

International Student Mobility between the South and the North. Public Lecture



Theorising student migration

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University of Neuchâtel, Espace Louis-Agassiz 1, 2000 Neuchâtel, Room R.E.46

Abstract

There is a large and growing body of empirical work on student migration. This has gone hand in hand with increasingly sophisticated theorisations of student migration. In this presentation I explore the spatialities involved in these theorisations and suggest new ways forward. As migration is an inherently geographical phenomenon these theorisations not only open up avenues for further thinking but also for empirical agendas and for policy contributions in this highly politicised field. In this presentation I address this lacuna by exploring three ways in which student migration may be theorised spatially: through comparativism, as a set of constitutive relations and as topological twists. I suggest that student migration should be seen not as pre-given but as produced at particular spatio-temporal conjunctures. The presentation ends by asking how do these spatial analytics alter the politics of 'migration talk'?

Biography. Parvati Raghuram is a Reader in Human Geography at the Faculty of Social Sciences at The Open University. She has co-authored *Gendered migrations and global social reproduction* (Palgrave). *The Practice of Cultural Studies* (Sage), *Gender and International Migration in Europe* (Routledge) and co-edited *South Asian women in the diaspora* (Berg) and *Tracing Indian diaspora: Contexts, Memories, Representations* (Sage). She is co-editor with Martin Geiger and William Walters of the Palgrave PIVOT series *Mobility and Politics*. Her recent interest is in the question: does studying migration always need to mean studying migrants?