

Co-organizers:
International Center for Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan
IICS-UST

Event Report



<https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=988>

3 Non-Flag State's Strategies for Human Rights Protection of Migrant Fishermen: Issues and Practice in Taiwan Law

2022.03.16

Online

This workshop, held on March 16, 2022, was co-hosted by ICCS-NYCU and the School of Law as the first event in the Law, Human Rights and Transnational Labor Mobility Workshop Series. It was co-chaired by Prof. Joyce C.H. Liu and Assoc. Prof. Yu-Fan Chiu, and featured a keynote lecture by Prof. Ming-Hao Yang (National Taiwan Ocean University).



Prof. Ming-Hao Yang, speaking on strategies to address migrant fishers' human rights issues in non-flag states, reviewed the EU's 2015 IUU "yellow card" warning to Taiwan and noted that although the warning was lifted in 2019, fundamental problems related to flags of convenience remain unresolved. He outlined the global development and Taiwan's practice of the flags-of-convenience system, highlighting structural challenges such as weak oversight, diluted labor protections, and fragmented legal responsibility. Given Taiwan's position as a non-flag state, Prof. Yang proposed three intervention pathways—at-sea inspections, port state control, and market-based traceability systems—to disrupt links between IUU fishing and human rights abuses. He also pointed out enforcement and inter-agency coordination gaps in existing laws, and recommended that the Ministry of Labor and the Fisheries Agency jointly lead the domestic incorporation of ILO Convention No. 188.

Organizers:
ICCS-NYCU and NYCU LAW

Co-organizers:
International Center for Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan
IICS-UST

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1114>

TOPIC 3

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS
AND FORCED LABOR

1 Corporate Accountability on Supply Chain Management and Forced Labor

2022.12.13

Humanities and Social Sciences Building 3,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

This workshop featured Dr. Bonny Ling as the keynote speaker and was co-chaired by Prof. Joyce C.H. Liu (ICCS-NYCU) and Assoc. Prof. Yu-Fan Chiu. Prof. Chih-Chieh Lin (NYCU LAW) and Yi-Hsiang Shih, Secretary General of the Taiwan Association for Human Rights, served as discussants. The workshop examined the growing problem of forced labor in Taiwan, with a particular focus on how companies can prevent human rights abuses and manage supply chains effectively.

Dr. Bonny Ling used the coffee supply chain to illustrate its complexity and embedded risks of labor exploitation, noting that these challenges are even greater in electronics supply chains, where migrant worker issues are a major concern. She emphasized the importance of supply chain mapping by brand companies and drew on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) to highlight the state duty to protect human rights, corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and the need for effective remedies for victims. She also introduced the *Guidebook on Forced Labour Indicators for Taiwan's SMEs*, published by Work Better Innovations, which uses visual tools to help Taiwanese SMEs identify and manage human rights risks in their supply chains, with the aim of supporting victims' access to justice and labor rights.



Organizers:
ICCS-NYCU and NYCU LAW

Event Report



<https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1235>

2 Regulating Tech: Business and Human Rights for Technology Value Chains

2023.05.03

Online

This 2023 semester, the course “Corporate Responsibility and International Human Rights in Supply Chains,” co-taught by Dr. Bonny Ling and Assoc. Prof. Yu-Fan Chiu, invited Dr. Lisa Hsin (University of Oxford Faculty of Law; Junior Research Fellow at Corpus Christi College; Affiliate Researcher at the National University of Singapore) to speak on business and human rights in global technology supply chains.

Dr. Hsin discussed how technology companies’ products and services can negatively affect human rights, referencing the 2011 UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and her research with the UN Human Rights Office’s B-Tech Project. She outlined legal tools regulating transnational supply chains, including international labor standards, domestic laws with extraterritorial reach, and digital services/data protection laws. She compared national human rights due diligence regimes—the UK Modern Slavery Act (transparency-focused), France’s Duty of Vigilance Law (human rights, environment, and safety impacts), and Germany’s Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (LkSG). She also introduced the B-Tech “UNGPs Compass,” a four-step framework guiding policymakers through problem definition, regulatory gap analysis, pathway selection, and ongoing stakeholder engagement.



Organizers:
 ICCS-NYCU NYCU LAW
 International Center for Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan
 ICCS-UST

Event Report



<https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1658>

3 Absent Labor Protections in Taiwan– U.S. FTA Negotiations: Cross-Border Dialogue on Human Rights in Global Supply Chains

2024.01.18

Online

This event explored forced labor in Taiwan and its implications for global supply chains, bringing together journalist Yung-Ta Chien, lawyer Szu-Yu Chen, and researcher Wen-Chi Chang to examine migrant workers' rights, corporate responsibility, and legal reform. Yung-Ta Chien highlighted how employer-tied residency, restricted job mobility, and private broker systems lead to debt bondage and weaken migrants' access to remedies, noting Taiwan's lack of binding human rights due diligence laws. Szu-Yu Chen focused on the legal institutionalization of supply chain management, arguing that applying business due diligence to human rights can help balance profit-making with rights protection. Wen-Chi Chang reviewed current corporate practices in Taiwan in light of the EU's 2022 corporate sustainability due diligence proposal, emphasizing value-chain-wide responsibility, integration of human rights into business operations, and enforceable codes of conduct.



Overall, the event underscored that transforming human rights due diligence into enforceable law—capable of protecting migrant workers and meeting international standards while holding corporations accountable—is a pressing task for Taiwan.



Organizers:
ICCS-NYCU NYCU LAW
Infinity Attorneys-At-Law
Taiwan Political Economy Collaborative

