



Keynote Speaker



Dr. Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho

*Associate Professor
Department of Geography,
National University of Singapore*

Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho is Associate Professor at the Department of Geography and Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Her research addresses how citizenship is changing as a result of multi-directional migration flows in the Asia-Pacific. She is author of *Citizens in Motion: Emigration, Immigration and Re-migration Across China's Borders* (under contract with Stanford University Press). Her current research focuses on two domains: transnational ageing and care in the Asia-Pacific, and border mobilities between Myanmar and China. She serves on the editorial boards of several journals such as *Citizenship Studies*, *Emotions, Society and Space* and the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*. She is also section editor of the 2nd edition of the International Encyclopedia of Human Geography (scheduled for publication in 2020).

Incongruence and multi-directionality: Re-theorising migration and citizenship through the lens of China

Critical citizenship theorists have challenged static framings of territorial presence or the very ideal of a political community as the premise for citizenship recognition and rights. Enforcing such principles becomes less straightforward when deployed in a trans-territorial setting which involves not only the immigration and emigration contexts, but also migration journeys across the life course during transnational sojourning. The first part of this presentation considers Mainland Chinese 'return' or re-migration, and analyses it in relation to the competing stakeholder claims of internal and international migrants who are co-present in Chinese cities. The normative ordering mechanisms of national citizenship focus only on isolated types of migration trends. What confronts us more urgently are intersecting migration configurations that underline the incongruence of migration categorisations and complexity of competing citizenship claims. Building on the above, the second part of this presentation considers the multi-directional features of migration. It argues for bringing emigration, immigration and re-migration under the same analytical framework, rather than studying them as discrete fields. Doing so directs attention to how the territorial premises of citizenship are undergoing change, thus recalibrating membership and rights in interconnected migration sites.