



# KICK-OFF PROGRAMME

**10:15** Welcome remarks  
by **Cristina Marcuzzo**  
European Research Executive Agency



**UCT +1**  
**Brussels time**

**10:25** AspirE project presentation  
by **Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot**  
Université Libre de Bruxelles

**10:35** Presentation of Asia-Europe migration connections



**EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIAN IMMIGRATION TO BELGIUM**

**BY LUCAS MONTEIL**  
Université Libre de Bruxelles



**WILD BERRY PRODUCTION: THAILAND TO FINLAND SEASONAL LABOUR  
MIGRATION WITHOUT EMPLOYMENT**

**BY DR. MITRA HÄRKÖNEN & DR. MINNA SEIKKULA**  
Tampere University



**THE CONTEXT OF THAI LABOUR MIGRATION TO EUROPE: A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE**

**BY SIRIJIT SUNANTA**  
Mahidol University in collaboration with Isaan Record



**ASIAN MIGRANTS' LABOUR MARKET NICHEs - FILIPINOS IN ITALY**

**BY PAOLA BONIZZONI**  
University of Milano



**THE PHILIPPINES-EUROPE MIGRATION CORRIDOR: A MIX OF WELL-TRAVELED  
AND NEW PATHS**

**BY MARUJA M.B. ASIS**  
Scalabrini Migration Center

# AspireE

Asian prospects  
in (re)migration  
to/within the EU

# KICK-OFF PROGRAMME



ROOTS AND ROUTES OF VIETNAMESE MIGRATION TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

BY **ADÉLA SOURALOVÁ**  
Masaryk University



MIGRATION FROM VIETNAM TO EUROPE

BY **DANG NGUYEN ANH**  
Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences in collaboration with VAPEC



JAPANESE MIGRANTS IN GERMANY - BEYOND THE HIGHLY SKILLED  
AND EXPATS

BY **VANESSA TKOTZYK & RUTH ACHENBACH**  
Goethe University Frankfurt



OUTMIGRATION FROM JAPAN TO EUROPE: SOME RECENT PATTERNS

BY **GRACIA LIU-FARRER & MIYAKO HAYAKAWA**  
Waseda University



CHINESE MIGRATIONS TO PORTUGAL

BY **SOFIA GASPAR**  
Lisbon University Institute



"TO MOVE OR NOT (YET) TO MOVE" - FACTORS AFFECTING HONG KONG  
PEOPLE'S DECISION IN GETTING THE PORTUGAL'S GOLDEN VISA.



BY **ISABELLA NG FUNG-SHEUNG**  
The Education University of Hong Kong

**12:05**

Closing remarks

by **Frederik Ponjaert**

Université Libre de Bruxelles



# SPEAKERS



**Cristina Marcuzzo**  
EU Project Officer  
HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04



**Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot**, principal investigator of AspirE project, is associate researcher of the Belgian Fund for Scientific Research (F.R.S.–FNRS) and senior lecturer at the Laboratory of Anthropology of Contemporary Worlds (LAMC) in Université libre de Bruxelles. For the last fourteen years, she has been working on migration-related issues and phenomena in Europe-Asia social spaces, notably involving the Philippines, Thailand, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Her recent works include the volume *Tangled Mobilities. Places, affects, and personhood across social spheres in Asian migration* (co-edited with G. Liu-Farrer, Berghahn, 2022) and the Special Issue “Challenging stereotypes in Europe-Thailand transnational migration” (co-edited with S. Sunanta, *Advances in Southeast Asian Studies*, 2022).

**Lucas Monteil** is an AspirE post-doctoral researcher and a research member of EAST, STRIGES and LAMC at ULB, and he is teaching political sociology at Paris-East University. After his PhD thesis on gay male communities in continental China, he has been conducting research on Belgian-Asian binational conjugality and Asian migrations to Europe.

**Frederik Ponjaert** is a researcher and Lecturer at the IEE-ULB and an Associate Lecturer in Comparative Regionalism at SciencesPo, Paris. He also serves as scientific coordinator of the Erasmus Mundus GEM PhD School on ‘Globalisation, European and Multilateralism’. He equally works on EU external action and inter-regional partnerships, again with a specific focus on Euro-Asian dynamics. He is part of the ULB-based AspirE research team.



