

ECU TRACS Migration Research Network
2023 Seminar Series



Summary of 2023 seminar presentations

Date	Lecture Title	Presenter
21st September 2023	From Migration to Transnationalism: The Australian Story <i>TRACS Masterclass Program</i>	Prof Loretta Baldassar, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
5th October 2023	Australian Migration Policy: Systems, Practice and Beyond <i>TRACS Masterclass Program</i>	Dr Catriona Stevens, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
12th October 2023	A social revolution to address our ageing futures – <i>ECU Professorial Lecture Series</i>	Prof Loretta Baldassar, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
19th October 2023	Nation States and Citizens <i>TRACS Masterclass Program</i>	Dr Catriona Stevens, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
26th October 2023	Migration and Identity <i>TRACS Masterclass Program</i>	Prof Loretta Baldassar, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
2nd November 2023	Music in the Diaspora: Emotional Absence and Cultural Identity beyond “Biryanis and Bharata Natyam”	Dr Manonita Ghosh, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
9th November 2023	Migration and Gender <i>TRACS Masterclass Program</i>	Prof Loretta Baldassar, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
16th November 2023	Education in a Mobile Modernity	Prof Martin Forsey, ECU School of Arts and Humanities
30th November 2023	The Impacts of COVID-19 and Coup on Myanmar Migrant Children’s Education in Thailand	Dr Pyone Myat Thu and Dr Premjai Vungsiriphisal, Asian Research Center for Migration, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.



Seminar Series Presentations

Title: From Migration to Transnationalism: The Australian Story

Prof Loretta Baldassar, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 21st September 2023

Abstract

This TRACS Masterclass offers an overview of Australian migration history, including key methodological/theoretical considerations. It explores the changing history of migration and social policy in Australia, shedding light on the nation's diverse multicultural landscape. Additionally, it critically examines the pivotal role of social policies in shaping settlement dynamics and outcomes. The lecture also highlights various methodological and theoretical approaches used to understand these processes. This is an introductory lecture, designed to provide a foundation for researchers new to Australian migration studies. It also traces the trajectory of Professor Baldassar's long-standing research in the area, and highlights the points of intersection with current projects in progress at the ECU Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab.

Speaker Bio

Loretta Baldassar is a leading migration scholar and Professor of Anthropology and Sociology. She is currently Vice Chancellor Professorial Research Fellow, Director of the Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab, and co-convenor of the TRACS Migration Research Network at Edith Cowan University. In 2020, 2021 and 2022 she was named Australian Research Field Leader in Migration Studies (Social Sciences) and in 2021 and 2022 she was also named Research Field Leader in Ethnic and Cultural Studies (Humanities, Arts and Literature) (The Australian, 23 09 2020; 8 12 2021; 10 11 2022). Professor Baldassar has published extensively and her widely cited work is foundational to the field of Transnational Family Studies. She is an award-winning supervisor with over 30 PhD completions and 9 postdoctoral fellowships. She has led many large research projects with a total grant income of over 10 million dollars. Among her many current projects she leads a Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) project, Befriending with Genie, trialling an intervention to support people living with dementia and their carers from migrant communities. She is social support stream lead on an MRFF Fittest Trial, National Frailty Project and co-lead investigator on the longitudinal YMAP Project (Youth Mobilities, Aspirations and Pathways), funded by the Australian Research Council. Her career has been devoted to better understanding the impact of migration on families and communities, with a focus on intergenerational relations, the ageing process and the social uses of new technologies. Her SAGE Futures research team at ECU is leading innovation in social care across the life-course, contributing social science perspectives and arts-based methodologies to the creative and caring professions.



Title: Australian Migration Policy: Systems, Practice and Beyond

Dr Catriona Stevens, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 5th October 2023

Abstract:

This TRACS Masterclass session provides an introduction to Australian migration law and policy. The lecture will chart how migration policy has changed over time and will consider the intended and unintended policy outcomes that are evident in contemporary Australian society. This masterclass will be useful to students and scholars of migration, multiculturalism and diversity, particularly those who are new to the topic in the Australian context.

