



## **Multimedia**

Migrating out of Poverty: From Evidence to Policy

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Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London

#MOOPconf



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**Migrating out of Poverty**

Arts B – B365  
University of Sussex  
Brighton BN1 9QN  
United Kingdom

[migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk](http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk)

[migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk)

## Multimedia

Who	What	Where
Tina Magazzini	Film	Introduction – Day 1
Robert Nurick	Comic	Lecture Theatre Foyer
Sine Plambech	Film	Last Plenary – Day 2
Nyani Quarmyne	Photography	Brunei Suite
Hugh Tuckfield, Natalie Le Beau	Photography	Brunei Suite and last Plenary – Day 2
Ntokozo Yingwana	Poster artwork	Brunei Suite

## Tina Magazzini

### A Coney Island of the mind (I am waiting)

It is often said that academics look at the past and that policy shapes the future. Yet, the two are independent. The project was born as a stereotype elicitation exercise, aimed at uncovering what kind of negative prejudice we associate to which minority/immigrant group. The video plays with the wording of the Report of the Inspector of Italian Immigration to the American Congress of 1912, an official US document in which Italian immigrants were described much in the same way media nowadays describe Eastern European Roma migrating to Italy.

The video aims at making the viewer reflect on how little the divide us/them has actually changed over the past century, it is simply the



minority that functions as a scapegoat that changes overtime (Italian immigrants in the United States at the beginning of the XX century, the Jews in Europe in the first half of the XX century, the Roma minority nowadays in most European countries...)

The title draws inspiration from Lawrence Ferlinghetti's poem "I am waiting":

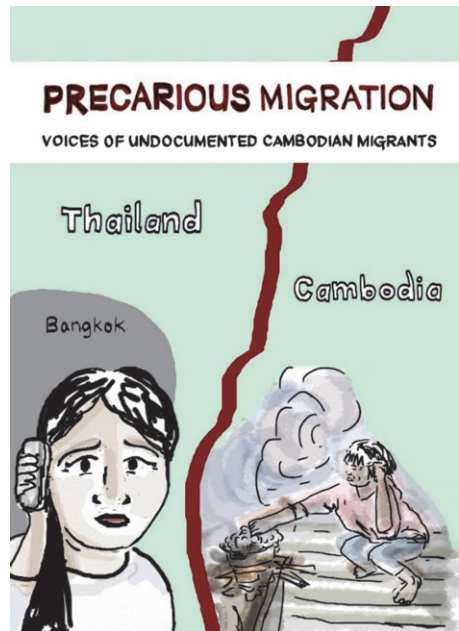
*And I am waiting  
For the discovery  
Of a new symbolic western  
frontier  
And  
I am waiting for the Grapes  
of Wrath to be stored  
And I am waiting  
Perpetually and forever  
A renaissance of wonder*

**Robert Nurick**

Artist: Nicola Streeten, Co-creator: Sochanny Hak

## Precarious Migration: Voices of Undocumented Cambodian Migrants

In May 2014 the Thai military initiated a coup and ousted the civilian government. In June that year, the new government issued a statement warning all undocumented migrants that they should leave the country or face arrest and deportation. In response to this, over a two week period in June 2014, it is estimated that close to 220,000 undocumented Cambodian migrants fled the country. We had been working in Cambodian villages close to the Thai-Cambodian border since September 2013. We were struck by the number of families that had one or more members migrating in search of work to support their family. In discussing this phenomenon with colleagues in Cambodia and at the University of Sussex, a research proposal was developed that aimed to explore the dynamics of migration and relations within the household and the contribution that migration made to livelihoods. We were particularly interested in the impact that the involuntary return had on migrants and their families. This comic represents one of the ways in which we share the stories of migrants and their families with a broad audience that goes beyond the academic community. We hope that this comic will contribute to readers' understandings of the challenges and opportunities that migrants face. We hope



that this will stimulate discussion and raise awareness of the issues with governments, organisations working with migrants, and the wider public.

The comic is now available in English, Khmer, and Thai.

## Sine Plambech

### Short Documentary: "Becky's Journey"



Becky is a 26-year-old Nigerian woman who wants to go to Europe to sell sex. She already tried twice. The first time she was stopped with fake documents in the airport in Nigeria, by immigration authorities. This made her decide to begin a deadly journey through the Sahara desert hoping to embark on a migration boat bound for Italy. The film is about migration, sex work and human trafficking seen from the perspective of Becky. Through interviews with Becky and sequences of everyday life, we sense the feelings of limbo and immobility that permeate Becky's life.

