



## Aotearoa Migration Research Network Symposium

### Migration in uncertain times: Im/mobilities, belonging and identities in Aotearoa/New Zealand

Friday, 4 September 2020

Over recent months, the introduction of border restrictions in Aotearoa/New Zealand (and many other countries) to stop the spread of COVID-19 has put a sudden halt to mobility and migration. While this situation has revealed anecdotes of compassion, agency and resilience towards, and by some migrants, it has also created immediate uncertainties and challenges for many others. For example, migrants have faced increased experiences of economic hardship and interpersonal racism, and experiences of 'limbo' as people find themselves unable to enter their homes, or countries of work or study, are separated from family members, or unable to secure permanent residence while visa processing is suspended. But alongside creating new uncertainties, this unprecedented situation has also shone a spotlight on longstanding inequalities that routinely accompany migratory movement and migrant lives. These include, but are not limited to, differential rights for temporary migrants, experiences of displacement, poverty, racism and discrimination, or labour market exploitation. This one-day symposium aims to discuss migrant belonging and identities in the context of the uncertainties – new and old – that shape, accompany or result from migration endeavours.

### Registration

If you would like to attend, please register via [this link](#) by *Friday, 28 August 2020*

### Information

The symposium takes place on Friday, 4 September from 9 am to 6pm. It will be a hybrid event in which we look forward to welcoming attendees via zoom, or in person.

#### For attendees via zoom:

Join the symposium via: <https://waikato.zoom.us/j/634605835>  
(this zoom link will be open only for presentation sessions)

#### For attendees in person:

All sessions will take place at The University of Waikato, Hamilton, in building/room MBS 1.36 & 1.37.

Parking is available on campus. Please use Gate 10 – 159 Silverdale Road, Hillcrest. See map at the back of this programme.

For questions about this symposium, please contact Jessica Terruhn [j.terruhn@massey.ac.nz](mailto:j.terruhn@massey.ac.nz) and Shemana Cassim [shemana.cassim@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:shemana.cassim@waikato.ac.nz)

## Programme

9:00 - 9:10	<b>Mihi Whakatau - Welcome Ceremony</b>
9:10 - 9:30	<b>Morning tea</b>
9:30 - 9:40	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>
9:40 - 11:20	<b>Session 1: Rethinking migration and national belonging</b>
9:40 - 10:00	Platform migration, interrupted: infrastructure, border and solidarity in uncertain times <i>Francis Collins</i>
10:00 - 10:20	Impact of protectionism on the migrant journey <i>Ganga Sudhan</i>
10:20 - 10:40	Off the team: post-lockdown attitudes toward returning citizens and residents in Aotearoa <i>Nicole Pepperell and Duncan Law</i>
10:40 - 11:00	Asian community's responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in New Zealand: Risk perceptions, government measures and ethnic boundaries <i>Liangni Sally Liu and Guanyu Jason Ran</i>
11:00 - 11:20	A place at the Kauri table 2020 <i>Deb Donnelly and Marie Enslin</i>
11:20 - 11:30	<b>Break</b>
11:30 - 12:50	<b>Session 2: Reworking disrupted mobilities</b>
11:30 - 11:50	Trans-Tasman 'Kiwi' Tongans affected by travel restrictions between Aotearoa and Australia <i>Ruth (Lute) Faleolo</i>
11:50 - 12:10	Virtual migrations and remote connections: reflections on the impact of COVID-19 on the migration experiences of early career academic staff <i>Alison Jolley and Nicole Pepperell</i>
12:10 - 12:30	Migrants for all seasons? Border closures and the flows of RSE seasonal workers <i>Richard Bedford, Charlotte Bedford &amp; Heather Nunns</i>
12:30 - 12:50	COVID-19: Experiences of Pacific workers in New Zealand's RSE scheme <i>Rochelle Bailey</i>
12:50 - 1:30	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 - 2:00	Workshop 1: Post-COVID-19 migration and migration research in Aotearoa/New Zealand
2:00 - 3:20	<b>Session 3: Navigating diversity in learning spaces</b>
2:00 - 2:20	Navigating difference: Uncertainty and belonging in culturally diverse New Zealand high schools <i>Bronwyn Wood</i>
2:20 - 2:40	Wiser perhaps, but well?: Enhancing refugee-background students' wellbeing in, and through, tertiary education <i>Sarah Willette and Sara Kindon</i>
2:40 - 3:00	Perceptions of new learning space for tertiary students at home stay (COVID-19) <i>Shiyama Edirisinghe and Sujeewa Polgampala</i>
3:00 - 3:20	Studying abroad during a pandemic: The experiences of international students in New Zealand during COVID-19 <i>Erin Stieler</i>
3:20 - 3:40	<b>Afternoon tea</b>
3:40 - 4:40	<b>Session 4: Negotiating ethnic identities</b>
3:40 - 4:00	Shadows of the past: The role of persecution in the self-identification of young Assyrians in New Zealand and Australia <i>Nashie Shamoon</i>

