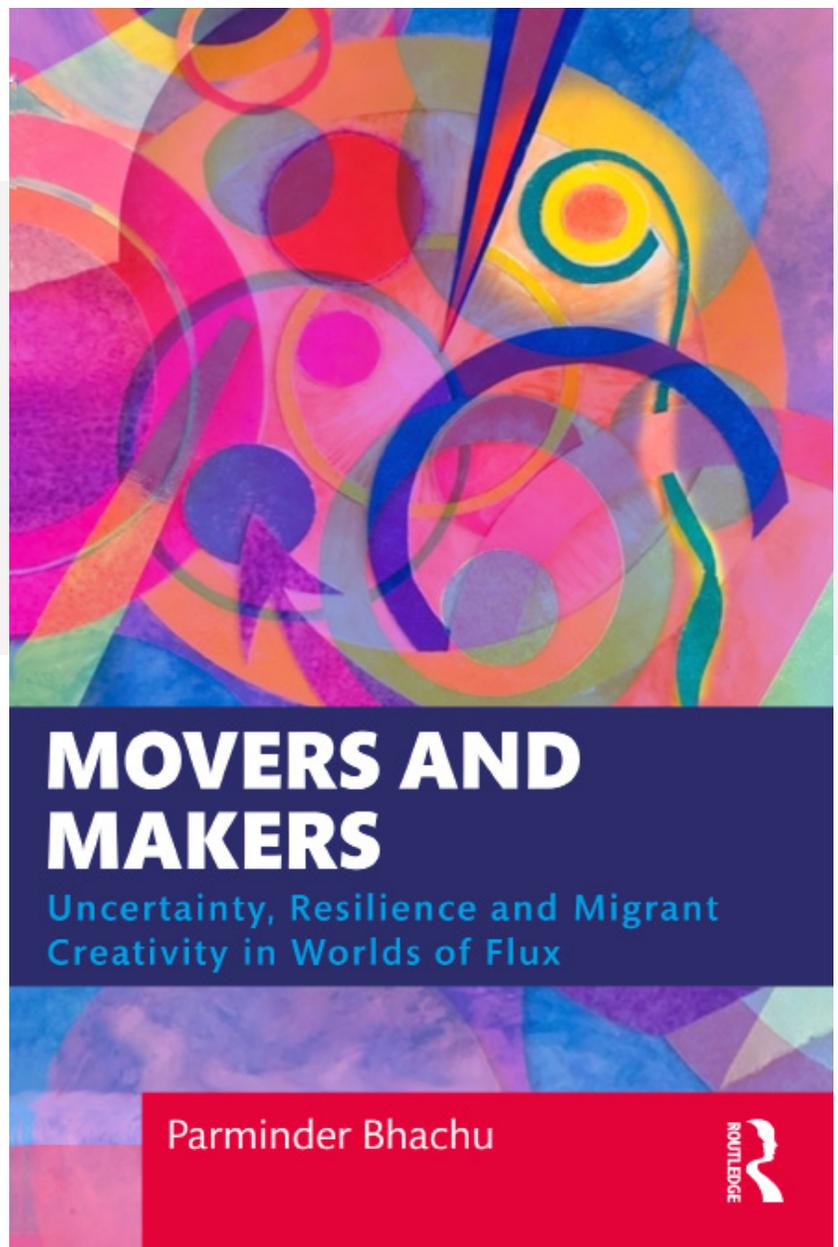


## What can be learnt from Bhachu's *Movers and Makers*. *Uncertainty, Resilience and Migrant Creativity in Worlds of Flux*

In her new book, *Movers and Makers*, Bhachu asks, “Is uncertainty necessarily negative or perhaps the fount of hyper-creativity and new styles of thinking and living?” What if privileged assumptions about ways of being in the world do not capture the full story?

