Immigration and integration in Singapore

Challenges of integrating foreigners into the Singapore society
KEY FORMS OF MIGRATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Forms of Migration

Temporary Migration
Permanent Migration
Transnational Migration
IMMIGRATION AND POLICY: IN EUROPE AND ASIA

• Immigration control policy (regulations of immigration flows)

• Management of ethnic relations and integration of immigrants & minorities living in the host country

• Antiracism and anti-discrimination policies
RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT POPULATION IN SINGAPORE

Singapore Citizens: 334,000

Singapore Permanent Residents: 527,000

Non-Residents (Foreigners with temporary status): 1,500,000
KEY FEATURES OF IMMIGRATION CONTROL POLICY IN SINGAPORE

1. Demand-driven and class-based migration policy
2. Controlling demand (work-permit, quota & levy scheme)
3. Recruitment industry
4. Gendered migration policy
5. Immigration Control policy is linked to Citizenship policy
CLASSES AND NUMBERS OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN SINGAPORE

• Unskilled foreigners (offered Work Permits - WP) (number of WP holders: 980,000)

• Professional foreigners (offered Employment Pass – EP, minimum monthly salary SG$ 3,300) (number of EP holders: 176,000)

• Multi-level skilled foreigners/mid-skilled foreigners offered S Pass, minimum monthly salary SG$ 2,200 (number of S-pass holders: 164,000)
Migration Control Policy for Unskilled Foreign Workers

1. Selection of migrant workers (skills and age)
2. Sources of unskilled foreingers
3. Levy scheme and Depending ceiling
4. Dependents are not allowed
5. Marriages with locals are not allowed
6. Responsibilities of employers
7. Termination of work permit
Migration control policy for professional and skilled foreigners

- EP pass holders (P1, P2 and Q1)
- S pass holders
PATHWAYS OF UNSKILLED FOREIGN WORKERS

Unskilled Foreign Workers

Temporary and circular in nature

Permanently Transient

Win-Win-Win Situation for all parties
EP and S Pass-holders (total: 340,000)

A small number are offered SPR

A small number are offered Citizenship
KEY MODELS OF INTEGRATION

(1) Multicultural

(2) Assimilatist

(3) Exclusionist

(4) Trans-state or Trans-border
What is missing in integration studies

- *Transnational inclusion* means embracing emigrants overseas as a part of the broader society (here, embracing Singaporeans living outside Singapore)
INTEGRATION POLICY IN SINGAPORE

Integration Policy

- Differential Exclusion (for non-residents/foreigners)
- Multiculturalism (for residents)
- Transnational Inclusion (for Global Singaporeans)
INTEGRATING FOREIGNERS/NONRESIDENTS INTO THE SINGAPORE SOCIETY

Spheres of Immigrant integration

(1) Economy
(2) Housing
(3) Education
(4) Culture
(5) Religion
(6) Politics
• Singapore's achievement in controlling immigration and integrating foreign labour and overseas Singaporeans into the Singapore society sets an example for others in Asia and beyond
Thank you