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1433>

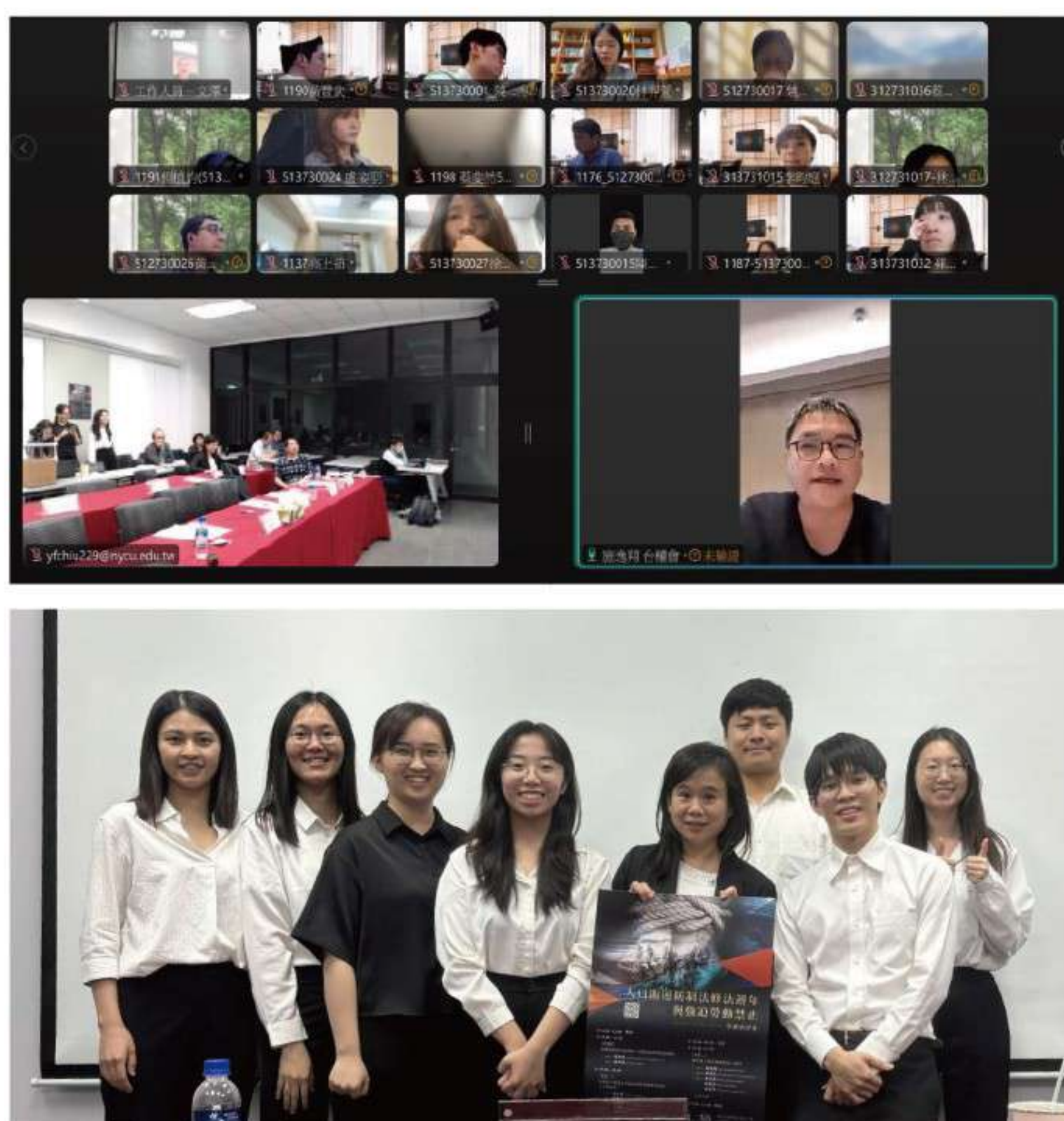
4 Anniversary of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act Amendment & the Prohibition of Forced Labor Academic Seminar

2025.04.30

Humanities and Social Sciences Building 3,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

Marking the first anniversary of the amendment to Taiwan's Human Trafficking Prevention Act in 2025, this academic seminar examined progress and remaining challenges in combating forced labor and protecting migrant workers' rights. Focusing on Taiwan's migrant labor system and the overseas recruitment of distant-water fishers, the seminar assessed compliance with international human rights standards.

Bringing together scholars of forced labor and international human rights law, practitioners, and NGOs—with over 100 participants onsite and online—the discussions addressed forced labor risks faced by migrant fishers and gaps in Taiwan's current framework. The seminar aimed to advance policy and legal reforms to effectively eradicate forced labor and ensure dignified, safe, and legally protected working conditions for all migrant workers, especially those in high-risk distant-water fisheries, strengthening Taiwan's commitment to human rights.



Organizers:
ICCS-NYCU and NYCU LAW

Co-organizers:
Taiwan Association for Human Rights
Taiwan Labor Front
Work Better Innovations

Event Report
Keynote Speech



Event Report
Session 1



Event Report
Session 2



Event Report Keynote Speech: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1596>
Event Report Session 1: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1598>
Event Report Session 2: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1599>

5 Policy Developments to Eliminate Forced Labor: A Legal Dialogue Among Taiwan, the United States and Thailand

2025.12.10

Management Building 2, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University
Online

To address rising human rights risks in global supply chains and stricter forced labor regulations world-wide, ICCS-NYCU and School of Law, together with National Taipei University College of Law, hosted the workshop “Policy Developments in Eliminating Forced Labor: A Taiwan–U.S.–Thailand Legal Dialogue” on December 10, 2025. Using the seafood industry as a core case, the workshop examined structural causes of forced labor and governance tools, and discussed how companies can build workable risk identification and due diligence mechanisms through cross-national dialogue.

Prof. Jennifer Gordon analyzed U.S. enforcement under Section 307 of the Tariff Act (19 U.S.C. §1307), the practical use of ILO forced labor indicators, and the growing norm of fair recruitment with zero fees, highlighting how price pressure, recruitment debt, and migrant status regimes compound workers’ vulnerability. Prof. Yu-Fan Chiu outlined Taiwan’s challenges, including exclusions from labor standards, document confiscation, debt bondage, and high criminal thresholds that downgrade cases to labor disputes, creating gaps with international standards. Prof. Panthip Pruksacholavit shared Thailand’s high-risk patterns in fisheries and seafood processing, stressing enforcement gaps and the limits of audits—reminding that having laws does not guarantee effectiveness.

Bringing together academia, practitioners, and civil society, the workshop aimed to foster trans-national learning and advance more predictable, enforceable supply-chain human rights governance for Taiwan.