4:00 – 4:20	This is what our future looks like: Punjabi views from New Zealand <i>Asim Mukhtar</i>
4:20 – 4:40	Factors influencing negotiation of ethnic identity for 1.5/2nd generation Southeast Asian Migrants <i>Lovely Dizon, Roshini Peiris-John, Vanessa Selak and Rodrigo Ramalho</i>
4:40 – 5:30	Workshop 2: Synergies in research on belonging, identities and the migrant experience
<b>5:30 - 5:40</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b>
<b>5.40 – 5.50</b>	<b>Poroporoaki – Farewell Ceremony</b>

# Abstracts

## Session 1: Rethinking migration and national belonging

### Platform migration, interrupted: infrastructure, border and solidarity in uncertain times

*Francis Collins*

The closure of borders and the suspension of international travel in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic has revealed the fragility of contemporary systems of migration and the uncertainty faced by migrants around the world. In this reflective presentation I discuss the pandemic and responses in relation to recent insights developed in migration research, in particular the focus on the interplay between migration infrastructure, industries and management. I argue that contemporary migration can be usefully understood as dependent on a range of platforms' that induce, discourage, enable, resist, shape and constrain it, spanning the spheres of family, community, social networks, social infrastructure, migration industries, border control and migration management. The complexity and inter-operability of these platforms means that uncertainty is an inherent, inbuilt component of contemporary migration systems. The COVID-19 pandemic and government responses thus represent a radical interruption that reveals the uncertainties and precarities that are at the core of these migration systems. Once borders close and visa processing stops, migration industries become inoperable, migration infrastructures are disrupted and migrants can be left stranded and/or with their lives and futures held in suspension. The pandemic has also led to the emergence of new platforms associated with migration and migrant solidarity, evident in rapidly shifting approaches to regulation and the emergence of political claims for the rights and inclusion of temporary migrants. Read in this way, the COVID-19 pandemic represents an interruption that is leading to a reconfiguration of migration systems wherein debates about the ethics of migration management and border control, and the rights and recognition of migrants, are central.

**Francis L. Collins** is Professor of Geography and Director of the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis at the University of Waikato. Francis' research on international migration addresses the regulation and experience of temporary labour and educational migration, emotions and migration, and the relationship between migration and inequality.

### Impact of protectionism on the migrant journey

*Ganga Sudhan*

For the past five years, before the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries had been facing the tail end of immigration influx as resources became strained and the economic climate became untenable. In Australia and New Zealand, the opportunities for migrants to seek employment directly in these countries had started to dwindle. Even the more traditional route of post-graduate study leading to employment opportunities was significantly curtailed. The reason for this shift in immigration policy has been predominately fuelled by the need for governments to protect the interests of the citizen population in terms of unemployment and living costs (particularly, housing). The pandemic has made this need even more urgent with industries traditionally based on foreigners – such as tourism, now needing to focus on the domestic market. In the context of the likely protectionist economic policy in Aotearoa moving forward, this paper outlines how international migration will now become less lucrative for the next two years at least, and discusses what sorts of opportunities (pre-pandemic evergreen ones, as well as potential new avenues) may present themselves over the next decade.

