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### **Novel as a Genre of Migration: Reading *Temporary People***

The birth of the novel has been identified as one of the pivotal moves in the realm of culture which made the homogenous empty time of the nation imaginatively possible (Anderson 1983). Novels have been credited with the arrival of a new subjectivity which can place itself in the world along a horizontal organization and also have a totalizing vision of the world. In that respect it has been studied as the discursive infrastructure for the birth of bourgeoisie (Armstrong 2006). The local/nation has remained the horizon of intelligibility of the novel even though the novels themselves might traverse ex-national spaces in its diegesis (as in Menon 2006). There have been recent attempts to read the formation of the novel form in terms of cosmopolitanism (Boes 2012), or in the context of migration, attempts to read literature differently (Adelson 2005). My paper is a continuation of the effort to hypothesize what literature in the age of migration would be. With this view, I look at the novel *Temporary People* (2017) by Deepak Unnikrishnan to enquire what would be the form of a novel in the age of labour migrations. I take as my starting point the confusion that the commentators have in classifying the work between a novel and a collection of short stories and ask if migration leads to the breakdown of the novel form, and if that is indeed the case, on the possibilities of the new writing as an index of the subject caught between fragmented sovereignties, torn and produced by borders, and residing in a state of partial intelligibility. The paper thus pursues the question on the locus of intelligibility of the novel form in the age of migration.

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