



Wednesday, 14 September 2016
Postcolonial Traces in Elite Migration

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Prof. Karen O'Reilly
Loughborough University and University of Oxford

Discussant: Dr. Olivia Killias, University of Zurich

18:15 – 19:45 h

Kollegienhaus of the University of Basel, 4051 Basel, Petersplatz 1, Lecture Hall 115

This Lecture is co-organized by the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology at the University of Basel and the nccr – on the move.

Abstract

In this lecture, Karen O'Reilly will introduce her recent work on British (and other Western) lifestyle migration in Malaysia, which is part of a wider, comparative study of lifestyle migration in East Asia. The lecture will focus on postcolonial traces (or continuities) in this form of migration – as witnessed in capitals, resources, power, and other structural forms of advantage, as well as in everyday

lives practices of migrants and other actors in the migrant setting. The legacies of colonialism are significant to the privilege of British migration in postcolonial settings in terms of both structure and agency. Such migration is undoubtedly produced through persisting colonialities of power (Quijano 2000, 2007; Mignolo 2003, 2007), shaped through longstanding historical and geo-political forces and corresponding constellations of privilege embodied and habituated by the migrants in our research. But to avoid a narrow focus on the reproduction of privilege, the lecture draws from intimate ethnographic insights to shed light on both continuities and discontinuities with the (colonial) past (Farrer 2010) and especially on the daily practices through which structures are (re)produced.

Student Workshop “Addressing Privilege in (Skilled) Migration”

In the afternoon, from 14:00 – 16:00 h, the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology will host a workshop with Karen O’Reilly. Interested Master and doctoral students and Postdoctoral researchers shall contact Metka Hercog by E-mail ([metka.hercog\[at\]unibas.ch](mailto:metka.hercog[at]unibas.ch)) until 1 September 2016. Location: Alte Universität, Rheinsprung 9/11, 4051 Basel, Seminarraum 201.

Curriculum Vitae

Karen O’Reilly is Professor of Sociology at Loughborough University, and an affiliate of the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography at the University of Oxford. She has spent many years living amongst and learning from British people who move abroad in search of a better way of life. Sociologically this has informed an interest in a broad range of themes, including: ethnicity, identity, and community; nations and nationalism; home and belonging; social exclusion; the informal economy; as well as friends and networks. Karen’s most recent research has been with British migrants in Malaysia, as part of a large comparative project concerned with lifestyle migration in post-colonial settings.

Selected Publications

- 2015: “Migration Theories: A Critical Overview”, in *Routledge Handbook of Immigration and Refugee Studies*, edited by Anna Triandafyllidou. London and New York: Routledge, 25–33.
- 2015: “From Lifestyle Migration to Lifestyle in Migration: Categories, Concepts and Ways of Thinking”, *Migration Studies*. doi: 10.1093/migration/mnv015. (with M. Benson).
- 2012: *International Migration and Social Theory*. Houndmills: Palgrave.
- 2012: *Ethnographic Methods*. London: Routledge
- 2009: “Migration and the Search for a Better Way of Life: A Critical Exploration of Lifestyle Migration”, *Sociological Review*, 57(4): 608–625. (with M. Benson)
- 2009: “A Bourdieusian Analysis of Class and Migration: Habitus and the Individualising Process”, *Sociology*, 44(1): 49–66. (with C. Oliver)
- 2009 (eds.): *Lifestyle Migration. Expectations, Aspirations and Experiences*. Farnham: Ashgate. (with M. Benson)
- 2007: “Intra-European Migration and the Mobility-Enclosure Dialectic”, *Sociology*, 41(2): 277–293.