

Theories of Migration
Migration: Movement of individuals from one territory to another

Migrant Assimilation Models
Assimilation: the process by which characteristics of a minority migrant group are either subsumed, absorbed, or adapted into the characteristics of a host society

Soft violence: migrant domestic worker precarity and the management of unfree labour in Singapore (Parreñas et al., 2021)

What makes cities liveable?

- *People*: Satisfy the fundamental needs of human living in a comfortable, convenient way
- *Land*: Not damaging ecology or bringing in unwanted pollution to aggravate global warming

What contributed to Singapore's success as a liveable city?

- Good governance
- Forward-looking urban planning (having masterplans)
 - Building infrastructure first
 - Providing good, affordable social housing
 - Walkable city with good public transport
 - Buildings kept neat and non-oppressive environments having adopted the Western chessboard concept

- Classical
- Countries encourage the inflow of migrants view that they will become future citizens
- Colonial
- Past colonial countries receive migrants from their ex-colonies
- Guest-worker
- Migrants are welcomed temporarily, usually for work but are not expected to have any particular rights to claim citizenship, no matter how long they stay
- Illegal
- Migrants stay in the country illegally; taking on temporary/low-paying jobs to avoid detection

- Classical
- Assimilation of migrant groups into host society is linear and such convergence is neat and eventual
 - Gordon (1961)'s Structural Assimilation
 - E.g Peranakans in Singapore
- Segmented Assimilation
- Those who are most disadvantaged in the migrant group will find it harder to assimilate due to an increasingly downward trajectory in the society's economic hierarchy
- Racial/Ethnic Disadvantage
- There remain barriers to integration through racial/ethnic discrimination

- Soft violence** power and domination can operate through care, not just cruelty/physical harm
- A paradoxical practice where employers claim to relieve the FDW's suffering (e.g. providing food, accommodation, breaks during the day, maintaining an 'open kitchen' policy, granting a day off, access to a mobile phone including Internet), while simultaneously amplifying their servitude (e.g. withholding pay, subject them to a r/s of debt bondage, curfew, impose temporal limits on phone access)
 - Upholds the work permit system which creates conditions of legal dependency and unfreedom

- Race**
- Not biological (as was once believed)
 - Socially constructed, dynamic categories that have assumed great social importance

- Sikh Diaspora in Singapore**
- Perception that Sikhs in the early days were mostly security personnel. But historically took on other occupations as well
 - 1820s: Sepoy of the British and Indian Empire, convict labour from India
 - 1881: Sikhs came as part of the Sikh police contingent
 - Went on to be watchmen, security guards
 - Money-lenders, businessmen, textile/spice traders
 - Bhai Maharaj Singh Ji
 - Became a spiritual example for Sikhs in Singapore strengthened what the Sikhs were doing in SG united the Sikh community

- Challenges - Climate Change**
- Bigger countries have a bigger role and responsibility to play
 - Singapore has made good efforts
 - Thinking about nature (not just think about people)
 - Strategies to manage the urban heat island effect
- Challenges - Ageing Population**
- A multifaceted, complex and inter-related issue
 - Singapore's current model
 - Ageing-in-place
 - Community ageing *with* place
 - E.g Kampung Admiralty as a community mixed-use development
 - Can take and adapt lessons and strategies from other countries
 - E.g Diversity of choice and scale of long-term care in Japan
 - Assisted living, group homes, nursing homes, co-housing

MIGRATION & SOCIAL INTEGRATION

GES1035/GESS1025: LECTURE

Diversity, Social Integration & Liveability

LIVEABILITY