

Asia Pacific transformations group sponsored session

Migration, land and livelihoods

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Across the Asia-Pacific region people are leading more mobile lives as they seek new livelihood opportunities and experiences (Rigg, 2007). Whilst much of this migration is rural-to-urban, a sizable proportion is rural-to-rural, particularly to agricultural and resource frontier zones. In pursuit of livelihoods, land-poor migrants are entering into a broad range of informal arrangements with customary landowners to gain short and long-term access to land, creating burgeoning informal land markets and changes to customary land tenure regimes. Whilst migration research has been an active area of investigation among geographers, less attention has been paid to understanding at a local level the processes and procedures by which migrants without customary land use rights access land and resources, and the diverse range of land tenure arrangements emerging in sites of high immigration.

Papers are invited which focus on one or more of the following broad areas regarding informal land markets, especially in rural areas of the Asia-Pacific region:

- Migrant strategies for accessing customary land to create new livelihood opportunities.
- Modifications to, or manipulations of, customary land tenure arrangements.
- Role of social relationships in land tenure security.
- Land tenure rights and obligations of migrants.
- Tensions and conflicts arising from informal land transactions.
- Changing concepts of land ownership.
- Changes over time in informal land markets.
- Local historical, cultural and socio-economic contexts of informal land markets.
- Informal land markets and export cash-cropping.
- Local governance and the role of the state.

It would be useful if some papers considered the implications of their research for national land policy and land reform.