**Ganga Sudhan** is an independent researcher in the area of education and has been in the training field for almost two decades. He has a Master in Education degree and a post-graduate Diploma in Teaching. A recent migrant to New Zealand from Singapore, Ganga has experienced the struggle of relocating during a semi-protectionist economic climate.

## **Off the team: post-lockdown attitudes toward returning citizens and residents in Aotearoa**

***Nicole Pepperell and Duncan Law***

Jacinda Ardern's often repeated appeal to the "team of 5 million" condensed a complex set of aspirational values and beliefs about national identity into a simple catchphrase. The imagined community that was the "team of 5 million" was enlisted to work toward a common purpose: protecting one another from the pandemic. The rhetorical move enlisted prosocial emotions in the service of compliance with COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, and also sought to recognise and give value to everyday sacrifices, inviting team members to imagine themselves as active and meaningful participants in a national project with life-and-death ramifications. The "team of 5 million" concept was reinforced with particular potency at each step in the progressive relaxation of lockdown restrictions, which were rhetorically constructed as both a victory for the efforts, and a reward for the sacrifices, of the national team. Unintentionally, this rhetorical move also generated complications for how to imagine the national identity of citizens and residents caught outside national borders during the lockdown period. These complications are now playing out in flashpoint debates around returning citizens and residents, as well as the management of quarantine and self-isolation facilities, after the move to alert level 1.

In this talk, we explore how the COVID lockdown experience has been mobilised in social media commentary about returning citizens and residents. We focus particularly on how the COVID experience is used to justify or challenge conceptions of citizenship and national identity, and how this intersects with perceived membership in the "team of 5 million".

**Nicole Pepperell** is Senior Lecturer at Te Puna Ako / The Centre for Tertiary Teaching & Learning at the University of Waikato. Her research interests include contestations over national identity, the political economy of higher education, critical studies of science and technology, and critical theory and pragmatist philosophy.

**Duncan Law** is an institutional political economist who has recently completed his PhD at RMIT University, Melbourne. His research interests include scientific incentive structures, public choice theory, and philosophical pragmatism.

## **Asian community's responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in New Zealand: Risk perceptions, government measures and ethnic boundaries**

***Liangni Sally Liu and Guanyu Jason Ran***

Media reports often describe New Zealand (NZ)'s measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic as one of the toughest in the world. Statistics has proved that the Government's tough approach is largely successful. However, this positive result does not come so easily. At the onset of the outbreak, the government's response to this emerging public health crisis was reluctant. This situation started to change in the mid of March as evidenced by the enforcement of much tougher border control measures and domestic orders. The Asian community – the second largest non-European ethnic community in NZ has been playing an important role in leading the combat with the pandemic. Simultaneously, the community has also experienced certain degrees of racial discriminations associated from the stigmatisations as the blame for the cause of the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on a focus group discussion with people from the Asian community, the paper examines the Asian community's response to the government pandemic measures in NZ. It not only reveals the driving forces behind the changing discourse of the NZ government response in relation to its external geopolitical environments and internal rationalisation of public health concerns and resources, but also illuminates the disparity in risk perception and health communication along ethnic boundaries during this pandemic.

**Dr. Liangni Sally Liu** is a Senior Lecturer (tenured) in the School of Humanities, Massey University, New Zealand. Dr. Liu's primary research interest is in Chinese transnational migration. Her broader research interests include international migration, immigration policy, migratory mobility associated with migrant sexuality, and ethnic relations. Her research work has been published widely in the forms of book chapters and research article in high-ranked peer-reviewed journals. Her recent monography entitled Chinese transnational Migration in the Age of Global Modernity: The Case of Oceania was published by Routledge. She has obtained a few prestigious research

grants and visiting fellowships, including a 2-year funding from NZ Health Research Council (HRC) (2020-2022), a 3-year funding from the Marsden Fund (Fast-Start), Royal Society of New Zealand (2017-2020), a research funding from the Chinese Poll-Tax Heritage Trust, Department of Internal Affairs of New Zealand, and two visiting research fellowships from the New Zealand Centre at Peking University in 2017 and 2018. She has been on the editorial board of the journal - Asia Pacific Viewpoint since 2017.

