

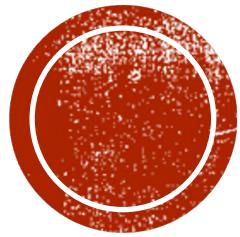
SC 2217 TRAVEL MATTERS

DR SAHANA GHOSH ● **sahana.ghosh @ nus.edu.sg**



OFFICE HOURS: 11-12 TUES / 10-11 FRI

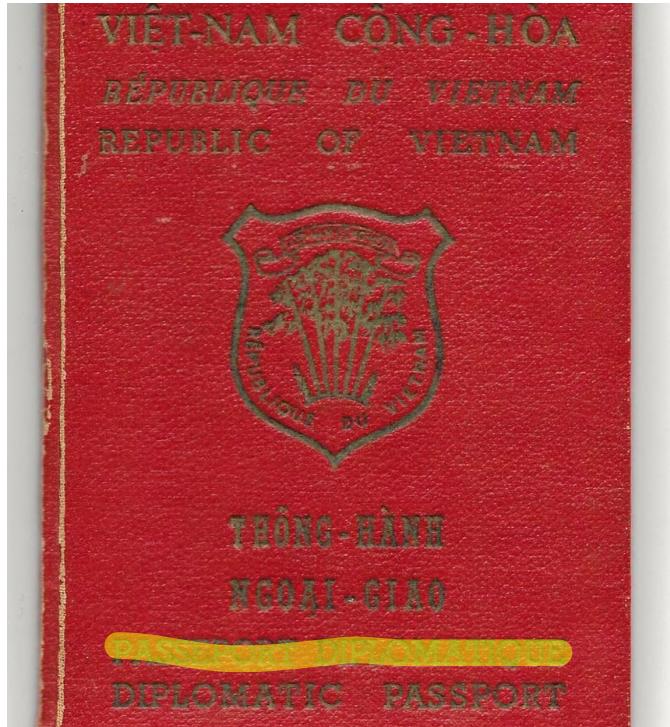
<https://calendly.com/sahana-ghosh/15min>



- Who travels
- Where
- Why
- And how

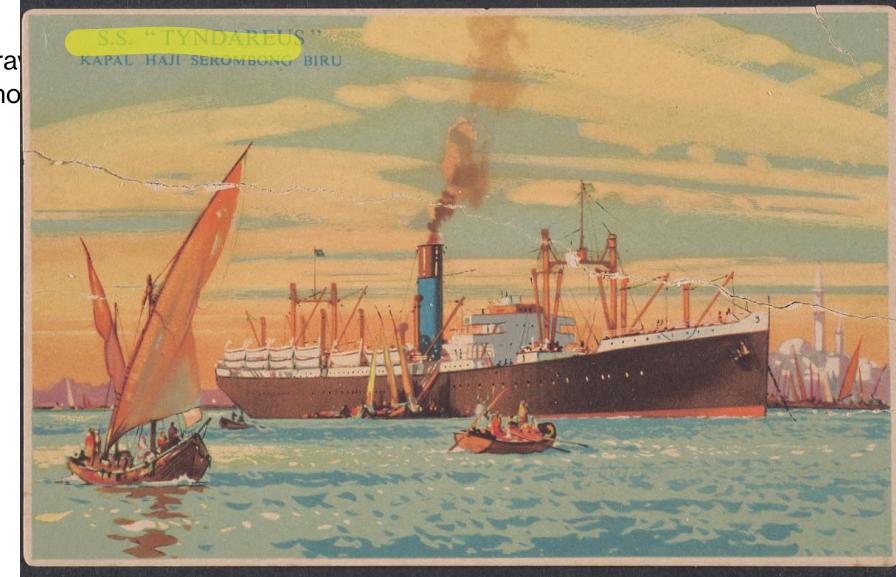
(in what way, under what circumstances, etc.)

THE POLITICS OF MOBILITY

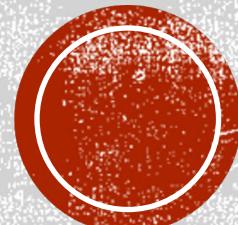


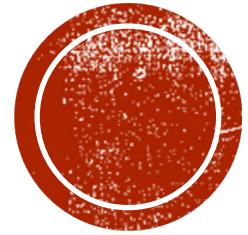
One of the World's Busiest Border Crossings to Reopen Monday

- Singapore and Malaysia open causeway to vaccinated traffic
- Designated buses will travel between Singapore and Johor



WEEK 2: CONTROLLING MOBILITY





IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Seeing like a state / Being seen by the state

STATE MONOPOLY ON “LEGITIMATE” MOVEMENT

- Why do states seek to control the movement of people and goods?

