

# Geographies of Margins

28 September 2021

**Dr. Armita Pande** (*University of Cape Town*)

**Rand and the Reproductive Body: South African egg providers and the Global fertility Industry**

12 October 2021

**Dr. Rama Mani** (*University of Oxford; Theatre of Transformation Academy*)

**Transforming Margins: from Health Systems to a Healthy Planetary Society**

23 November 2021

**Dr. Huiwen Gong** (*EAWAG & Lund University*)

**Green windows of opportunity and sustainability transitions in latecomer cities: evidence from China**

Organized by the Research Units Social and Cultural Geography, Economic Geography, Critical Sustainability Studies and Political Urbanism and Sustainable Spatial Development in cooperation with the mLAB of the Institute of Geography, University of Bern. Zoom: <https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/65818493290>

**Location**  
**GIUB, Hallerstr. 12**  
**Raum 002 / Zoom**

<https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/65818493290>

**12:15 – 13.45**

28 September 2021

**Dr. Amrita Pande | Rand and the Reproductive Body: South African egg providers and the Global fertility Industry**

I discuss cross-border egg provision by young (white) South African women as a form of traveling biolabor that is critically about embodiment, but also about their aspirations for mobility and an escape from the margins. This frame challenges the binary frames of altruism/commodification, choice/coercion, and instead highlights the desires of egg providers, fundamental to the creation and maintenance of the global fertility market. When biolabor crosses borders as traveling biolabor, the analysis can focus on the specificities of marginality and inequities embedded within such reproductive mobility. Traveling or mobility is often a privileged decision and connotes freedom and cultural capital. Yet, when applied to young white (Afrikaner) egg providers in post-Apartheid South Africa, this traveling biolabor relies on a particular kind of biopolitics wherein the reproductive potential of ova/egg is fundamental in facilitating these women's cross-border mobility from the margins.

12 October 2021

**Dr. Rama Mani | Transforming Margins: from Health Systems to a Healthy Planetary Society**

In our highly interconnected world, illness anywhere on our planet can be illness everywhere; as COVID 19 continues to show us. This situation raises a series of questions about the margins that define and shape our understanding of health and health systems. Exploring and transforming these margins which currently limit us and our health systems could liberate our collective capacity to create a healthy Earth civilization for all life. Let us explore some of these margins: What is the margin that separates illness from wellness, disease from health? What is the margin that separates the health practitioner from the sick beneficiary? What is the margin that separates the health system charged with curing illness from the planetary and societal system that creates illnesses? What is the margin that separates 'them' as certified medical practitioners of the health system authorised to bestow healing to a sick society, from 'us' as non-medical practitioners but rather scholars and citizens concerned about healthy societies? We shall explore these margins through the Theatre of Transformation Methodology developed at the University of Oxford's Enacting Global Transformation Initiative. Through case studies we 'witness the reality' of medical practitioners through the enactment of their real-life testimonies. We shall see how each of them transformed the margins they faced in their lives by 'awakening new possibilities', and 'envisioning change' in their health practices, and how, by doing so, they 'enacted transformation' in the health (system) of their societal environments.

23 November 2021

**Dr. Huiwen Gong | Green windows of opportunity and sustainability transitions in latecomer cities: evidence from China**

The development of green industries in regions and cities is increasingly seen as important to the current discussion on the geographies of sustainability transitions. The opening of green windows of opportunity for technological, institutional, and market reasons presents both opportunities and challenges for many cities in the world today. In this regard, latecomer cities appear to have many advantages (notably, the presence of institutional voids, strong social ties, space for experimentation, available land and other resources, strong place leadership, etc.) (Yu and Gibbs, 2018, 2019). At the same time, they also face major challenges in important aspects such as weak endogenous innovation capabilities and the absence of agglomeration economies (Eder and Trippel, 2019; Trippel et al., 2017). Based on cases of green pathway developments in Chinese latecomer cities, this presentation reveals how advantages can be maintained and challenges be tackled in latecomer cities when green windows open. It highlights important dimensions that latecomer cities need to consider in order to realize sustainable transformations.

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