**Guanyu Jason Ran** is a final-year PhD candidate at Massey University with a full scholarship from the Marsden Fund, New Zealand Royal Society. Before his PhD research, he obtained a MASTER de Sciences Humaines et Sociales mention SCIENCES DE L'EDUCATION from Université Paris Nanterre in France with a full Erasmus Mundus master's degree scholarship from the European Commission, and a Master of Arts in International Development Studies from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. His broader research interests include transnational migration and families, refugee reception and integration, and overseas Chinese. He has published papers in the European Journal of Social Work, Asia Pacific Viewpoint, RC06 (Research Committee of Family, International Sociological Association) International Conference, and International Metropolis Conference. He has also been a registered social worker in China since 2011 with social work experiences in the field of human rights advocacy, rural children's education, and social innovation.

### **A place at the Kauri table 2020**

***Deb Donnelly and Marie Enslin***

WIA 2020 is a collective of women immigrant artists based in Aotearoa New Zealand. Formed to highlight, current and longstanding, issues faced by migrant women. In particular, the shared kaupapa of disempowered and dislocated women seeking kinship inside the New Zealand culture. Together, WIA2020 creates an interdisciplinary art installation as a site of belonging, to document and raise awareness of the migrant women experience. This presentation of self-filmed audio works, tracks several members who have experienced the impact of recent immigration in Aotearoa. Their accounts of changed circumstances and issues beyond their control. New settlers can often relate to a sense of isolation and cultural displacement. These women seek economic and social support to grow from, while contributing their collective skills, in tandem with changing government stances on border control. All members are reflected in this geographically bounded scenario, during the COVID-19 lock down, as it unfolds. This presentation documents how each of six women's context as cultural practices and materials adapt with 'tabled' placements reflecting each member's 'perceived situatedness' in Aotearoa.

A Place at the Kauri Table 2020, is a second collaboration, curated by Deb Donnelly, to serve as an interactive study of social connectedness and wellbeing for migrant women in Aotearoa. A place to share authentic migrant journey stories, through narrative inquiry, cultural artefacts and new works that emerge from this liminal and sometimes unstable space. The process of selecting interdisciplinary hand-crafted works, oral histories into film and audio are collaboratively worked with Helen Donnelly and curated to offers a range of access points for others to consider their own Aotearoa dialogue.

Born and educated in Wellington. Of Eurasian ethnicity, **Deb Donnelly** lives on the Kapiti Coast. A tertiary educator since 2000, in origins/whakapapa narrative inquiry, as a research basis for visual art making at Whitireia New Zealand. Donnelly developed research practices based on her own migrant origins and was awarded several fellowships, international research grants and arts residencies in China and Japan 2014-2019. As curator, Donnelly is a foundation member of Women Immigrant Artists 2020 collective to bridge narrative inquiry across media using arts research methodology to engage in the discourse of contemporary Aotearoa immigrant experiences.

## Session 2: Re-working disrupted mobilities

### Trans-Tasman 'Kiwi' Tongans affected by travel restrictions between Aotearoa and Australia

*Ruth (Lute) Faleolo*

This paper presents the experiences of a network of Trans-Tasman 'Kiwi' Tongans, who were observed during March to June 2020. Members of this diasporic web of families live and/or work in Aotearoa and/or Australia, depending on work availability and family needs during the year. Prior to March 2020 they had been freely migrating as Trans-Tasman migrants, between the two countries for work, study, health, and family reasons. While some family members dwell permanently or semi-permanently throughout dispersed locations (Auckland, Brisbane, Christchurch, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, and Tauranga), their shared familial duties and collective economic well-being are often maintained by other members making regular trips across the Tasman, including short-term stays in-between households. The recent COVID-19 border restrictions in Aotearoa and Australia have affected the collaborative livelihoods and well-being of these families. This paper records the accounts of Trans-Tasman Tongan migrants' experiences of physical isolation, 'being stuck', 'longing for home' and the sociocultural and economic hardships that have given rise to doubtful futures in these diaspora contexts. However, these uncertainties are contrasted against the narratives of increased sociocultural connections and important knowledge transfer occurring online, between Trans-Tasman 'Kiwi' Tongans, despite the challenges arising from the border restrictions.