Bhachu argues that one answer to how to thrive in our world of flux and turmoil can be found in examining the lives of multiple migrants who having moved and made anew their lives many times across international borders. Bhachu posits that movers and makers possess “movement capital,” a combination of resilience and the ability to adapt to circumstances without the loss of identity or purpose. Multiple migrants are characterized by a mindset of openness to the new, and a tolerance for dissonance and high-level risks, all accompanied by an orientation toward democratizing knowledge for the greater good. They are sharers par excellence who quietly contest traditional hierarchies of power.

We stand to learn a great deal by examining the contribution of immigrants and how much they are needed by economies around



the world, despite pervasive and virulent anti-immigrant political rhetoric. What can we garner from these adaptive migrants who create and innovate with dizzying vigor, inventing, and advancing their expertise as they negotiate unfamiliar and unnavigated cartographies? What does their creativity reveal about navigating unknown and unstable topographies? How are they able to remain resilient and innovative in ways that people who conduct their lives in stasis, familiarity, and equilibrium never could? *Movers and Makers* reveals some clues about how to negotiate extreme dissonance that characterizes our times.

# Endorsements for *Movers and Makers*

**Professor Parminder Bhachu**

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Sociologists have been known to spout rubbish about resilience. Don't let that put you off this unusual, stimulating and deeply thoughtful book. Parminder Bhachu has combined lucid analysis and reflection in truly unprecedented ways. The result is as creative as the itinerant mentalities it celebrates. She contributes artfully to the striking patterns that she has identified. The concept of culture emerges from this sparkling survey in enriched form, elaborated and restored from its ubiquitous trivialisation.

**Paul Gilroy** *University College London, UK*

There are very few writers who understand the complex context of my body of work. I can always rely on Parminder Bhachu to 'Get' the significance of my creative choices like no other. For me, her precious voice from lived experience across four continents gives her analysis of the lives and work of 21st century movers and makers a singular authenticity. She and I and others like us who have inherited a deep and complex history of movement across borders vibrantly assert our version of the world in defiance of the status quo, particularly in times of anxiety and ambivalence. We tell our stories in ways that only we can. It's the current anxious times that make *Movers and Makers* a 'must read' for today, a feisty riposte to anti-migration rhetoric illuminating a hopeful way for us to negotiate and inspire our collective uncertain future.

**Gurinder Chadha OBE** *Bend It Networks*

Another fascinating exploration of the creative aspects of migration from an author who is herself an expert on the subject and a living example of the process. *Movers and Makers* covers an exciting range of people and topics: artists, architects, designers, computer specialists and physicists. It concludes with an astute discussion of the immigrant imperative that only the author could explore with brilliant insight and an unparalleled knowledge of immigrant creativity.

**John Stone** *Boston University, USA*

If, as W.E.B. Du Bois stated, the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line, then the problem of the twenty-first is the problem of immigration redrawing every border we encounter. Or maybe it isn't a problem but a solution. As Lytton Strachey did in *Eminent Victorians*, Parminder Bhachu curates for us a portrait gallery of individuals whose odysseys are as admirable as they are emblematic. The cumulative effect is arresting: we are not only who we are but who we share our epoch with. There is much to learn from these characters, primarily that an itinerant life, yours and that of your ancestors, defines your DNA and the way you think of 'home'.

**Ilan Stavans** *Amherst College, USA*

After reading Bhachu's profiles of craft-honing migrant innovators, I never will think of migration - or of art - the same again. Every chapter has compelled me to re-think what is happening on the margins, to reflect afresh on democracy. Here's a wager: I bet that once you've read this book, you too will make 'jugaad' central to your understanding of this world.

**Cynthia Enloe** *Clark University, USA*

The relevance of Parminder Bhachu's *Movers and Makers* to our times cannot be overstated. Drawing on deep personal experience enhanced by her anthropological sensitivity, she has brought an extraordinarily important dimension of multiple migration into sharp focus. Here are excitingly creative makers from a wide range of cultural and social contexts whose very resilience and ability to improvise and thus achieve success have come from their hinterland of pioneering migrant cultures and forms of technical skill or expertise which have accrued directly from their history of movement. This message is not just about the present or recent past - it is also about the deep past and the future. We must all learn from it.

**Deborah Swallow** *Courtland Institute of Art*