



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FACULTY OF ARTS, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Loretta Baldassar, Anthropology & Sociology

# **WUN MIGRATION CONFERENCE**

**Hong Kong**

**25-26 April, 2015**

**Who cares?  
The unintended  
consequences of policy for  
migrant families.**



- **2013-14 RCA** Mobilities and Belongings: Sustaining Families and Communities in transnational Settings **UWA, Sheffield, York, Loughborough, Trento, Louvain, Monash, La Trobe University, Curtin**
- **2014 RCA** Community, Popular and Digital Media in Migrant Settlement, Integration and resilience: Mobilities and Belonging' **UWA Leeds, Sydney, Auckland, Indian Institute of Technology, Monash, Adelaide, Wollongong, La Trobe**
- **2014 RDF** Understanding Globalization – Margins and Peripheries (Chinese migration focus) **Cape Town, UWA, Maastricht, Sheffield, Sydney, York, Freiburg, Simon Fraser, Hong Kong, Western Cape**
- **2014 RDF** Promoting meaningful engagement of persons with dementia aging in supported living environments **Sydney, UWA, Cape Town, Southampton, Hong Kong, Auckland, Karolinska, Shawnee State, Southern Cross, Lismore, Free State**



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# Migration and mobility through a care framework



## **care/mobility nexus**

### **labour migration**

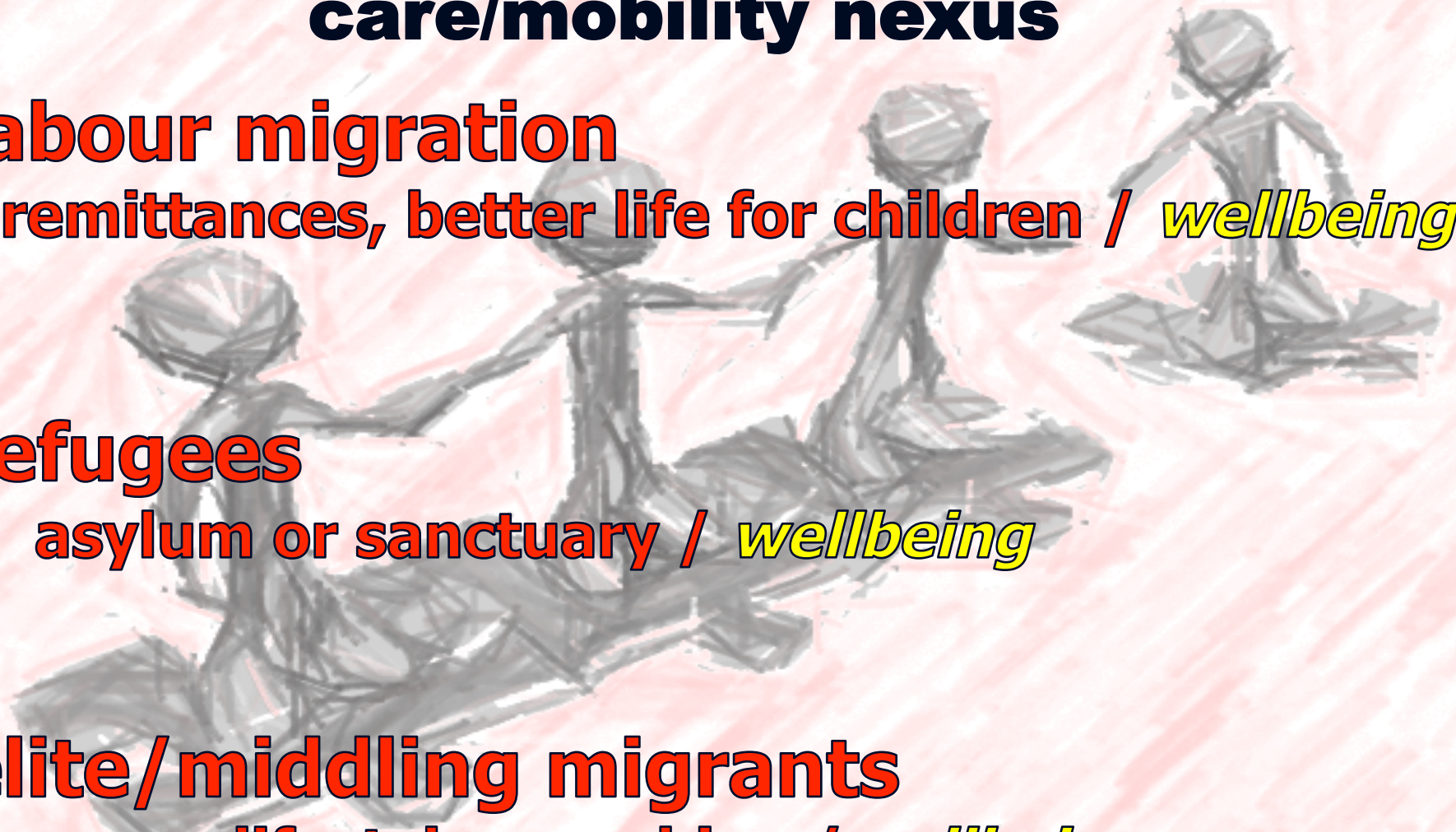
- remittances, better life for children / *wellbeing*

