

Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) invites you to our seminar series:

Gender and Migration: Conceptual Issues and Empirical Evidence

Wednesday, 6th November 2013 @ 2:30 p.m.

By Professor Dr Solvay Gerke

IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2 FASS Building, UBD



Abstract

The paper deals with the question how the demographics of migration are changing and argues that one of most notable changes concerns women participating in both formal and informal labour migration. Although women have always migrated, their movement was more directly related to family reunification in the past or depended on a male migrant. Today women are moving as migrants in their own right. This increase in female participation in transnational labour migration can be most readily seen among low-wage earners, where employment is due to the dynamics of the globalizing corporate sector. The paper will look at the gender-specific problems women are confronted with in their host countries and the strategies they develop to sustain their livelihoods. Mainly drawing on research conducted in Malaysia, an attempt will be made to conceptualize the problems surrounding the feminization of migration.

Speaker's Profile

Solvay Gerke is professor of development research and director of the Centre for Development Research, University of Bonn since 2005. From 2011 until 2013 she was visiting professor at the Centre for Policy Research and International Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang. She was formerly professor of Southeast Asian studies and director of the Institute of Oriental and Asian Studies, University of Bonn. She has carried out field research in Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam and is currently leading several large research projects in Vietnam, China and Ghana dealing with knowledge management, water resources management and governance issues. She has worked as a consultant for several German and international organisations. She is the author of *Social Change and Life Planning of Rural Javanese Women* (Breitenbach, 1992) and *Social Transformation in Indonesia* (LIT, 2005) and is co-editor of *The Straits of Malacca: Knowledge and Diversity* (LIT, 2008) and *Beyond the Knowledge Trap: Developing Asia's Knowledge-Based Economies* (World Scientific, 2011). A new book "Penang and the Straits of Malacca: Connecting Oceans, Societies and Knowledge" will be published in March 2014.