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**Proposal:** AIBS Junior Fellowship

**Title:** Hidden from the Heartlands: Boundary-making, Control, and Migrant Management in the Global City

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**Abstract:** My dissertation project is a 14-month ethnography of transient migrant workers in Singapore. Despite comprising roughly 15% of the population and 26% of the workforce, these foreign laborers are kept cheap, pliant, and precarious by an array of bureaucratic, spatial, and affective controls. My research asks three primary questions. First, how does the state collaborate with private employers to isolate 800,000+ migrant workers from mainstream public life? Second, how are these controls adapted for each of two distinct labor populations: male South Asian manual workers and female Southeast Asian domestic helpers? And third, how do employers and the state externalize the costs of exploitation back to migrants' countries of origin in the Global South? Ultimately, my project will unify two segregated bodies of research on migrant labor regimes: one on bureaucratically-managed manual/factory workers (e.g., Burawoy 1976, Ong 1987, Lee 2007, Swider 2015) and one on family-managed domestic servants (e.g., Parreñas 2001, Constable 2007, Ray & Qayum 2009). Using a comparative case study method, I study these parallel migrant labor forces in tandem. This novel research offers understanding into the gender-bifurcated migrant labor regime a whole. Findings may immediately benefit hundreds of Bangladeshi and other migrant workers with ongoing NGO case files, and potentially thousands more over the next months and years. Above all, findings should interest academics and policymakers concerned with the politics of labor migration.