Panel & screening

Title: Forms of Domestic Resistance: Collective Filmmaking with transnational migrant domestic workers

Convener:

Clarissa Lim Kye Lee (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, clarissa.lim@link.cuhk.edu.hk *Main convener*) and Okui Lala (University of Malaya)

Topic:

With the ever-growing migrant domestic labour issues within Southeast Asia, the urgency to find safe spaces for solidarity, collective action and social transformation is rising. The documentary *Rasa&Asa* adopts a collective artistic practice foregrounding the art and performing arts skills of domestic workers. By handing domestic workers the camera lens, *Rasa&Asa* reveals a counterstrategy and unveils a subversive act of resistance – workers can produce their documented story. The self-shot videos not only reveal the inner workings of labour organising but also show their everyday labour, cultural performances and the impact of COVID-19 on their life. This film also delineates the spaces where migrant domestic workers are fighting for their labour rights in a context where censorship, labour precarity and human rights issues prevail. Film is used as a process to empower workers and collaborative work side by side with cultural workers to develop a film not only for recruitment to their Workers Association but also to be involved in a creative process of collective art practice.

The film screening & *nongkrong* event seek to adopt a collective practice to share the labour with Conference participants. Combining a documentary screening and a communal meal offers a caring space to discuss transnational social and political implications of their collective organising and solidarity in struggles. Nasrikah, a domestic worker and artist Okui Lala will guide participants through the making of food and share stories about the labour of organising, film making and care/cleaning work. Participants will also be guided through moments of inquiry, contemplation, and reflection.

Discussion Format:

Makan Bersama: During the screening-communal dinner, conference attendees are invited to watch an exclusive screening of *Rasa&Asa,* a collective self-shot documentary. Then the discussion will happen around a dining table as we collectively map the questions around transnational struggles of domestic work advocacy, labour diasporas, and the racialization/gendering of caring/cleaning work.

Number of participants: 15-20

(30 mins) Screening of Rasa & Asa (Flavours, Feelings & Hopes, 27 min, 2021) co-directed with Nasrikah and Okui Lala

(60-90 mins) *Nongkrong* Communal Food Workshop and discussion.

Facilitated by: Okui Lala, Nasrikah (tentatively online) and Clarissa Lim (in person)

Rasa & Asa synopsis

*Rasa & Asa* (Flavors, Feelings and Hopes) tells the stories of women working as domestic workers. Besides recordings of online events, most footage was shot remotely by the PERTIMIG (Indonesian Migrant Domestic Workers Association) members using their smartphones during the Movement Control Order (partial lockdown) in Malaysia. PERTIMIG is currently using the documentary to outreach to other domestic workers in Malaysia.

More information of the film: <https://freedomfilm.my/festival/film/rasa-dan-asa/>

*Nongkrong* Communal Food Workshop

Conference attendees are invited to gather and practice collective care labour– by making a light communal meal as a form of solidarity and exploring interconnected struggles with discussion and questions. We will prepare a short snack for the participants to prepare which will blend Dutch and Indonesian cuisines.

*Madang* Online

When having discussions, we hope for the participants to have a mobile phone with good wifi connection to have conversations with domestic workers from PERTIMIG to learn, have conversations and ask questions raised from the movie to collective action and labour.

Participants:

Co-director Nasrikah - is an Indonesian migrant worker who has been living in Malaysia since 1997. She is an advisor for PERTIMIG and a field facilitator for IDWF (International Domestic Workers Federation). Her advocacy focused on campaigning for migrant domestic workers to be treated with the same respect, status and access to justice as workers. Nasrikah is also a poet and coordinator for arts and cultural events.

PERTIMIG, Indonesian Migrant Domestic Workers Association, is an independent organization fighting for the rights of migrant domestic workers. Our vision is to advocate for decent work and welfare for Indonesian migrant domestic workers and their families in Malaysia. We demand protection for domestic workers through the national laws and regulatory framework. At this moment, PERTIMIG has 140 members and is an affiliate of International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF). <https://www.facebook.com/AkunPertimigMigran>

Co-director Okui Lala - Okui Lala (Malaysia) is an artist and cultural worker. Her practice spans video and performance to community engagement. Okui’s work explores themes of identities, diaspora and belonging. Okui also facilitates visual workshops with nonprofit organizations and social groups that work with various communities in Malaysia and Japan. <https://www.delfinafoundation.com/in-residence/okui-lala/>

Workshop facilitator Clarissa Lim

Clarissa is currently a PhD Candidate in [Architecture at the Chinese University of Hong Kong](https://www.arch.cuhk.edu.hk/) supervised by Dr. Cecilia Chu and Prof. Inge Goudsmit. She is the recipient of the [Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme](https://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs/index.html) and the [CUHK Vice-Chancellor’s PhD Scholarship](https://www.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/news/announcements/cuhk-vice-chancellors-phd-scholarship-scheme-2022-23-intake/).

She is also a cultural worker and is working with Art-Is-Land, a teaching artist and socially engaged collective arts projects. Previously, she facilitated the conversation for the [International Exchange](https://www.instagram.com/p/CrLe_hsvlSU/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==) featuring [Okui Lala](https://www.instagram.com/p/CsWC6MnvMkh/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==), Assemble, Kang Min Jay and more.

She is currently the [2022-2023 Emerging Curator](https://www.instagram.com/p/Cpn8gK_uRrh/) at the [Canadian Centre of Architecture](https://www.cca.qc.ca/en/), working on mapping the urban impact of art collectives.