Related to the cross-cutting theme of Migrant Journeys, the film follows one migrant, Becky, and documents the journey taken by numerous Nigerian migrants from Nigeria to Europe. The journey is shown through archive footage that illustrates Becky's memories and her emotional state of mind. We see images of the desert, shot from a moving truck, images of migrants resting under a shady tree, images of the ocean, of ship wrecks, of old military barracks, of various cityscapes, of birds in the sky and of rough winds stirring up a group of palm trees. Some of these images adhere directly to Becky's story. Others are chosen for their poetic qualities in an effort to make Becky's 'inner life' felt by audiences.

Furthermore, the film shows how Becky perceives the risks, costs and benefits of migrating. Becky is aware that she will be selling sex in Europe, but perceives it as a necessary part of being in Europe and a sacrifice that will be worth it in the end. Thus recruitment into the insecure and precarious sex industry becomes part of her migration strategy. The film relates to the panel theme of Migration Brokerage, Debt and Precarious Employment by exploring the recruitment patterns of Nigerian migrants into the European sex industry.

## Nyani Quarmyne

“We Were Once Three Miles from the Sea”



Coastal and riverine erosion are not new phenomena on the Ghana coast. However, the pace of change has accelerated drastically in recent years, sweeping away homes and livelihoods and, according to some experts, foreshadowing the fate of many of West Africa's coastal capitals as sea levels continue to rise.

I first visited the fishing village of Totopé in 2004. There was no talk of climate change, coastal erosion or the threat of being swallowed by the sea – clean water was residents' most pressing need. When I returned six years later pipe-borne water had arrived, but the village had all but disappeared beneath the waves. An elder told me, “We were once three miles from the sea.”

# Photography

## Nyani Quarmyne

### The Hillbrow Boxing Club



Hillbrow, inner-city Johannesburg's most notorious neighbourhood, was the domain of wealthy white South Africans. During the unrest of the 1980s, black South Africans began to move into the area in defiance of the Group Areas Act, which mandated zoning by skin colour, and the whites began to move out. With the advent of majority rule, poor black South Africans flooded into the inner city seeking a better life, and in the 1990s Hillbrow became synonymous with crime and violence.

Today, long-term residents say Hillbrow is not as bad as it once was, but they still avoid the streets at night. The area remains characterised by inbound migration from all over the continent, poverty, overcrowding, squats, hard drugs and crime. It is at once a place of hope and despair.

Against this backdrop is George Khosi's story: a childhood spent on the streets; petty crime, hustling, stealing to eat. At 16 he wound up in an adult prison where, of necessity, he learned to fight. When he got out he took up boxing. A burgeoning career came to an abrupt end when he was shot in a home invasion, but eventually he picked up the gloves again, to teach Hillbrow youngsters to box.



# Photography

**Hugh Tuckfield & Natalie Le Beau**

Climate Refugees and Stateless Populations of Bangladesh:  
A photographic exhibition

## The Change Luck City: Dhaka's Climate Refugees

The devastating effects of climate change, floods, salinization of land, destructive super cyclones, and reduced agricultural yields, have internally displaced millions of people from rural Bangladesh. Hundreds of thousands of climate change refugees each year migrate to Dhaka, one of the most densely populated cities on earth, to seek work and housing. Many cannot afford to live in the slums, and are forced to make their homes on Dhaka's pavement: under bridges, in parks, next to the city's mosques and train stations. Men, women, children, and the elderly-large extended families of pavement dwellers set up wash stations and makeshift kitchens under jacaranda trees, beside the High Court of Bangladesh, and in every available public and abandoned space in Dhaka. Lacking essential access to water, sanitation, education, and shelter, these environmental migrants are highly vulnerable to disease, assault and exploitation, including predation by traffickers. "They come to Dhaka because they cannot live any longer where they are from. They come because Dhaka is the Change Luck City".



# Photography

## Hugh Tuckfield & Natalie Le Beau

### Climate Refugees and Stateless Populations of Bangladesh: A photographic exhibition

#### The Stranded Pakistanis (Bihari) in Camp Geneva, Dhaka



In slum-like camps scattered throughout Dhaka live the Stranded Pakistanis, also known as the Bihari or the Besieged. Many of this Urdu-speaking minority of Bangladesh supported Pakistan during the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971. 45 years later, these stateless and Stranded Pakistanis continue to live within camps like Camp Geneva: a sprawling labyrinth in the heart of Dhaka.

Prevented from entering Pakistan, leaving Bangladesh, or, despite a recent High Court order, effectively receiving Bangladeshi citizenship; 2 million Stranded Pakistanis lack the legal right to access work, education, health care, or participate in any life outside the camps they call home.



