Public Lecture Series Fall 2017
Transnationalities in Migration and Mobility Research
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Thursday, 19 October 2017
Muslim Masculinities in Contemporary Migration Debates.
Prof. Anna Korteweg, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto Mississauga

followed by

Dr. Camille Schmoll, Geography Department, University of Paris 7 Denis Diderot

18:15 – 20:00 h
University of Neuchâtel, Rue Abram-Louis-Breguet 2, Room R.113.

Jointly organized with the CUSO “Gender Studies” doctoral program.
Abstract Korteweg: Muslim Masculinities in Contemporary Migration Debates.
This paper explores the link between representations of Muslim masculinities and the material, legal consequences informed by these representations. Drawing on welfare state scholarship that charts how the socially-constructed definitions of social problems inform the ways solutions to these problems are envisioned, I turn to three areas of my current research: the legal change in sexual assault law following the events in Cologne on New Year’s Eve 2015, the recent “discovery” in the media of Muslim women’s engagement in terror and its relationship to representations of Muslim masculinities, and the 2014 adoption of the “Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act”. In my analysis, I will trace how in each of these cases, a particular understanding of Muslim masculinities informs responses by the state. Developing an analytic framework that builds on the simultaneous adoption of theories of boundary formation and intersectionality and that applies a post-colonial lens, I will argue that contemporary representations of Muslim masculinities result in the casting-out of immigrant subjects from the imagination of belonging while establishing increasingly stringent migration controls.

Curriculum Vitae
Anna Korteweg is Professor and Chair of Sociology at the University of Toronto Mississauga. Her research focuses on the ways in which the problem of immigrant integration is constructed in the intersections of gender, religion, ethnicity and national origin. From this critical vantage point, she has analyzed debates surrounding the wearing of the headscarf, so-called “honour-based” violence, and Sharia law. Current research projects focus on racialization and LGBTQ/gender rights construction in refugee politics, the criminalization of migrant status, and the citizenship implications of refugee sponsorship.

Selected Publications
– Korteweg, Anna C. “The Failures of ‘Immigrant Integration’: the Gendered, Racialized Production of Non-Belonging.” Migration Studies, online March 2017
– Laxer, Emily, and Anna C. Korteweg. “Party Competition and the Production of Nationhood in the Immigration Context: Particularizing the Universal for Political Gain in France and Quebec.” Ethnic and Racial Studies, online May 2017
Located where migration studies and feminist studies meet, this lecture explores the making of migrants' micro-geographies of power in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork undertaken with women migrants in Southern Europe, I will claim for the need to feminize contemporary research on migration at the borders of Europe. By feminizing research, I do not mean to acknowledge the increasing importance of women within international migration dynamics but rather to take stock of a vast literature in gender and feminist studies, in order to amend our approach to contemporary migrations and mobilities. In particular, I will draw on the inputs of feminist geography in order to show how migrant women intersectional subjectivities are constituted through inconspicuous sites and scales, such as the body, the digital space, and the domestic space. The intersections between migrant women's spatialities, as well as the transnational connections they build produce counter-spatialities of power through which women are able to negotiate with (and sometimes challenge) hierarchies and borders.

Curriculum Vitae
Camille Schmoll is senior lecturer (maître de conférences) at the University of Paris 7 Denis Diderot, France and member of the Institut Universitaire de France. Her main research interest are the dynamics of migration in a Euro-Mediterranean context. She questions new forms of mobilities and their spatial implications while at the same time studying these dynamics through a gender lens.

Selected Publications