
FOREWORD

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Based on field research conducted in urban and rural communities of various Asian countries, *Marriage Migration in Asia* provides us with three key insights that will enrich marriage migration discussions. The first insight pertains to the complexity of the multidirectional trajectories followed by marriage migrants from a long-term perspective. Previous studies on marriage migration have tended to analyze these movements using a global south to global north geographical framework. In contrast, *Marriage Migration in Asia* calls attention to the repetitive, extended and cyclical nature of migration trajectories followed by marriage-related migrants and their long-term outcomes. The chapters in Section One highlight cases of marriage-related migrations from the global north to the global south and marriage migrations within the north or within the south.

The second insight expands the scope of our understanding of marriage migrants to include children and others who have become migrants as a consequence of marriage migration. While current discussions of marriage migration tend to focus on female migrants as “brides”, the authors in Section Two present the circumstances of child migrants who have adopted their parents’ marriage migration patterns, spousal migrants who moved from the north to the south and husbands who follow their wives after several decades of marriage. The status of these migrants has been examined several decades after their initial marriage-related journeys to develop an analytical framework for discussing the notion of “geographies of power” and to consider whether it could be possible to reverse these traditional south-to-north frameworks to explore marriage-related migrations that occur after marriage.

The third insight is that some of these migrants, many of whom are child migrants, become either formally or virtually stateless because of international divorces or unregistered trans-border marriages. The increase

of marriage migrants has undoubtedly led to an increase of trans-border divorces. However, earlier discussions have scarcely addressed the topic of international divorce. The chapters in Section Three illustrate the intricate difficulties that arise following a divorce in terms of personal emotions, family ties, and issues of legitimacy and endorsement that migrants sometimes face when they enter or return to local cultures. These difficulties are further complicated by economic and political power imbalances between countries.

As the keynote speaker at the international conferences in 2011 and 2012 that led to this edited volume, I believe that the very rich empirical research included in *Marriage Migration in Asia* will contribute to broadening marriage migration studies. Our analyses do not focus merely on the geographically oriented south-north framework; we also focus on developing a more complex and extended framework that can account for not only initial “bride” migrations but also for migrations that happen decades later as the result of a first marriage migration.