# SPEAKERS



**Mitra Härkönen** is a post-doctoral researcher with a master's degree (M.Soc.Sc.) in Social and Cultural Anthropology and a doctorate degree (PhD) in the Study of Religions. Her research interests range from Buddhist and migration studies to gender and feminist studies. She has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Tibet, China and India and done research on Thai women in Finland. In AspirE, she will focus especially on berry pickers who come from Thailand as seasonal workers to Finland.

**Minna Seikkula** is a sociologist specialized in questions of migration, race and ethnicity. In her previous post-doctoral research, she studied administrative border struggles, i.e. irregularized migrants' efforts to secure trajectories for regularization within the European border regime. She is one of the two post-doctoral researchers in conducting the AspirE case study in Finland, and her responsibilities in the project entail the policy analysis in regard to seasonal migration of workers in the Finnish berry industry.



มหาวิทยาลัยมหิดล  
Mahidol University



มูลนิธิเพื่อการศึกษาและสื่อภาคประชาชนอีสาน  
Foundation for Isaan Education and Popular Media

**Sirijit Sunanta** is associate professor in the PhD Program in Multicultural Studies, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia, Mahidol University, Thailand. Her research interests include gender and migration, Europe-Thailand transnational migration, globalization and food cultures, and the politics of diversity in Thailand. Sirijit's current research projects focus on care transnationalization and gendered labour in Thai health and well-being tourism.



# SPEAKERS



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO

**Paola Bonizzoni** holds a PhD in Sociology (2008) and she is Associate Professor at the Department of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Milan, where she teaches “Globalization, Diversity and Inequality” and “Society and Social Change”. She has carried out research on several migration-related issues, including (il)legalization and family reunification policies (and migrants’ strategies), immigration governance in small local contexts, intra-EU Italian youth mobility in a time of economic crisis, gendered and familial experiences of migration. Her latest publications explore the role of civil society in the migration and refugee field, with a focus on regularization processes and local service provision in medium and small-sized towns in Italy.



**Maruja M.B. Asis** is Director of the Scalabrini Migration Center, based in Manila, Philippines, and Editor of the *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*. She is a sociologist with more than 30 years of research experience on international migration and social transformation in Asia. Her research and publications explore the themes of gender, family and migration; migration and development; and migration governance. She has served as a member of various expert groups, advisory committees and scientific committees on policy, research and advocacy issues related to international migration.



# SPEAKERS

MUNI  
FSS

Adéla Souralová is an associate professor at the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. Her research focuses on Vietnamese migration, intergenerational bonds, grandchildhood and care. She published articles in journals such as *Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Global Networks*, *Journal of Family Issues* etc. Her PhD thesis on Vietnamese families that hire Czech nannies has been published by Ashgate in 2015. ORCID: 0000-0002-2599-4094



Dang Nguyen Anh is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of and former Vice-President of Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences in Hanoi. Over the last fifteen years, he has linked and extended academic networks to partners in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region. Professor Anh has participated in a wide range of research projects regarding sustainable development, human migration, and social protection. He is also the Vice-President cum the Secretary General of Vietnam Sociology Association, Editor-in-Chief of *Vietnam Journal of Sociology*. His list of publications embraces numerous publications, including books, academic papers and journal articles. Prof. Anh holds a PhD degree in sociology from Brown University, the United States.





# SPEAKERS



**Vanessa Tkotzyk** is a postdoctoral researcher in the project “AspirE” based at Goethe University Frankfurt/Main. In 2022, she received her PhD from the University of Bonn, where she was also teaching seminars on the Japanese economy and society and participating in the project “The Digital Transformation and the Changing Nature of Work in East Asia”. Her doctoral thesis “Zum Migrations- und Eingliederungsverhalten dauerhaft ansässiger Japanerinnen und Japaner in Deutschland. Charakteristika und soziale Integration der ersten Generation (Migration and Integration Patterns of Japanese Permanent Residents in Germany. Characteristics and Social Integration of the First Generation)” is submitted for publication.

**Ruth Achenbach** is the principal investigator in the project “AspirE” based at Goethe University Frankfurt. She received her PhD from the University of Hamburg with her dissertation on “Return Migration Decisions. A Study on Highly Skilled in Japan” (Wiesbaden: Springer VS). Her research interests are international migration, particularly of Chinese and Japanese, as well as Japanese society and decision-making theory. She also serves as principal investigator of a multi-sited project on skilled migration in Asia.



