

**Call for Papers**  
**International Migration, Multi-local Livelihoods and**  
**Human Security**

Venue:	Institute of Social Studies, The Hague The Netherlands
Language:	English
Conference Date:	30-31 August 2007
Deadline for abstracts	30 March 2007
Deadline for Paper	1 July 2007
Conference Convenor:	Dr. Thanh-Dam Truong

The Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, the Netherlands – in collaboration with the Centre for Human Security Studies at Chubu University, Japan, and the International Institute of Asian Studies at Leiden University – is organising a conference titled ‘International Migration, Multi-local Livelihoods and Human Security’ in the Hague in August 2007. The Conference aims to bring together scholars, academics and practitioners to discuss issues of international migration and their implications for human security.

The Conference invites papers for five panels dealing with the following themes:

- State of the Art in Migration Studies: Comparative Perspectives
- North/South, East/West Accumulation Regimes and Regulatory Frameworks
- Migration Management, Multi-local Livelihoods and Vulnerability: Resources, Institutions and Social Relations of Transmission
- International Migration in Development Ethics: Towards a Transnational Approach to Human Development, Rights, Security and Wellbeing
- International Migration, Citizenship, Identities and Cultures

**Background**

International migration and its implications for human security as a policy field constitute one of the most complex issues of our time. The extant legal vacuum

reflects unresolved conflicts of interest at different levels and poses a great challenge to the right to mobility as an expression of the liberal ideal of individual liberty. Current experiences of displacement and security spans between a cyber world – characterized by hyper mobility of finance, technology, information and the ‘cosmopolitan’ values of a ‘flexible citizenship’ – and the world of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants and refugees as a mode of mobility adopted by people who cross borders on foot, by boat, trucks and planes – who are often abandoned to die when arrangements break down.

The demise of international migration regimes based on welfare and humanitarian concerns coincided with the ascendancy of multilateral initiatives in migration management guided by the logic of trade and finance, foreign policy and national security – often shifting the seat of decision-making away from labour and welfare departments. Gender, race and age appear significant in determining who participates in what regime of migration, for which types of work with which forms of protection.

Among the key theoretical issues on international labour migration is the persistence of structural processes that underlie the formation and maintenance of labour reserves in different regions and how they interact with the dynamics of global flows (capital, labour, finance and social values). The current formations of multi-layered structures of social inequality across different territorial, socio-economic and cultural spaces combined with segmented labour markets and specific forms of rigidity in some areas have led to conspicuous forms of import of labour – particularly sectors in which capital cannot be fully foot-loose; such as agricultural production, construction, retail, entertainment, services in institutional and personal care. More specifically, studies have demonstrated the co-existence of different migration regimes – indenture, guest worker and labour contract. Pressures from migrant organisations demanding citizenship and entitlements to the ‘social wage’ combined with political resistance to such pressures have contributed to the reshaping of migration regimes into temporary and circular migration mediated by the migration industry. The roles of legal regulations, labour policies and migrant networks and institutions in shaping distinctive attributes of migration are also noted as being of historical and contextual significance.

Migrants’ responses to structural pressures and their attempts to meet quotidian

necessities to maintain social relations that protect them (as well as those affiliated with social duties) have forged new forms of livelihoods and political agency across nation-states covering a wide spectrum of legal, social, cultural and economic issues. Their success in influencing policy is limited but their politics do pose serious dilemmas in the administration of international migration. This administration is now torn between different objectives with a limited prospect for a resolution: 1) *laissez-faire* (tolerating without acknowledging the presence on undocumented workers so long as they contribute to the economy, remain invisible and pose no real challenges to human rights protection); 2) *punitive* (crackdown on undocumented migrants and criminalization of activities in their life-worlds); 3) *instrumental* (recognizing the value of their contribution to the host society through their labour and to the society of origins through their remittances and ensuring the protection of their rights by a variety of means).

Breaking from the convention that treats different social worlds of international migration as mutually exclusive legal categories, this research workshop seeks to build a perspective on their reciprocal implications, and to highlight the nature of intersectional domination based on social attributes such as gender, class, age and race. Emerging ethical questions arising from a proliferation of forms of abusive practices have posed considerable challenges to a state-centric version of development ethics on which the human security framework is built. Beyond the norms of conduct of states, debates on issues of justice and fairness also direct themselves at institutional forces that affect the inter-state and inter-societal relations in ways that propel specific types of migration. A multi-scalar range of practices guided by different logic of justice and fairness now exists, requiring new forms of analysis to bring to light the complex operation of migration as livelihoods. Whereas debates on brain drains and brain gains have highlighted inter-societal inequity, debates on global care chains are directed simultaneously at gender-based structural inequality within and between societies and the implications for interpersonal and intergenerational relationships of care as the foundation for human security. Addressing issues of justice and fairness in migration studies can benefit from a creative interaction between different fields – migration studies, development ethics, human security and citizenship.

