

Hélène Le Bail

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Dr. in Political science
Asian studies – Migration studies

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Since 2015	Researcher CNRS-CERI Sciences Po Paris.
2023-2024	Invited professor at Dôshisha University, Kyoto (6 month)
2022	Invited researcher at Toronto Metropolitan University (1 month)
2019	Invited researcher at Kobe University (3 months)
2014-2015	Associate Professor, EU-ASIA Institute, ESSCA école de commerce, Boulogne-Billancourt
2010-2013	Researcher, Institut français de recherche sur le Japon, UMIFRE 19 CNRS MAEE, Maison franco-japonaise, Tokyo, Japan.
2008-2010	Researcher, Institut français des relations internationales (IFRI), Paris.
2007	Invited researcher/Post-doc, Waseda University, Tokyo.

STUDIES

2002-2006	Ph. D in political science, Institute of Political Sciences of Paris (Sciences Po). Title: "The New Chinese migration to Japan. Circulation of the transnational elites and new configuration of national and local citizenship" (in French) Recipient of the Collège Doctoral Franco-Japonais scholarship and the Japan Ministry of Education research scholarship at (Tokyo University of foreign studies), Japan.
2000-2001	Master's degree Asian Studies and International Relations, PhD Program, Institute of Political Sciences of Paris (Sciences Po Paris)
1996-2000	Master's degree Chinese language and civilisation at INALCO (National Institute for Eastern languages and civilisations)

Main research projects and research grants

- ❑ **PolAsie, [Political Participation of Asian Migrants and their Descendants in France](#)**, PI. Project funded by the ANR (French national research agency) and the Institut Convergences Migrations, 2020-2024.
- ❑ ***Migrant sex workers and Human trafficking: Experiences and Networks***. Co-investigator, JSPS project (Japan Society for the promotion of Science) PI: Kaoru Aoyama, Kobe University, 2019-2027.
- ❑ **[Chinese-French populations in Paris: identifications and identities under transformation](#)** (Chinois.es en Ile-de-France : identifications et identités en mutations), PI Emergence(s) City of Paris project 2018-2020.
- ❑ **[Diasporic identities : Southeast Asian incorporation experiences in Europe and America](#)**. *The post-refugee generations*, Cooperation grant UC Berkeley-Sciences Po. Co_PI with Khatharya Um (Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley) 2018-2020.

Academic Associations:

Fellow of the [Institut Convergences Migrations](#)

Associated researcher at [PRIME](#), Meiji Gakuin University, 明治学院大学 国際平和研究所, Tokyo.

Associated researcher at [IFRAE](#) (Institut français de recherche sur l'Asie de l'Est), research group "Migrations in East Asia, migrations from Asia", INALCO, University of Paris-Cité.

Member of the steering committee [Présage](#), promotion of gender studies at Sciences Po, Paris

Other academic activities:

Editorial board of the academic journals: [Journal of Chinese Overseas](#); [Migrations Société](#), [Cipango. Cahiers d'études japonaises](#)

Advisory board ERC project « [SEXHUM : Migration, sex work and trafficking](#) »

Coordination of the research group [Migrations et Mobilités](#) and the collective [MiDi-Migration and Diversity](#) at Sciences Po

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTION)

Books

- 2025. Marie Bassi, Pauline Brücker, Olivier Clochard, Hélène Le Bail et Clara Lecadet (dir.): *Exil et Politique. Résistances, engagements et mobilisations en migration*, Paris : Le Cavalier Bleu, collection Mimed « Migrations Méditerranée », 368p..
- 2023. Khatharya UM et Hélène LE BAIL (dir.), *Génération post-réfugiées. Les descendants de réfugiés d'Asie du Sud-Est en France*, Tours : Presses universitaires François Rabelais.
- 2015. With Nakano Yûji, Mori Chikako, Namioka Shintarô and Sonoyama Daisuke, *排外主義を問いなおす—フランスにおける排除・差別・参加 Haigai shugi wo toi naosu. Furansu ni okeru haijo, sabetsu, sanku* (Thoughts in Xenophobia. Exclusion, discrimination, participation of immigrants in France), Tokyo, Keizo Shobo, 252p.
- 2014. With Chikako Mori (dir.), *国境政策のパラドクス Kokkyô Seisaku no paradokusu* (Paradoxes of Border Control Policies. An UE-Japan comparison) Tokyo, Keizo Shobo, xv-244p.
- 2012. *Migrants chinois hautement qualifiés : le cas du Japon (Highly qualified Chinese immigrants in Japan)*, Paris, Indes savantes, 229p.