**Ruth (Lute) Faleolo** is a Researcher at La Trobe University, Australia. As a New Zealand-born Tongan academic, based in Australia, her recent PhD study (2015-2019) considered the important links between well-being and migration, with a focus on Pasifika Trans-Tasman migrants and their well-being within and in-between New Zealand and Australia.

### Virtual migrations and remote connections: reflections on the impact of COVID-19 on the migration experiences of early career academic staff

*Alison Jolley and Nicole Pepperell*

Migration has been a feature of academic life from the origin of the university. Students and scholars travelling to centres of learning, where they can socialise and learn scholarly knowledge and craft, is part of the iconic image of an academic life. In more recent years, the massification and globalisation of higher education, combined with labour market constraints in the economies of the Global North, have led to complex diasporas of academic staff who migrate to work at tertiary institutions far away from their countries of origin. COVID-19 has generated distinctive disruptions for these migrant scholars, through the financial impact on tertiary institutions, as well as border closures and other measures that restrict international mobility. These have constrained the way that academic staff connect and interact, particularly impacting early career researchers to whom building and sustaining networks is especially important. This has resulted in the need to continually reconsider what migration looks like to individuals and communities of practice within academic settings.

In this talk, we draw auto-ethnographically on our own personal experiences of disrupted academic migration during the COVID-19 pandemic. We explore what it has meant for us to navigate new and changing roles, responsibilities and professional relationships in the face of ongoing uncertainty. We also introduce the methodology for a broader study of the impact of COVID-19 on the migration experience of early career academic staff. These experiences, we suggest, provide an indicator and a lens for analysing the future of international higher education.

**Alison Jolley (AJ)** is Lecturer at Te Puna Ako / The Centre for Tertiary Teaching & Learning at the University of Waikato. Her research interests are tightly connected to field-based and experiential learning, including its emotional and attitudinal impacts on sense of place and wellbeing of staff and students.

**Nicole Pepperell** is Senior Lecturer at Te Puna Ako / The Centre for Tertiary Teaching & Learning at the University of Waikato. Her research interests include contestations over national identity, the political economy of higher education, critical studies of science and technology, and critical theory and pragmatist philosophy.

## **Migrants for all seasons? Border closures and the flows of RSE seasonal workers**

***Richard Bedford, Charlotte Bedford & Heather Nunns***

The thirteenth season (2019/20) of the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme has been accompanied by unprecedented disruption to the flows of seasonal labour for the horticulture and viticulture industries. The COVID-19 pandemic, and the associated border closures in both source and destination countries, have meant that the managed circulation of well-established reliable supplies of seasonal labour from 15 countries in the Pacific (9) and Asia (6) essentially had to be terminated at critical times in the pipfruit, kiwifruit, citrus and viticulture industries. When the New Zealand government closed the international border on 19 March, over 9,700 RSE workers were in the country. Many were coming towards the end of their original employment contracts and due to return home. There were also approx. 3,000 RSE workers who could not enter the country for work over the forthcoming months. An indefinite pause in the movement of seasonal labour into and out of the country could not have come at a more challenging time for employers, contractors and workers. The return to the pre-pandemic system of flows of RSE seasonal labour in 2020/21 is very uncertain. At the beginning of July 2020 there was no clear indication of when flows of lower-skilled workers into and out of New Zealand, who are not citizens or permanent residents, will be permitted.

In this paper we examine the impact of responses to the pandemic in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands on the flows of RSE workers. Our discussion is informed by a recently completed two-year study, funded by MFAT and MBIE, into the impacts (positive/negative; intended/unintended) of the RSE scheme on employers/contractors and their businesses in New Zealand as well as on RSE workers, their families and communities in the islands. The focus of this paper is on two groups of workers: 1) those whose periods of employment in New Zealand became much longer than originally approved due to Pacific border closures and 2) those whose contracts were scheduled to start after mid-March and who got no seasonal employment in New Zealand in the 2019/20 season. The purpose is to better understand how unanticipated events, like the COVID-19 pandemic, impact on the RSE seasonal workforce which provides essential labour for New Zealand's horticulture and viticulture industries.

