


Impact Factor: **2.3**

5-Year Impact Factor:

 Contents More

## Abstract

As a small labor-shed  
Philippines, Indones  
Singapore provides  
but not without imp

from the  
households,  
economic necessity  
with a brief  
examination of state policy on transnational labor migration relating to female domestic workers, this article goes on to explore the debates within public discourse as well as private accounts on the impact of foreign maids on a range of issues, including female participation in the workforce; the social reproduction of everyday life including the delegation of the domestic burden and the upbringing of the young; the presence of “enclaves” of foreign nationals in public space; and bilateral relations between host and sending countries. It concludes that the transnational labor migration is a multifaceted phenomenon with important repercussions on all spheres of life, hence requiring dynamic policy intervention on the part of the authorities concerned.



## Get full access to this article

View all access and purchase options for this article.

Get Access 

## References

Amarles B. M. 1990 “Female Migrant Labor: Domestic Helpers in Singapore, “ *Philippine Journal of Public Administration*, 34(4):365–387.

[Google Scholar](#)

Business Times 1992 *Business Times*, February 21, Singapore.

[Google Scholar](#)

Castles S. 1995 "Contract Labour Migration." In *Cambridge Survey of World Migration*. Ed. Cohen R. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 510-514.

[Google Scholar](#)

Cheng S. H. 1984 *Changing Labour Force of Singapore*. Council for Asia Manpower Studies Discussion Paper Series No. 84-02. University of Philippines.

[Google Scholar](#)

Colen S. 1989 "Just A Little Respect': West Indian Domestic Workers in New York City." In *Muchachas No More: Household Workers in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Ed. Chaney E. M. and Castro M. G. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Pp. 171-194.

[Google Scholar](#)

Department of Statistics 1994 *Dual Career Couples in Singapore*. Occasional Paper No. 13. Singapore: Department of Statistics.

[Google Scholar](#)

Gonzalez J. L. III, and Sanchez J. M. 1996 "Filipina Domestic Helpers in Singapore: Profile, Problems, and Interventions." Paper presented at the Consultative Meeting of the Asian Network on Women and International Migration (ANWIM), Batam Island, Indonesia. October 9-12.

[Google Scholar](#)

Hernandez C. G. and Tigno J. V. 1995 "ASEAN Labour Migration: Implications for Regional Stability," *Pacific Review*, 8(3):544-557.

[Crossref](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Heyzer N. and Wee V. 1994 "Domestic Workers in Transient Overseas Employment: Who Benefits, Who Profits?" In *The Trade in Domestic Workers: Causes, Mechanisms and Consequences of International Migration*. Vol. 1. Selected papers from a Regional Policy Dialogue on Foreign Women Domestic Workers: International Migration, Employment and National Policies. Colombo, Sri Lanka. August 10-14, 1992. Ed. Heyzer N., Niejholt G. Lycklama a, and Weerakoon N. London: Zed Books. Pp. 31-102.

[Google Scholar](#)

Huang S. and Yeoh B. S. A. 1997 "Beyond the Household: Strategizing Childcare in Singapore," *Asian Profile*, 25(3):193-209.

[Google Scholar](#)

Huang S. and Yeoh B. S. A. 1996a "Ties That Bind: State Policy and Migrant Female Domestic Helpers in Singapore," *Geoforum*, 27(4):479-493.

[Crossref](#)

[PubMed](#)

[Web of Science](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Huang S. and Yeoh B. S. A. 1996b "Gender and Urban Space in the Tropical World," *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 17(2):105-112.

[Crossref](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Hui W. T. 1997 "Regionalization, Economic Restructuring and Labor Migration in Singapore," *International Migration*, 35(1): 109-128.

[Crossref](#)

[PubMed](#)

[Web of Science](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Hui W. T. 1992 "Singapore's Immigration Policy: An Economic Perspective." In *Public Policies in Singapore: Changes in the 1980s and Future Signposts*. Ed. Low L. and Toh M. H. Singapore: Times Academic Press. Pp. 170-193.

[Google Scholar](#)

International Monetary Fund 1996 *Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook*. Washington, DC: International Monetary Fund.

