

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

- 10.00 a.m. Introduction & welcoming remarks by Moderator:
Assoc. Prof. Laavanya Kathiravelu
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 10.05 a.m. Presentation of discourse:

New trends in migration governance: why localities
matter –
Prof. Dr. Thomas Lacroix
CNRS Director of research in political geography,
Centre for International Studies, Sciences Po,
France
- 11.00 a.m. Q & A session
- 11.30 a.m. Closing

About KITA Discourse Series

KITA Discourse Series provides a platform for interested scholars and graduate students to present his or her ideas on any social issues pertaining to ethnicity which may be subsequently published in the UKM Ethnic Studies Paper Series. For further information on KITA publications including UKM Ethnic Studies Paper Series and the Journal of Ethnic & Diversity Studies (JOEDS), please contact the Editor via email at rachelchansuetkay@ukm.edu.my or visit KITA website at <https://www.ukm.my/kita/resource-centre/>.

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KITA DISCOURSE SERIES 1/2026

New Trends in Migration Governance: Why Localities Matter

Presenter:

PROF. DR. THOMAS LACROIX

CNRS Director of Research in Political Geography, Centre for International
Studies, Sciences Po, France

22 May 2026 (Friday)

10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

KITA Meeting Room
Level 4, Administration Building
Kolej Keris Mas
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Bangi, Selangor

This seminar will be broadcasted online via:
Zoom & KITA Facebook Live

ABSTRACT

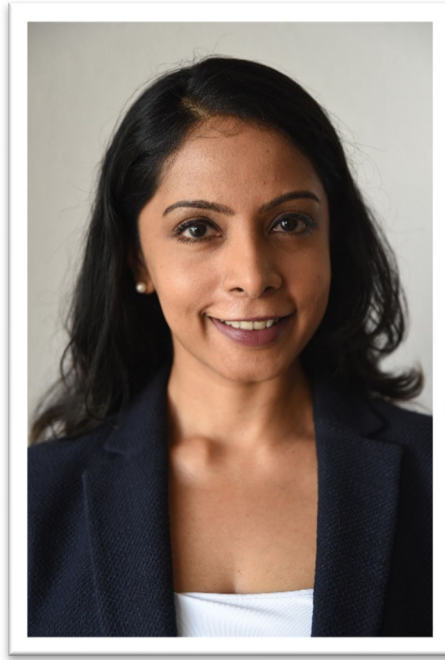
Cities have played a key role in the writing and implementation of the Global Compact for Migrations. This involvement is the consequence of two decades of a “local turn” of migration governance. This presentation investigates the gradual rise of cities as a central player in migration governance. It sheds a light on the drivers explaining this trend: the transformation of city/state relations, the surge of urban diplomacy and the security turn of migration policies entailing the expansion of border-work in arrival cities.

PRESENTER'S PROFILE



Thomas Lacroix is a geographer, CNRS director of research at the Centre for International Research of Sciences Po Paris and a fellow of the Institut Convergence Migrations. Thomas Lacroix works on the social and spatial aspects of transnational migratory worlds and the way they affect states and territories. His research focuses more specifically on the formation of city networks on migration issues and their influence on both local reception policies and the international governance of migration. He has published some fifteen books and special issues of journals, including, with Amandine Desille, *International Migrations and Local Governance. A Global Perspective* (Palgrave 2018), with Amandine Desille, *International Migrations and Local Governance. A Global Perspective* (Palgrave 2018), *The Transnational Society* (Palgrave 2023) and *the Transnational State* (Palgrave 2024) and *Death in Migration* (Bristol 2026).

MODERATOR'S PROFILE



Laavanya Kathiravelu is Associate Professor in the School of Social Sciences at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and Professor of Sociology at the University of Oslo, Norway. Her research sits at the intersections between migration & citizenship, urban studies, and race and ethnicity. Drawing from Asia and the Gulf, her work seeks to broaden epistemological frameworks in the social sciences. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (2011-2013) and a Fung Fellow at Princeton University (2015-2016). She was also a Fulbright Scholar and Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the City University of New York (2022). In 2023, she won the John Lent Best Article award at the Asian Studies Association. She is a member of the Global DeCentre. She comments regularly on public forums and through op-eds on issues of migration, race and diversity.