**Richard Bedford** is Emeritus Professor at the University of Waikato linked with the National Institute for Demographic and Economic Analysis. Richard does research on population change and migration with a special interest in the Pacific Islands. He is currently working on New Zealand's managed seasonal migration policy with Pacific countries, and migration policy responses to climate change on countries in the central Pacific.

**Dr Charlotte Bedford** specialises in migration research in the Pacific. She is a Research Fellow in the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Canberra.

**Dr Heather Nunns'** specialist fields are policy analysis and evaluation. She is Director of Analytic Matters, a Wellington-based research and policy analysis company.

## **COVID-19: Experiences of Pacific workers in New Zealand's RSE scheme**

***Rochelle Bailey***

It has been a long exhausting and stressful season for many seasonal workers participating in New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme (RSE) and their employers. Workers experience much uncertainty with employment opportunities, not being able to return to their families due to border closures and relocating to new locations and workplaces. For employers, supporting workers has been challenging in transferring workers, sourcing new farms, accommodation and dealing with the rigid bureaucracy that has not necessarily been flexible to aid employers. What COVID-19 revealed is how employers will wear the brunt of responsibilities in these schemes, even beyond the scope of their employment contract and terms.

Pacific RSE workers are facing many challenges. They are stranded beyond their visas, experiencing a lack of work opportunities, new locations, and the introduction to new jobs, systems of online shopping, social integration and constant social media accusations in New Zealand and abroad. Furthermore, for the research presented here, watching Cyclone Harold destroy their villages while they remained physically isolated from their communities has been an additional hardship. RSE incomes have supported disaster relief and support for Pacific families that have

suffered employment losses; however, this can be at the cost of workers experiencing financial hardship. Although New Zealand employers and communities have responded and helped RSE workers in various ways, the dual impacts of Cyclone Harold and COVID-19 and recent repatriation selection, workers and families are re-evaluating the costs of participating.

**Rochelle Bailey** is a Research Fellow with the Department of Pacific Affairs, at The Australian National University. She has conducted long-term ethnographical fieldwork investigating economic, cultural, political and social outcomes of Pacific labour mobility in New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme (RSE) 2007-2020.

## Session 3: Navigating diversity in learning spaces

### **Navigating difference: Uncertainty and belonging in culturally diverse New Zealand high schools**

**Bronwyn Wood**

Working out how to 'fit in' or belong characterises a common experience of all youth. But for migrant youth, the politics of belonging take on some additional challenges that often require negotiating plural and hybrid cultural identities and multiple spatial and social affiliations. In this paper I examine how school-aged young people navigated 'difference' daily in some of New Zealand most culturally diverse communities. Drawing on peer-led focus group and visual data with young people (n=180) in four super-diverse schools, I explore how they saw themselves as socially and spatially 'connected' (or disconnected) to peers and communities and how this shaped their everyday identities and practices. I examine in particular, how young people crafted their 'Kiwi accent' and sought opportunities and activities that would be rewarded with 'distinction' (Bourdieu, 1994) within the school and by their peers. The findings reveal how migrant youth developed a wide range of cultural capabilities to enable them to juggle multiple worlds and attempt to navigate the hierarchies of belonging as well as opportunities for cultural celebration within school settings. The paper reflects on the ethnic boundary work of refugee and migrant youth in everyday spaces of the nation (Visser, 2016) and the politics of inclusion and exclusion, citizenship and non-citizenship.

**Bronwyn Wood** is a senior lecture in education at Victoria University of Wellington. Her research interests centre on issues relating to youth participation, citizenship and education. Her recent research focuses on experiences of belonging and citizenship for young people growing up in some of New Zealand's most culturally diverse communities.

