

Abstract for International Conference on Children of Migration, Tokyo, 25 Nov 2017

Precarity and Partial Citizenship in the Philippines: The Lifeworlds of Left-behind Children and Care

Cheryll Alipio

In the Philippines, the children of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are often cast in academic literature, the media, and institutional discourse as dependents who have been “left behind” or rendered “immobile,” and in need of care, by their migrant parents. At the same time that this narrative of precarity bounds children to the home and adults to the global labor force, it seemingly entrenches the partial citizenship of both. Yet, as parents’ transnational labor migration modifies the care arrangements of the family, children undergo other kinds of contextual and temporal mobilities beyond that of geographical movement. In attending to the sociocultural dimension in which the institutionalized narratives and lived experiences of migrants’ precarity is extended intergenerationally to the children left-behind, this paper highlights children’s vulnerability and agency in relation to the precarity reverberating between the world of work and the world of family life and care. In tracing the lifeworlds of children’s active participation *and* resistance to both migration and carework, this paper argues that left-behind children are able to transcend the limited rights and citizenship conferred on them to become full members of households, the nation, and the global community at large.

Biography

Dr. Cheryll Alipio is an Assistant Professor of Diasporic and Global Youth Cultures in the Children’s Studies Program of the Department of Humanities at York University in Canada. She previously served as Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Anthropology at the School of Social Science at The University of Queensland in Australia, and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore, after receiving her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Washington. She has co-edited a special journal section on “Asian Children and Transnational Migration” in *Children’s Geographies* and a special journal issue on “Transitioning to Adulthood in Asia” in *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. Her research interests include transnational migration, gender and development, economic and medical anthropology, and the anthropology

of children and youth in Southeast Asia, the Asia Pacific, and the Philippines.