Special issues for peer reviewed journals (selection)

- 2025, Hélène Le Bail et Hui-yeon Kim, dossier "[Politiques migratoires et défis ethnoraciaux en Corée du Sud et au Japon](#)", *Migrations Société*, 2025/2 N° 200.
- 2023, Isabelle Konuma et Hélène Le Bail (coord.), dossier « [Reproduction et migration au Japon](#) », *CIPANGO, cahiers d'études japonaises*, no 25
- 2021, with DU Juan, Florence Lévy and LI Zhipeng, « [Chinois en France : visibles, invisibles ?](#) » (Chinese in France. Visible or Invisible ?) *Migrations Société*, janvier-mars, no. 183.
- 2020, with Ya-Han Chuang and Aurore Merle, "[Chinese Xin Yimin in the Old Continent. Renewing the Host Challenge, the case of France](#)", *Journal of Chinese Overseas*, vol 16 (2).
- 2018, with Marylène Lieber et Gwenola Ricordeau (coord.), "[Migrations par le mariage et intimités transnationales](#)" (Marriage Migration and Transnational Intimacy), *Cahiers du genre*, n° 64 / 2018

Articles in peer reviewed journals (selection)

- 2025, « Les réfugiés du Sud-Est asiatique à Marne-la-Vallée. De l'installation à la participation politique dans la ville nouvelle », *Mondes et Migrations*, N°1349 avril-juin, pp. 57-64.
- 2024, with Mathilde Geoffroy and Marie Mercat-Bruns, "[Does the Broad Criminalization of Procuring in France Pose a Problem? A Study of Enforcement by Police and Magistrates](#)", *AG About Gender*, vol. 13, no. 26, pp. 187-211.
- 2023, with Kaoru Aoyama, [安全な移住セックスワークを可能にする条件—聞き取りとネットワークの解釈から](#) (What are the conditions for a safer journey for migrant sex workers? Analyzing narratives and networks), in *社会学評* (Japanese Sociological review/Shakaigaku Hyouron), 74 (3), pp. 451-468.
- 2023, with Khatharya Um, "[Frayed Memories, Re-imagined Belongings. Southeast Asian Post-refugee Generations in France](#)", *Moussons*, n°42, p. 129-156.
- 2022, with Ya-Han Chuang, "[Faire reconnaître le racisme anti-Asiatiques : la construction d'un problème public par la voie judiciaire](#)", *Marronnage*, vol.1, n°1, pp.32-54.
- 2022, with Calogero Giametta, "[The National and Moral Borders of the 2016 French Law on Sex Work: An Analysis of the 'Prostitution Exit Programme'](#)", *Critical Social Policy*, vol. 43(2), pp. 214-233.
- 2021, with Marylène Lieber, "[Aren't Sex Workers Women? Ladies, Sex Workers and the Contrasting Definitions of Safety and Violence](#)", *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies*, 2021, 20 (3), pp.241 - 256.
- 2021, « [Actions culturelles engagées : discours et mobilisations contre le « racisme anti-asiatique » en France](#) » *Migrations Société*, CIEMI, 2021/1 (183), pp.47 - 64.
- 2020, with Ya-Han Chuang, "[How Marginality Leads to Inclusion: Insights from Mobilizations of Chinese Female Migrants in Paris.](#)" *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 43, no. 2 (February 2020): 294–312..
- 2017, "[Cross-border Marriages as a Side Door for Paid and Unpaid Migrant Workers.](#) The Case of Marriage Migration between China and Japan", *Critical Asian Studies*, vol 49(2), pp.226-243.