

Session 1 Partial Citizenship

Presentation 1

*'Nggak bebas' (Not free); Transnational Lives and Careful Longings of
Left-Behind Children in Indonesia*

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Abstract

Experiences of children of migration within the family can be vicarious, steeped in the ambient absence of one or both parents. In contexts where the freedom of movement for and care among migrant families is curtailed by a host of structural apparatus, care becomes all the more urgent. This paper analyses the (un)freedoms of children who are impacted by the 'care-drain' in the Global South. This is conducted in relation to their future goals which intentionally may/may not have migration on the horizons.

Understandings and accompanying social costs (and/or rewards) of migration affect future family plans these children of migration aspire for; and their gendered and oftentimes negative views on parental migration. Drawing upon the qualitative data gathered from the labour sending country of Indonesia under the Child Health and Migrant Parents in Southeast Asia (CHAMPSEA) Wave 2 project which investigates, among other things, the changing fates and hopes of left-behind children, this paper critically examines the lifeworlds of child transnationals 'back home' (Baldassar et al. 2007) with respect to their views on how parental migration effects their assessments on migration and family, and in turn their future potential aspirations or avoidance to birth families of their own in migration.

Reference:

Baldassar, L., Wilding, R., & Baldock, C. (2007). *Families Caring across Borders: Migration, Ageing and Transnational Caregiving*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.