- Extracting military service, labor, taxes
- Limiting brain drain
- Exclusion and containment of undesired people and goods from a territory/spaces
- Management of populations
- Security reasons



STATE MONOPOLY ON “LEGITIMATE” MOVEMENT

- **The nationalization of identity**

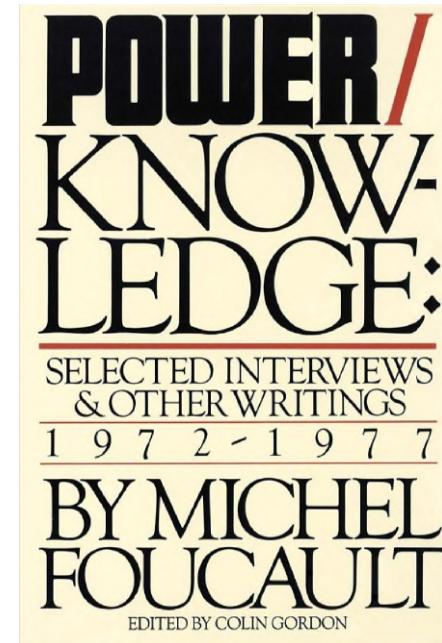
- Interest in and the development of technologies of identification
- Counting and collecting data on population
- Laws regulating movement within and across nation-state borders

From local to national > “well into the 19th century, people regarded as ‘foreign’ those from the next province every bit as much as those that came from other countries” [Torpey, p 11-12]



There is no power relation without the correlative constitution of a field of knowledge, nor any knowledge that does not presuppose and constitute at the same time power relations.

Michel Foucault



FOUCAULT'S THESIS ON THE POWER/KNOWLEDGE RELATIONSHIP

- Power not only repressive, episodic
- Power is a regime of “truth”
- Power/knowledge source of social discipline and conformity



STATE CAPACITY TO CONTROL & MANAGE MOVEMENT

- Identification documents necessary to know and thus to control
- **Populations fixed and classified** – essential to management
- Bureaucracies to record and issue
- **Institutions** to enforce laws regulating identity and movement



Q-- WHAT DOES MANAGEMENT OF MOBILITY ACHIEVE AS A TOOL OF STATE GOVERNANCE?

- Categorizes people and goods
 - Sorts out
 - Naturalizes national belonging and national order of things
 - Creates dependencies
 - CONSTITUTES THE STATE!



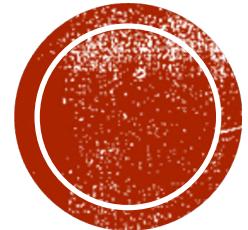
“EFFECTIVE INEFFICIENCY”

ISRAELI STATE (BERDA)



- Power of the bureaucracy
 - 1. construct, maintain, widen the scope of dependency
 - 2. Create uncertainty, disorientation, splits
- Bureaucratic and institutional separations
 - by design
 - Legal/administrative separations reflect spatial and racial segregations

