



# Empowering Migrant Women

## Why Agency and Rights are not Enough

### Leah Briones

Gender in a Global/Local World



Empowering  
Migrant Women



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Based on insights from Filipina experiences of domestic work in Paris and Hong Kong, this volume breaks through the polarized thinking and migration-centric policy action on the protection of migrant women domestic workers from abuse to link migrants' rights and victimization with livelihood, migration and development. The book contextualizes agency and rights in the workers' capability to secure a livelihood in the global political economy and is instrumental in making the problem of migrant women workers' empowerment both a migration and development agenda.

The volume is essential reading for social scientists, bureaucrats and non-governmental political activists interested in the protection of the rights and livelihoods of migrants. It will also appeal to migration and feminist scholars who have yet to adopt the contribution of critical development studies in the analysis of low-skilled female labour migration.

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Part I Victims or Victors? Filipina Domestic Workers in Paris and Hong Kong: Capability and international labour migration for domestic work; Development: the structural context of global domestic work migration. Part II Agency and Filipina Overseas Domestic Work: Empty agency; the oppressed 3rd world woman; Beyond rights: embodying and empowering agency. Part III Agency, Capability and Filipina Overseas Domestic Workers: The FODW Institution; A capability approach to agency; Agency, capability and the migrant domestic worker. Part IV Conclusion: A capable agency approach: livelihood, resources and human rights; Appendices; Bibliography; Index.

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