

SC 2217 TRAVEL MATTERS

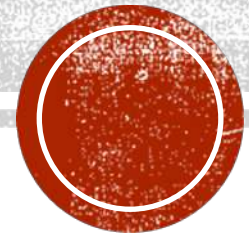
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TRANSNATIONAL MIGRANT LABOR MARKETS

WEEK 5





WHAT IS GLOBALIZATION?



And how does it
link with
transnational
labor migration?

1. Globalization

- Interconnection of markets, political systems, and **cultures**
- **Interdependence** of national economies, sociocultural worlds, **social stratification**
- Rapid increase in the movement of capital, people, goods
- Reorganization of **time** and **space through new dynamics of distance & intimacy**



GLOBALIZATION AND TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION

- Economies have industrialized and urbanized, huge demand for workers in manufacturing and construction
- With growing economies, increased participation of women in labor force in such countries – leading to demand for domestic workers
- Aging populations + economic growth – social shift in accepting outsourced carework and greater purchasing power
- Air travel booms
- Growing consumer markets and aspirations *everywhere*



EXAMPLE: CONNECTION & INTERDEPENDENCE

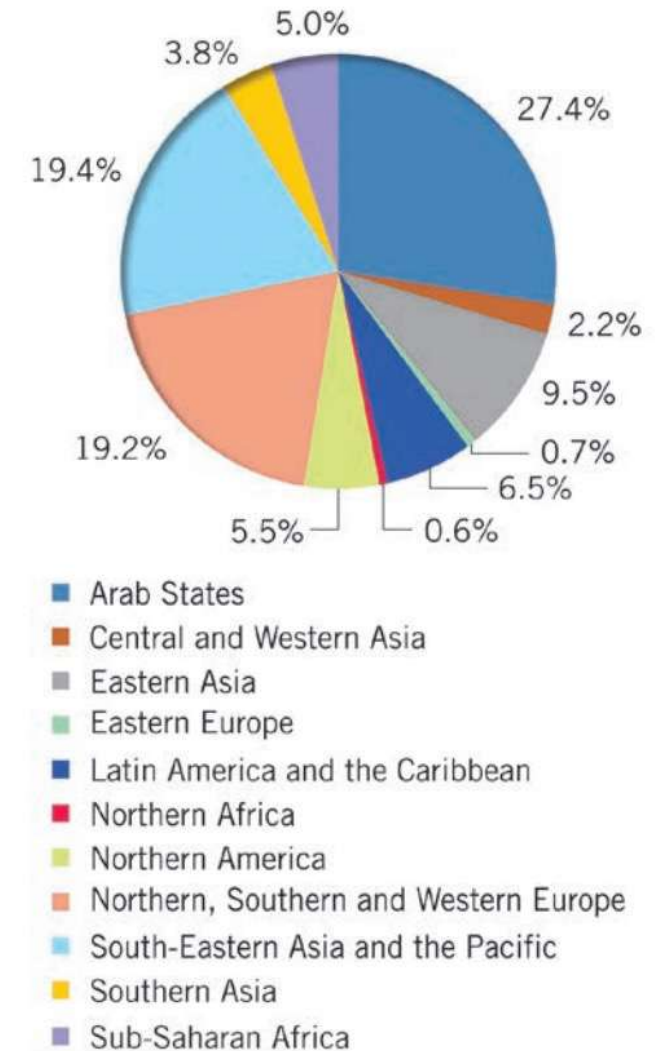
International division of labor

X

Racial division of reproductive labor

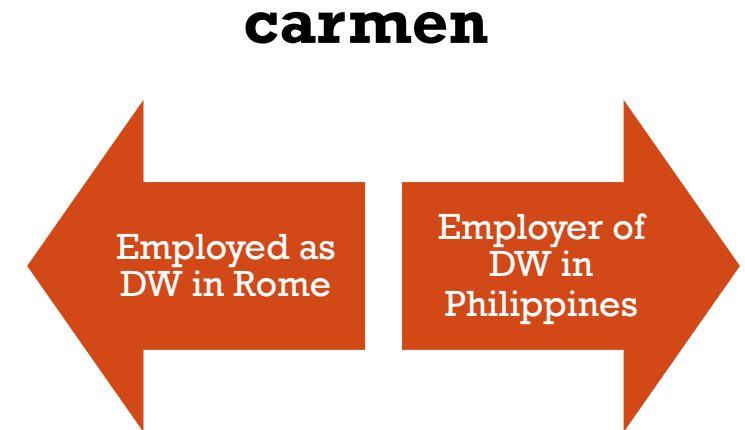
Rhacel Parrenas, *Servants of Globalization*

Distribution of migrant domestic workers, by broad subregion, 2013 (percentages)



HOW ARE CONNECTED LABOR MARKETS FORMED?

- Patriarchy x capitalism
- Domestic care work chains
- Labor hierarchies under global capitalism intersects with distinct contexts of gender inequality
- Gendered system of transnational capitalism
- Reproducing inequalities of nationality, race, class





“Migrant labor markets” seem big, abstract structures — can they be influenced or changed?



YES!

States and private brokers/agencies are working to **CREATE** certain kinds of demand and certain kinds of supply



MULTILATERAL PERSPECTIVE

States and brokers are
positioning workers in an
occupationally segmented
migratory order across multiple
origin & destination countries



Demand & supply mutually
constituted across countries



ANDY CHANG ON INDONESIA-TAIWAN

Indonesian female migrants are highly coveted in carework (domestic workers, elderly care) in Taiwan (and across competing destinations)

Indonesian male migrants have to pay to find jobs in Taiwanese factories, they are not preferred workers being labelled unskilled

🗨️ HOW CAN WE UNDERSTAND THIS GENDER/OCCUPATIONAL SEGMENTATION IN TRANSNATIONAL MIGRANT LABOR MARKETS?



CREATING VALUE IN INDONESIAN CAREWORKERS



- State **certification** of training by recruitment agencies
- State regulation of migration costs – brokers barred from charging fees to migrants, employer pays sponsor fees so reduced leverage
- Organizing supply by creating “export value”
- Organizing demand by controlling limited migrant pool – competing destinations



HANDS OFF RE: MALE MIGRANT WORK

- **Historical reasons** – late to the party

Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines have invested in training programs and secured their nationals' hold on global manufacturing jobs (Taiwan, South Korea etc.)

- **Ideological** – male migrants not viewed as vulnerable, thus don't need special state care & regulatory protections
- **Screening mechanisms** - Brokers have power to screen & recruit migrants – uneven quality
- **No leverage** in origin hierarchy – migration costly (high fees borne by migrants)
- **Segmented labor market** – race to the bottom by agents (poor jobs, low wages, wage theft, no protections)



TRANSNATIONAL WEBS BEHIND INDIVIDUALS



LIFESTYLE

Vogue speaks to 3 foreign domestic workers living in Singapore

BY AMELIA CHIA AND CHANDREYEE RAY

25 SEPTEMBER 2020

In our inaugural issue, we hear from three women in this field about their journey in Singapore, the sacrifices they have made and their hopes for the future.



Bangladesh Migrant Workers in Singapore: Video 5

Home / Resources / safe migration / Bangladesh Migrant Workers in Singapore: Video 5



Resource Type: Videos
Main Theme: Safe migration
Other Theme (if any): Forced Labour
Campaign: Migrant Voices
Language: Bangla
Country: Singapore

<https://iomx.iom.int/resources/safe-migration/videos/bangladesh-migrant-workers-singapore-video-5>

<https://vogue.sg/foreign-domestic-helpers-singapore/>