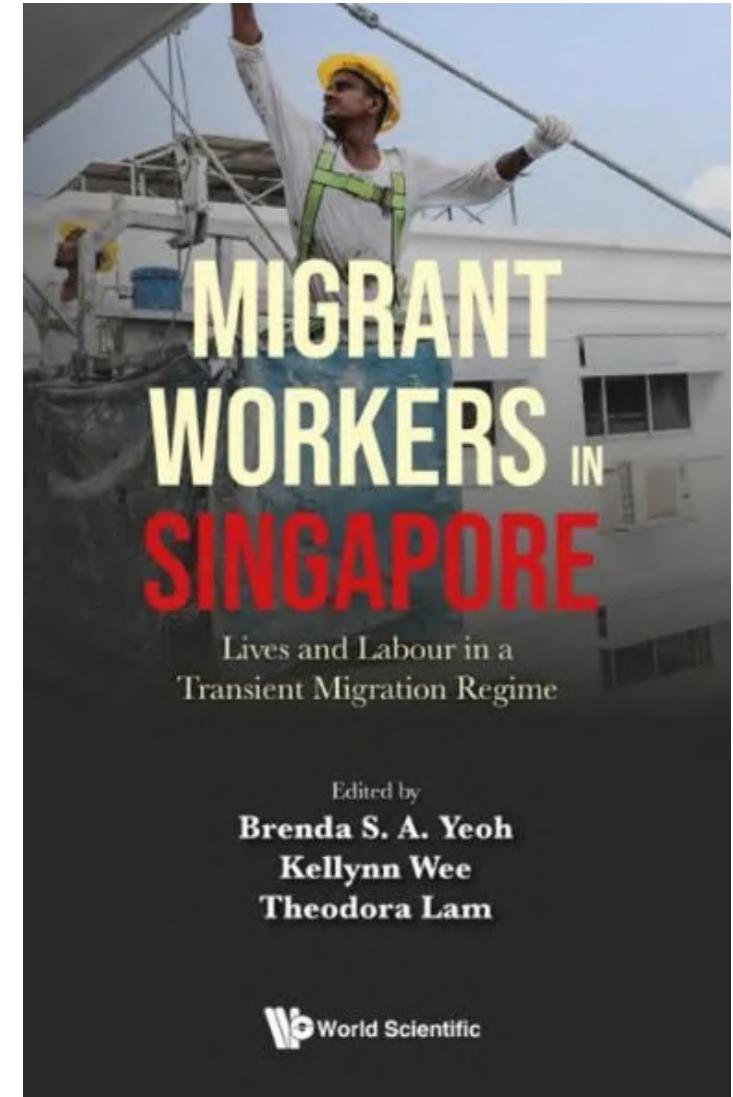




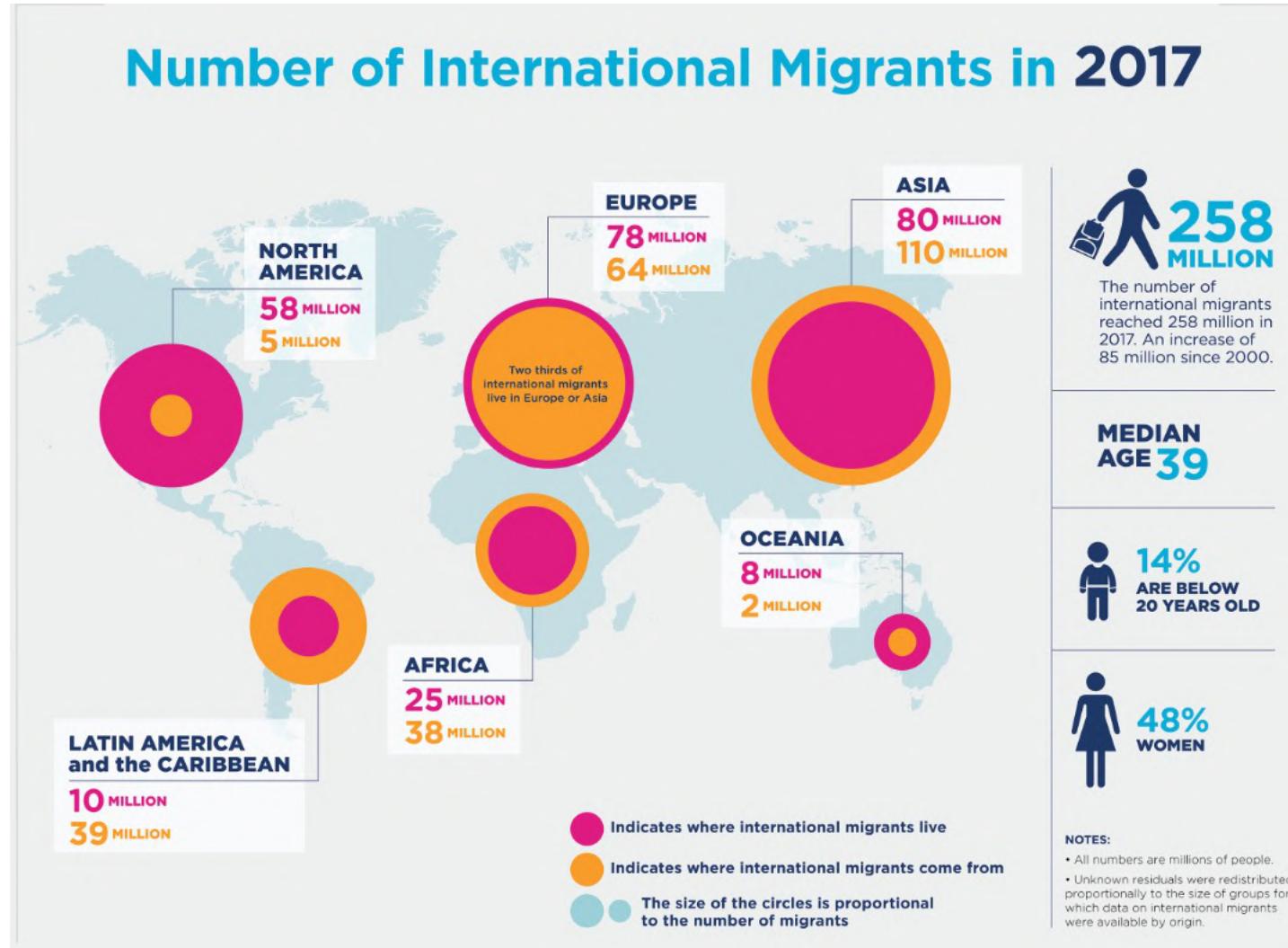
Q -- is the Israeli permit regime exceptional? Or a question of degree of a widely practiced colonial and now global system of population management?

Relation between controlling movement and labor exploitation

- Guest worker programs e.g. Turks in Germany, Bracero program in the US
- Israel's permit regime for Palestinian migrant workers from the Occupied Territories (Berda, p. 25)
- Singapore? E.g. Yeoh et al



ROLE OF LAW – CREATING AND MANAGING ILLEGALITIES



- Israeli permit regime develops as a legal exception
- Builds on British colonial exceptions to govern spaces
- Restrictions + permits = privilege/inequity

MOBILITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

— A WALLED WORLD?



- Security fears – against refugees, terrorists, and unwanted migrants – have driven 65 border walls
- 4 times greater than at the time when the Berlin Wall fell
- Some internal, most against immediate neighbors
- How effective are border walls/fences?
- Scholars argue they are more theatre, i.e. performing the power of the state to control mobility, than stop movement



[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/473990295/AC6EE313A0](https://vimeo.com/473990295/AC6EE313A0)

“A Gregarious Species” (2021, Natasha Raheja)