



Universität  
Zürich <sup>UZH</sup>

## Workshop

### **Staying practices of skilled migrants in industrialized countries:**

### **Comparative perspectives from (East) Asia and Switzerland**

Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies

*29-30 August 2024, Room ZUB 3-314*

*Zurichbergstrasse 4, 8032 Zurich*

This workshop delves into the complexities of skilled migrants' social and economic integration in industrialized countries, with a specific focus on (East) Asia and Switzerland. By examining the staying practices of skilled migrants, we seek to understand the factors that influence their decision to remain in their host societies or move on. The workshop will explore the nuanced challenges and opportunities that skilled migrants encounter in their daily (working) lives, which might differ significantly between (East) Asia and Switzerland. Skilled migrants in some (East) Asian countries seek to stay long-term, despite being in restrictive immigration regimes. Switzerland, often perceived as an attractive destination for skilled migrants due to its economic stability and quality of life, presents a complex picture when examined through qualitative research. Migrants in Switzerland face a range of challenges that influence their integration and long-term settlement intentions, including challenges of obtaining citizenship, household migration dynamics, and the influence of gender and race. By comparing these findings with the experiences of skilled migrants in (East) Asia, the workshop aims to identify commonalities and differences in the integration processes across the case studies and their different immigration regimes. By bringing together scholars working on (East) Asia and Switzerland, this workshop advances scholarly debates on skilled migrants' decisions regarding staying, returning, or relocating and fosters a deeper understanding of the social and economic integration of skilled migrants in their host societies.

*Sponsored by the Chair of Social Science of Japan, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zurich and QuaMaFA (Qualification and Skill in the Migration Process of Foreign Workers in Asia), German Federal Ministry of Education and Research*



## 29 August 2024 (Thursday)

18:00 - Kick off over dinner at restaurant [Linde Oberstrass](#) (by invitation only) (Universitätstrasse 91, 8006 Zürich)

## 30 August 2024 (Friday): Main workshop day

09:00 – 09:10 *Welcoming Remarks*  
David Chiavacci (Chair of Social Science of Japan, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zurich) & Helena Hof (QuaMaFA & University of Zurich)

### Block I: Switzerland (morning)

09:10 – 09:50 *Understanding Brain Waste in Switzerland: A Multi-Level Perspective*  
Yvonne Riaño (University of Neuchâtel)

09:50 – 10:30 *The role of cosmopolitan capital in privileged migratory trajectories*  
Anne-Sophie Delval (University of Lausanne)

10:30 – 10:50 *COFFEE BREAK*

10:50 – 11:30 *Skills on the move: Highly skilled migrants in Switzerland and beyond*  
Metka Herzog (swisspeace & University of Basel)

11:30 – 12:10 *Navigating Dual Labor Markets: Strategies of Highly Skilled Women Migrants in Switzerland Through Family Reunification*  
Mélinda Dinh (University of Geneva)

12:10 – 13:20 *LUNCH BREAK*



## Bock II: East Asia (afternoon)

13:20 – 14:50      *Staying practices of skilled migrants in Japan, South Korea, and Singapore*

QuaMaFA Group presentation (Ruth Achenbach, Goethe University Frankfurt; Helena Hof, University of Zurich & Max Planck Institute; Aimi Muranaka, University of Duisburg-Essen; Joohyun Justine Park, Inha University (South Korea); Megha Wadhwa, Free University of Berlin)

14:50 – 15:15      *COFFEE BREAK*

15:15 – 16:30      Individual presentations by QuaMaFA members

15:15 – 15:30      *Sticking to norms while sticking out? Navigation of Vietnamese female IT professionals in the labour market in Japan*

Aimi Muranaka (University of Duisburg-Essen)

15:30 – 15:45      *Resilient Pathways: Overcoming Labour Market Integration Challenges through Habitus and Capital among Asian Female Skilled Migrants in Korea*

Joohyun Justine Park (Inha University)

15:45 – 16:00      *Gender Dynamics in high-tech startups: An intersectional perspective on labor in transnational entrepreneurship*

Helena Hof (University of Zurich & Max Planck Institute)

16:00 – 16:20      Q&A of individual presentations on East Asia

16:20 – 17:00      Comparative discussion and closure

17:00                End of the workshop