[Google Scholar](#)

Lim L. L. and Oishi N. 1996 "International Labor Migration of Asian Women: Distinctive Characteristics and Policy Concerns." In *Asian Women in Migration*. Ed. Battistella G. and Paganoni A. Quezon City: Scalabrini Migration Center. Pp. 23-53.

[Crossref](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Little J. 1994 *Gender, Planning and the Policy Process*. Oxford: Pergamon

[Google Scholar](#)

Lycklama G. 1989 "Trade in Maids: Asian Domestic Helpers in Migration Theory and Practice. In *The Trade in Domestic Helpers: Causes, Mechanisms and Consequences*. Selected Papers from the Planning Meeting on International Migration and Women, Quezon City, Philippines. November 30 - December 5, 1987. Ed. Asian and Pacific Development Centre. Kuala Lumpur: Asian and Pacific Development Centre. Pp. 21-62.

[Google Scholar](#)

Ministry of Labour n.d. *Guidelines for Employment of Foreign Domestic Workers*. Pamphlet. Singapore.

[Google Scholar](#)

Perry M., Kong L. and Yeoh B. S. A. 1997 *Singapore: A Developmental City State*. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons.

[Google Scholar](#)

Quah S. R. 1993 "Marriage and Family." In *Singapore Women: Three Decades of Change*. Ed. Wong A. K. and Leong W. K. Singapore: Times Academic Press. Pp. 20–85.

[Google Scholar](#)

Salaff J. W. 1990 "Women, the Family, and the State: Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore – Newly Industrialised Countries in Asia." In *Women, Employment and the Family in the International Division of Labour*. Ed. Stichter S. and Parpart J. L. Basingstoke: Macmillan. Pp. 98–136.

[Crossref](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Sassen S. 1988 *The Mobility of Labour and Capital: A Study in International Investment and Labour Flow*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

[Crossref](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Tan W. Y. 1996 "Singapore-Philippine Relations: The Case of Flor Contemplacion." Unpublished Honors Thesis, Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore.

[Google Scholar](#)

Ward C. A., Chang W. C. and Nerney S. L. 1996 "Psychological and Sociocultural Adjustment of Filipina Domestic Workers in Singapore." Paper presented at the Thirteenth Congress of the International Association for Crosscultural Psychology, Montreal, Canada. August 12–16.

[Google Scholar](#)

Wiener M. 1993 "Security, Stability and International Migration." In *International Migration and Security*. Ed. Weiner M. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Pp. 1–35.

[Google Scholar](#)

World Bank 1995 *World Development Report 1995*. Singapore: Oxford University Press.

[Crossref](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Yeoh B. S. A. and Huang S. 1998 "Negotiating Public Space: Strategies and Styles of Migrant Female Domestic Workers in Singapore," *Urban Studies*, 35(3):583–602.

[Crossref](#)

[Web of Science](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Similar articles:

---



Restricted access

[The cosmopolis and the migrant domestic worker](#)

Show Details ▾

---



Restricted access

[Social Protection for Migrant Domestic Workers in Singapore: International Conventions, the Law, and Civil Society Action](#)

Show Details ▾

---



Open Access

[The Temporal Borders of Transnational Belonging: Aging Migrant Domestic Workers in Singapore](#)

Show Details ▾

---

[View More](#)

Sage recommends:

---

**SAGE Knowledge**

Book chapter

[Transnational Families](#)

Show Details ▾

---

**SAGE Knowledge**

Book chapter

[Transnational Intersectionality: A Critical Framework for Theorizing Motherhood](#)

Show Details ▾

---

**SAGE Knowledge**

Book chapter

[Transnational Employment: Work & Family Linkages across Borders](#)

Show Details ▾

---

[View More](#)

[View more](#)

You currently have no access to this content. Visit the [access options](#) page to authenticate.

[Download PDF](#)

## Also from Sage

### CQ Library

Elevating debate

### Sage Data

Uncovering insight

### Sage Business Cases

Shaping futures

### Sage Campus

Unleashing potential

### Sage Knowledge

Multimedia learning resources

### Sage Research Methods

Supercharging research

### Sage Video

Streaming knowledge

### Technology from Sage

Library digital services