

Transnational migration: refugees, routes, encounters

Course plan: 7.5 ECTS credits

Departments of Social Anthropology and History

Coordinator:

Erik Olsson

**Department of Social Anthropology,
Stockholm University**

E-mail: erik.olsson@socant.su.se

Phone: 08-16 3810

Department of Social Anthropology

Stockholm University

Visiting address:

Phone: +46 8 16 20 00

Socialantropologiska institutionen

Universitetsvägen 10 B

Telefax:

106 91 Stockholm

www.socant.su.se

E-mail:

Course description:

The course approaches international migration through a focus on transnational processes. It will develop a transnational perspective through a series of key theoretical and methodological debates and an empirical concern with how migration takes shape across nation-state borders. The course will have a particular focus on refugee migration and how migration routes develop and are organized in relation to border-regimes and governmental control, while acknowledging the importance of age, class, gender, race, and language in these processes. The course is based on five modules that focus on different stages of the migration process. It is open to a broad range of academic disciplines and research interests and allows for individual tracks by offering course participants the opportunity to engage with readings that bridge individual research-topics to the main theme of the course.

Training

The course will be organized around five modules centered on lectures, readings, individual tutorials and seminars. The course will have two instructors who will supervise the participants and monitor the discussions in relation to the topics in the modules. Invited scholars will lecture in each of the modules. The course will utilize a process-oriented pedagogy based on a problem-oriented dialogue between the course participants and instructors. More specifically, while there is a general framework based on the syllabus, the participants will be offered the opportunity to develop discussion topics with other participants and the instructors as the course progresses.

The main training activities in the course will be readings of relevant literature, lectures, seminars and a paper written individually, which will also function as the course examination.

The compulsory readings will speak directly to the theme of each module. Participants will also be given the opportunity to suggest readings as the course progresses, ideally with reference to their ongoing PhD work. The instructor will support the participant in any questions regarding the relevance of the literature.

The course lectures consist of events in collaboration with, and organized by, the Forum for Transnational Migration Research at Stockholm University. These lectures will match the themes of the course modules and allow participants for individual consultations with the lecturer.

The seminars will be moderated by the instructors and focus on student-led discussions centered on the module themes. These seminars will be open-ended in order to give the participants the possibility to discuss problems at hand, the content of the literature, and the lectures at a more in-depth level.

The individual tutorials will focus on the relationship between the module themes and participants' research projects. This activity builds on the dialogue between the instructor and the participant, enabling discussions and consultations focused on individual research problems.

Examination

The course will be examined through a written paper that reflects the course modules. It will be presented in a draft version at the end of the course. The paper's format will be decided after discussions with the instructors.

Duration and credits

The course is planned for 7.5 ECTS during a 10-week period. In 2018, this period is planned between October and December. After consulting with the instructors, a participant may expand the course up to 15 ECTS, by extending the readings of the literature and the examination paper.

Learning outcomes

Course participants will have gained a broad understanding of the theoretical and methodological implications of employing a transnational approach to migration. Specifically, this means being able to:

- Demonstrate the relevance and contribution of knowledge of different migration theories by discussing them in relation to empirical examples.
- Giving in-depth accounts on how migration routes are organized in relation to different regimes and networks. This will in particular rely on discussions consisting of relevant historical and geographical examples.
- Describe the contextual features of refugee migration regimes by identifying and comparing historical examples and relate these to current cases of refugee routes.

- Account for the need of analyzing migration routes in relation to power relations such as age, class, gender, sexuality and ethnicity, but also religion and language—by situating these in relevant historical examples.

- Demonstrate a substantial knowledge about the interplay between theory and method in migration studies with a special focus on the methodological implications in studying migration with a transnational approach.

