



DOI [10.19181/demis.2023.3.1.9](https://doi.org/10.19181/demis.2023.3.1.9)

EDN [DICCRQ](https://edn.diccrq.org/)

“FROM NEW NORMAL TO THE NEXT NORMAL: MIGRATION RESEARCH AND POLICY IN THE CHANGING WORLD”: CONFERENCE AT THE MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

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For citation: Punpuing, Sureeporn. “From New Normal to the Next Normal: Migration Research and Policy in the Changing World”: Conference at the Mahidol University / S. Punpuing, S. V. Ryazantsev. *DEMIS. Demographic Research*. 2023. Vol. 3, No. 1. P. 112-116. DOI [10.19181/demis.2023.3.1.9](https://doi.org/10.19181/demis.2023.3.1.9). EDN [DICCRQ](https://edn.diccrq.org/).

The Institute for Population and Social Research and Mahidol Migration Center at the Mahidol University on December 1–2, 2022 organized the 6th MMC Regional Conference in the Salaya suburb of the Thai capital, Bangkok, on the topic of “**From New Normal to the Next Normal: Migration Research and Policy in the Changing World**” honored by President of the Mahidol University, Professor *Banchong Mahaisavariya* who gave opening remarks with Director of the Institute for Population and Social Research of the Mahidol University, Associate Professor, Dr. *Aree Jampaklay* presenting a report, and Emeritus Professor of the Mahidol University, Dr. *Aphichat Chamrathirong* making closing remarks.

On this occasion, Director of Mahidol Migration Center, Associate Professor, Dr. *Sureeporn Punpuing*, together with representatives of the conference sponsors who are academic networks on the migration research of the Institute for Population and Social Research, namely: *Kyoko Kusakabe* (Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand); *Doo-Sub Kim* (Hanyang University, Republic of Korea); *Kaoru Aoyama* (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Kobe University, Japan); *Edgard Rodriguez* (Asia Regional Office of the International Development Research Center, India); *Sergey Ryazantsev* (Institute for Demographic Research FCTAS RAS, Russia); *Rosalia Sciortino Sumaryono* (South-East Asian Junction, Thailand); *Paul Statham* (Sussex-Mahidol Migration Partnership at the University of Sussex, UK) honored to give a welcome speech to the delegates from Mahidol University’s transnational migration network of more than one hundred and fifty people from 26 countries in different regions of the world.

The purpose of this conference is to be a forum to exchange knowledge and research on transnational migration, which impacts society, the economy and public health – presented as a guideline for developing transnational migration policies to improve the quality of life of the population and to strengthen and expand the network of migrant worker organizations. Moderated by researchers from Mahidol University Dr. *Pattraporn Chuenglertsiri* and Dr. *Napaphat Satchanawakulat*.

Seven sessions and three round tables were held during the conference to discuss current issues of migration and the situation of migrants in South-East Asia and other Eurasian regions.



Pic. 1. The 6th MMC Regional Conference Opening

Source: authors' personal archive

Session 1 “Gender, Fisheries, and Migration” discussed the issues of migrants from Myanmar and Cambodia in the labour market in Thailand. The reports were presented here: *Carli Melo* (York University, UK) “Labour migration and global production in times of crises: the case of Myanmar migrants seafood processing workers in Thailand”, *Sokha Eng* (University of Massachusetts Boston, USA and Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand) “Network, exploitation, and resistance: the experience of Cambodian migrants in Thailand”, *Nang Lun Kham Synt* (Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand) “Consumption of dried fish by Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand: how does it change from the place of origin?”, *Si Thu Lin* (Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand) “Understanding the social well-being of women in the dried fish value chain: a study of Myanmar migrant women dried fish processor and traders in Samut Sakhon province in Thailand”.

Session 2 “Women Migrants on the Margins” discussed the gender aspects of migration, the situation of female migrant workers and refugees, and various aspects of marriage migration and tourism in Thailand. The reports were presented here: *Pattraporn Chuenglertsiri* and *Paul Statham* (Mahidol University, Thailand) “Social capital and Thai women building their lives in Britain: “invisible” gendered ethic needs?”, *Kwanchanok Jaisuekun* and *Sirijit*

Sunanta (Mahidol University, Thailand) “Till death do us part? End-of-life care for ageing western husbands in Thailand”, *Sirijit Sunanta* (Mahidol University, Thailand) “Migrating into low-end wellness and recreational tourism sector: opportunities and constraints for female tourism workers in Thailand”, *Paramintorn Vongtrirat* (University of Sussex, UK) “Hidden mother’s lives on hold: an analysis of the lived experience of urban refugee mothers in Bangkok in Thailand”.

Session 3 “New Labor and Education Migration Trends in Eurasia” focused on labour and educational migration trends in the continent. Researchers from the Institute for Demographic Research FCTAS RAS spoke and presented the results of research on labour migration and Russian-speaking emigration: *Sergey Ryazantsev* “Labor migration from Tajikistan to Russia: transformation of trends during the COVID-19 pandemic”, *Roman Manshin, Marina Khramova, and Alexei Smirnov* “Regional peculiarities of employment of labor migrants from Central Asia in Russia in 2020-2022”, *Marina Khramova and Nikita Ryazantsev* “Russian-speaking migrants in Southeast Asia during the COVID-19 pandemic”. Presentations were also made by cooperation Vietnamese and Russian scholar *Do Huong Lan* (National Economic University, Viet Nam) and *Nikita Kuznetsov* (Institute for Demographic Research FCTAS RAS, Russia) “The trends and potential of educational migration in Southeast Asia”, and Japanese scientist *Kenichi Ohashi* (Rikkyo University, Japan) “Geopolitics of Vietnamese labor and educational migration in Okinawa”.



