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Transnationalism, Diasporas, and Homeland-Hostland Politics

At the turn of the 21st century, “globalization” is the order of the day. With international migration bringing the alien “other” from third world to first, and worldwide trade and communications amplifying the feedbacks traveling in the opposite direction, the view that nation-state and society normally converge has waned. Instead, social scientists are looking for new ways to think about the connections between “here” and “there.” Observing that migration produces a plethora of connections spanning “home” and “host” societies, as well as linkages among migrants criss-crossing the globe, today’s scholarship emphasizes the limits (or possibly obsolescence) of assimilation, contending instead that a transnational or diasporic pattern offers the key to understanding the contemporary immigrant phenomenon.

This course seeks a critical encounter with the rapidly burgeoning literature on immigrant transnationalism and diasporas. We will seek to ask:

- Do immigrant loyalties, attachments, and behaviors remain home-country oriented? Or are immigrants instead turned into host-country nationals, committed to societies in which they have settled?
- How have immigrant long-distance attachments changed over the course of the past 100 years? How does the current age of mass migration differ from the age of mass migration at the turn of the 20th century?
- What are the impacts of home country attachments, whether “here” or “there”? What sorts of positive and negative effects do they produce?
- Can home country and host country attachments be reconciled? Or are they mutually exclusive (as so often argued)?

We will explore these questions through an ongoing encounter with an interdisciplinary social science literature, drawing readings from anthropology, history, political science, and sociology.

During weeks 3 and 4, the course will be co-taught with Professor Nancy Green, an eminent immigration historian, who is on the faculty of the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* in Paris (<http://crh.ehess.fr/index.php?/membres/120>). In addition, students are invited to attend an international conference on “A Century of Transnationalism” that I have organized with Nancy Green, to be held at UCLA on April 26.

Week 8 will be co-taught with Professor Dana Diminescu, director of the eDiaspora project (<http://www.e-diasporas.fr/index.html#top>), a study of “diasporas on the web,”

and Associate Professor of Sociology at Paris-Telecom. During the week of May 13, Professor Diminescu will also lead a workshop on analyzing diaspora networks on the web

Readings: There is no textbook: readings involve journal articles, online reports or papers, or selected chapters from individual books. Most readings are available on-line, via UCLA library. Some readings are directly available on the web: please use the on-line syllabus to access those readings. Other readings can be accessed via the course website.

Requirements:

Week 1 (April 1): Introduction

Stephane Dufoix, *Diasporas*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008, introduction, chapter 1 (on course website)

Nina Glick Schiller, Linda Basch and Cristina Szanton Blanc (1995) Nina Glick Schiller, From Immigrant to Transmigrant: Theorizing Transnational Migration, *Anthropological Quarterly*, 1995, V68(N1):48-63; (available via UCLA library)

Portes, Alejandro, Luis E. Guarnizo, and Patricia Landolt. 1999. "The Study of Transnationalism: Pitfalls and Promise of an Emergent Research Field." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 22(2):217-37. (available via UCLA library)

Peggy Levitt and S. Khagram, "Constructing transnational studies," 2008 (on course website)

Roger Waldinger, Foreign Detachment: Immigrants and their Homelands (manuscript in process), Chapters 2 & 3

Devesh Kapur, *Diasporas and Development*, Chapter 1.

Ben-Rafael, Eliezer (2010) "Diaspora" –Entry in *Sociopedia ISA* Sage:
<http://www.sagepub.net/isa/resources/pdf/Diaspora.pdf>

Week 2 (April 8): No class

Weeks 3 (April 15) & 4 (April 22): Historical Perspectives

Week 4: Long-term trends and historiographical issues

American Historical Review "Conversation on Transnational History," 2006

Deborah Cohen and Maura O'Connor, "Comparative History, Cross-National History, Transnational History - Definitions," in Cohen and O'Connor, *Comparison and History*

Donna R. Gabaccia, [Is Everywhere Nowhere? Nomads, Nations, and the Immigrant Paradigm of United States History](#)(pp. 1115-1134) ; Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2568608>; ;

Donna R. Gabaccia, *Italy's Many Diasporas*, Introduction

Kevin Kenny, "Diaspora and comparison: The global Irish as a case study," *Journal of American History*, 2003 (available on line via UCLA library)

Armstrong, John A. 1976. "Proletarian and Mobilized Diasporas." *The American Political Science Review*. Vol. 70, No. 2. (June), pp. 393-408.; available via UCLA library

Week 4: The last era of migration and its aftermath

Morawska, Ewa. 2001. "Immigrants, Transnationalism, and Ethnicization: A Comparison of This Great Wave and the Last." pp. 175-212 in *E Pluribus Unum? Contemporary and Historical Perspectives on Immigrant Political Incorporation*, edited by Gary Gerstle and John H. Mollenkopf. New York: Russell Sage.

