



Migrant Conversions: Money, Religion, and Global Projects of Peruvians in South Korea

Erica Vogel (Saddleback College)

Thursday, March 11th at 4:00PM U.S. Pacific Time

Online via Zoom | Registration Required | Visit ieas.berkeley.edu/cks to Register

Peruvian migrant workers began arriving in South Korea in large numbers in the mid-1990s, eventually becoming one of the largest groups of non-Asians in the country. *Migrant Conversions* shows how despite facing unstable income and legal exclusion, migrants have come to see Korea as an ideal destination, sometimes even as part of their divine destiny. Faced with a forced end to their residence in Korea, Peruvians have developed strategies to transform themselves from economic migrants into heads of successful transnational families, influential church leaders, and cosmopolitan travelers. Set against the backdrop of the 2008 global financial crisis, *Migrant Conversions* explores the intersections of three types of conversions—monetary, religious, and cosmopolitan—to argue that migrants use conversions to negotiate the meaning of their lives in a constantly changing transnational context. As Peruvians carve out social spaces, they create complex and uneven connections between Peru and Korea that challenge a global hierarchy of nations and migrants. Exploring how migrants, churches, and nations change through processes of conversion reveals how globalization continues to impact people's lives and ideas about their futures and pasts long after they have stopped moving or after a particular global moment has come to an end.



Erica Vogel is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, California. She is a cultural anthropologist who conducts fieldwork in South Korea, Peru, and Mexico looking at issues of globalization, migration, religious conversion, and transnational flows between Asia and Latin America. She is the author of *Migrant Conversions: Transforming Connections Between Peru and South Korea* (UC Press 2020), which was based on 24 months of fieldwork in Peru and South Korea with migrants and their families, their religious leaders, and government officials. Her current project is funded by a grant from Mellon/ACLS and is called "K-Pop in Mexico: Creating and Consuming Globalization through La Ola Coreana." She received her PhD in anthropology from the University of California, Irvine and held a Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign.

- **Free and Open to the Public**
- **Virtual Lecture**
- **Registration Required**