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Migration, Mobility & Displacement is an online, open-access, peer-reviewed journal. It seeks to publish original and innovative scholarly articles, juried thematic essays from migrant advocacy groups and practitioners, and visual essays that speak to migration, mobility and displacement and that relate in diverse ways to the Asia-Pacific. The journal welcomes submissions from scholars and migrant advocacy groups that are publicly engaged, and who seek to address a range of issues facing migrants, mobile and displaced persons, and especially work which explores injustices and inequalities.

We welcome submissions and inquiries from prospective authors. Please visit our website: mmduvic.ca, or contact the editor for more information.

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Editorial Statement

Feng Xu

Welcome to the first of two special issues that we are releasing in the aftermath of an international conference entitled Migration and Late Capitalism, Critical Intersections with the Asia-Pacific and Beyond. The conference took place in June 2015, at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI), University of Victoria. The conference brought together scholars, graduate students, migrant activists and civil society leaders from around the world; it launched multidisciplinary discussions and debates about many key challenges facing migration in late capitalism, particularly with respect to the Asia-Pacific region. The conference also gained the attention of local migrant activists and Indigenous (First Nations) communities.

We chose to situate migration in the specific context of late capitalism. We believe the latter concept, though perhaps controversial, captures fundamental recent transformations in capitalism that have inescapable impacts on the experience and patterns of migration. Contemporary capitalism has moved beyond monopoly and industrial forms of the mid- to late-twentieth century; it is now increasingly characterized by the diversification of final commodities, of working conditions, and of regime and governance mechanisms. The rules and patterns governing migratory movement are not only logical consequences of these developments: they are essential to the realization of this diversity.

The conference created a productive space for discussion and debate. With the two special issues, we wish to share some of the excitement that participants experienced, and to generate further debate and discussion on migration, mobility and displacement with still-larger communities of concern and scholarship around the world.

In the present issue, we publish two of the three keynote addresses from the conference, substantially in their original forms. Our intention is to capture some of the spirit of the event. The three keynotes were delivered by Tings Chak, a trained architect, migrant activist, and graphic novelist; Sandro Mezzadra, an eminent political theorist who engages in 'militant investigation' on migration and capitalism; and Linda Tuhiwai Smith, a Maori scholar on decolonization in Aotearoa/New Zealand and beyond. We also publish the work of other conference participants: separate research papers by Nicole Constable and Brenda S. A. Yeoh, two leading scholars on migration in Asia; an interview with Eni Lestari, chair of the International Migrant's Alliance based in Hong Kong; and a research report by Kilim Park, a doctoral student working on the experiences and activism of Indonesian migrant-returnees.

The three keynote addresses resonated with and guided discussions on some key conference themes: the incarceration of undocumented migrants, the centrality of land to Indigenous identity and the displacement of Indigenous people, and migrants' struggle for the right to movement.

Tings Chak argued in her keynote that both undocumented migrants and detention centres are deliberately made invisible in Canada. In making undocumented migrants and detention centres visible again through the popular idiom of the graphic novel, she challenges us to see architectural designs not merely as technical, but as political.

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Further, by making undocumented migrants visible through their own stories of struggles in detention centres, Chak brings their human agency to light. Chak also challenges us to think about what architectural design contributes to 'bordering practices' of us/them, inside/outside, and undocumented/citizens.

Sandro Mezzadra is trained as a political theorist from the Italian Autonomist Marxist tradition. Readers who have read his *Border as Method*, or, the *Multiplication of Labour*, co-authored with Brett Neilson, will find resonances in his keynote discussion of the proliferation of borders and the multiplication of labour, and why these matter in the study of global capitalism. They will also recognize the theme of the centrality of migrants as active protagonists in the politics of migration and capitalism, rather than merely as the objects of that politics. Both researchers and activists will also find Mezzadra's reflections to be interesting on the intimate connection he makes between research and activism. 'Militant investigation,' as he and others have named this connection, has been central to his individual and collaborative projects on migration for many years.

The third keynote by Linda Tuhiwai Smith, a Maori scholar and activist widely read and admired in international Indigenous Studies circles, will be published in our upcoming issue that will also take on themes and conversations from the conference.

In her interview with Annalee Lepp, chair of the Migration and Late Capitalism conference and chair of the University of Victoria's Department of Gender Studies, migrant activist Eni Lestari attributed her decision to migrate to Hong Kong to work as a domestic worker, primarily to the 1997 Asian financial crisis. In the process, she had to sacrifice her dream of going to college. Eni also talked about labour brokers, with whom migrants must deal, but whose main interest is profit rather than helping migrants. She became an activist after receiving help from other activists to settle her case against an abusive employer. She and other activists formed the Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Hong Kong in 2000; since then, activism has become part of her life.

In her exploratory piece on the contemporary forms of control and discipline of migrant 'overstayers' (in Hong Kong's legal language), Nicole Constable uses Foucault's concept of 'disciplinary societies' and Deleuze's 'societies of control.' This approach sheds light on three women migrant 'overstayers' as they experience life inside and outside prison. But Constable urges us not to think in binaries of inside/outside, incarceration/freedom; instead we should approach such experiences in terms of multiple and overlapping forms of control and discipline.

Brenda Yeoh's paper is a critical literature review on gender and migration in Southeast Asia. She argues that Southeast Asia should be treated as a whole in this context, as Southeast Asian countries share three main features: the history of colonialism and of post-colonial struggles over national identities; a growing trend towards regional integration with implications for labour migration; and regional sources of the 'feminization' of transnational

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migration. “An understanding of gender politics in a migratory context” necessitates an analysis of “gendered identities and power hierarchies operating across interrelated spatial scales: body and identity politics, the familial politics implicated in the household reproduction, and the rise of gender activism vis-à-vis the nation-states,” (p. 76-77).

Kilim Park’s research report is based on her ethnographic work with Indonesian migrant returnees-turned-activists in Jakarta. She challenges the one-dimensional representation of Indonesian migrants as helpless victims while they work overseas as domestic workers or factory workers. Park argues that these migrants-turned-activists “occupy a place of innovation and transformation that confounds and subverts the gender-specific conceptualization of migrant women,” (p. 97).

This edition foreshadows some of the themes that will also carry over into its companion issue. I believe I speak for the larger editorial committee in looking forward to sharing new insights gained from our dynamic conference.