

Preface

The book has grown out of collaborative research endeavours of migration experts and development practitioners in the *International Institute of Social Studies* (IISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam in The Hague, The Netherlands and the Centre on Human Security at Chubu University, Japan. Most of the chapters in the book are extensively revised versions of a selection from 54 papers presented at a conference held in The Hague in August 2007. Others are additional papers that extend and complement the conference papers. A separate set of papers from the conference has appeared as a special issue of the journal *Gender, Technology and Development*, 12,3 (2008), with the title “Trans-local Livelihoods and Connections: Embedding a Gender Perspective into Migration Studies” (co-edited by Thanh-Dam Truong and Des Gasper). A volume co-edited by Kinhide Mushakoji and Mustapha Kamal Pasha on “Human (In)Security in the Networks of Global Cities” was published in 2008 (Kasugai City, Japan: Chubu University, Centre for Human Security Studies).

The network of scholars and practitioners engaged in this volume approach the study of migration with a focal understanding that the social divisions and legal ambiguities brought about by transnational migration cannot be resolved by piecemeal and one-off policies. Often, these policies are de-contextualized from broader processes of neoliberal globalization, and in turn, produce stopgap solutions. Challenging and changing a globally unsustainable system promoted, and/or supported, by neoliberal forms of thought and practices requires the cooperation of academics from a variety of fields and bridging of the divides between professionals (advocates, activists, practitioners and academics) involved directly or indirectly in decision-making processes.

This collection of chapters strives to enhance the quality of debates on the ‘migration-development-security’ nexus by clarifying their factual premises and theoretical terms and by asking new questions from a transnational perspective. All contributions to this volume have been anonymously peer-reviewed.

The volume brings together concerns that drive practical action as well as those that are set more in theoretical discourses that bear particular values and agendas. The essays seek to speak across the domains of practice and theory and to orient the messages towards public concerns for human dignity, rights and security. Through this collection of chapters, we hope to stimulate our readers towards engaging in a more rigorous study of transnational migration, as well as taking stock of its historically situated meanings.

The Hague, July 2010

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<http://www.springer.com/978-3-642-12756-4>

Transnational Migration and Human Security

The Migration-Development-Security Nexus

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2011, X, 370 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-12756-4