Speaker Bio:

Dr Catriona Stevens is a Vice Chancellor's Research Fellow in the [Social Ageing \(SAGE\) Futures Lab](#). Cat is an early career sociologist and anthropologist with expertise in migration, ageing, care workforce, transnational caregiving, and the abuse of older people (elder abuse). The ECU SAGE team lead research in social care across the life-course, contributing social science perspectives and methodologies to the creative and caring professions. Prior to joining ECU, Cat was Manager of Research Engagement with the Social Care and Ageing (SAGE) Living Lab at UWA. She has significant experience in applied social research through collaborations, evaluations, and consultancies with government and NFP sector partners. She has previously held Associate Lecturer teaching positions at Murdoch University and at UWA and is an Alumnus of the Forrest Research Foundation having been awarded a Forrest Prospect Fellowship in 2021-23.

Title: A social revolution to address our ageing futures – ECU Professorial Lecture Series

Prof Loretta Baldassar, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 12th October 2023

Abstract:

In this public lecture, Professor Loretta Baldassar, Director of the ECU Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab, will discuss the revolution needed to re-imagine our relationship to ageing. Professor Baldassar argues that understanding the relationship between migration, ageing and care is critical to improving our ageing futures. Globally, people are living longer and spending more time in older age than ever before. Australia's ageing population is among the most diverse in the world, with 1 in 3 people over the age of 65 born overseas. Also, older migrants access care services later and in poorer health than the general population. At the same time, a significant – and growing – proportion of our aged care workforce are migrants. Population trends demand we change the way we think about, and prepare for, growing older. It's time for a social ageing revolution.

Title: Nation states and citizens

Dr Catriona Stevens, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 19th October 2023



Abstract:

This TRACS Masterclass session traces the history of nation state formation and explore some theories explaining the relationship between nation states and citizens, non-citizens and denizens. We will discuss how migration has led to liberalised citizenship regimes and dual nationality in some contexts but not in others. And we will ask questions about the commodification of citizenship, the roles of citizenship statuses in transnational life, and the limits of belonging to nation states.

Title: Migration and Identity

Prof Loretta Baldassar, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 26th October 2023

Abstract:

This TRACS Masterclass session engages theories of ethnicity and migrant generation to explain how processes of migration and settlement generate new forms of collective association and identity that are fluid and change over time. Drawing on the case study of second-generation Italian Australians, the masterclass encourages students to reflect on questions relating to intergenerational change and conflict, the politics of representation and claims to authenticity, and youth transitions into adulthood.

Title: Music in the Diaspora: Emotional Absence and Cultural Identity beyond “Biryani and Bharata Natyam”

Dr Manonita Ghosh, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 2nd November 2023

Abstract:

This paper explores the role of music in the navigation of emotional absence and construction of cultural identity in emerging Bangladeshi migrant communities in Perth WA. Through this exploration, I criticise the critique of multiculturalism as ‘pasta and polka’. Specifically, scholars have argued that the celebration of ‘cultural pluralism’ in the form of music and dance is superficial and symbolic. I argue that music engagement acts as a pivot strategy to safeguard cultural identities, foster communication, and enhance resilience and social and mental wellbeing within generations in migrant communities.

Speaker Bio:

Dr Manonita Ghosh is a Research Fellow in the ECU SAGE Futures Lab. Additionally, she serves as the Editor-in-Chief for the Anthropology and Ageing Journal and leads research editorial teams. With a background in anthropology and public health, her research explores cross-cultural influences on health behaviour, aging and social care, health service evaluation, and music and migrant health. Manonita holds two master's degrees: one in Sociology from Dhaka University, Bangladesh, and another in Anthropology from the University of Western Australia. She completed a PhD in Population Health at the University of Western Australia. Manonita



leads the Arts & Music Engagement stream in the SAGE Future Lab. A trained musician, Manonita applies her skills in music direction to multicultural communities. With over 15 years of experience, she has worked in government organisations like the Department of Health WA and the Department for Communities. She has also made significant contributions to non-governmental health organisations, focusing on training, capacity building, and community development.

