

To cite this output:

Locke, C, (2011) Linking Migration, Reproduction and Wellbeing: Exploring the Reproductive Strategies of Low-Income Rural-Urban Migrants in Vietnam

ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0327. Swindon: ESRC

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL IMPACT REPORT



For awards ending on or after 1 November 2009

This Impact Report should be completed and submitted using the **grant reference** as the email subject to **reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk** on or before the due date.

Completion of this Impact Report is mandatory. It will not be possible to edit this Impact Report at a later date, as it is designed to provide a statement of the impacts of your project to date 12 months after your grant ends.

Please note that the Impact Report will only be accepted if all sections have been completed in full. If a section does not apply to you, please enter 'n/a'. Grant holders will not be eligible for further ESRC funding until the Report is accepted. (Please see Section 5 of the ESRC Research Funding Guide for details.)

Please refer to the Guidance notes when completing this Impact Report. In particular, the notes explain what the ESRC means by 'impact'.

Grant Reference	RES-167-25-0327		
Grant Title	Linking Migration, Reproduction and Wellbeing: Exploring the Reproductive Strategies of Low-Income Rural-Urban Migrants in Vietnam		
Grant Start Date	01 Jan 2008	Total Amount	£90,678.71
Grant End Date	30 June 2010	Expended:	
Grant holding Institution	University of East Anglia		
Grant Holder	Dr Catherine Locke		
Grant Holder's Contact Details	Address	Email	
	School of International Development, UEA, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, UK	c.locke@uea.ac.uk	
		Telephone	01603 593565
Co-Investigators (as per project application):	Institution		
n/a	n/a		

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1. SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

A Please **summarise** below the scientific impact(s) your project has had. *[Max 250 words]*

Since the EOA Report:

Working with the Migration Cluster of the Asia Research Institute (ARI), Singapore, in February 2011 bringing insights from project into:

- the ongoing interpretation of **CHAMPSEA dataset** on the health of left-behind children of international migrants across three South East Asian countries.
- the inception phase thinking for the Asia Hub of **DFID's Migrating Out of Poverty RPC**.
- taking forward conceptual thinking about lifecourse transitions, migration and (social) reproduction (for forthcoming **ARI Working Paper**).
- developing a joint proposal to extend the findings across the lifecourse and to at least one other country context (to be submitted for funding to the **ESRC-DFID Joint Call** in 2011).

The article submitted to the *Journal of Development Studies* has been accepted and anticipated Vietnamese publications (*Family and Gender Studies* no 2, 2011) and presentations (at SISD Workshop, Ho Chi Minh, and International Fund) have been delivered.

In addition, I drew on the project's finding to contribute to the **DFID Consultation on Women's Economic Empowerment** in December 2010 and presented findings at the **United Nations Association (UNA)** in Norwich in June 2011. Our study is now indexed on **ELDIS** and after some small revisions the dataset has been submitted for final publication to the **UK Data Archive** in February 2011. I have also submitted a joint proposal for a **BA Small Grant** with Dr Lan Anh Hoang of Melbourne University to look at the sexual and reproductive strategies of young unmarried women migrating for factory work in Vietnam.

B Please outline the **findings and outputs** from your project which have had the scientific impact(s) outlined in 1A. *[Max 250 words]*

Theoretically, the project has shown that going away to work for poor internal migrants **is about and in tension with family roles**. This is true for both **men** as well as women and raises serious tensions and trade-offs in the crucial **transition to building a young family**.

The project has explored the range and nature of **strategic responses** of men and women in their peak child-bearing years to the necessity of migration. It has explored how they **(re)negotiate** marital and parenting identities, roles and responsibilities and shown how the costs of family strategies are **highly gendered**. The research shows that reproductive dynamics are **essential** to understanding the gendered possibilities for (and

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the meanings of) social mobility for the poor and their children through labour migration (Key outputs to date: archived dataset, three on-line research reports, *JDS* article, IUSSP paper, *Reproduction, Health and Migration* book chapter, Nexus of Migration and Masculinities Conference paper)

Empirically the project has provided a **nuanced account** of the range of reproductive strategies used by poor male and female rural-to-urban migrants in their peak child-bearing years in Vietnam. The contrasting sites of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh added **depth** to the findings and **extended their relevance** for policy makers and researchers to other contexts (Key outputs to date: archived dataset, two policy briefs, *Vietnam Update* paper, *Migration Nation* refereed book chapter) .

