Call for Workshop Papers

Migration, Citizenship, and the Politics of Belonging in East Asia

University of Sheffield, UK

22-23 April 2027

Workshop Overview

Cross-border migration inevitably serves to reconfigure boundaries of nationhood and citizenship. Across and within national contexts these shifts are apparent across a diversity of institutional and social terrain, including state and local governance, media, workplace, education, community, family, and everyday life. Although such changes have occurred with a certain level of global congruity relative to increased transnational migration in the 21st century, any useful understanding of the new regional dynamics that have emerged in East Asia demands an analytical purview that is primarily concerned with local, national and regional circumstance in relation to worldwide trends, rather than vice versa.

While predominant ideas of national identity based on ethnic homogeneity strongly persist across East Asia, notions and discourses supporting multiculturalism and diversity have increased in contestation. This development is related to the fact that the traditionally strict border controls around the region have begun to loosen as migration is increasingly seen to be a crucial way to address demographic issues in East Asia. In this contemporary context it can be seen how the boundaries of national membership and belonging shift and transform in tandem with power relations informed by ideology, economics, politics, and culture.

This workshop, titled **'Migration, Citizenship, and the Politics of Belonging in East Asia',** invites presenters to further contribute to our understanding of how migration informs the contestation and production of nation and citizenship in contemporary East Asia, and how these dynamics affect the lives of both migrants and non-migrants across the region. We welcome a diverse range of topics and methodological and disciplinary approaches but are particularly interested in research that critically considers the political dimensions of the topic.

Suggested Themes

Possible themes include, but are not limited to:

- Migrant integration processes
- Migrant communities
- Racialisation and racism
- Nationalism
- Immigration policies, border control, and state measures
- Discourses surrounding migrants
- Social movements concerning migrants
- The lived experiences of migrants

The workshop aims to foster dialogue between researchers working on the topic of migration across East Asian contexts. Our ultimate ambition is to compile selected papers into an edited book volume or a special issue for a peer-reviewed journal.

Venue, Dates, and Funding

- **Dates:** Thursday, 22 April – Friday, 23 April 2027
- **Venue:** University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
- **Funding & Hospitality:** Accommodation costs in Sheffield will be covered for successful applicants travelling from outside the city. All meals during the workshop days (April 22 and 23) will be provided.

Schedule:
Wednesday April 21: Arrival and check-in
Thursday April 22: Workshop (full day)
Friday April 23: Workshop (full day)
Saturday April 24: Depart Sheffield

Application and submission of abstracts:
Applicants should submit the following information by email to sojin.yu@sheffield.ac.uk by the deadline of **Friday 2nd October, 2026**.

1. Your full name as you would like it to appear in the abstract booklet
2. Your institutional affiliation and role (or independent researcher)
3. Your email and telephone number (including country code)
4. Title of your paper
5. A 250-word abstract in print-ready format
6. The file should be named as follows: surname_paper title.doc (document format, no PDFs please)