### **Wiser perhaps, but well?: Enhancing refugee-background students' wellbeing in, and through, tertiary education**

**Sarah Willette and Sara Kindon**

Within New Zealand, completing higher education has been linked with greater mental and emotional wellbeing (Lawes and Schagenas 2007), but how are higher education and wellbeing linked during enrolment, particularly for students from refugee backgrounds? In this paper, we report from recent research with university students from refugee backgrounds to identify three ways in which TEOs positively influence students' wellbeing through enabling them to belong: First, through a politics of recognition (in University equity policy and planning); second, through a politics of provisioning (through language and study skills, scholarships, grants and services) and third, through a politics of welcome and hospitality (including inclusive classroom pedagogy, targeted activities, social spaces and clubs). In combination with students' perseverance and resilience, these ways help to alleviate persistent household, functional and systemic challenges to obtaining higher qualifications (CRF 2011, Horner et al., 2006; Reid et al., 2017; Sampson et al. 2016). By creating learning environments which enable belonging and foster wellbeing, more students from refugee backgrounds are likely to complete their educations and sustain higher levels of mental and emotional wellbeing throughout their resettlement process.

The paper has been developed from **Sarah Willette's** Masters of Development Studies thesis which she completed earlier this year in collaboration with, and under the supervision of **Professor Sara Kindon**.

### **Perceptions of new learning space for tertiary students at home stay (COVID-19)**

***Shiyama Edirisinghe and Sujeewa Polgampala***

This comparative study is about tertiary students' perceptions of new learning space during the outbreak of COVID-19 as it has wreaked havoc across countries and, like any perilous sector, education has been hit hard. Over the last two months, with the recent epidemic, many tertiary institutions in Sri Lanka and New Zealand have been closing their physical doors and opening digital doors for tertiary students. They moved to an online mode with little to no advance notice for tertiary students with economic hardship at the homestay. We discuss two case studies conducted in both countries using mixed method. Constant comparative method was used to analyse the data. Apart from the social and economic hardship, learners needed to be competent in their role and possess the skills required for the new learning space. According to perceptions of homestay, the tertiary students in Sri Lanka and New Zealand had challenges to overcome. For instance, unreliable internet access and a lack of digital devices made it difficult to participate in the new learning space; this gap is seen across and between income brackets of unemployment, social norms and cultural values. The study revealed that in both cases, students faced some challenges with respect to cybersecurity, discrimination, issues on social networks and video conferences software. In Sri Lanka, tertiary students were studying in the motherland, and their problems were related to social isolation, racism and poverty. In New Zealand homestay, online learning tertiary students restricted to Asian temporary migrants. The latter had issues relevant to unemployment, mobility uncertainty of returns to the motherland, difficulties at accommodation and extension visa.

I, **Shiyama Edirisinghe** was a teacher educator, social and educational researcher, last 20 years at the National Institute of Education in Sri Lanka. I am a third-year PhD student at university Waikato. My research work is related to the "Using mobile technology applications (apps) when teaching and learning geometry in junior secondary school Mathematics Education in Sri Lanka."

I, **Dr. Sujeewa Polgampala** am a Teacher Educator with 25 years of experience working for the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka. My research interest is for teacher training and evaluation and the PhD thesis topic is "Development and Validation of a Specific Science Observation Protocol (SP 2018): A Tool for Evaluating Effective Science Teaching at National Colleges of Education -Sri Lanka". I have published 14 research articles in indexed international journals.

### **Studying abroad during a pandemic: The experiences of international students in New Zealand during COVID-19**

***Erin Stieler***

International students face a number of challenges when adapting to life in New Zealand. Being away from home, encountering culture shock, and feeling lonely are all common issues that international students may experience. Universities in New Zealand provide a duty of pastoral care to help international students navigate the challenges and opportunities that can arise with settling into a new country. These measures of support are especially critical in times of a crisis, where international students may already feel vulnerable. The recent events of COVID-19 have had major implications for international student wellbeing. Travel bans, lockdowns, and widespread fear and xenophobia associated with the coronavirus have created a highly stressful time for any international student studying in New Zealand during this crisis. This is a time when the wellbeing of international students is most greatly shaped by the support they receive from their university. This paper will present the preliminary findings from on-going master's thesis research on international student wellbeing in New Zealand during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research specifically aims to examine the pressures and challenges international students at the University of Auckland are facing due to the impacts of COVID-19. Issues that will be examined include feelings of safety, senses of community and belonging, and how supported students feel by their university during these uncertain times. Upon completion, the general aim of this research will be to further understand narratives of resilience amongst international students in New Zealand during times of crisis.