TRAINING MODULES:

1. INTRODUCTION TO TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION STUDIES

The aim of the first module is to critically engage with the theoretical and methodological foundations of migration studies. The module emphasizes a transnational approach to migration studies, its implications and how it relates to other approaches. Participants will be introduced to some of the dominant theories of migration and to the theoretical, methodological, and epistemological basis for a transnational approach. The main empirical focus will be on refugee migration, but this will be discussed, compared and examined with regard to, for instance, labor migration.

Mandatory Literature:

Faist Thomas, Margit Fauser and Eveline Reisenauer (2014). *Transnational Migration*. Cambridge: Polity Press. (Chapters 1-3 and 7-8).

de Haas, Hein (2014). “Migration Theory: Quo Vadis?” Oxford: IMI Working Papers, 100.

Donato, Katharine M. et al. (2006). “A Glass Half Full? Gender in Migration Studies”, *International Migration Review* 40(1): 3–26.

FitzGerald, David S. and Rawan Arar (2018). “The Sociology of Refugee Migration”, *Annual Review of Sociology* 44: 287-406.

Floya, Anthias. (2012). “Transnational Mobilities, Migration Research and Intersectionality: Towards a Translocational Frame, *Nordic Journal of Migration Research* 2(2): 102–110.

Glick Schiller, Nina and Noel B. Salazar. (2013). “Regimes of Mobility Across the Globe”, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 39(2): 183-200.

van Hear, Nicholas. (2014). “Reconsidering Migration and Class”, *International Migration Review* 48(3) Issue supplement: 100–121.

Recommended Literature:

Glick Schiller, Nina. (2010). “A Global Perspective on Transnational Migration: Theorizing Migration Without Methodological Nationalism.” In *Diaspora and Transnationalism: Concepts, Theories and Methods*. Eds. Rainer Bauböck and Thomas Faist. Amsterdam University Press. Pp. 109-130.

Sørensen, Ninna Nyberg and Thomas Gammeltoft-Hansen (2013). “Introduction.” In *The Migration Industry and the Commercialization of International Migration*. Eds. Thomas Gammeltoft-Hansen and Ninna Nyberg Sørensen. London: Routledge. Pp. 1–23.

Wimmer, Andreas & Nina Glick Schiller (2003). “Methodological Nationalism, the Social Sciences, and the Study of Migration: An Essay in Historical Epistemology”, *International Migration Review* 37(3): 576-610.

Xiang Biao and Johan Lindquist (2014). “Migration Infrastructure”, *International Migration Review* 48: S122–S148.

2. MIGRATIONS, REFUGEE REGIMES AND THE NATION-STATE

This module focuses on migrations, in general, and on the development of different refugee regimes, in particular, during the 20th century. The demise of multi-ethnic and colonial empires and the increasing importance of nation-state borders constitute a contextual framework. The module discusses how migration emerged as an international issue, along with the question of how refugees became an international “problem” in connection with the two world wars. In the refugee regimes of the 20th century, relief organizations, nation-state authorities, as well as international institutions and organizations (e.g. Nansen passports, UNHCR and the 1951 Refugee Convention) have been important, but in different constellations. The corresponding literature further problematizes the concepts of “migrant” and “refugee” through an analysis of their diverse meanings – with respect to gender, age, ethnicity and class – at different times and places. Thereby, this module aims to create a historical basis for engaging with present day migration routes and experiences of “refugeeness”.

Mandatory Literature:

Gatrell, Peter (2016). "Refugees – What's Wrong with History?", *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 30(2): 170–189.

Gatrell, Peter (2016). "The World-Wide Web of Humanitarianism: NGOs and the Population Displacement in the Third Quarter of the Twentieth Century", *European Review of History* 23(1–2): 101–115.

Malkki, Liisa (1995). "Refugees and Exile: From 'Refugee Studies' to the National Order of Things", *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24: 495–523.

Nehlin, Ann (2017). "Building Bridges of Trust: Child Transports from Finland to Sweden during the Second World War", *War & Society* 36(2): 133–153.

