

Virtual Gender Lecture “GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF LABOUR MIGRATION EXAMINED THROUGH A GENDER LENS”

31 March 2021, 12:30-13:30

Abstract

While the governance of migration long remained state-centric, over the last two decades there have been increasing efforts to develop mechanisms at the global and regional scales as rising flows of migrants made it clear that greater inter-state cooperation and the involvement of a wider range of actors was necessary. The United Nations and specific International organisations have served as platforms to foster multi-actor cooperation.

The growing interest in transnational migration governance coincided with increased awareness of the ‘feminisation’ of migration’ - i.e. that women not only accounted for nearly half of migrants, but also were migrating on their own account as workers, as unequal development constraining possibilities at home coincided with rising demand in feminised sectors such as care work in wealthier countries. The constitution of a global ‘gender equality and women’s empowerment’ norm, in turn, helped to generate awareness of the specific challenges that women migrants face. With noted exceptions, however, the growing literature on global governance of migration has remained largely gender blind.

In this presentation, it will be argued that a feminist approach has much in common with critics of the dominant ‘migration management’ project to the detriment of a rights based approach to migration governance, but also raises new questions and claims.

Biography of the speaker



Nicola Piper is Professor of International Migration and was Founding Director of the Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Centre at the University of Sydney. In 2018, the British Academy awarded her a Global Professor Fellowship, hosted by Queen Mary University of London in the UK, where she will be conducting research until December 2022.

As a political sociologist, her research interests focus primarily on global labour mobility, global and regional migration governance, advocacy politics and gender which are topics about which she has published prolifically. She has carried out consultancies and advisory roles for numerous international organisations throughout her career and is (co-)chief editor of the international peer-reviewed journal *Global Social Policy* as well as editor of the book series “Asian Migration” with Routledge. The latest publication she (co)edited, the Palgrave Handbook on Gender and Migration, should be in print by the time this seminar takes place.

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