Record Nr. UNINA9910814174003321 Autore Cheng Sealing Titolo On the move for love: migrant entertainers and the U.S. military in South Korea / / Sealing Cheng Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-283-89115-8 0-8122-0692-4 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (298 p.) Collana Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights Pennsylvania studies in human rights Disciplina 306.74/208995705195 Soggetti Prostitution - Korea (South) Women - Philippines Women foreign workers - Korea (South) Military bases, American - Social aspects - Korea (South) Foreign workers, Philippine - Korea (South) Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese Materiale a stampa **Formato** Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Sexing the globe -- "Foreign" and "fallen" in South Korea -- Women who hope -- The club regime and club-girl power -- Love "between my heart and my head" -- At home in exile -- "Giving value to the voices" -- Hop, leap, and swerve--or hope in motion. Since the Korean War, gijichon-U.S. military camp towns-have been Sommario/riassunto fixtures in South Korea. The most popular entertainment venues in gijichon are clubs, attracting military clientele with duty-free alcohol, music, shows, and women entertainers. In the 1990's, South Korea's rapid economic advancement, combined with the stigma and low pay attached to this work, led to a shortage of Korean women willing to serve American soldiers. Club owners brought in cheap labor, predominantly from the Philippines and ex-Soviet states, to fill the vacancies left by Korean women. The increasing presence of foreign workers has precipitated new conversations about modernity, nationalism, ethnicity, and human rights in South Korea. International

NGOs, feminists, and media reports have identified women migrant entertainers as "victims of sex trafficking," insisting that their plight is

one of forced prostitution. Are women who travel to work in such clubs victims of trafficking, sex slaves, or simply migrant women? How do these women understand their own experiences? Is antitrafficking activism helpful in protecting them? In On the Move for Love, Sealing Cheng attempts to answer these questions by following the lives of migrant Filipina entertainers working in various gijichon clubs. Focusing on their aspirations for love and a better future, Cheng's ethnography illuminates the complex relationships these women form with their employers, customer-boyfriends, and families. She offers an insightful critique of antitrafficking discourses, pointing to the inadequacy of recognizing women only as victims and ignoring their agency and aspirations. Cheng analyzes the women's experience in South Korea in relation to their subsequent journeys to other countries, providing a diachronic look at the way migrant issues of work, sex, and love fit within the larger context of transnationalism, identity, and global hierarchies of inequality.