Schrover, Marlou and Deirdre Moloney (eds.) (2013). *Gender, Migration and Categorisation: Making Distinctions between Migrants in Western Countries 1945–2010*, Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. (Pp. 7–53). (Available as E-book at SU University Library)

Recommended Literature:

Betts, Alexander and Lena Kainz. (2017). "The History of Global Migration Governance", Oxford Refugee Studies Center Working Paper Series, 122.

Ho Elaine Lynn-Ee, Laura Madokoro, and Glen Peterson (2015). "Refugees, Displacement and Forced Migration in Asia: Charting an Inclusive Research Agenda", Asia Research Institute Working Paper Series 236.
[https://ari.nus.edu.sg/Assets/repository/files/publications/wps15_236\(1\).pdf](https://ari.nus.edu.sg/Assets/repository/files/publications/wps15_236(1).pdf)

Malkii, Liisa (1995). *Purity and Exile: Violence, Memory, and National Cosmology among Hutu Refugees in Tanzania*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Olsson, Lars (1996). "Labor Migration as a Prelude to World War I", *International Migration Review* 30(4): 875–900.

3. *CULTURES OF MIGRATION, FORCES OF DISPLACEMENT*

This module deals with the migration flows that developed, as the category of the refugee took shape during the post-World War II era, with a particular focus on areas of departure in the global south. More specifically, the module will consider the uneasy relationship between forced migration, notably in the wake of armed conflict, and cultures of migration centered on economic and generational advancement, which often intersect in contemporary migration processes. In this module, we will in particular discuss how social, cultural and other structural conditions shape decisions and actions among people to migrate to “safer” and more prosperous countries. The focus will be on morally accepted and institutionalized practices which are emerging in people’s attempts to monitor the risks that follow from the balance between conditions of remaining and the hopes for a better life which migration promises. In this process, age, gender, and class shape the possibilities of migration, while language and colonial histories lead migrants along particular routes. These forms of migration must further be considered in relation to the rise of border controls and the criminalization and securitization of migration, as well as the emergence of media discourses, most notably in Europe and the United States, centered on the figure of the migrant, which have come to structure political and public opinion.

Mandatory Literature:

Ali, Syed (2007). “‘Go West Young Man’: The Culture of Migration Among Muslims in Hyderabad, India”, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 33(1): 37-58.

Carretero, Hernández María and Jørgen Carling (2012). “Beyond ‘Kamikaze Migrants’: Risk Taking in West African Boat Migration to Europe”, *Human Organization* 71(4): 407–416.

de Haas, Hein (2007). “*The Myth of Invasion: Irregular Migration from West Africa to the Maghreb and the European Union*”, IMI Research Report, International Migration Institute, University of Oxford.

Stoll, David (2013). *El Norte or Bust: How Migration Fever and Microcredit Produced a Financial Crisis in a Latin American Town*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield. (Chapter 1). (Available as E-book at SU University Library).

Vigh, Henrik Erdman. (2009). “Wayward Migration. On Imagined Futures and Technological Voids”, *Ethnos* 74(1): 91-109.

Recommended Literature:

Alpes, Maybritt Jill. (2014). “Imagining a Future in ‘Bush’. Migration Aspirations at Times of Crisis in Anglophone Cameroon.” *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* 21(3): 259-274.

Appadurai, Arjun (2004). “The Capacity to Aspire: Culture and the Terms of Recognition”, in *Culture and Public Action*, Eds. Vijayendra Rao and Michael Walton. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press. Pp 59-84. (Available as E-book at SU University Library).

Ayalew, Tekalign. (2017). *Struggle for Mobility: Risk, Hope and Community of Knowledge in Eritrean and Ethiopian Migration Pathways Towards Sweden*. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Stockholm Studies in Social Anthropology N.S. 15. Chapters 1-3.