### **refugees**

- asylum or sanctuary / *wellbeing*

### **elite/middling migrants**

- career, lifestyle, sunshine / *wellbeing*



# **MOBILITY TURN**

**Transnational families**

**Long-term migrant**  
**Seasonal/temporary**  
**Refugee/ asylum seeker**  
**e.g. Domestic care workers**

**Commuter**  
**Expatriate**  
**Fly-in Fly-out**  
**International students (third culture kids)**  
**Retirement migrants**  
**e.g. Astronaut families, parachute children**

**Living Apart Together LAT families**  
**(short and long distance)**  
**Multi-local families**





## Concepts of CARE

**care is constitutive of kinship and family life**

**kinship un-biologized (Schneider 1984)**

**family are formed not on the basis of what is given,  
but on what is done/exchanged  
- the process of *becoming* relatives**

**concept of 'kinning' vs 'fictive' kin (Howell, 2003, pp.468)**

**Kinship "achieved in & through relationships with others"**

**emphasise performative definition of kinship (Sahlins 2011)**

**kinship ties do not exist *a priori*, but are negotiated on a  
daily basis through diverse activities, with care-giving  
being the most significant of those activities.**

**Migration: ties to kin basis for definition of home**



## Definitions of CARE

**[T]he work of looking after the physical, psychological, emotional and developmental needs of one or more people ... [embracing] a range of human experiences and relationships of obligation, trust, loyalty and commitment concerned with the well-being of others. (Kofman and Raghuram, 2009: 3)**

**5 types of care: emotional and moral support; financial, accommodation, practical and personal (hands on)  
Finch and Mason (1993)**

**feminist ethics: care is relational and involves the care of others as well as the self. Care requires Attentiveness-Responsibility Competence Responsiveness (Joan Tronto 1993)**



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**65 yrs >**  
**2011 = 14%**  
**2056 = 23%**

**Non working-  
age pop'n 2.2%**

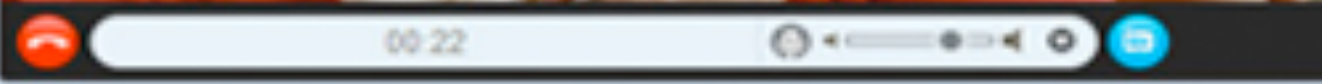
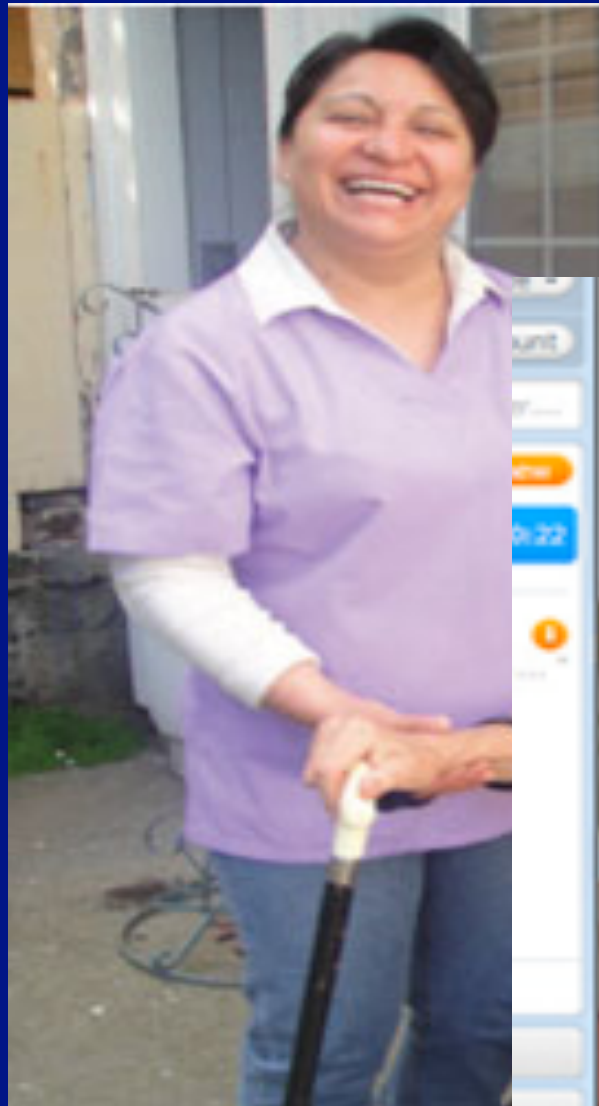
**Working-age  
pop'n 1.3%**

**(ABS 2012)**





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A photograph of a group of people in a desert landscape, possibly a nomadic tribe, with a large rock formation in the background. The people are wearing traditional clothing and are gathered around a central figure. The scene is set in a dry, arid environment with a clear sky.

