

# Keynote Address: 2015 SPAS Graduate Conference on Asian Studies

---

## Rethinking Asian Women's Migration - New Paradigms, Different Frameworks



**Dr. Rhacel Parreñas**  
**Professor of Sociology,**  
**University of Southern**  
**California**

---

**Wednesday, March 18, 2015**

**4:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Center for Korean Studies**

**In this talk,** I trace contemporary configurations of Asian women's labor migration. Most Asian women migrate not to the West but to other Asian countries, calling for more discussions of south to south and inter-Asian migration. I establish that Asian women's patterns and forms of labor migration do not fit dominant paradigms in migration studies which are predominately based on experiences of migrants in the West. Overlooked in current discussions are the shuttle, circular, and sponsored migration of Asian women. The talk calls for the re-centering of our theoretical formulations of migration towards a focus on Asia and moves away from applying paradigms based on Western experiences to our understanding of Asian women's labor migration.

**Rhacel Salazar Parreñas** is Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies and Chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Southern California. She is known for her work on women's labor and migration in economic globalization. Her latest book *Illicit Flirtations: Labor, Migration and Sex Trafficking in Tokyo* (Stanford, 2011) won the Distinguished Book Award in the Labor and Labor Movements Section of the American Sociological Association.

The talk is free and open to the public, for more information please contact [gradconf@hawaii.edu](mailto:gradconf@hawaii.edu) or visit [www.spasconference.wordpress.com](http://www.spasconference.wordpress.com)