Deferential Surrogates and Professional Others: Recruitment and Training of Migrant Care Workers in Taiwan and Japan

Prof. Pei-Chia Lan
Professor of Sociology
National Taiwan University

Date: 27 April 2015 (Monday)
Time: 4 pm – 5:30 pm
Venue: P4701, AC1, City University of Hong Kong

Abstract
Facing similar problems of population aging and care deficit, Taiwan and Japan have nevertheless adopted divergent approaches to recruiting and training migrant care workers from Southeast Asia. This talk compares Taiwan’s guest worker program and Japan’s Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) to examine how care work is culturally defined and institutionally regulated in different ways. Migrant care workers in Taiwan are positioned as “deferential surrogates”, while Japan has recruited migrant nurses as “professional others”. This comparison demonstrates national diversity in the intersecting formation of a care regime and migration regime. It also shows that cultural values and social practices associated with care, such as familism and gendered division of care work, are subject to transformation under the influence of state intervention and the global market.

Short Bio
Pei-Chia Lan is Professor of Sociology at National Taiwan University. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, a Fulbright scholar at New York University, and a Radcliffe-Yenching fellow at Harvard University. Her book Global Cinderellas: Migrant Domestics and Newly Rich Employers in Taiwan (Duke 2006) won a Distinguished Book Award from the Sex and Gender Section of the American Sociological Association and ICAS (International Convention of Asian Scholars) Book Prize: Best Study in Social Science. She is currently working on a book manuscript about Chinese parenting in the context of globalization and class inequality.

All are welcome.
Language: English

For enquiries, please contact Irene Chan at 3442-6330 or email fschan@cityu.edu.hk