Horst, Cindy (2006). “Buffis amongst Somalis in Dadaab: The Transnational and Historical Logics behind Resettlement Dreams”, *Journal of Refugee Studies* 19(2): 143-157.

Kandel, William and Douglas S. Massey (2002) “The Culture of Mexican Migration: A Theoretical and Empirical Analysis”, *Social Forces* 80(3): 981-1004.

4. PLACES, ROUTES, AND NETWORKS

This module deals with the relationship between the construction of the “refugee” as a category and the organization and experience of “refugeeness” through a focus on contemporary migration routes between nation-states. The refugee as a category must be understood as developing through historically contingent legal and political definitions (as discussed in the previous module). However, the actual refugee route—and the various experiences of becoming and being a refugee—is shaped across space and time through the interplay between institutions, technologies, social networks and other “migration industry” actors (including smugglers and brokers), as well as the background and knowledge of the migrants. The focus of discussion in this module is on the enactments of migration routes, in which criminalization and smuggling are central aspects but also the various resources which migrants utilize in their journeys, as for instance the social support of networks and kin. More specifically, in the module, different approaches to analyzing the migration process will be discussed in order to illustrate modes of analysis.

Mandatory Literature:

Ayalew, Tekalign (2018). "Refugee Protections from Below: Smuggling in the EritreaEthiopia Context", *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 676(1): 57-76.

Brigden, Noelle (2016). "Improvised Transnationalism: Clandestine Migration at the Border of Anthropology and International Relations", *International Studies Quarterly* 60(2): 343–354.

Missbach, Antje and Danau Tanu (2017). "Unaccompanied Young Asylum Seekers Stuck in Transit in Indonesia: Intimate Relationships, Exploitation and Resilience." In *Children and Forced Migration: Durable Solutions during Transient Years*. Eds. Maria Ensor and Elżbieta Goździak. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. Pp. 295-316.

Wheatley, Abby C., and Ruth Gomberg-Muñoz. 2016. "Keep Moving: Collective Agency Along the Migrant Trail. *Citizenship Studies* 20(3-4): 396-410.

Recommended literature:

Andersson, Ruben (2014). "Hunter and Prey: Patrolling Clandestine Migration in the Euro-African Borderlands", *Anthropological Theory* 87(1): 118-149.

Ayalew, Tekalign (2017). *Struggle for Mobility: Risk, Hope and Community of Knowledge in Eritrean and Ethiopian Migration Pathways Towards Sweden*. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Stockholm Studies in Social Anthropology N.S. 15. Chapters 4-5.

Belloni, Milena (2016). "Refugees as Gamblers. Eritreans Seeking to Migrate Through Italy." *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies* 14(1): 104-119.

Collyer, Michael (2007). "In-between Places: Trans-Saharan Transit Migrants in Morocco and the Fragmented Journey to Europe", *Antipode* 39(4): 668–690.

Khosravi, Shahram (2007). "The 'Illegal' Traveller: An Auto-ethnography of Borders", *Social Anthropology* 15(3): 321-334.

Paul, Anju Mary (2011). "Stepwise International Migration: A Multi-Stage Migration Pattern for the Aspiring Migrant", *American Journal of Sociology* 116(6): 1842-1886.

Sanchez, Gabriella and Nicholas Natividad (2017). "Reframing Migrant Smuggling as a Form of Knowledge: A View from the US-Mexico border". In *Border Politics: Defining Spaces of Governance and Forms of Transgressions*. Eds. Günay Cengiz, and Nina Witjes. Cham: Springer International Publishing AG. Pp. 67-83.

Svanberg, Johan (2017). "The Contrasts of Migration Narratives: From Germany to the Swedish Garment Industry during the 1950s", *Journal of Migration History* 3(1): 131-156.

Vigh, Henrik (2009). "Motion Squared: A Second Look at the Concept of Social Navigation", *Anthropological Theory* 9(4): 419-438.

