

# Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>Short Glossary</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 The vertical city . . . . .	1
1.2 Project origin . . . . .	3
1.3 Migration in perspective . . . . .	6
1.4 Rationale of the project . . . . .	9
1.5 Anthropology of migration . . . . .	10
Transnationalism . . . . .	10
From localities to mobilities . . . . .	13
From horizontal to vertical mobility . . . . .	16
1.6 Terms of the contribution . . . . .	21
1.7 Characterisation of the case study . . . . .	23
The city of Hong Kong . . . . .	23
Precarity . . . . .	25
Asylum seekers as migrants . . . . .	26
Segregation . . . . .	28
Women and men . . . . .	28
1.8 Return to the vertical city . . . . .	30
1.9 How I approached the field . . . . .	31
1.10 Son of a Muslim! . . . . .	32
1.11 Plan . . . . .	37
<b>2 Urban fabric and migration</b>	<b>39</b>
2.1 Chungking Mansions . . . . .	41
2.2 Sham Shui Po . . . . .	45
Areas of interest . . . . .	48
Lower Sham Shui Po . . . . .	51
Second hand electronic appliances . . . . .	52
Upper Sham Shui Po . . . . .	54
Hawkers . . . . .	54

	The goods . . . . .	55
	Space and social experimentation . . . . .	56
	Segregated spaces and labor . . . . .	57
2.3	Global city Hong Kong . . . . .	60
	Localising the activities . . . . .	60
	Economies on a decline . . . . .	62
	Low end globalisation . . . . .	63
2.4	Staying and not leaving . . . . .	65
2.5	Urban fascination . . . . .	67
2.6	The local dimension in global Hong Kong . . . . .	69
2.7	Norms . . . . .	71
2.8	Space occupancy and visibility of migrants . . . . .	73
	Space in the 'global post-colony' . . . . .	74
2.9	Summary . . . . .	77
<b>3</b>	<b>Life story of a traveller migrant/intermediary</b>	<b>79</b>
3.1	Prologue . . . . .	79
	The merchant and the street . . . . .	80
3.2	Introduction . . . . .	83
	Migratory groups in Hong Kong . . . . .	83
	Importance of Pakistani . . . . .	85
	Importance for Pakistani . . . . .	85
3.3	Asylum and migration . . . . .	87
3.4	Informality and economy of migration . . . . .	92
	Formality/informality and the migrants in Hong Kong . . . . .	95
	Discourses on informality . . . . .	97
	The form in the field . . . . .	99
3.5	The hidden . . . . .	100
3.6	Trust and cheating in a migrant's experience . . . . .	103
	Trust and social interactions . . . . .	106
	Trust in Charities in Hong Kong . . . . .	108
3.7	Im-mobility . . . . .	110
3.8	Risk and mobility . . . . .	112
	Racism . . . . .	116
3.9	Sexuality, romance, and migration . . . . .	117
3.10	Marriage . . . . .	119
	Hassan's marriage . . . . .	120
3.11	Conclusion . . . . .	122
<b>4</b>	<b>Intermediaries and social connections</b>	<b>125</b>
4.1	Sahir . . . . .	125
4.2	Helping Zia . . . . .	130
4.3	Intermediation . . . . .	132
4.4	What I saw . . . . .	137

	Daily occupations . . . . .	137
	In-depth . . . . .	141
4.5	Conclusion . . . . .	169
<b>5</b>	<b>Intermediation and social groups</b>	<b>171</b>
5.1	Social mobility . . . . .	172
	Kam Tin: Ali . . . . .	172
	Differentiation and social belonging . . . . .	174
5.2	How to consider intermediaries . . . . .	176
	What does intermediation add to middleman theory as well as other theories in migration? . . . . .	177
	The idea of <i>butinage</i> . . . . .	179
5.3	Intermediation as a practice . . . . .	181
5.4	Intermediation and liminality . . . . .	187
5.5	Morality, immorality of a dubious practice . . . . .	189
5.6	Contribution to migration studies . . . . .	192
5.7	Non-monetarisation . . . . .	195
5.8	Success and failure . . . . .	196
	Aspirations . . . . .	196
	Intermediation as a mirror to a successful migration . . . . .	197
5.9	Conclusion . . . . .	199
<b>6</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>201</b>
	The idea . . . . .	201
	Intermediaries and intermediation . . . . .	201
	Epilogue . . . . .	207
	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>209</b>