



# ASIAN-BORN SCIENTISTS-IN-TRAINING: THE QUESTION OF WHERE TO TRAIN

## abstract

Using insights gleaned from 85 in-depth interviews with Asian-born, Western-trained bioscientists in Singapore, Taiwan, China, and India, I argue that objective improvements in the bioscience research and education infrastructure in Asia, and Asian scientists' subjective impressions about the current state and potential of Asian bioscience, have together left the door open for more Asian scientists-in-training to choose to stay in Asia for their doctoral training. At the same time, however, a different set of factors—including Asian governments' continued privileging of Western qualifications and network connections—have conspired to make a postdoctoral appointment in the West (and particularly the US) essential for an ambitious Asian-born bioscientist. As a result, while there may be increasing serious consideration of Asia as a location for a PhD in bioscience, when it comes to postdoctoral appointments, there is still a distinct preference for, and field-based pressure, to train in the West. These shifts encourage the emergence of new, hybrid training and migration pathways for Asian-born scientists-in-training.

28 Jan 2015 (Wednesday)  
3pm – 4:30pm

Executive Seminar Room  
AS7 01-07, 5 Arts Link,  
The Shaw Foundation  
Building

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Anju Mary Paul is an international migration scholar with a research focus on migration to, from, and within Asia. She is especially interested in how gender, labor, race & ethnicity, and class intersect at the moment of migration and the post-migration experience.

Dr. Paul graduated from the University of Michigan in 2012 with a joint PhD in Sociology and Public Policy and is currently an Assistant Professor in Sociology at Yale-NUS College. Her research spans both high- and low-skilled migration streams, from migrant domestic workers to bioscientists.

speaker