The research argues for attention **to other family lifecourse transitions and migration**, particularly when migrant's children are transitioning to adulthood.

C Please outline **how** these impacts were achieved. [*Max 250 words*]

The findings of the research are detailed in two **briefs** (2010) in English and Vietnamese and in extended **research reports** which are freely available on the **project's web pages** (www.uea.ac.uk/dev/People/staffresearch/clockeresearch/MRWOutputs) and on **Society Today**. The first (2008) analyses the institutional context affecting poor migrants in their peak child-bearing years in Vietnam, the second (2010) provides a synthesis of the primary data which analyses the strategies of poor migrants with children under the age of 8 years, and the third (forthcoming in 2012) will report in-depth analysis of specific themes.

The full **dataset** has been accepted by the ESDS's **UK Data Archive** and was fully submitted early 2011. The project is indexed on the **ELDIS website** with functioning links to the project's own web pages and full outputs (where freely available).

In addition, findings and outputs have been disseminated through engagement in scientific conferences (AAG 2009, IUSSP 2009, ARI 2010), seminars (Globalisation and Migration RPC 2009, Migration Cluster ARI 2011, School of International Development 2010) and academic and policy fora and individual contacts, both in English and by Nguyen Thi Thanh Tam and Nguyen Thi Nga Hoa in Vietnamese. This work is ongoing.

An article has been accepted for publication by the *Journal of Development Studies*. A book chapter will appear in the refereed volume *Migration Nation* (ANU, Canberra, edited by Ashley Carruthers and Phillip Taylor, forthcoming 2011) and another on mothering identities in *Reproduction, Health and Migration* (Berghahn, edited by Maya Unnithan-Kumar and Sunil Khanna, forthcoming 2011).

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D Please outline **who** the findings and outputs outlined above had an impact upon. This can include specific academics/researchers through to broader academic groups. *[Max 250 words]*

Researchers internationally and in the UK and in the Asia region in the fields of gender, migration, population, geography and development accessed via conferences, seminars and in 2011 through scholarly publications. Researchers, policy makers and practitioners using the ELDIS database and the UK Data Archive.

Colleagues at the School of International Development and **collaborators** at other universities in the UK, Singapore, Canberra and Melbourne through direct engagement, collaborative writing, and future partnerships for research proposals and an international conference arising from this research.

Researchers and policy makers in Vietnam accessed through personal contacts, email circulation of research summary, briefs, and links to full outputs, through a public seminar in Hanoi, and through publications in English and Vietnamese in Vietnam Journals, and through Tam and Hoa's institutionalised roles in the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences (which advises the Assembly of the Government of Vietnam).

The **general public** through a presentation to the United Nations Association in Norwich, June 2011.

2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

A Please **summarise** below the economic and societal impact(s) your project has had. *[Max 250 words]*

Not applicable. This project intended to extend **the evidence base** for policy making around migration, gender and social policy and above I detail how we have addressed our scientific findings to policy makers (and general public) including through the publication of two **briefs** circulated in English and in Vietnamese, the second of which specifically addresses **policy implications**.

B Please outline the **findings and outputs** from your project which have had the economic and societal impact(s) outlined in 2A. *[Max 250 words]*

Not applicable

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C Please outline **how** these impacts were achieved. [Max 250 words]

Not applicable

D Please outline **who** the findings and outputs outlined above had an impact upon. This can be at a broad societal level through to specific individuals or groups. [Max 250 words]

Not applicable

3. UNEXPECTED AND POTENTIAL FUTURE IMPACTS

A Unexpected Impacts

Please note which, if any, of the impacts that your research has had were *unexpected* at the outset of the research, explaining where possible why you think this was the case. [Max 250 words]

Not applicable

B Potential Future Impacts

If you have a clear idea of the impact your research is likely to have in the future please detail these below. [Max 250 words]

Three research activities at various planning stages lead on from this project:

Collaborative research with the Asia Research Institute (ARI) to extend this project across the lifecycle and across the region. Tentative title: *Family life course transitions in the context of internal labour migration: Vital conjunctures for moving out of poverty in SE Asia?* (Concept note, full proposal due end July 2011 for submission 2011 to **ESRC-DFID Joint Call**)

Collaborative research with Dr Lan Anh Hoang at the University of Melbourne to look at the sexual and reproductive strategies of young unmarried migrants. Small grant application already submitted to the **British Academy** (decision due end June 2011). Title: *Modern Identity, Conventional Desires and Proper Conduct in a Special Economic Zone: Young Women Migrating for Factory Work in Vietnam.*

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International Conference on Migration, Social Reproduction and Social Protection planned with Social Protection and Mobilities Research Group at UEA that will take place at UEA London on 2-3rd April 2012. Partial support requested from the **British Academy** (decision due end June 2011) and call for papers to be circulated July 2011.

