

Introduction

- Start with giving a personal account of working alongside with OFWs.
- Give an outline of my thesis.
- Give two examples of recruitment practices (plus stories from the field)
- Give an outline of what I interpret to be the experiences of OFWs.

Personal Accounts



The (In)Visible Migrant: A Case Study of Filipino Labourers in the Christchurch 'Rebuild'

- Anthropology
- MA Thesis
- University of Canterbury (CEISMIC Scholarship)

<http://www.ceismic.org.nz/>

- WHAT IS UC CEISMIC?
- Canterbury Earthquake Digital Archive
- *UC CEISMIC provides a single place to understand, remember and research the Canterbury earthquakes of 2010 and 2011; a place where other communities can learn from our experiences.*

From Global to Local - My thesis in three parts:

- 1: The first part looks at the Philippines producing migrants for the global labour market through neoliberal governmentality.
- 2: The second part looks at the intimate processes of migrating, and the conditions under which they are created.
- 3: The third part analyses the data gathered through my theoretical framework.

Some of the Questions that I am asking:

Why have New Zealand recruitment agencies and New Zealand employers turned to OFWs?

What systems are in place to facilitate these migrations?

What are the experiences of Filipino workers?

Is temporary migration (in the context of the Philippines) 'good' or 'bad'?

Methods

- **Field work (participant-observation):** Everyday personal accounts
- **Interviews:** 12 – 15 interviews with OFWs
- **Interviews:** With NGOs, employers, and recruiters ...
- **Literature:** Related to OFWs, neoliberalism, globalization and migrant vulnerability.
- **Theory:** The theoretical underpinning is Foucault's neoliberal governmentality, which is stimulated through amalgamating the theories of Karl Polanyi and Rene Girard (Desire).

Neoliberal Governmentality

“That is, people are governed by and through their own interests – the government becomes effective and influences individual’s actions to be self-regulated within the discourses of economic and political institutions”. (Călin Cotoi, http://www.irsr.eu/issue02/07_Cotoi_p109-124.pdf).

“The creation of docile bodies is paramount for the global labour market. Obedience, loyalty and being healthy are just some of the attributes needed to create the ideal worker.” (Robyn Rodriguez, *The labor brokering state: the Philippine state and the globalization of Philippine citizen-workers*, 84.)

POEA – Overproduction (recession)



Leighs Construction

“Leighs Construction does not involve either a New Zealand recruitment agency or immigration consultant. A highly comprehensive process was developed to ensure those chosen had the necessary qualifications, the right level of skills, could speak English well, and were the right fit for our business.”

(http://www.leighsconstruction.co.nz/news-how_we_employ_our_filipino_carpenters-1)

Recruitment Agencies

Problematic?

Unethical?

Work titles and work ...

Filipino Experiences

I have found that from both informal and formal conversations that Filipinos:

- Have had difficult starts associated with having to create a debt to get here, and accommodation issues ...
- I have heard many stories that things seem to improve for individuals once they are connected with informal Filipino networks, and when they establish what the options are.
- It was very difficult to get interviews with Filipinos
- The aspirations and reasons for migrating are seemingly being fulfilled

Conclusion

Through language, education, media, and by the regulation and control of policy, OFWs are promised a better life through migration and this is presented as being a *choice* – and one that is worthy not only for themselves, their families and the state but one that seemingly fulfils *their desire* and in the process mimics the ‘Other’.