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**Title:** Challenging Spatial Confinement through “Out-of-Factory” Activities: Male Migrant Manufacturing Workers and Public Space in Seoul

**Abstract:** This paper examines the spatial exclusion and marginalization of young male migrant workers in Seoul, South Korea. The government-run Employment Permit System (EPS) brings in mostly male migrants (over 90 percent), on three-year contracts, to relieve labor shortages in heavy manufacturing industries and houses them on-site in factory dormitories to ensure tight control over their lives. Through the narratives and experiences of Filipino migrants, the paper demonstrates that the imposed spatial confinement is central to their everyday experiences of living as low-skill, low-wage migrant workers in the outer areas of Seoul during the week. However, on weekends, these migrants explore and engage in “out-of-factory” activities and claim public places like churches, markets and beer pubs as Filipino places. The findings highlight both the spatial confinement effect state control has on the daily lives of migrant workers and how migrants challenge the confinement by claiming their place in the host city.