Organizers:
ICCS-NYCU
NYCU LAW
National Taipei University School of Law

Event Report
Session 1



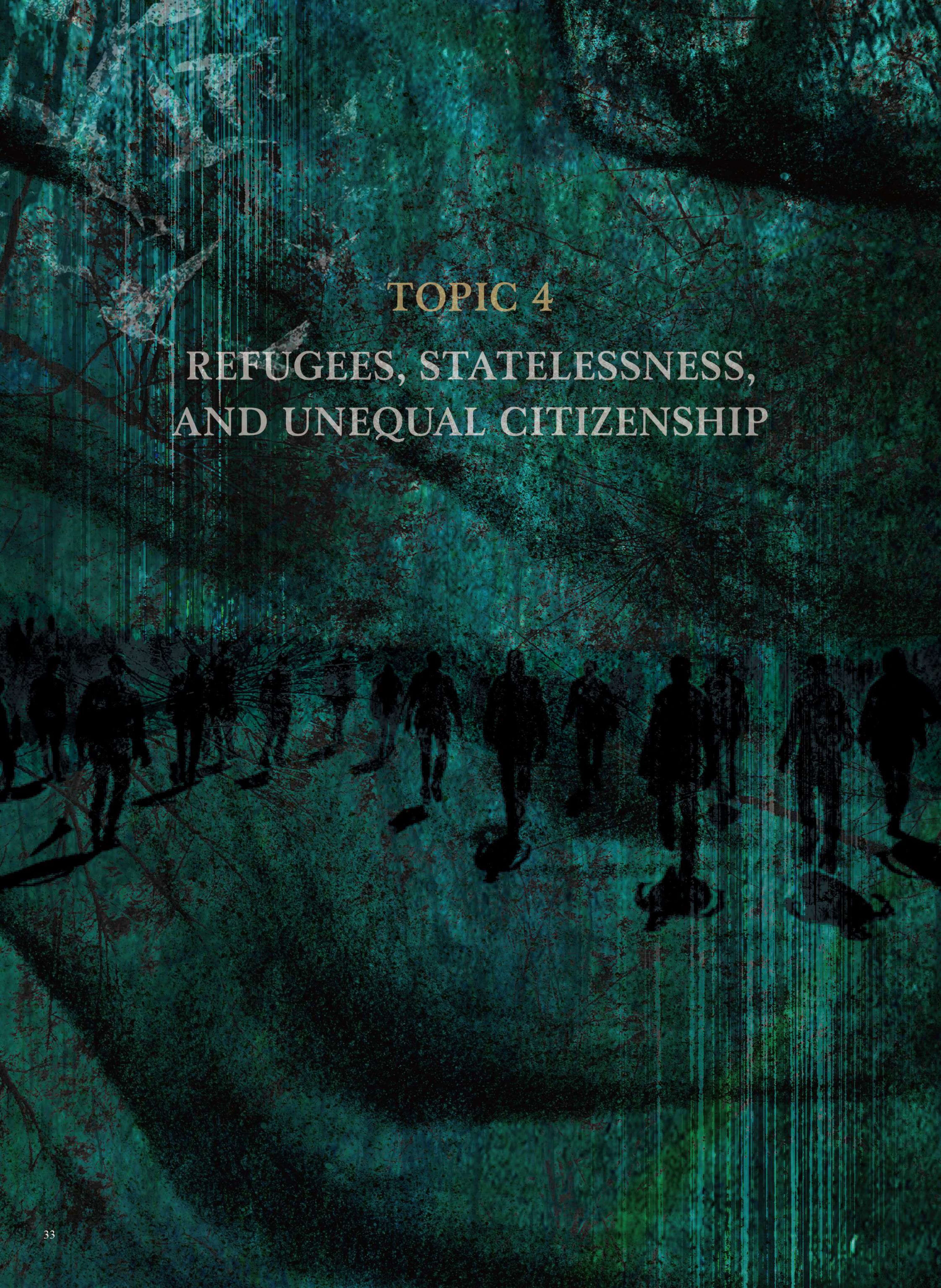
Event Report
Session 2



Event Report
Session 3



Event Report Session 1: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1663>
Event Report Session 2: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1666>
Event Report Session 3: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1664>



TOPIC 4

REFUGEES, STATELESSNESS, AND UNEQUAL CITIZENSHIP

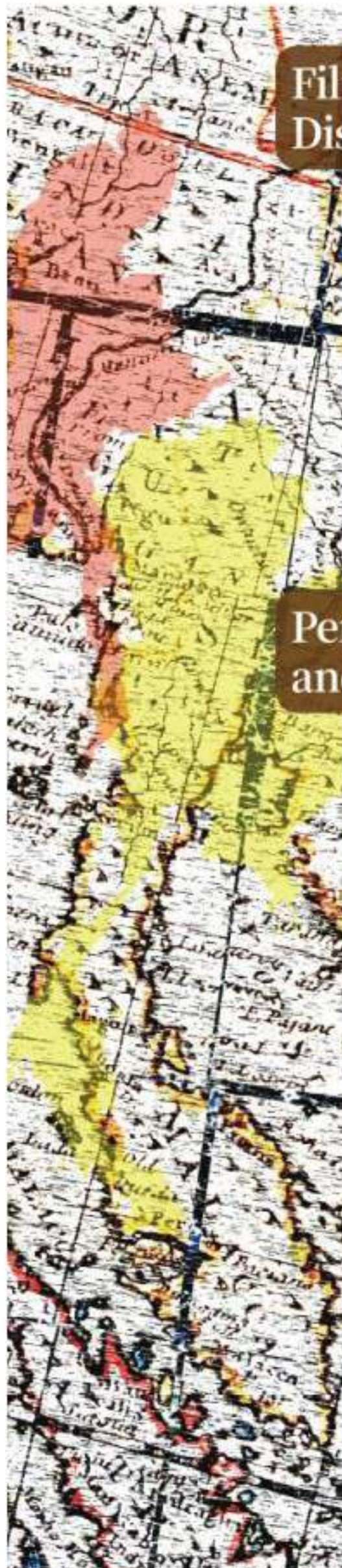
1 Perceptions of Thais towards Refugees and Migrants from Myanmar

2019.03.29

Humanities and Social Sciences Building 2,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

Thailand has been a destination for refugees, displaced persons, and migrant workers for over 30 years. Hundreds of thousands of refugees live in nine camps along the border, with about 10,000 in urban areas, and an estimated four million migrant workers reside in Thailand with legal or irregular status. Surveys in four Thai–Myanmar border provinces show strong public concern about security, with many respondents viewing refugees and migrants as threats to public safety and sources of disease.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Malee Sunpuwan (Assistant Professor, Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University), who has over a decade of experience in migration and health research. Drawing on surveys conducted near refugee camps along the Thai–Myanmar border, she found that while many respondents believe refugees and migrants take local jobs, farmers living closer to camps tend to hold more positive views than urban residents farther away. These findings help address misconceptions and offer perspectives for improving refugee and migrant integration in Thai society.



Film Screening and After-screening Discussion : “Poor Folk”

3/27 Wed.
16:00 - 18:30
Room 106A, HA2 Bldg, NCTU

Commentators :
Malee Sunpuwan
Assistant Professor,
Institute for Population and Social Research,
Mahidol University, Thailand
Chao, Chung-chi
Assistant Professor,
Department of SouthEast Asia Studies
National Chi Nan University, Taiwan

Perceptions of Thais towards Refugees and Migrants from Myanmar

3/29 Fri.
14:00 - 17:00
Room 106A, HA2 Bldg, NCTU

Speaker :
Malee Sunpuwan
Assistant Professor,
Institute for Population and Social Research,
Mahidol University, Thailand

Thailand has been a destination for refugees, displaced persons, and migrant workers for three decades. There are hundred thousands of refugees living in 9 camps located along the border and about 10,000 living in urban settings. It is also estimated that about 4 million migrants are legally and illegally staying in Thailand. Survey of Thai public opinion towards refugees and migrant workers from Myanmar conducted in four provinces on the Thailand-Myanmar border showed that the public was highly concerned with security issues and that the majority of the Thais surveyed believe that refugees and migrant workers posed a threat to public safety and might carry diseases. Respondents also saw refugees and migrants as competing for jobs and national resources with native Thais. Those who lived closer to the refugee camps, who are rural residents, generally had more positive views of migrants and refugees than those in urban areas located farther from the camps. These results will be discussed in terms of what perspectives that would help to dispel misperceptions and improve the integration of refugees and migrants into Thai society.

主辦單位：國立交通大學/台灣大學文化研究國際中心
交通大學社會文化研究所、亞洲文化研究所暨碩士學位學程（台灣聯合大學系統）
經費來源：高等教育深耕計畫—特色領域研究中心計畫、「國美、正義、解嚴：亞洲社會批判研究」



Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU

Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

IACS-UST

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=442>

2 Refugee and Migrant Worker: Parallel Society in Malaysia

2019.06.06

Humanities and Social Sciences Building 3,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

This event features speaker Josh Hong, who holds a Bachelor's degree in Cultural Studies from London Metropolitan University and a Master's degree in International Politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Malaysia, Thailand, China, and Indonesia for over 13 years. Currently based in Kuala Lumpur, he serves as the National Project Coordinator at the International Labour Organization (ILO) Office in Malaysia.

Since the mid-1970s, Malaysia has been one of Southeast Asia's main destinations for refugees, hosting people from the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, and beyond. However, because Malaysia has not signed the 1951 Refugee Convention, it is not obligated to provide refugees with access to education, healthcare, or employment; these responsibilities have largely fallen to the UNHCR. Today, around 160,000 refugees and asylum seekers are registered with UNHCR, not including the long-settled but hard-to-count Filipino population in Sabah.

Malaysia is also a major destination for migrant workers. By the end of 2018, there were about 1.8 million documented migrant workers—mainly from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Myanmar—alongside an estimated 3 million undocumented workers. In a country of just 32 million people, nearly 5 million foreign nationals reside there, most without legal status, making migration a constant focus of public debate and political rhetoric.

Both refugees and migrant workers largely exist invisibly alongside mainstream Malaysian society, forming what is often described as a “parallel society.” Despite their significant economic contributions, fears of weak human rights protections and distrust of state institutions have led these communities to develop their own survival strategies in education, employment, and commerce. This exchange uses Malaysia's unique historical, religious, ethnic, and cultural context to examine these dynamics and to challenge the myth of Malaysia as a nation united harmoniously by its “three major ethnic groups.”

Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU

Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

IACS-UST

2019
JUNE 6th
2PM-4PM
國立交通大學
人社三館101

難民
與移工

馬來西亞的平行社會

SPEAKER

唐南發/JOSH HONG

唐南發(Josh Hong)獲得倫敦都會大學(London Metropolitan University)文化研究學士學位和倫敦大學亞非學院(School of Oriental and African Studies)國際政治碩士學位。他曾在馬來西亞、泰國、中國和印尼與聯合國難民署工作超過13年。目前他是馬來西亞國際勞工組織(International Labour Organization)駐馬來西亞辦事處的國家項目協調員。定議西隆。

自1970年代中開始，馬來西亞就成為東南亞難民營的主要國家之一。四十幾年來，接收難民自菲律賓、越南、柬埔寨、印尼、緬甸、泰國以及世界其他地區的難民，但馬來西亞並未簽署1951年聯合國難民公約，因此無義務為難民人士提供教育、健康和就業機會。於是難民責任主要落在馬來西亞的聯合國難民署(United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR)下。儘管今日，有超過16萬的自願難民和尋求庇護者向UNHCR登記，這個數字尚未包括非自願難民而長期居住在沙巴，難以估計的菲律賓人口。

除此之外，馬來西亞還擁有大量龐大的移工群體。馬來西亞主要的移工接收國之一，有移工人力資源部數據，截至2018年底為止，馬來西亞共錄到(documented)的移工達180萬，主要來自印尼、孟加拉、尼泊爾、印度和緬甸，而在這個數字之上，據估計可能還有300萬的未註冊(unregistered)移工。

舉世估計，有超過2億人口總量200萬，有約有將近500萬的移工人士。絕大多數難民和移工，居住其中，難民和移工通常成為經濟和公眾的焦點，也是政治人物辯論的題材。

無論難民或移工，其實幾乎都以一種無形的方式存在，和主流馬來西亞社會進行，形成了所謂“平行社會”的現象。儘管難民和移工對馬來西亞經濟作出巨大貢獻，基於對國家難民缺乏人權保障的恐懼，加上對主流社會的不信任，他們於教育、就業和福利與難民生活出一套生存的網絡。

本文交與並在馬來西亞特殊的歷史、宗教、族群和文化脈絡，分享他們與一般民衆的接觸，時而有難而正面的互動，并解釋馬來西亞作為一個“三大族群同心同德”國家的現狀與隱憂。

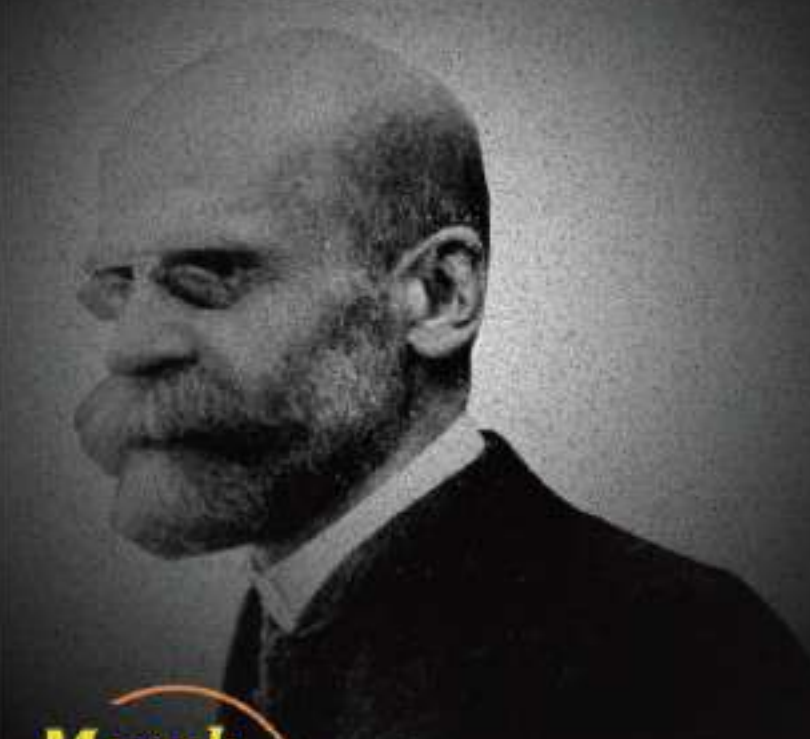
主辦單位：國立交通大學/僑學大文化研究國際中心、國立交通大學社文所、亞際文化研究國際碩士學位學程

3 Understanding Durkheim in Multicultural Migration and the Crisis of Labor

2020.03.31

College of Hakka Studies,
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

This lecture was delivered by Prof. Sudarat Musikawong (Mahidol University) and drew on Émile Durkheim's theory of mechanical and organic solidarity to examine how migrant workers in modern societies are included in—or excluded from—processes of social integration. Using this framework, the talk analyzed the legal status and cultural positioning of “outsiders” and those with non-citizen status in migration societies, applying classical sociological theory to contemporary migrant labor studies with a focus on the social foundations of institutional exclusion and the denial of citizenship rights.



Sudarat Musikawong
Lecture Series

March 31st, 13:30-15:30
Understanding Durkheim in Migration Theory
國立交通大學 客家文化學院HK207室
Room HK207,
NCTU college of Hakka Studies
主持人: 蔡曼麗教授/交通大學人文社會學系

This talk is an introductory level lecture for undergraduates about Émile Durkheim's ideas of mechanical and organic solidarity in relation to society formation, inclusion and exclusion, and social cohesion through exclusive mechanisms based on citizenship. This lecture relates to thinking on classical social theories less used, like that of Durkheim, to think through contemporary issues of migrant workers, the foreigner status, and citizenship.

* Both are English Lectures (原講者為英文演講)

Speaker
Dr. Sudarat Musikawong
泰國清邁大學社會學系教授

Sudarat Musikawong is associate professor of sociology at the Institute for Population and Social Research at Mahidol University in Thailand. Her long-term research goals are to develop methodologies and theoretical frameworks that provide connections between these often divergent research agendas between the social sciences and humanities. Her publications include "On Thai Transnationalism: Political and Economic Subjectivity," with Chansanit Martorell, "The Importance of Ethnic Competency: Labor Trafficking, Thai Migrations, and the Thai Community Development Center," etc.

April 1st, 14:00-17:00
The Role of Ethnography in Studying Taiwan's Migrant Workers and the Broker System
國立交通大學二館106A教室
106A HA Building 2, NCTU
主持人: 林淑芬教授/交通大學社會與文化研究所

The lecture is an informal discussion focused on methodology, primarily about the role of ethnography in the project "Broker & Employer Practices and Working Conditions Foreign Migrant Workers in Taiwan". Taiwan's formal international labor migration began in March 1989 when the government pursued fourteen large infrastructure projects like Highway 3, the MRT, which utilize the broker system to hire a majority of Thai workers, with Filipinos and Indonesians. That year, Taiwan signed the Taiwan Residency Relations Act (1989), designating favorable import quotas for the Philippines. By 1992, the process of hiring foreign migrant workers in construction, industry, domestic work, and fisheries sectors became more formalized. While some receiving countries like Thailand and South Korea have moved toward Government to Government direct hiring systems through MOA processes and government run migrant worker services, Taiwan continues to utilize the private broker industry. These developments in Taiwan are rather public and can be followed in the news, but how do we study brokering as social practices? The talk will consider methodological challenges of accessing interviews with broker companies, developing trust with manpower agencies, employers, and migrant worker populations, as well as the demands of NGO/Union solidarity practices in research.



Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU IACS-UST

Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University
TAIWAN FELLOWSHIP (MOE)

Event Report



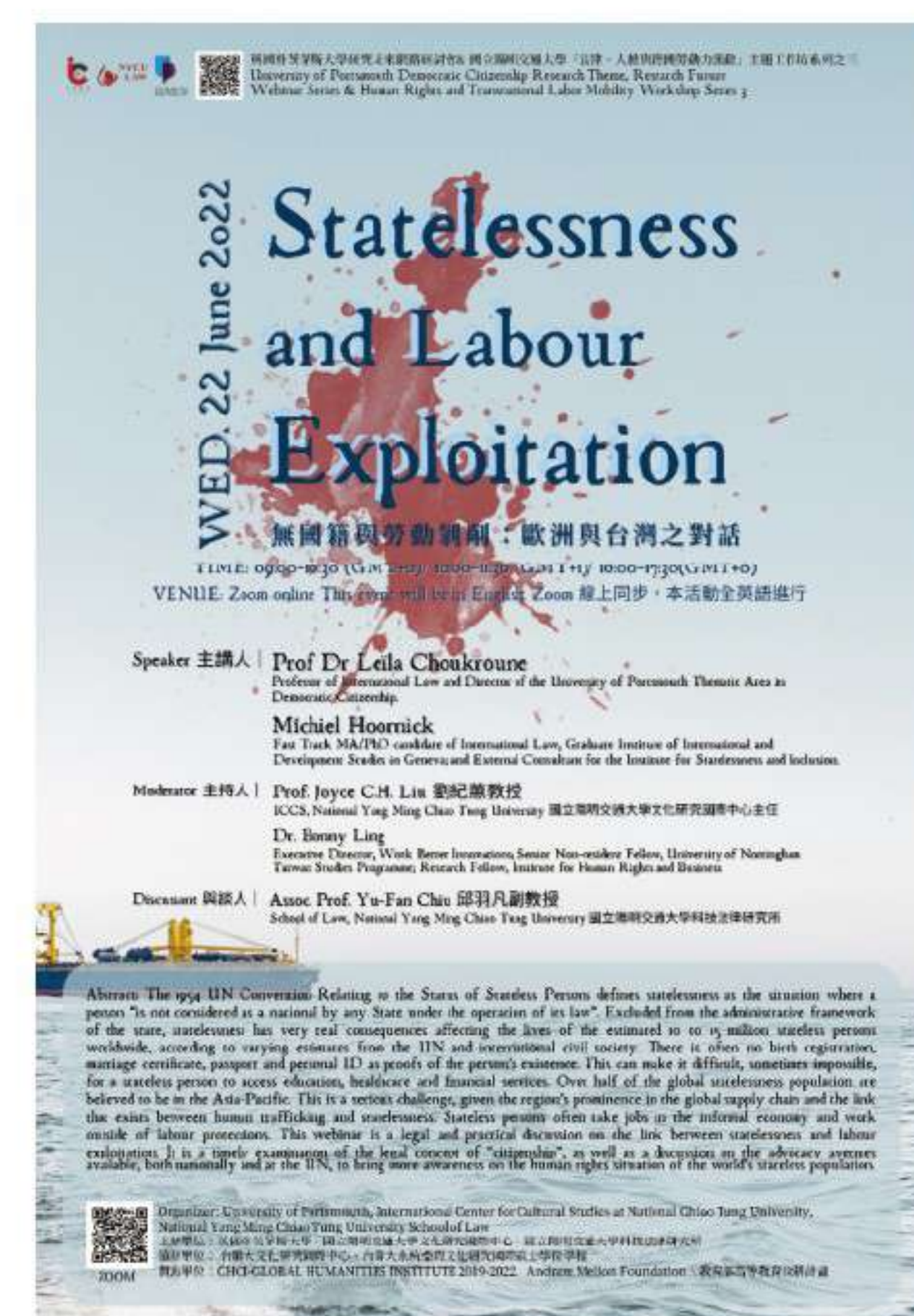
Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=622>