WASEDA University  
早稲田大学

**Gracia Liu-Farrer** is Professor of Sociology at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, and Director of Institute of Asian Migration at Waseda University, Japan. Her research examines immigrants’ economic, social and political practices in Japan, and the global mobility of students and professional migrants. She is the author of books *Labor Migration from China to Japan: International Students, Transnational Migrants* (Routledge, 2011) and *Immigrant Japan: Mobility and Belonging in an Ethno-nationalist Society* (Cornell University Press, 2020). She has co-edited *Handbook of Asian Migrations* (with Brenda Yeoh, Routledge, 2018) and *Tangled Mobilities: Places, Affects, and Personhood across Social Spheres in Asian Migration* (with Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot, Berghahn Books, 2022).

**Miyako Hayakawa** is a social anthropologist, new post-doctoral research fellow for the project AspirE. She received her PhD from EHESS (Ecoles des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) in France. She is a former JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) fellow for her research on political science, at Sophia University and the University of Tokyo. Her research focuses on anthropology of family and kinship, Japanese migration, and privileged international mobility. She is the author of “Migrating to an ideal country? Democratisation of Japanese Migration to France” (Ebisu, Etudes japonaises, 2023). She works on gendered constraints in Japanese migration. She is a member of MAF (Migrations asiatiques en France), Asian migration research network, and one of the main researchers of the REACTAsie project of MAF, an action-research on racism and discrimination against Asian immigrants in France. In 2015, she received the Louis Dumont Prize for her research in social anthropology.



# SPEAKERS



Sofia Gaspar (PhD in Sociology, Complutense University of Madrid, 2005) is Senior Research at CIES-Iscte, Lisbon University Institute, Portugal. She has coordinated several projects on bi-national couples, transnational families and Chinese immigrants, and she has vastly published on this field. My recent publications include the co-edition of the books *The Presence of China and the Chinese Diaspora in Portugal and Portuguese-Speaking Territories* (2021, Brill) and *Southeast Asian Migration: People on the Move in Search of Work, Refuge and Belonging* (Sussex Academic Press, 2015). I have also published several papers in peer-review journals (*International Migration, Population, Space and Place, Journal of Chinese Overseas, Sociologia - Problemas e Práticas, Portuguese Journal of Social Science*). She is Member of the Organizing Committee of the Thematic Section Migrations, Ethnicity and Racism of the Portuguese Sociological Association (APS), and she is co-organizing the workshops Meetings on Chinese Studies and Seminar of Cultural Diversity in Contemporary Families, both at Cies-Iscte. She is also member of several international networks: CHERN - China in Europe Research Network (COST Action), CERPE - China Europe Platform on Migration, PRIMOB - Privileged Mobilities: Local Impacts, Belonging and Citizenship (IMISCOE), DIVCULT - Superdiversity, Migration and Cultural Change (IMISCOE) and Lifestyle Migration Hub. Her current research activity is focused on the privileged migrations, investment mobilities, social integration of immigrants' descendants, particularly on the Chinese community in Portugal and Europe. She also is the local coordinator of the project AspirE, "Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to/within the EU: The case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia", on the scope of HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01).



Isabella NG Fung-Sheung is the Assistant Professor in the Department of Asian and Policy Studies. She receives her PhD in Gender Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London. She focuses her research on Asian-Pacific, in the area of Gender and Development in Asia, Feminist Geography, Feminist Research methods, anthropology of migration; migrants and diaspora, rural villages in Hong Kong and China and media studies, by drawing mainly on her training in anthropological research methods. She has published in *Journal of Rural Studies, Heliyon, Journal of Sociology, Journalism Practice, Journal of International Migration and Integration and AREA*. She is also the co-founder of the society Hong Kong Society for Asylum-Seekers and refugees, a Hong Kong based NGO which fights for the rights of the asylum-seekers and refugees in Hong Kong and support their need. She is also the Board member of U.S. registred NGO CivicSight. She has provided expert input on asylum-seekers and refugees issues to EU and OHCHR. She is the author of *Walking with Refugees* (in Chinese), the only book which examines the current refugee issues in Hong Kong.