

[FREE] Virtual Migration: The Programming of Globalization

# Virtual Migration: The Programming of Globalization

A. Aneesh

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**A. Aneesh : Virtual Migration: The Programming of Globalization** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Virtual Migration: The Programming of Globalization:

0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy Jennifer OrtizGreat condition terrible book5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Explore deeper into labor migration than just "outsourcing"By Michael J. TiedeBefore reading this book I hadn't given much thought to labor migration other than what I knew about "outsourcing." Virtual Migration gave me a brand new perspective of labor flows in the 21st century. Author Aneesh explores how technology is affecting the current labor regime throughout the world. His research of software programmers in India, who collaborate with multinational firms, sheds insight into how technology is breaking the

barriers of time and geographical location. Through economic, social, and cultural analysis he dissects the winners and losers of these new international labor practices that link the US and India. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to look deeper into the topic they know as "outsourcing." Too often, the discourse of globalization and labor is limited by angry talking heads, and mistaken politicians. This book presents the finer points of how and why we are being impacted by technology in a highly globalized world, and what the future might hold for us. This book is a quick read with a fresh perspective that must be heard!

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Insightful  
Accessible  
By Bastien GETTELMAN  
Virtual Migration is exactly what you would expect an academic work in social sciences as it is insightful about the recent developments in information technology and network systems while remaining accessible. Both for students and simple curious readers, the book offers new perspectives and tangible meaning to the increasing connectivity within the evolution of the globalization phenomenon by revealing the processes behind our screens and phones. In sum a good and purposeful read with a good balance of theory and talking examples."

Workers in India program software applications, transcribe medical dictation online, chase credit card debtors, and sell mobile phones, diet pills, and mortgages for companies based in other countries around the world. While their skills and labor migrate abroad, these workers remain Indian citizens, living and working in India. A. Aneesh calls this phenomenon "virtual migration" and in this groundbreaking study he examines the emerging "transnational virtual space" where labor and vast quantities of code and data cross national boundaries, but the workers themselves do not. Through an analysis of the work of computer programmers in India working for the American software industry, Aneesh argues that the programming code connecting globally dispersed workers through data servers and computer screens is the key organizing structure behind the growing phenomenon of virtual migration. This "rule of code," he contends, is a crucial and underexplored aspect of globalization. Aneesh draws on the sociology of science, social theory, and research on migration to illuminate the practical and theoretical ramifications of virtual migration. He combines these insights with his extensive ethnographic research in offices in three locations in India—in Delhi, Gurgaon, and Noida—and one in New Jersey. Aneesh contrasts virtual migration with "body shopping," the more familiar practice of physically bringing programmers from other countries to work on site, in this case, bringing them from India to New Jersey. A significant contribution to the social theory of globalization, Virtual Migration maps the expanding transnational space where globalization is enacted via computer programming code.

"Virtual Migration is an exciting, innovative, and brilliant examination of how software flows replace people flows. It joins the urgent effort now under way in the social sciences to map a new field of inquiry."—Saskia Sassen, coeditor of Digital Formations: IT and New Architectures in the Global Realm