## **2. Methodological approach**

Recent policy debates on international migration have focused on some key areas, such as:

- Gains and losses from migration as trade in services;
- Human security and safe migration with rights;
- Migrants' organizations and their roles; which may include social services provision as well as facilitating remittances (money and ideas) to the development of communities in their countries of origins.

While maintaining similar interests, this workshop seeks to deepen policy debates by using the concept of governmentality to consider the contemporary social world of migration as consisting of a constellation of mentalities, institutions and subjects which together enact different political rationalities and regulating norms. The overlapping forms of displacement as a result of migration and their meanings for livelihood security are approached from the perspective of the diverse configurations of power, which often create compounded forms of discrimination. Owing to the existing matrix of overt and covert regimes of regulation, with different implications for human rights protection, gains and losses from migration (as well as risks and security) must be placed against broader fields of power that have shaped the restructuring of economic, political and social relations as experienced at various levels and scales. Sector-specific analysis of migration as chains of labour and values are useful to bring new lights on the specific aspects of institutional rigidity and their implications for collective action. Although particular attention will be paid to the EU and ASEAN, contributions from other regions are also most welcome.

### **Thematic Approach:**

#### **Panel 1: State of the Art in Migration Studies: Comparative Perspectives**

This panel will bring together historical and contextual works that offer new perspectives in migration studies with a focus on power and social action. New directions of inquiry treat migration as a social field within which struggles and manoeuvres take place over specific stakes (and resources) to gain and/or enlarge access. Differently positioned actors and their conduct contribute to the shaping practices, which together have created relatively stable regimes of migration. Such regimes are capable of intersecting informal and formal channels, often operating

beyond state purview and making the migration experience highly risky for particular social groups. Perspectives on 'cumulative causation', 'path dependence' and 'resilience' of the subaltern have shed new lights on practices of migration. Authority in the field has delineated two main types of cumulative causation. The first is positive, or how the cumulative effects of an action propel a development to depart more and more from its origins (e.g. from guest workers to ethnic entrepreneurship). The second is negative or how the dynamics ensure that the system returns to the original point of departure (e.g. from foot-loose to circular migration). A path dependence approach specifies how a particular sequence of choices by actors can drive positive or negative directions of cumulative causation. Debates on the 'resilience' of the subaltern often emphasized the need to go beyond the notion of 'victimhood' to appreciate 'agency' as inventive capacity of social actors to manoeuvre relations of dominance. There is an implicit assumption that 'resilience' is a positive feature without a full acknowledgment that certain types of 'resilience' can serve to re-enforce a negative path of cumulative causation. Contrasting forms of 'resilience' and intersectional domination in the migration experience may help to explain the persistence of some forms (such as sex trafficking), and how this persistence may be related to mutually implicated factors – such as policy frameworks and the responses of recruiting networks and migrants' themselves.

**Panel 2: North/South, East/West Accumulation Regimes and Regulatory Frameworks**

Recent studies on regulations have discerned the embeddedness of distinctive migration regimes in particular regions and types of economies. The panel will focus on the conditions of the emergence of different migration regimes, their relationship with modalities of accumulation and implications for the wellbeing of migrant workers. Sector-specific analyses will be helpful to shed new lights on the institutional framework, mechanisms of recruitment and deployment of labour within broader processes of accumulation based on gender, race and other social attributes.

**Panel 3: Migration Management, Multi-local Livelihoods and Vulnerability: Resources, Institutions and Social Relations of Transmission**

Emerging debates on migration management increasingly emphasise the potential for

positive effects of migration and remittances on sending communities, focusing on the role of governments and civil society organisations in assisting migrants to find formal channels to remit resources for development. However, many studies on the micro-dynamics of migration show how gender and generation condition the dynamics of resource management in multifarious ways across different livelihood systems, demonstrating that the impact of social and financial remittances is socially uneven. This panel will give particular attention to local practices that lead to the formation of gendered and sector-specific circuits (at the meso level) of migration chains and how this process involves a wide range of actors who are connected in power-laden ways. Circuits of transmission of material resources and values are often embedded in circuits of migration, which can shape patterns of multi-local social relations and lead to specific forms of path-dependent migration. In this respect, the panel will raise critical questions about the assumed role of remittances, their relationship with local development, patterns of multi-local livelihood and path dependent migration.

