TITLE: Changing Worlds of Work and Education (PANEL, 4 presenters: DEVOS, NEWMAN, SEDDON, JOSEPH)

Author/s and affiliation (add more as required):
1. Dr Cynthia Joseph, Faculty of Education, Monash University

Name of corresponding author: Dr Cynthia Joseph

Email address: cynthia.joseph@monash.edu

Abstract (no more than 250 words with no figures or tables): Malaysian Migrant Educational Workers in Australia—Negotiating Cultural Boundaries

This paper is part of a symposium panel which examines the consequences of globalisation on national education systems and educational work—the labour that orients and enables learning. The panel brings together a collection of case-based analyses of ‘hot spots’ of change. These ‘hotspots’ are created by the intersection between globalizing processes and national institutional trajectories.

This paper examines the identity practices of a group of Malaysian skilled migrant women working in the Australian education sector. The study uses in-depth interviews to focus on the ways in which these migrant women draw on multiple cultural and educational resources in the (re)making of their identities as transnational educational workers. These women use essentialist definitions of binaries that are located within boundaries (such as Asian/Malaysian, Australian/Western, Chinese, Muslim, Indian) in coming to understand their transnational material realities as migrant educational workers. Yet at the same time, their identities are located at the interplay of structure and agency. The paper argues that this boundary work is a form of ‘educational work’ which supports self-work and working with others by mobilising resources of space/time, knowledge and sociality.

Bio
Cynthia Joseph has had personal and professional experiences working and researching in different cultural contexts. She has been a school student, teacher and university lecturer in Malaysia. She completed her doctoral studies in Australia and is now a Senior Lecturer at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. Her recent co-edited book with Heidi Mirza is Black and Postcolonial Feminisms in New Times: Researching Educational Inequalities (Routledge, 2010). Cynthia’s current work explores the debates around transnational identities, education and work in the global economy. Her new book Growing up female in multiethnic postcolonial Malaysia, will be published by Routledge in 2013.