Vogt, Wendy (2016). "Stuck in the Middle with You: The Intimate Labours of Mobility and Smuggling along Mexico's Migrant Route." *Geopolitics* 21(2): 366-386.

Wall, Melissa, Madeline Otis Campbell, Dana Janbek (2015). "Syrian Refugees and Information Precarity", *New Media & Society* 19(2): 240-254.

5. MIGRANTS, ARRIVALS AND INTERACTIONS

This module places emphasis on encounters and relationships between migrants and people, institutions and organizations in "receiving" societies at different historical times and places. Of particular relevance are migrants' encounters with border controls, administrative authorities, and "host" societies in a more general sense. A key question is how these encounters are constituted differently with respect to the migrant's background. The module remains attentive to border-crossing social networks and "long-distance" familial obligations, while exploring the processes that structure refugee experiences and reception. Of critical importance is thus the recognition that the relationship between "sending" and "host" countries, and between "migrant" and "citizen", is constantly negotiated. The module's further concern with the shaping of ethnic minorities and divisions of labour, as well as contradictory forms of segregation, racism and hospitality, should be understood in these terms. As such, "integration" is unpacked as a process located at the intersection between local, national, and transnational processes, and not an end in itself.

Mandatory Literature:

Faist Thomas, Margit Fauser and Eveline Reisenauer (2014). *Transnational Migration*. Cambridge: Polity Press. (Chapters 4-6).

Kathiravelu, Laavanya (2012). "Social Networks in Dubai: Informal Solidarities in an Uncaring State", *Journal of Intercultural Studies* 33(1): 103–119).

Madianou, Mirca and Daniel Miller (2011). "Mobile Phone Parenting: Reconfiguring Relationships between Filipina Migrant Mothers and their Left-Behind Children", *New Media & Society* 13(3): 457–470.

Sur, Malini (2018). "The Borders of Integration: Paperwork between Bangladesh and Belgium." In *Borders and Mobility in South Asia and Beyond*. Eds. Reece Jones, Reece and Md. Azmeary Ferdoush. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. Pp. 207-227

Szelényi, Balázs (2007). "From Minority to Übermensch: The Social Roots of Ethnic Conflict in the German Diaspora of Hungary, Romania and Slovakia", *Past & Present* 196: 215–251.

Ticktin, Miriam (2016). Thinking Beyond Humanitarian Boundaries. *Social Research* 83(2): 255-271.

Recommended Literature:

Allan, K. and B. McElhinny (2017). Neoliberalism, language and migration. In *The Routledge Handbook of Migration and Language*. Ed. S. Canagarajah. London: Routledge. Pp. 79–102.

Dannecker, Petra (2005). "Bangladeshi Migrant Workers in Malaysia: The Construction of the 'Others' in a Multi-Ethnic Context", *Asian Journal of Social Science*, Vol. 33, No. 2 (pp. 246–267).

Kerfoot, Caroline and G.J. Tatah (2017). "Constructing Invisibility: The Discursive Erasure of a Black Immigrant Learner in South Africa. In *Entangled Discourses: South-North Orders of Visibility*. Eds. C. Kerfoot & K. Hyltenstam. New York: Routledge. Pp. 37–58.

Lucht, Hans (2012). *Darkness Before Daybreak: African Migrants Living on the Margins in Southern Italy Today*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Tierney, Robert (1999). "Racial Conflicts in the Australian Automotive Industry in the 1950s: Production Line Workers, the Vehicle Builders Employees' Federation and Shop Floor Organisation", *Labour History* 76: 20–40.

RECAPITULATION AND CRITICAL THINKING

After the five modules the participants will engage in a recapitulation and critical reflection of the content of the course as well as the relevance of the transnational approach to migration studies. Before submitting a final version of their examination paper, participants will be encouraged to demonstrate their understanding of the literature by presenting a draft version of their paper at a seminar. This seminar is an important step in the training of the course participants as reflective and independent migration scholars.