

Session 1 Partial Citizenship

Presentation 2

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

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Abstract

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.