

IGS | DEPARTMENT OF

# INTEGRATED GLOBAL STUDIES

12<sup>TH</sup> SEMINAR

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# GLENDA

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LECTURE

## PROFESSOR IN WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE, CANADA

### GENDER AND CONTEMPORARY MIGRATION: TRANSNATIONAL FILIPINO IDENTITIES AND SPACES OF BELONGING

Migration is a highly gendered process in terms of occupation, destination, and decision-making process involving households on who leaves and who stays behind, to name a few. General views on migration tend to be male-led under the breadwinner model in domestic and international flows from the Global South to the Global North, and across regions. However, this is contrary in the case of Filipino migration. Filipino women tend to be more mobile than men and are stereotyped by policy structures as caregivers in Canada, domestic workers in Hong Kong, entertainers in Japan, nurses in the US and UK, and in other service-related sectors as teachers and sales agents in the Middle East and elsewhere.

In this lecture, the contemporary Filipino migration provides an example of the intersections of colonialism, globalization, and the international care exchange or deficit among advanced host societies like Japan and Canada. Migration is necessarily a transnational process of maintaining connections with the homeland and integrating into host communities. The main points for discussion are: what are the ways in which transnational identities are forged among Filipino women? What are the spaces of belonging in which Filipino identities are reproduced, transformed, and negotiated? The discourses on intersectionality, gendered geographies of power, and feminist political economy enable us to critically recognize the interconnectedness of human lives and promote social justice.

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