

Migrant life narratives as place-making in post-colonial Australia

27 October 2023, The Australian National University

Co-hosted by Kasia Williams, Centre for European Studies and

Burcu Cevik-Compiegne, Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies

Venue: CAIS, Khalifa Bakhit Al-Falasi lecture theatre, 127 Ellery Crescent

8.30 – 9.00 – Welcome, meet and greet

9.00 – 10.30 Panel 1 – Refugee narratives

1. Niro Kandasamy (University of Sydney), Michael McDonnell (University of Sydney), Jordana Silverstein (University of Melbourne)- The Autobiographical turn in First Nations and Refugee Histories
2. Rebecca Surenthiraraj (University of Sydney)- Seeking refuge: Place-making strategies of Sri Lankan Tamil asylum seekers and refugees in Australia
3. Vannessa Hearman (Curtin University) - (Re)imagining Australia from Timor-Leste: Life narratives of East Timorese returnees after independence
4. Kim Huynh (ANU) - For us “Australia” rhymes with “failure”: How a Vietnamese refugee family comes to grips with loss of place, status and memory

10.30 – 10.45 Morning Tea

10.45 – 12.15 Panel 2 – Creative narratives

1. Burcu Cevik-Compiegne (ANU) - Making sense of home in transnational narratives of sensory experiences
2. Francesco Ricatti (ANU) - Passato prossimo: old and new narratives of migrant embodiment
3. Hadeel Abdelhameed (La Trobe University) - Iraqi theatre makers in Australia: making theatre means making home
4. Ibrahim Abraham (Federation University) - “At the base of the pyramid”: Cultural institutions of alienation and empowerment in migrant and ethnic minority life narratives in Australia

12.15 – 13.15 Lunch break

13.30 – 15.00 Panel 3 – Political and racial narratives

1. Andonis Piperoglou (University of Melbourne) - “Dagoes” and diasporic poetics: reading slurs in Australian migrant vernaculars
2. Kawsar Ali (Macquarie University) - The Christchurch Massacre: anti-Muslim violence through settler colonial claims
3. Mei-fen Kuo (Macquarie University) - Narrative Identity and the Politics of Making Chinese Café and Restaurants in Sydney from Interwar Period to the Cold War Era
4. Zhengdao Ye, Shuyu Zhang, Janet Davey (ANU) - Chinese migrants’ place-making in modern Australian society: Studying life narratives in China Post’s 1994 series ‘Australia, where is our place?’

15.00 – 15.15 Afternoon tea

15.15 – 16.30 Panel 4 – Narratives of professional lives

1. Alexandra Dellios (ANU) - Life narratives in oral histories: Greek-Australian women and welfare advocacy from the 1970s
2. Larysa Chybis (Curtin University) - A Long Traversal of Professional Transition: Ukrainian Migrant Teachers' Lived Experiences in Australia
3. Harshitha Peddireddy, Alexander Titus and Angela Paulson (ANU) - Agency in Exploitation: A Snapshot of Australian South-Asian Transport Workers

16.30 – 16.45 Coffee break

16.45 – 18.00 Panel 5 – Narratives of Indigenous-migrant connections

1. Gretel Evans (Monash University)- Migrant place-making through bushfires and floods in regional Australia
2. Jessie Liu (ANU) - A Territory with No (Asian) People: Asian Settlers and The Settler Colonial Imaginaries of Australia
3. Kasia Williams (ANU) - "Homing Desire": Narrating affinities between colonized nations as migrant home-making

18.00 – 18.30 Yiorgos Anagnostou (Ohio State University) – Closing remarks