Pic. 2. The 6th MMC Regional Conference participants’ group photo

Source: authors’ personal archive

Session 4 “Transnational Migration Landscape in East Asia” was devoted to socio-demographic aspects of migration in the region. Presentations were made by *Doo-Sub Kim* (Hanyang University, Republic of Korea) “Back to the mother’s homeland for studying: push, pull, and conditional factors for children of foreign women in South Korea”, *Nayoung Heo* (Shanghai University, China) “Social trust and attitudes toward immigrants: a comparative analysis for China and Korea”, *Masataka Nakagawa* (National Institute of Population and So-

cial Security Research, Japan) “International migration to Japan under COVID-19: regional patterns and prospects”, *Kaoru Aoyama* (Kobe University, Japan) “Research on migrant sex work: examples of network analysis from France and Japan”.

Session 5 “Migration, the Well-Being of the Left-Behinds, and the impacts of COVID-19” focused on the social, ethnic, and religious dimensions of migration and the implications of COVID-19 in the South-East Asian region. The reports were presented in session: *Are Jampaklay, Patama Vapattanawong, Kanchana Tangchonlatip, Kasama Yakah, Aphichat Chamrathrithrong, Suchada Thaweessit* (Mahidol University, Thailand) *Anlaya Samuseneto* (Prince Songkla University, Thailand) and *Kathleen Ford* (University of Michigan, USA) “Parental absence, family environment, and school performance of adolescents in the Southern most provinces of Thailand”; Caregivers’ well-being in the context of migration and the unrest”; “Children’s psychological well-being in the two setting of Thailand”, and “COVID-19 pandemic impacts on Muslim migrant returnees in Thailand’s deep South provinces: household economy, vulnerabilities, and resilience”.

Session 6 “Migration, Environment, and Mental Health” dealt with climate migration, the impact of remittances on sending areas, and the psychological effects of migration. The reports were presented here: *Artem Lukyanets* (Institute for Demographic Research FCTAS RAS, Russia) “Climate migration in Eurasia: trends and prospects”, *Ulrike Grote* (Leibniz University Hannover, Germany) “Migration research based on the TVSEP long-term project”, *Sina Bierkamp* (Leibniz University Hannover, Germany) “Environmental income and remittances: evidence from rural central highlands of Vietnam”, *Yvette Young* (University of Utah, USA) “The trauma of flight or flight from trauma? Untangling the relationship between war, migration, and PTSD in a Vietnamese cohort”.

Session 7 “Post-COVID-19 Action / Advocacy Research and Migrant Workers Rights” looked at the rights of migrant workers and their advocacy. The reports were presented in session: *Dusadee Ayuwat and Nattawat Auraiampai* (Khon Kaen University, Cambodia) “International return migrants: human capital and policies”, *Sudorat Musikawong* (Mahidol University, Thailand) and *Adisorn Kerdmongkol* (Migrant Working Group, Thailand) “Transversals and migrant workers’ rights: MMC social lab inter-sectoral dialogues and alter-politics”, *Tammy Ko Robinson* (Hanyang University, Republic of Korea) “Migration journalism: policies, trainings, and solutions”, *Lennon Ying-Dah Wong and Sherry Macmod Wang* (Serve the People Association, Taiwan) “The condition of the migrant workers in Taiwan under the global COVID-19 pandemic”.

The tree roundtables focused on key migration and migration policy issues in South-East Asia and Thailand: **“Replacement Migration: A Policy Shift of Thailand”, “New or Better Normal for Migrants in Southeast Asia”, “Post-COVID-19 Era and the Emerging Issues in Migration Research and Policies”**.

During the conference important and interesting issues were debated and academic contacts were established between scholars and research groups from different countries.

Bio notes:

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Acknowledgments and financing:

The reported study was funded by Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), project No. 21-511-92001.

Received on 09.12.2022; accepted for publication on 06.02.2023.

The authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ В УНИВЕРСИТЕТЕ МАХИДОЛ «ОТ НОВОЙ НОРМАЛЬНОСТИ К СЛЕДУЮЩЕЙ НОРМАЛЬНОСТИ: МИГРАЦИОННЫЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ И ПОЛИТИКА В МЕНЯЮЩЕМСЯ МИРЕ»

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Для цитирования: Пунпуинг, С. Конференция в университете Махидол «От новой нормальности к следующей нормальности: миграционные исследования и политика в меняющемся мире» / С. Пунпуинг, С. В. Рязанцев // ДЕМИС. Демографические исследования. 2023. Т. 3, № 1. С. 112–116. DOI [10.19181/demis.2023.3.1.9](https://doi.org/10.19181/demis.2023.3.1.9). EDN [DICCRO](https://www.edn.ru/10.19181/demis.2023.3.1.9).

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Благодарности и финансирование:

Исследование выполнено при финансовой поддержке РФФИ в рамках научного проекта № 21-511-92001.

Статья поступила в редакцию 09.12.2022; принята в печать 06.02.2023.

Авторы прочитали и одобрили окончательный вариант рукописи.