



## About the Keynote Speaker



**Prof. Pei-Chia Lan**

*Professor  
Department of Sociology,  
National Taiwan University  
Taiwan*

Pei-Chia Lan is Distinguished Professor of Sociology at National Taiwan University. She was a postdoctoral fellow at UC Berkeley, a Fulbright scholar at New York University, and a Yenching-Radcliffe fellow at Harvard University. Her major publications include *Global Cinderellas: Migrant Domestic workers and Newly Rich Employers in Taiwan* (Duke 2006, ASA Sex and Gender Book Award) and *Raising Global Families: Parenting, Immigration, and Class in Taiwan and the US* (Stanford 2018).

### **Negotiating Care Culture and Ethnic Difference: Recruiting Migrant Care Workers in Taiwan and Japan**

Facing similar problems of aging population and care deficit, East Asian countries recruit migrant workers from Southeast Asia and encounter the following conundrums: Should care be viewed as a familial duty or professional work? Is care a culturally embedded practice or a form of market service that can be easily transferred to a foreigner? Do the ethnic boundaries and cultural differences between care providers and care recipients interrupt or facilitate the performance of intimate and emotional labor? Taiwan has opened the door to live-in care workers since the early 1990s, while it was only recently that Japan recruited care worker candidates through Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA). This talk compares the recruitment and training of migrant care workers in Taiwan and Japan to explore how carework is culturally defined and institutionally regulated in different ways. Taiwan and Japan demonstrates two distinct approaches to the negotiation of care culture and ethnic difference, positioning migrant care workers as either “deferential surrogates” or “professional others.”