Title: Migration and Gender

Prof Loretta Baldassar, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 9th November 2023

Abstract:

This TRACS Masterclass session provides an overview introduction to theories of gender in migration studies. It charts the shift away from male-led patterns of family migration that were common to early- and mid-twentieth century mobilities towards the feminisation of international migration in more recent decades. The session explores how the labour migration of women, in particular for domestic care work, has implications for power dynamics and gender norms in families and communities impacted by their employment overseas and the financial and social remittances provided. We will also discuss the effects of female migration on care practices with reference to 'care chains' theories and a feminist global ethics of care.

Title: Education in a Mobile Modernity

Prof Martin Forsey, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Date: 16th November 2023

Abstract:

The talk will explore the profound and the mundane ways in which educational structures affect family and individual decisions about not only where they want to be, but who they want to be. Thinking of modernisation as a trajectory of progress and development symbolised by industrialisation and a reordering of 'traditional societies' through so-called rational forms of governance, educational institutions and the myriad social practices built around them are preeminent contributors to modernising processes. Disembedding people and communities from local institutions and relations is a profound consequence of educational processes, movement that is often associated with progress and social advancement. Individual education stories are replete with movement that often reflect a commitment to the mobility imperatives of modernity. Reflecting the different scales of practice evident in this mobile modernity, the empirical focus ranges from rural settings to urban mobilities and then out to transnational mobilities and the educational choices exercised by a range of families, with particular attention paid to the so-called "global middle class".

Speaker Bio:



Professor Martin Forsey is the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning at the School of Arts and Humanities. Professor Martin Forsey is a distinguished academic with extensive expertise in Teaching and Research, particularly in the field of education. He earned his PhD in Anthropology & Sociology from the University of Western Australia, focusing on organizational management and change in public education. His recent work explores the dynamic landscape of education, emphasizing how digital resources and platforms enhance teaching and learning. A recognized authority in blended learning, he has received multiple teaching awards and published extensively on the use of digital technology in higher education, reflecting his deep passion for understanding and improving the processes of learning in its many forms.

Title: The Impacts of COVID-19 and Coup on Myanmar Migrant Children's Education in Thailand

Dr Pyone Myat Thu & Dr Premjai Vungsiriphisal, Center of Excellence in Migration and Development, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Date: 30th November 2023

Abstract:

Migrant children in Thailand are one of the most vulnerable to being out of school, alongside children with disabilities, working children and ethnic minority children. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted education systems globally, and in Thailand, its impacts made visible the pre-existing and new forms of inequalities faced by migrant students. The findings we present in this seminar are drawn from a larger nation-wide data set based on research commissioned by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2020–2021 to gain a deeper understanding of the current situation of migrant children's education in Thailand. Since the period of conducting this research coincided with the spread of COVID-19, we also examined the pandemic's impacts on migrant children and found that they experienced digital inequality and other intersectional challenges.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Pyone Myat Thu is Research Fellow Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM), based in the Institute of Asian Studies in Chulalongkorn University. She is a researcher and educator specializing in post-conflict settings in the Asia Pacific region, with a focus on the geographies of land relations, rural livelihoods, forced displacement, and development. She has held various academic positions, including Research Associate at The University of Western Australia, where she contributed to the Australian Research Council-funded project "Family Influences on Child Survival and Growth in Rural East Timor," and Research Fellow at the State, Society, and Melanesian Program at The Australian National University. Currently, Dr. Thu leads the socio-economic baseline survey for the Agricultural Innovations for Communities in Timor-Leste project, funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. She also teaches Regional Development and Planning and Mining and Development, drawing on her extensive research expertise in Timor-Leste ethnography, rural livelihoods, land access, migration, forced displacement, and rural development.