Nancy Foner, "Transnationalism then and now: New York immigrants today and at the turn of the twentieth century," Chapter 2 in Cordero-Guzman, Smith, and Grosfoguel, *Migration, Transnationalization and Race*, Temple University Press, 2001

Donna Gabaccia, *Italy's Many Diasporas*, Chapters 1, 3, 5

Mark Choate, *Emigrant Nation: The Making of Italy Abroad*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Chapters 3 & 4

Optional:

Leo Lucassen, "Is transnationalism compatible with assimilation: Examples from Western Europe since 1850," *IMIS-Beitrage*, 2006: 15-36

George Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American*, New York: Oxford, 1993, chapter 5

David Wyman, *Round-trip to America: The Immigrants Return to Europe, 1880-1920*, Cornell University Press, 1993: chapter 6

Russell A Kazal, *Becoming Old Stock: The Paradox of German-American Identity*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004: chaps 7 & 8

Ronald Bayor, *Neighbors in Conflict: the Irish, Germans, Jews, and Italians of New York City, 1928-1941*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978, ch 4

Week 5 (April 29): Emigrant/Diaspora politics

Roger Waldinger, chapter 5

Devesh Kapur, *Diasporas and Development*, Chapters 7 & 8

Susan Eckstein, *The Immigrant Divide: How Cuban Americans changed the US and their homeland*, New York: Routledge, 2009, chapter 3

Ostergaard-Nielsen, Eva. 2001. "Transnational Political Practices and the Receiving State: Turks and Kurds in Germany and the Netherlands." *Global Networks*. V. I, 3: 261-82; available on-line through UCLA library

Ruud Koopmans, et al., *Contested Citizenship: Immigration and Cultural Diversity in Europe*, chapter 3

Week 6 (May 6): Diasporas and development

Devesh Kapur, *Diasporas and Development*, Chapters 2, 4

Natasha Iskander, *The Creative State*, Chapters 2-6

Week 7 (May 13): Communication and social ties across borders

Raelene Wilding, "Virtual" intimacies ? Families communicating across transnational contexts », *Global Networks*, vol.6, n°2, pp.125-142.

Jean-Yves Hamel, "Information and Communication Technologies and Migration," Human Development Research Paper, 2009/39 http://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/19175/1/HDRP_2009_39.pdf

Sonia Cancian, *Families, lovers and their letters: Italian postwar migration to Canada*, 2010

Panagakos A. N. et H. A. Horst, 2006, « Return to Cyberia : technology and the social world of transnational migrants », *Global Networks*, vol.6, n°2, pp.109-124.

Dana Diminescu, "The connected migrant: an epistemological manifesto," *Social Science Information*, 2008

Joanna Dreby, *Divided by Borders: Mexican Migrants and their Children*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009, Chapter 3,

Week 8 (May 19): Diasporas and issue networks on the net

Lala Adamic, "The Social Hyperlink," pp. 227-49 in Turow and Tsui, eds., *The Hyperlinked Society*, 2008

Richard Rogers, "[Mapping and the Politics of Web Space](#)," *Theory, Culture & Society*, 29 (4/5), 193-219.
http://www.govcom.org/publications/full_list/rogers_TCS450926_rev1.pdf

Dana Diminescu, Introduction: Digital methods for the exploration, analysis and mapping of e-diasporas , *Social Science Information*, V. 51, 4 (2012)

Priya Kumar, « Palestinian Virtual Networks : Mapping Contemporary Linkages, » , e-Diasporas Working Paper, April 2012 (on course website)

Anat Ben-David, « The Palestinian diaspora on the Web : Between de-territorialization and re-territorialization, » *Social Science Information*, V. 51, 4 (2012)

Whitaker, MP. 2004 "Tamilnet.com: Some Reflections on Popular Anthropology, Nationalism, and the Internet," *Anthropological Quarterly*, Volume 77, Number 3, 469-498

May 27: No class – Memorial day

Week 9 (June 3): Communities and lives across borders: evidence from Mexico and Mexican immigrants in the U.S.

Robert Smith, *Mexican New York*, chapter 4

David Fitzgerald, "Colonies of the Little Motherland: Membership, Space, and Time in Mexican Migrant Hometown Associations," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 50(1). 2008.

Ruben Hernandez-Leon, *Metropolitan Migrants: The Migration of Urban Mexicans to the United States*, forthcoming, UC Press, Chapter 4

Peri Fletcher, *La casa de mis sueños* chapter 3 (chapter 2 recommended)

Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez, "Fostering Identities: Mexico's Relations with Its Diaspora," *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 86, No. 2, Rethinking History and the Nation-State: Mexico and the United States as a Case Study: A Special Issue. (Sep., 1999), pp. 545-567. (on course website)

Natasha Iskander, *The Creative State*, Chapters 7, 9

Week 10 (to be scheduled for exam week): Second generation homeland connections

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