4 Statelessness and Labour Exploitation

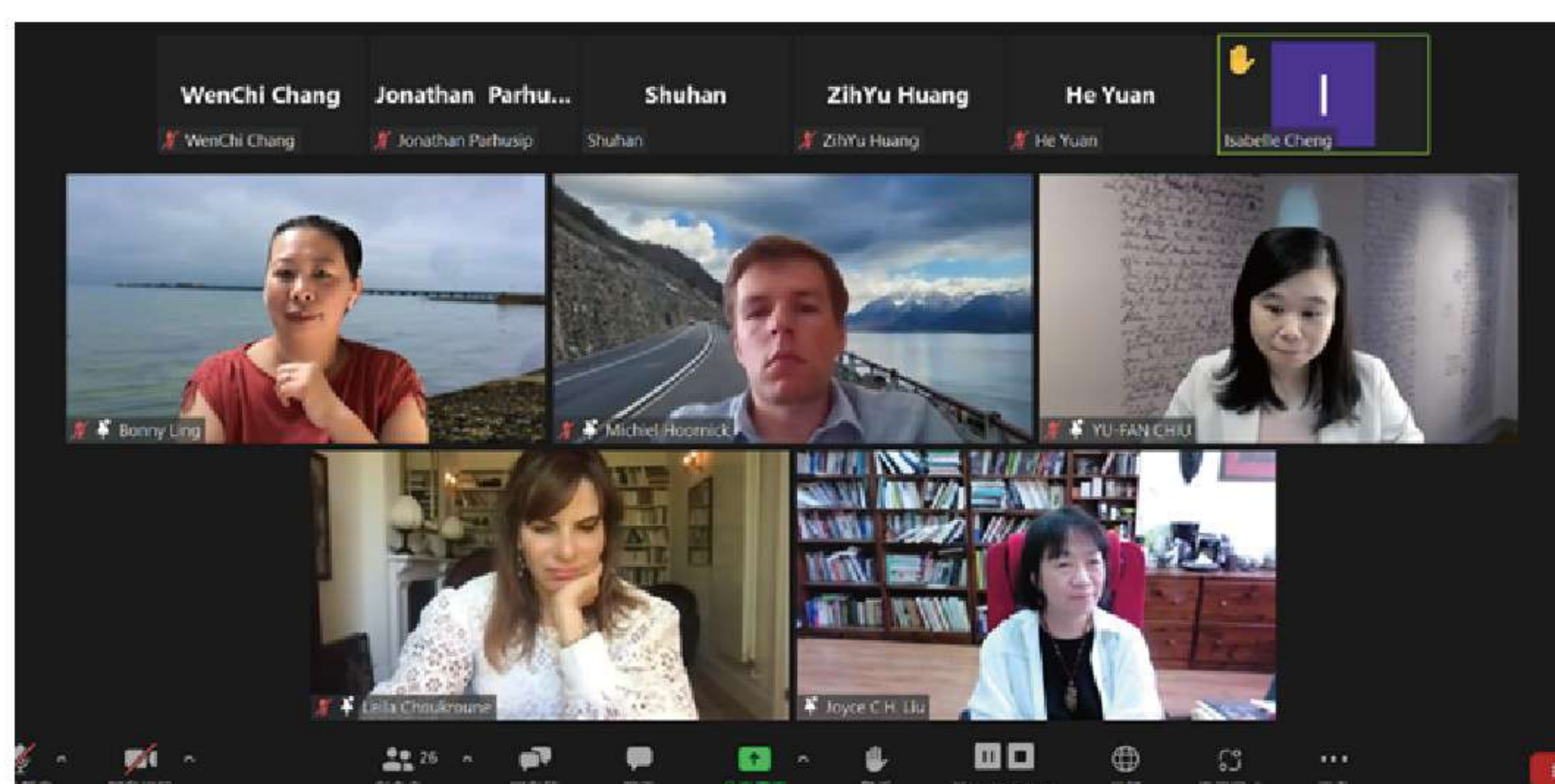
2022.06.22

Online

The 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons defines a stateless person as “someone who is not considered a national by any state under the operation of its law.” Stateless persons are excluded from state administrative systems, a condition affecting an estimated 10–15 million people worldwide (based on UN and international civil society estimates). Lacking documents such as birth registration, marriage certificates, passports, or ID cards, they often face severe barriers to education, healthcare, and financial services. More than half of the world’s stateless population is believed to live in the Asia-Pacific region, posing a major challenge for a region central to global supply chains, particularly given the strong link between statelessness and human trafficking. Stateless persons are typically confined to informal employment and remain outside the protection of labor law.



This online seminar was co-chaired by Prof. Joyce C.H. Liu (ICCS-NYCU) and Bonny Ling, CEO of Work Better Innovations. The keynote speakers were Prof. Leila Choukroune (University of Portsmouth) and Michiel Hoornick (PhD candidate in International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, and external advisor to the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion). Prof. Yu-Fan Chiu served as discussant. The seminar examined the links between statelessness and labor exploitation from both legal and practical perspectives, critically revisited the legal concept of nationality, and discussed advocacy strategies at both domestic and United Nations levels to strengthen human rights protections for stateless populations.



Organizers:
ICCS-NYCU
NYCU LAW
University of Portsmouth

Event Recording



Event Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaALL07-OPU>

5

The Conundrum of Trafficking and Statelessness in India

2023.08.12

National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

Statelessness is a problem that has been plaguing states, human rights activists, the UNHCR and other international organizations, and the vulnerable and displaced population groups of the world. Statelessness does not respect borders; it robs the stateless of their rights and dignity, rights over their bodies, and dignity of life. It deprives them of the ability to protest rampant exploitations. It also robs the states and their representatives from acting humanely. Stateless men, women, and children become insecure because they can be displaced at any time that the state or the majority community so desires. Citizenship is central to the statist imagination of human existence. Therefore, stateless people are not the opposite of citizens. Rather they do not exist within the statist imaginary of population groups. But ironically, statelessness can often be produced through hyper statism. Often a narrow and rigid definition of who is a citizen can lead to large groups being left out. In this paper, we discuss the age-old conjunctions between trafficking, at least in the context of South Asia. With examples taken largely from India, I argue how any crisis, such as the present pandemic, leads to increased vulnerability resulting in increased trafficking and statelessness.



Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU

Western Sydney University, Australia

International Center for Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan

IICS-UST

Co-organizers:

Calcutta Research Group, India

Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1388>

TOPIC 5
COVID-19
AND
MIGRANT WORKERS

1 Interventions from the South: Theoretical Perspectives and Pragmatic Issues of Migration, Logistics and Unequal Citizens in the Context of the Covid-19

2021.01.13-14

Online

Facing harsh realities and growing inequality, migration has become a key concern for social scientists. Although Asia hosts a large share of the world's migrants, protections and policies remain weak, limiting migrants' rights and living standards. This webinar examines critical migration issues through four themes, explored across six panel discussions: (1) the precarity of migrant workers and the legal/illegal divide; (2) multidirectional care inequalities and unequal rights; (3) lawlessness at sea affecting migrant fishers; and (4) transnational care during the pandemic.

Panel 1 examines migrant workers' precarity and gaps in legal protection across sending countries, receiving countries, and transnational spaces such as international airports. Panel 2 analyzes unequal care (e.g., healthcare) and unequal rights (e.g., labor rights). Panel 3 further explores migrants' (il)legal status. Panel 4 exposes crimes against unprotected migrant fishers. Panels 5 and 6 focus on migrant workers' hardships and coping strategies during COVID-19, with Panel 6 emphasizing the need for stronger and more effective communication between sending and receiving countries to improve migrants' conditions.



Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU

Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), US

Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University, Australia

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University Malaya, Malaysia

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University

Mahidol Migration Center; Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Ton Duc Thang University, Vietnam

Event Website



Event Website: <https://ghi2021.web.nycu.edu.tw/2021/01/06/agenda-for-chci-ghi-2020-2021-webinar-interventions-from-the-south/>

2 Nervous Nation: Covid Anxieties and Mainland Migrant Struggles in Taiwan

2023.08.13

National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

The outbreak of Covid 19 has created a global panic about border control, which is now articulated with a series of public health measures, including quarantine, contact tracing, electronic fences, and intensive testing. These bordering practices produced in Taiwan a nervous nation, which more often than not focuses on the subjects entering the border as potential danger whose complaints about public health measures are being silenced. The silencing of these complaints derives from two major causes: a real concern about the spread of virus that will cause inconveniences in everyday life on the one hand, and a genuine attempt to support the Taiwanese government in protecting citizens from infection on the other. These responses, what we call “covid anxieties,” indicate that Taiwan, under the threat of a global pandemic, is becoming a nervous nation, one that is super sensitive to “outsiders” and “complaints.”

In this paper, we will focus first on an FB online community of overseas Taiwanese. This online community was created to provide information about going in and out of Taiwan in Covid times, including sharing experiences of quarantine, testing, vaccination, as well as government measures on Covid treatment. But overtime it has become a site of fraught discussion where sharing information about Covid situation can at times turn into heated debates. The second part will look at the mainland migrants in Taiwan who during the pandemic have been subjected to unjust treatments and have since started a series of protests. We are interested in understanding how these heated debates and protests, triggered by Covid anxieties, engage in the discussion of bordering practices and the imagination of Taiwan as a precarious, porous, and nervous nation.

Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU

Western Sydney University, Australia

International Center for Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan

IICS-UST

Co-organizers:

Calcutta Research Group, India

Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

TOPIC 6
MIGRANT WORKER ART
AND
CULTURAL ACTIVISM



1. Migrant Workers Film Festival in 2019

Curated by ICCS-NYCU postdoctoral researcher Chiung-Chih Chen, this film festival screened five films—*The Helper*, *Squid Jigging Fishing Boat*, *Tea Land*, *Long Time No Sea*, and *Yet, We Are Migrant Workers*—across five regional programs (Greater Taipei, Taoyuan–Hsinchu–Miaoli, Central, Southern, and Eastern Taiwan), with a total of 25 screenings.



First Film *The Helper* 2019.03.23-05.05



This documentary portrays the lives of Hong Kong domestic workers, capturing their hardships and longing for family while highlighting differences between Hong Kong and Taiwan in policies on migrant workers, including weekly rest days and the use of public space. It also introduces another axis of migrant life: beyond sacrifice for their families as overseas workers, what possibilities exist for self-realization? By offering a distanced perspective—“Hong Kong today, Taiwan tomorrow”—the film enables reflection on Taiwan’s migrant domestic workers without reducing their realities to exposed tensions alone.

