

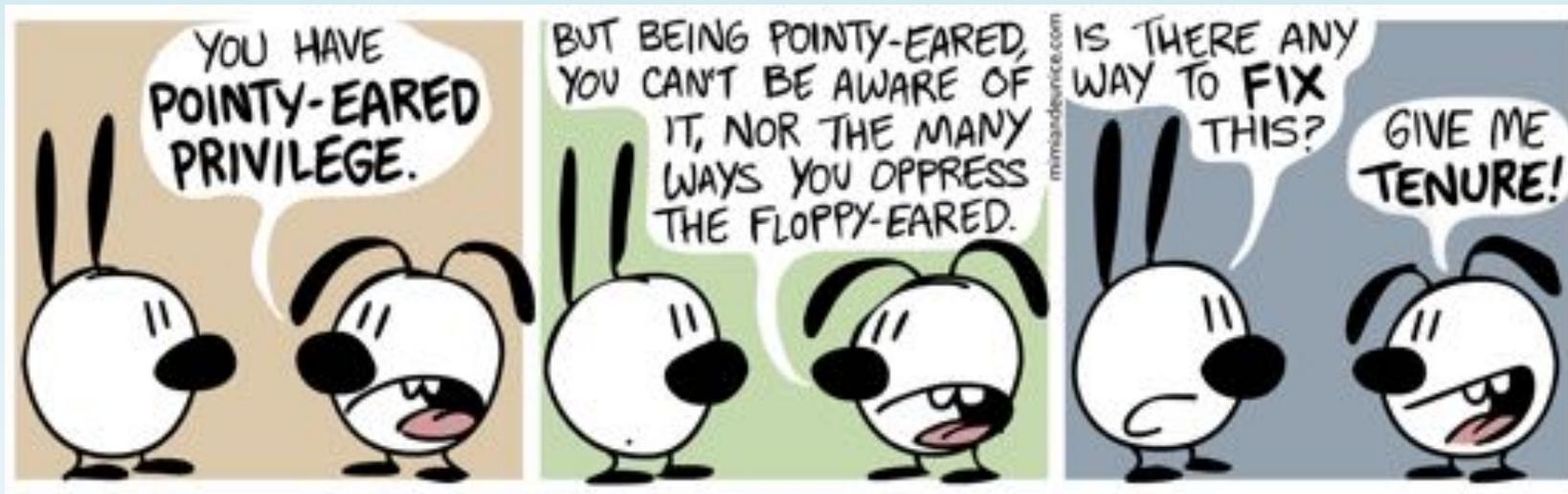
The 'Other' Expats: Diverse Voices From Dubai

HOW RACE, CLASS & PRIVILEGE AFFECT
OUR MOBILITY EXPERIENCE

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Privilege Exercise For the Globally Mobile

- Privilege: “a set of unearned benefits given to people who fit into a specific social group.” – Cambridge English dictionary
- How does privilege manifest itself in our global mobility journeys?
- Privilege exercise: 15 questions (10 minutes)



The 'Other' Expats – The Facts and Figures of Migration in the UAE:



- In 2013, the UAE had the fifth-largest international migrant stock in the world with 7.8 million migrants (out of a total population of 9.2 million), according to United Nations (UN) estimates
- They are the 'other' expats: maids, construction workers, gardeners, taxi drivers. **They need to be included in 'Families in Global Transition'.**
- Migrants make up a majority (approximately 80%) of the resident population of the UAE, and account for 90% of its workforce.
- **Migrants mostly of South Asian origin, constitute 42% of the UAE's workforce**

Similarities & Differences Between Expats & 'Other Expats':

Culture shock

Transitional pain including loneliness

Moving for economic opportunities

Can't bring family overseas

Can't travel

No opportunity to learn local language

According to Gulf Business, 53% of the entire UAE population are South Asians, some of whom earn as little as AED700 (USD 190) a month. This is a far cry from the average salary of a Western expat in the Gulf, which in 2013 was more than 12,000 USD per month.

Diverse Voices and Stories from Dubai: The Complex Face of Migration in the UAE

Lets hear some of these voices:

- A Pakistani gardener
- A Filipino maid
- A team of Indian and Pakistani construction workers
- A Pakistani-American teenager who grew up in the UAE preparing for departure
- A Pakistani taxi driver
- A Pakistani medical doctor who has been practicing in the UAE for 20 years but cannot stay beyond retirement age



Diverse Stories and Voices From Dubai:



Which themes, experiences or opinions stood out for you?

- Living in 2 parallel worlds
- Belonging vs not belonging
- Preparing for departure
- The retirement dilemma
- Children who can never be Emirati
- Sense of adventure vs sense of responsibility

The Global Racial Hierarchy

Does race hold back certain economic migrants from being part of the discussion on global mobility?

Why are their experiences not sufficiently included in the discussions focused on building a life overseas?

Does your race place you in a higher category than other expats/immigrants/migrants living in the same country? Are you consciously aware of where you fit in the global racial hierarchy?



Which country has challenged the way you look at race?

The Role of Class:

- Blue collar vs white collar
- Your socio-economic status determines your label (expat or migrant worker?)
- Does society cater to you and your needs? Can you read newspapers, can you access information? Are there avenues where you can discuss issues pertaining to your lifestyle?
- **How does your level of financial freedom shape your experience abroad?**





The Role of Privilege:

- Are you privileged to live abroad or are you less privileged because you are forced to go look for work abroad? (“majboori”)
- **Is mobility a privilege?**
- Are you privileged because you have the right or the option to long term residence in your host country?
- Which passport privileges do you enjoy?
- Which language privileges do you enjoy?
- What gender privileges do you enjoy?
- How have you reconciled your privilege versus conditions of locals when posted to a hardship location?

Conclusions and Q & A:

- Our identities are nuanced and intersectional (race, class, privilege shape our global identity)
- When we move abroad, we learn how to see race globally
- Simply by reflecting and challenging our privileges, and working to change the system of discrimination through direct discussion, we can help to shift the status quo.