

**TRANSNATIONAL INSTITUTION BUILDING  
AND TRANSNATIONAL IDENTITIES IN EAST ASIA**

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## Negotiating Sexualities and Masculinities in Transnational Migration: Vietnamese Male Migrants in Contemporary Japan

### RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The transnational movements across borders involve a wide spectrum of social practices, in which negotiations are constantly embedded. Migrants negotiate not only migration motivations, status changes, labour and economic practices, but also more intimate spheres of social life such as emotion needs, sexual and gendered behaviours. Drawing on the sociologies of migration, gender and sexuality, this project addresses the understudied stage of the sexual and gendered dimensions in the experiences of Asian male migrants in Asian contexts. In particular, it investigates the intersection of sexualities, masculinities and mobility in the transnational journeys of Vietnamese male migrants in contemporary Japan.

### METHODOLOGY

This project takes the individuals as the units of analysis and employs qualitative research methods, including:

- **Life history interviews** with Vietnamese male-identifying migrants and former migrants in Japan, which explore migrants' sexual and gendered experiences, perceptions and reflections throughout the life-course. As migrants' lives transcend social and cultural contexts, this method aims to capture how sexualities and masculinities are formed, challenged and negotiated with regard to temporal varieties.
- **Ethnographic fieldwork** in Japan and Vietnam, which allow understandings regarding the organisation of social structures that shape migrants' everyday-life negotiations of sexual and masculine practices and ideologies.

### AIMS

- Capturing the contingencies of the ways in which male migrants negotiate their sexualities and masculinities in transnational migration.
- Investigating how sexual, gender identities and mobility trajectories intersect and are contoured in relation to constant changing social landscapes.
- Examining the (trans)formation of migrants' collective identities, social lives and experiences of inclusion or marginalisation in transnational migration.
- Conceptualizing the notions of transnational sexualities and masculinities.

Sub-Theme: Transnational identities in East Asia

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Subtheme: Transcultural Identities and Institutions: the Universal and the Local