**1. THE PORTABILITY OF CARE**

**2. TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL POLICY**



**1. the portability of care**  
**From 'a kind of social death'**  
**to the**  
**purchase of a new computer**





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# Conditions of polymedia



**Portability of care = access to**

***-Mobility***

***-Communication technologies***



## Definition of Transnational Care

family caregiving mediated by dialectic *capacity* (ability, opportunity), the culturally informed sense of *obligation* and the *negotiated family commitments* influenced by broader social and political contexts (Baldassar, Baldock, Widling 2007)

reciprocal and asymmetrical, governed by 'norm of generalised reciprocity'; given and returned at different times and degrees across the life course

**Portability of care = access to**

**-*Mobility***

**-*Communication technologies***



# **Transnational Social Policy**

## **Mobility:**

**The different conditions in which family exchange takes place reveal marked social asymmetries in today's global world, in which freedom to move has become the main stratifying factor (Bauman 1998)**

## **Polymedia:**

**Access to the internet as a Human Right  
UNHCR**



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# Sandwich generation

**Feb 2014**

**labour force participation rate women 58.4% men 71.1%  
46% of women worked part-time (16% men) [2012]**

**multi-generational households increased by 27% since 1981**



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**An ethics of care argues that countries who employ workers have a responsibility to admit the kin who care for and are cared for by that worker (whether children or disabled or elderly) or to provide the conditions that make meeting these care needs and obligations possible.**



**Care work, by its nature, is relational and entails responsibilities among actors in these relationships. Because these relationships are both structured by, made possible through, and shaped by their political, social and economic contexts, a thorough accounting of these relationships requires a political process that is as broad as are the relationships themselves. Since no institutions yet exist on the global level that function to allocate overall social and political responsibility, the politics of allocating responsibility must still be largely contained within the nation-state.**

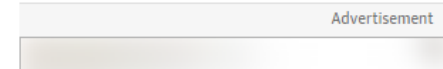
## world news

# Australia's detention regime sets out to make asylum seekers suffer, says chief immigration psychiatrist

**Guardian Australia exclusive:** Doctor responsible for mental health of people in detention becomes the most senior figure to condemn system from within, saying immigration department deliberately harms vulnerable detainees in a process akin to torture

- [Asylum seekers' medical records 'being used against them' - video](#)
- [Self-harming is 'seen as bad behaviour' - video](#)

David Marr and Oliver Laughland



"We have here an environment that is inherently toxic ..... It has characteristics which over time reliably cause harm to people's mental health. We have very clear evidence that that's the case."



Young is the... the detenti... ago he was... Internatio... the private... to detentio... Christmas

Young has

**"We have here an environment that is inherently toxic ..... It has characteristics which over time reliably cause harm to people's mental health. We have very clear evidence that that's the case." 14 Aug 2014**

# AUSTRALIA = SETTLER SOCIETY



THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA | A CENTURY OF ACHIEVEMENT

**44% MIGRANTS OR CHILDREN OF MIGRANTS (ABS 2006)**  
**25% AUSTRALIANS BORN OVERSEAS (ABS 2009) 12.5% US 2008**  
**20% 2<sup>ND</sup> GEN IMMIGRANTS (ABS 2006) 10.9% 2<sup>ND</sup> GEN US 2008**

## BULLETIN

WITH Newsweek

**PEOPLE FROM OVER 200 COUNTRIES LIVE IN AUSTRALIA**

**14.2% BORN OVERSEAS IN NESB COUNTRIES (ABS 2001)**

**15% OF AUSTRALIANS >5 YRS SPEAK LOTE (ABS 2001)**

**2.4% INDIGENOUS (ABS 2001)**

**35% AUSTRALIAN (ABS 2001)**

**36.1% ENGLISH OR ENG-AUST (7.2 MILLION) (ABS 2011)**

**910,000 ENGLAND BORN RESIDENTS IN 2011 (4%)**

UTURE STOCK





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# 5. Frictionless migration


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facebook

Email or Phone  Password

Keep me logged in  Can't

 **Australian Working Holiday**  
Travel/Leisure


Timeline About Photos Help Desk More ▾

PEOPLE >

604,229 likes

ABOUT >

Plan your adventure, share your story!  
Join the conversation with those who love a working holiday in Australia!

 **Australian Working Holiday**  
20 August 🌐

Looking for a change of scenery? The Australia Working Holiday Visa a 18 – 30 year olds to spend a year working and living in Australia. Visit <http://bit.ly/1AfrkH2> for more info (Photo taken at Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia)

Screw  
working in  
Staines.  
Hello  
Adelaide.

Fine weather, fine wine, fine jobs, fine beaches, fine wine, fine universities, fine weather, fine food, fine houses, oh, and did I mention fine weather and fine wine.

[News.com.au](http://www.news.com.au) 2008

Adelaide, South Australia. The world's finest blend.



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# The Parent and Grandparent Super Visa