

## Foreword

It gives me tremendous pleasure in writing this foreword to *International Student Mobility and Opportunities for Growth in the Global Marketplace*. This breathtaking collection sheds light not only on the multitude of emotional experiences and challenges international students worldwide go through and their resilience in coping with the consequences of their mobility, but also the impact they have on education policy and practice in the countries where they study.

When I was an undergraduate and then a postgraduate international student in Australia, I used to hear the term ‘cash cows’ being constantly thrown about with reference to international students, not only by the media but also by academics, the general public and even by my Australian friends. Needless to say, this is a term that I have grown to dislike, immensely. The past few years I have been fortunate enough to embark on research projects that look at the cultural and social spaces of international students as they go about their everyday lives as transient migrants in their countries of study. What I have been finding is that international students are multifaceted and complex individuals who learn how to become resilient through the challenges they face living, studying and interacting in environments which are foreign, and sometimes hostile and unforgiving to them. International students deserve to be considered more than just cash cows.

On one level, the authors in this collection provide international students with a voice to narrate their experiences of being mobile, transient and migrant. On another level, the authors map out how those experiences are not only shaped by but also impact on host country (international) education policy and practice. While the collection provides in-depth and multipronged approaches as to how countries need to adapt international education stakeholder policies and practices as they go steam ahead in the ultra-competitive global international education market, authors sensitively point out that international students are not mere commodities but rather agents of change who need to be looked after and respected.

Editor Krishna Bista has brought together a fundamentally useful and much needed resource to help inform international education stakeholders of the significance of care for international students. The thread that binds the chapters in this book together is the importance we should always place on paying attention to and protecting international students. They are, after all, at the heart of any international education program.

*Catherine Gomes*  
*RMIT University, Australia*

## **Foreword**

**Catherine Gomes** is an Associate Professor in the School of Media and Communication at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University in Melbourne. Dr. Gomes is an ethnographer whose work contributes to the understanding of the evolving migration, mobility and digital media nexus. As a migration and mobility scholar, Dr. Gomes specialises on the social, cultural and communication spaces of transient migrants, especially international students, their wellbeing and their digital engagement. Her recent books include *Transient Mobility and Middle Class Identity: Media and Migration in Australia and Singapore* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), *International Student Connectedness and Identity: Transnational Perspectives* (with Ly Thi Tran, Springer, 2017), *The Asia Pacific in the Age of Transnational Mobility: The Search for Community and Identity on and through Social Media* (Anthem Press, 2016), *Quality Assurance in Asia-Pacific Universities Implementing Massification in Higher Education* (with Deane E. Neubauer, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017) and *Multiculturalism through the Lens: A Guide to Ethnic and Migrant Anxieties in Singapore* (Ethos Books, 2015). Dr. Gomes is founding editor of *Transitions: Journal of Transient Migration* (Intellect Books).