Additionally, three specific writing projects are in hand:

Conference presentation July 2011 at the **International Conference on Householding in Transition** in Singapore, called 'Marital Disruption and Mobile Householding in Vietnam: An Inevitable Consequence?'

Two further submissions to journals:

On Migrant Masculinities in July 2011 to *Population, Space and Place* (manuscript available)

On marital disruption in 2011 to *Journal of Marriage and the Family* (or *Gender, Place and Culture*) (in progress)

4. IMPACT LIMITATIONS

A Limited scientific impact

Please state below any major scientific difficulties that have limited the scientific impact of your research. The statement should refer to an effect on *impact* rather than simply detail research difficulties. [Max 250 words]

Difficulties were experienced in using the Society Today website.

Difficulties were also experienced in getting timely responses from ELDIS and the UK Data Archive. After follow up, the project is now cited on ELDIS but at the time of writing the dataset still appears not to be on line despite its finalisation with them in January 2011 and the UK Data Archive has not responded to repeated enquiries from me by email and by telephone.

B Limited economic and societal impact

ESRC recognises that some of the research it funds will not have an economic or societal impact in the short term. Please explain briefly below if this is the case for your project, and refer to your grant application where relevant. [Max 250 words]

Reaching policy makers, beyond the NGO and international donor community, is highly challenging in Vietnam. Working with two senior government researchers represents a good strategy in this respect because the project has been able to ensure strong impact throughout the research networks both in and beyond government in Vietnam. The

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timing of impacts on government policy though is dictated by when government or government advisers *ask for* data and analysis on specific social problems. Nguyen Thi Thanh Tam was asked by the Director of the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences to write a report on the situation of 'free' migrants for his address to the Assembly of the Government of Vietnam in 2010 and she was able to integrate our findings within this.

C No impact to date

This project has had no impact to date

Please note that ESRC projects are evaluated on the basis of their scientific and/or economic and societal impact. Grant holders are expected to report any future impacts as they occur using the Impact Record, downloadable from the ESRC website.

If you have no impacts at this stage, please give reasons below. *[Max 250 words]*

Not applicable

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5. DECLARATIONS

Please read the statements below. Submitting this Impact Report to **reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk** confirms your agreement.

- i) This Impact Report is an accurate statement of the impacts of the research project to date. All co-investigators named in the proposal to ESRC or appointed subsequently have seen and approved the Report.
- ii) Details of any subsequent impacts will be submitted via an Impact Record as they occur.

Thank you for completing this Impact Report. Your Impact Report will be considered along with your End of Award Report in the evaluation of your research.

You are now invited to complete the confidential Nominations form, which will assist with the evaluation of your project.

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NOMINATED OUTPUTS

Please nominate a maximum of two outputs from your research which you would like to be considered as part of the evaluation.

Output type (eg journal article, book, newspaper article, conference proceedings)	Publication details (eg author name, date, title, publisher details)	Uploaded to ESRC website? (Yes/No)
Forthcoming journal article	Locke, C., Nguyen T.T.T., Nguyen T.N.H. (forthcoming) 'Visiting Marriages and Remote Parenting: Changing Strategies of Rural-Urban Migrants to Hanoi, Vietnam' <i>Journal of Development Studies</i> (symposium on Changing Conjugalities, edited by Professor Cecile Jackson)	No, pdf attached
Policy Brief	Catherine Locke, Nguyen Thi Ngan Hoa and Nguyen Thi Thanh Tam (2010) Policy Implications of the Family Strategies of Low-Income Rural-Urban Labour Migrants in their Peak Child-Bearing years in Vietnam. Policy Brief No. 2. (English version)	Yes. (in English and Vietnamese)

Please email your completed Impact Report with electronic copies of your nominated outputs to reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk, using your **grant reference number** as the email subject.