Second Film *Squid Jigging Fishing Boat* 2019.03.22-05.26



Although migrant fishers, like other blue-collar migrant workers, are openly recruited, their offshore workplaces make them far less visible in everyday life. This film follows a distant-water fishing vessel to the waters off Argentina, closely documenting migrant fishers’ lives and working conditions at sea. Such intimate access provides an essential point of reference for understanding labor issues in distant-water fisheries. Viewers can further deepen their understanding through *The Reporter’s* investigative series *Fake, Exploitation, and Distressful Fishery* and Greenpeace’s film *Blood, Tears, and Fishers: The Sorrows of Taiwan’s Distant-Water Fisheries*.

Third Film **Tea Land** 2019.03.21-05.15

This fiction film, set around runaway migrant workers taking temporary jobs in high-mountain tea plantations, uses a fast-paced narrative and interwoven character perspectives to sharply portray Taiwan's migrant labor policies and the issue of undocumented workers. Its intensity prompts Taiwanese audiences to rethink the labels of "missing" or "runaway" migrant workers. As an entry point, *Tea Land* can be followed by the documentary *Sea You, Lovable Strangers* by directors Tsai Tsung-lung and Nguyen Kim-hong, which offers deeper insight into the real conditions faced by these undocumented workers.



Fourth Film **Still, We are Migrant Workers** 2019.03.15-05.24

In 2004, South Korea introduced the Employment Permit System (EPS), establishing a state-to-state labor recruitment model and launching large-scale crackdowns on undocumented migrant workers, which sparked waves of protest. This film documents the arrest and deportation of several labor movement leaders who led these protests and follows their later trajectories. While Korea's EPS still faces many problems, its state-led recruitment model has reduced abuses associated with private brokers. Comparing the Korean and Taiwanese systems offers a useful lens for rethinking Taiwan's future migrant labor policies. For historical context on migrant labor in Korea and the struggles surrounding the 2003 passage of EPS, viewers can also watch the same director's film *Which Is Illegal?*



Fifth Film **Long Time No Sea** 2019.02.22-05.25

For this film festival, we hoped to include a film that could resonate with Taiwanese audiences' own experiences of labor migration. *Long Time No Sea* tells the story of a young boy living with his grandmother on Lanyu, waiting for his father who works in Kaohsiung. Through letters describing the size of his feet, his hope for new sneakers, and everyday life infused with Austronesian elements, the film closely parallels the experiences of Southeast Asian blue-collar migrant workers in Taiwan.



Told from a child's perspective, the film is especially suitable for upper elementary and secondary school audiences, allowing its impact to travel from children back into their families. The film's visibility was further enhanced by the young lead actor's award at the Golden Horse Film Awards, strengthening audience interest and motivation to watch.

Organizers: ICCS-NYCU

Event Report



<https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/subproject.php?USN=5014>

2 “Nine Shots Teaser” -Mirror or Hammer? —An Exploratory Journey Towards Film Making and Social Practice

2020.10.29

NYCU Cinema for the Arts

The “Inter-Asia Society Mini Film Festival Series,” organized by ICCS-NYCU, uses diverse film forms to explore conflicts and social issues across Inter-Asian societies through visual narratives and cinematic language. This program screened four films—*Behind the Miracle*, *Kong Qi Nan Hai*, *900 Meters of Distance*, and *Nine Shots* (teaser)—addressing contemporary Taiwanese issues such as environmental protection and labor.

On migrant labor, the festival screened the teaser version of Tsai Tsung-lung’s documentary *Nine Shots*. The film centers on the 2019 killing of Vietnamese migrant worker Nguyen Quoc Phi, who was fatally shot nine times by police while attempting to flee. Tracing events from his escape to the court’s ruling of manslaughter against the police officer, the film exposes multiple structural problems in Taiwan. Beyond interviews with those close to Nguyen, the documentary employs a “spirit” voiceover—performed by a young Vietnamese man reading Nguyen’s Facebook posts—to render his presence more vivid and prompt deeper reflection on systemic injustice.

FALL 2020
Inter-Asia Societies Mini Film Festival

2020.10.29 (Thu) 13:30--17:30
亞際社會迷你影展

**放映會
與導演分享**
Film Screening
and Director Sharing

**Human Rights
人權**
《奇蹟背後》
(Behind the Miracle)

**Environmental Issues
環境**
《空氣男孩》
(Kong Qi Nan Hai)
《九百公尺的距離》
(900 Meters of Distance)

**Migrant Workers
移工**
《槍響之前》前導片
(Nine Shots's Teaser)

**鏡子或錘子？
影像創作與社會實踐的探索之旅**
Mirror or Hammer? An Exploratory Journey
Towards Film Making and Social Practice

導演 Director 蔡崇隆 Tsung-lung Tsai
主持人 Moderator 劉紀憲 Joyce C.H. Liu

*放映影片含中英字幕
All film with Chinese and English Subtitles
*中文演講(英語同步口譯)
Lecture in Chinese
(English Simultaneous Interpretation provided)



Organizers: ICCS-NYCU

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=745>

3 Lives from Perantauan

2022.12.17

Justkids

Perantauan is an Indonesian term meaning “workers who leave home for distant places.” Related words include *merantau*, referring to a transient, mobile life of migration, and *perantau*, a traveler who lives abroad while remaining emotionally tied to home.

On December 17, 2022, *Lives from Perantauan: Stories of Indonesian Migrant Workers* in Taiwan was held at Justkids Chizi in Hsinchu. The event featured Ang Wang (Indonesian fisher in Donggang), Wu Ting-kuan (arts worker), Lan Yu-Chen (arts worker), and Wanci Jiang, author of *Why Migrant Workers Love Live Streaming*. Through multiple perspectives, they shared stories of Indonesian migrant workers’ lives in Taiwan—everyday struggles, brotherhood, faith, and homesickness. Ang Wang, an Indonesian musician, performed a new single, while Wu Ting-kuan, Lan Yu-Chen, and Wanci Jiang presented recent works, including the exhibition *Silaturahmi*, co-created with the Indonesian fisher community in Donggang for TAIWANfest Vancouver 2022, and the newly published book *Why Are Migrant Workers All Live Streaming?* (ECUS Publishing House).



Organizers:

ICCS-NYCU

International Center for Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan

ICCS-UST

Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

NSTC Project “Logistical Topologies of Global Labor Extraction: Civic Politics and Internal Colonialism”

Event Report



<https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/news.php?USN=1242>

4

Book Launch: NYANYIAN DI PERANTAUAN

2025.11.22

Small Books Bookstore

Following the publication of *Songs from Afar: Collecting and Writing Indonesian Migrant Workers' Songs in Taiwan 2021*, the project received strong positive feedback, with many musicians actively sharing new works and performance information. Beyond ongoing song collection, fieldwork, and a poster archiving project with the Dangdut Studies Center, the team organized lecture-performances and song-exchange workshops in collaboration with local communities, festivals, and venues.

The book features 115 lyrics by 30 Indonesian musicians and bands in or formerly in Taiwan, spanning genres from folk, pop, rock, metal, punk, reggae, hip-hop, dangdut, to *tarling*. It includes works by artists such as Ang Wang and Maria Chullun, bands like JubahHitam, Dream of Death, and SOUTHERN RIOT, as well as tracks from first-generation migrant bands including Relix Band, Eyeshadow, and Pandawa. It also contains nine essays on Indonesian migrant music scenes in Taiwan, with contributions by Michael HB Raditya, Irfan Muhammad, Aubrey Fanani, and Ralf Ruckus, exploring genres, scenes, and the links between labor, migration, and musical expression.

