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## TEMPORARY MIGRANTS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA IN AUSTRALIA

*Lost Opportunities*

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# Temporary Migrants from Southeast Asia in Australia

## Lost Opportunities

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**Abstract:** Much of the scholarship in development studies focuses on developing countries. However, many of the same issues can be seen in developed countries, where migrants now constitute a sizeable proportion of the poor and politically disenfranchised. In immigrant-receiving countries such as Australia, temporary migrants in low-income households are most at risk of poor social and health outcomes. This research explores the experiences of temporary migrant workers from Southeast Asia in Australia, demonstrating that migrant workers, on the whole, live without a political voice or clear pathway to permanent residency and citizenship. The research is informed by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum's theoretical framework of capabilities. One of the most critical capabilities is having a sense of political agency and control over one's environment. Given the significant increase in temporary migration flows around the world, this Element draws attention to the necessity of migrants to be provided with political capabilities.

**Keywords:** political capabilities, temporary migration, Southeast Asia, Australia, development

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