**Panel 4: International Migration in Development Ethics: Towards a Transnational Approach to Human Development, Rights, Security and Wellbeing**

This panel explores the linkages between migration and wellbeing. International migration involves practices to achieve individual and collective wellbeing through interrelated transnational spaces (economic, social, and political). A grand universalism on ethics of rights and human development are often not applicable to certain categories of migrants, particularly those who are undocumented and live on the fringes of marginality. Their wellbeing is often an outcome of a combination interaction between different identities (migrant status, class, gender, age and ethnicities). Substantive differences of wellbeing exist and arise from the specific locations in which migrants may find themselves. Access to, or denial of, rights is unique to particular locations and requires a different form of reasoning that can offer new perspectives on the practical meanings of development ethics and human security for migrants as transnational, gendered and racial subjects.

**Panel 5: International Migration, Citizenship, Identities and Cultures**

This panel explores the politics of citizenship in migration studies through the lens of post-sovereign forms of translocal association and identity-formation. The background to this panel is, in part, offered by the growing crisis of multiculturalism in Western liberal democratic state and society deepened by new enclosures, exclusionary politics, and rapidly changing notions of citizenship. In particular, the tension between civic and cultural citizenship furnishes new grounds to examine how international migration is challenging liberal governance. In turn, the securitization of citizenship serves as an important vantage-point to explicate the inherent contradictions within liberalism as it seeks to revise established practice. In this context, the liberty/security nexus allows us to map out the new sources of human insecurity on a global scale, but especially how liberal governmentality is directly implicated in unsettling liberal protections secured by the law and democratic norms.

### **Conference Committee**

Dr. Thanh-Dam Truong

Dr. Yoichi Mine

Prof. Ashwani Saith

### **Panel 1**

#### **State of the Art in Migration Studies: Comparative Regional Perspectives**

Convenors:

Dr. Thanh-Dam Truong (ISS)

Prof. Dr. Supang Chantavanich (Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok)

### **Panel 2**

#### **North/South, East/West Accumulation Regimes and Regulatory Frameworks**

Convenors:

Prof. Dr. Ashwani Saith (ISS)

Dr. Remy Herrera (University of Paris)

### **Panel 3**

#### **Migration Management, Multi-local Livelihoods and Vulnerability: Resources, Institutions and Social Relations of Transmission**

Convenors:

Dr. Bernadette Resurreccion (Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok)

Dr. Rebecca Elmhirst (University of Brighton)

#### **Panel 4**

#### **International Migration, Human Development, Rights and Security: Towards a Transnational Ethics of wellbeing**

Convenors:

Dr. Des Gasper (ISS)

Prof. Dr. Yoichi Mine (Centre for Human Security Studies, Chubu University Japan)

#### **Panel 5: International Migration, Citizenship, Identities and Cultures**

Convenors:

Convenors:

Professor Dr. Mustapha Kamal Pasha (University of Aberdeen)

Prof. Mohammed Salih (ISS)

Dr. Helen Hintjens (ISS)

#### **Guidelines for Submission of Papers**

- 1) Name
- 2) Current institutional Affiliation
- 3) Title/position
- 4) Address: email, postal, phone, fax
- 5) Abstract of the paper not exceeding 300 words
- 6) Specification of Audio-visual equipment required
- 7) CV on one page containing information which the panel chair may require for introduction
- 8) The manuscript should be double space and can be submitted electronically
- 9) No paper will be accepted after the deadline and all papers will be reviewed according to its original approach to the subject matter and relevance to the conference themes, sub-themes and objectives

#### **Key Dates:**

- Deadline for abstract submission: March 2007
- Deadline for paper submission: 1 July 2007
- Notification of acceptance: before 15 July 2007
- The conference committee will provide upon request mailed or faxed letter to support for a visa or travel funds. **The IAS conference budget allows for a small number of participants from South-East Asia and Europe.** Travel funds will be allocated on the basis of a competitive assessment of the abstracts and papers submitted.
- Abstract and Paper should be submitted to the Conference Coordinator at the following email address: [Truong@iss.nl](mailto:Truong@iss.nl) with copy to [Marchand@iss.nl](mailto:Marchand@iss.nl)