Listening to songs from afar is the beginning. Through listening, we connect, learn, and exchange with individuals across music scenes, gaining the strength to move forward. Listening also reminds us that we can go further—into the unknown—without walking alone.



Organizers:
ICCS-NYCU

Co-organizers:
Conflict, Justice, Decolonization 2.0: Asia in Transition in the 21st Century

Event Report



Event Report: <https://iccs.chss.nycu.edu.tw/en/publication.php?USN=145>

EVENT
ACHIEVEMENTS
LIST

List of Activities and Achievements (2019–2026)

28 Events in Total

No.	EVENT	DATE	SPEAKER
1	Perceptions of Thais towards Refugees and Migrants from Myanmar Seminar	March 29, 2019	Malee Sunpuwan
2	Migrant Workers Film Festival in 2019		
	The Helper	March 23–May 5, 2019	
	Squid Jigging Fishing Boat	March 22–May 26, 2019	
	Tea Land	March 21–May 15, 2019	
	Still, We are Migrant Workers	March 15–May 24, 2019	
	Long Time No Sea	February 22–May 25, 2019	
3	Refugee and Migrant Worker: Parallel Society in Malaysia Seminar	June 6, 2019	Josh Hong
4	Dialogue between Law and Society: A Policy Symposium on the Protection of Migrant Workers' Labor Rights Symposium	November 16–17, 2019	Chiung-Chih Chen, Yu-Fan Chiu, Chih-Wei Chang, Chao-Yu Chou, Ting-Yu Sung, Bo-Shone Fu, Yi-Shin Sung, Yue-Chune Lee, Chien-Wen Chen, Liang-Jung Lin
5	Understanding Durkheim in Multicultural Migration and the Crisis of Labor	March 31, 2020	Sudarat Musikawong
6	The Role of Ethnography in Studying Taiwan's Migrant Workers and the Broker System	April 1, 2020	Sudarat Musikawong
7	“Nine Shots Teaser” -Mirror or Hammer? —An Exploratory Journey Towards Film Making and Social Practice	October 29, 2020	
8	Interventions from the South: Theoretical Perspectives and Pragmatic Issues of Migration, Logistics and Unequal Citizens in the Context of the Covid-19 Seminar	January 13–14, 2021	Seng-Guan Yeoh, Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho, Wei-Qiang Lin, Jorge Tigno, Li-fang Liang, Debbie Fordyce, Siti Rahayu, Mahi Ramakrishnan, Glorene Das, Shakirul Islam, Jing-Ru Wu, Rizka Argadianti, Allison Lee, Tashryn Mohd Shahrin, Dina Nuriyati, Anis Hidayah, Grace Tzi-Hua Huang, Joanna Concepcion
9	Exceptional Zone at Sea and Dysfunctionality of Law? Future policies on migrant fishers and marine life	May 26, 2021	Sherry Lee, Hao-Hsiang Ko, Will Yang, Joshua Chen, Ansensius Guntur, CS, Meng-Bin Lee, Liang-Jung Lin
10	Future Labor Policies on Migrant Fishers and Flag of Convenience	November 19, 2021	Joyce C.H. Liu, Wen-Chen Chang, Yu-Ton Lee, Yu-Fan Chiu, Vivianne Weng, Allison Lee, Liang-Jung Lin, Hui-Jung Chi, Yi-Hsiang Shih

No.	EVENT	DATE	SPEAKER
11	Non-Flag State's Strategies for Human Rights Protection of Migrant Fishermen: Issues and Practice in Taiwan Law	March 16, 2022	Joyce C.H. Liu, Yu-Fan Chiu, Ming-Hao Yang
12	Can Equal Protection for Workers Transcend State Borders? —The Hard Case of Temporary Migrant Worker Program	April 20, 2022	Ya-Wen Yang, Joyce C.H. Liu, Yu-Fan Chiu, Pei-Lun Tsai, Samia Dinkelaker
13	Statelessness and Labour Exploitation	June 22, 2022	Joyce C.H. Liu, Bonny Ling, Leïla Choukroune, Michiel Hoornick, Yu-Fan Chiu
14	Corporate Accountability on Supply Chain Management and Forced Labor	December 13, 2022	Bonny Ling, Joyce C.H. Liu, Yu-Fan Chiu, Chih-Chieh Lin, Yi-Hsiang Shih
15	Lives from Perantauan Seminar	December 17, 2022	Ang Wang, Ting-Kuan Wu, Yu-Chen Lan, Wan-Ci Jiang
16	Regulating Tech: Business and Human Rights for Technology Value Chains	May 3, 2023	Dr. Lisa Hsin, Dr. Bonny Ling, Yu-Fan Chiu
17	Practical Ethics of Responsibility and Protection	August 10, 2023	Ranabir Samaddar
18	Migration, Racial Minorities and Gig Labor: Concept and Methods	August 12, 2023	Lisa Yuk-Ming Leung
19	The Conundrum of Trafficking and Statelessness in India	August 12, 2023	Paula Banerjee
20	Nervous Nation: Covid Anxieties and Mainland Migrant Struggles in Taiwan	August 13, 2023	Zhai Gong, Andy Chih-ming Wang
21	Law as the Site of Statelessness and Contestation: Europe, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia, on Land and at Sea	August 14, 2023	Michiel Hoornick, Ya-Wen Yang, Bonny Ling, Yu-Fan Chiu, Ming-Hao Yang
22	Absent Labor Protections in Taiwan–U.S. FTA Negotiations: Cross-Border Dialogue on Human Rights in Global Supply Chains	January 18, 2024	Yu-Fan Chiu, Yung-Ta Chien, Szu-Yu Chen, Wen-Chi Chang
23	Key Business and Human Rights Issues	April 10, 2024	Guna Subramaniam, Neill Wilkins
24	Anniversary of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act Amendment& the Prohibition of Forced Labor Academic Seminar	April 30, 2025	Joyce C.H. Liu, Ping-Cheng Lo, Ya-Wen Yang, Yen-Ching Weng, Yu-Ling Wang, Hsiao-Kan Lin, Yu-Fan Chiu, Liang-Jung Lin, Hui-Jung Chi, Yi-Hsiang Shih, Bonny Ling

No.	EVENT	DATE	SPEAKER
25	Book Launch: NYANYIAN DI PERANTAUAN	November 22, 2025	
26	Policy Developments to Eliminate Forced Labor: A Legal Dialogue Among Taiwan, the United States, and Thailand	December 10, 2025	Bo-Shone Fu, Jennifer Gordon, Yu-Fan Chiu, Panthip Pruksacholavit
27	Global Production Networks, the State, and Migrant Workers: Governing Labour in the Semiconductor Industry	May 4, 2026	Yu-Fan Chiu, Ting-Chien Chen, Mei-Lin Pan, Chiung-Chih Chen
28	Trade Policy and Labor Rights: Competition and Convergence	June 2, 2026	Yu-Fan Chiu, Ying-Jun Lin, Yen-Po Chen, Bonny Ling



國立陽明交通大學文化研究國際中心
International Center for Cultural Studies
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (ICCS-NYCU)



Sponsored by the Higher Education SPROUT Project through the Ministry of Education and the International Center for Cultural Studies at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

R103 HA Building 2, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University,
1001 University Road, Hsinchu, Taiwan 300

TEL: +886-3-5131531 Ext. 31658

FAX: +886-3-5734462

Chief Editor / Joyce C.H. Liu & Yu-Fan Chiu

Publication Date / September 2026

Contributing Editors / Yao-Chi Chan, Shan-Pei Su, Hui-Chen Wu

Design / 44 DES!GN





NYCU
LAW