

## **Temporary Labour Migration in Asia: the Precarity-Transnationality Nexus |**

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International labour migration in Asia is inherently a transnational phenomenon tied to the strictly temporary nature of formal regulatory frameworks characteristic of intra-Asian movement of workers. It is argued in this paper that migrant precarity constitutes an important element of migrant transnationality. While the transnationalism literature has made important contributions by shifting empirical attention beyond national boundaries, so too has it overstated migrant agency, especially in a politico-economic sense, while downplaying the relevance of state power. This paper develops the concept of protracted precarity at the intersection of temporality and transnationality, applied to key migration corridors in Asia where legal migration is typically regulated by way of bilateral labour agreements.

Three prominent features of cross-border, intra-Asian labour migration are examined: employer-tied contracts, commercialised recruitment, and feminised migration. This leads on to a discussion of the specifically transnational dimensions of the curtailed economic and political rights that produce migrant precarity and precarious livelihoods.