**Erin Stieler** is an MA candidate currently conducting her thesis research at the University of Auckland. Born in Canada, Erin has spent the past six years studying and working in the tertiary education sector in New Zealand. Erin aspires to pursue further research on international student wellbeing in higher education.

## **Session 4: Negotiating ethnic identities**

### **Shadows of the Past: The role of persecution in the self-identification of young Assyrians in New Zealand and Australia**

***Nashie Shamoon***

What influence does historical trauma have on the identities of young individuals who are a part of small diasporic communities? For over 100 years, the Assyrian peoples — an ethnoreligious minority in the Middle East — have emigrated to the West due to constant persecution. The existing Assyrian-focused migration and diaspora literature recognises the impact cultural trauma has had on generations of Assyrians residing in countries such as the United States, Sweden, or the Netherlands. However, there is very little research on the Assyrian diaspora in New Zealand and Australia, and none on young Assyrians. This paper seeks to provide original insights into the impact of persecution on the self-identification of young Assyrians in New Zealand and Australia. The findings draw from semi-structured interviews conducted with Assyrians aged between 18-30 from Wellington, Auckland, and Sydney.

**Nashie Shamoon** is undertaking a Master's by thesis in Political Science at Victoria University of Wellington.

### **This is what our future looks like: Punjabi views from New Zealand**

***Asim Mukhtar***

Asim Mukhtar screens a short documentary film he produced in Punjabi language with Punjabi migrants in New Zealand. The film is subtitled in English. One discussant is female and one is male. One is a migrant from India and one is a migrant from Pakistan. One is Sikh and one is Muslim. Despite being non-resident nationals of different South Asian countries they share their language, culture, and history as Indigenous people of the Punjab, the land of five rivers in Farsi (Persian); native land divided into separate states in 1947 by the partition of British India. Their discussion intersects through Punjabi views from New Zealand on what our future looks like for Punjabi language communities. As migrants of India and Pakistan imagining the retention of Punjabi identity for New Zealand-born generations, they evoke stories of cultural resilience in respect to their people, temporary workers and international students, excluded from crossing the New Zealand border in the pandemic climate.

**Asim Mukhtar** is producing a Punjabi language documentary film and exegesis for his practice-led thesis on Sanjha Punjab, the cultural concept of united Punjab among Punjabi migrants in New Zealand from India and Pakistan. Asim is Sunni Muslim and a Punjabi Pakistani migrant to Auckland.

### **Factors influencing negotiation of ethnic identity for 1.5/2nd generation Southeast Asian Migrants**

***Lovely Dizon, Roshini Peiris-John, Vanessa Selak and Rodrigo Ramalho***

Introduction: Developing one's ethnic identity is critical for positive youth development but can be particularly challenging for 1.5 and second generation Southeast Asian (SEA) migrant adolescents as they find themselves positioned between their host culture and culture of origin. Ultimately these migrant adolescents are enmeshed in both cultures, constantly negotiating complex and multicultural identities. Based on the lack of New Zealand-based research in this area, this study aims to determine/explore the factors that influence the negotiation of ethnic

identity for 1.5 and second-generation SEA migrant adolescents and how this impacts their general health, wellbeing and access to health services.

**Methods:** Cross-sectional study using quantitative data from a regionally representative sample of New Zealand secondary school students aged 13 to 19 from the Youth'19 survey. All survey respondents who meet the following criteria will be included in this analysis: (1) 1.5- or second-generation SEA migrants, (2) 1.5- or second-generation European migrants, (3) European non-migrants. The three groups will be described separately, according to their demographic characteristics, key measures of ethnicity, factors influencing ethnic identity and their health, wellbeing, and health service access. The relationship between each of the measures of ethnic identity and factors influencing ethnic identity will be analysed (using univariate and multivariate methods) for each of the measures of health, wellbeing, and health service access. Data will be analysed using R software.

**Results/Conclusions:** The main results of the analysis will be completed by August 2020 and discussed, including their significance and conclusions, during the presentation.

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