

# Core Course #4: Transnational Mobility and Complex Diversities

This Core Course is part of the third block of the Doctoral Program of the nccr – on the move (Module-related introduction to theories and concepts). This Core Course is organized by module three, with support from the Network Office, and in combination with the Research Days on Transnational Mobility and Complex Diversities.

## General Description

This course introduces theoretical, conceptual and methodological approaches related to transnationalism and complex diversities. The main goal of the course is to discuss current methodological problems and questions within this field of research. Each of the sessions starts with a short input of about 10-15 minutes by the course facilitator and/or members of his/her research team, followed by a discussion, workshop or practical activity to enable the participants to interact with each other and connect the course topic with their research.

## Requirements

Doctoral Students are expected to read the compulsory texts since they will be discussed during the course. The compulsory readings (pdf) can be downloaded here:

<https://drive.switch.ch/index.php/s/K3rVwPCSbWuDshw>

## Date and Place

The course takes place on Thursday 17 October 2019 at the University of Neuchâtel, Av. du 1er-Mars 26, Room D71.

## Timetable of the Course

09:30 - 09:45	Introduction to the Core Course <i>Laure Sandoz, University of Neuchâtel</i>
09:45 - 10:30	What Does the Transnational Perspective Bring to Migration and Mobility Research? Epistemological, Theoretical and Methodological Issues <i>Janine Dahinden, University of Neuchâtel</i>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:30	Workshop on methodological issues <i>Yvonne Riaño and Laure Sandoz (qualitative questions), University of Neuchâtel</i> <i>Lea Portmann and Laura Ravazzini (quantitative questions), University of Neuchâtel</i>
12:30 - 13:45	Lunch break
13:45 - 14:30	Understanding (Non)Migrant Transnationalism from a Cosmopolitan Perspective <i>Mihaela Nedelcu, University of Neuchâtel</i>
14:30 - 15:15	Courses of Lives, Imagination and Transnational Dynamics <i>Tania Zittoun, University of Neuchâtel</i>
15:15 - 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 - 16:30	The Transnationalization of Social Inequalities? Selective Migration Policies, Global Businesses, Mobile People <i>Laure Sandoz, University of Neuchâtel</i>
15:45 - 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 - 17:00	Final discussion on transnationalism, complex diversities, and the migration-mobility nexus <i>Yvonne Riaño, University of Neuchâtel</i> <i>Mihaela Nedelcu, University of Neuchâtel</i>

## What Does the Transnational Perspective Bring to Migration and Mobility Research? Epistemological, Theoretical and Methodological Issues

Janine Dahinden, University of Neuchâtel

### Abstract

In my short input I will retrace, historically, the main merits and challenges of the 'transnational turn' of the 1990. My main argument is that the introduction of the transnational perspective triggered a paradigm shift that advanced an alternative stance on migration and mobility issues. It brought new theoretical and methodological approaches to the fore, making us understand social processes which had hitherto been opaque, and it has contributed to general social theory. After my initial input, I would like to discuss with the Ph.D. Students the ways in which a transnational perspective is relevant for their work, what it can/could bring, theoretically, methodologically and epistemologically.

### Compulsory Readings

Dahinden, Janine 2017. "Transnationalism Reloaded: The Historical Trajectory of a Concept." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 40 (9): 1474-1485.

Dahinden, Janine. 2009. "Are We All Transnationals Now? Network Transnationalism and Transnational Subjectivity: The Differing Impacts of Globalization on the Inhabitants of a Small Swiss City." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 32 (8): 1365-86.

### Additional Readings

Al-Ali, Nadjeh, Richard Black, and Khalid Koser. 2001. "The Limits to 'Transnationalism': Bosnian and Eritrean Refugees in Europe as Emerging Transnational Communities." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 24 (4): 578-600.

Basch, Linda, Nina Glick Schiller, and Cristina Szanton Blanc. 1994. *Nations Unbound: Transnational Projects, Postcolonial Predicaments, and Deterritorialized Nation-states*. New York: Gordon and Breach.

Crettaz, Eric, and Janine Dahinden. 2019. "How Transnational are Migrants in Switzerland? An Analysis of the Migration-Mobility-Transnationality Nexus." In *Migrants and Expats: The Swiss Migration and Mobility Nexus*, edited by Ilka Steiner and Philippe Wanner, 267-91. Cham: Springer International Publishing.

Dahinden, Janine. 2005. "Contesting Transnationalism? Lessons from the Study of Albanian Migration Networks from Former Yugoslavia." *Global Networks*, 5 (2): 191-208.

Dahinden, Janine. 2010. " "Cabaret Dancers - Settling Down in Order to Stay Mobile"? Bridging Theoretical Orientations within Transnational Migration Studies." *Social Politics. International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 17 (3): 323-48.

- Dahinden, Janine. 2010. "The Dynamics of Migrants' Transnational Formations: Between Mobility and Locality." In *Transnationalism and Diaspora. Concept, Theories and Methods*, edited by Rainer Bauböck and Thomas Faist, 51-72. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
- Faist, Thomas. 2000. "Transnationalization in International Migration: Implications for the Study of Citizenship and Culture." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 23 (2): 189-222.
- Faist, Thomas, Margrit Fauser, and Eveline Reisenauer. 2013. *Transnational Migration*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Glick Schiller, Nina. 2015. "Explanatory Frameworks in Transnational Migration Studies: The Missing Multi-Scalar Global Perspective." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38 (13): 2275-282.
- Glick Schiller, Nina, Linda Basch, and Cristina Blanc-Szanton, eds. 1992. *Towards a Transnational Perspective on Migration: Race, Class, Ethnicity, and Nationalism Reconsidered*, Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences. New York: The New York Academy of Sciences.
- Glick Schiller, Nina, Ayşe Çağlar, and Thaddeus C Guldbrandsen. 2006. "Beyond the Ethnic Lens: Locality, Globality, and Born-Again Incorporation." *American Ethnologist*, 33 (4): 612-633.
- Guarnizo, Luis E., Alejandro Portes, and William Haller. 2003. "Assimilation and Transnationalism: Determinants of Transnational Political Action among Contemporary Migrants." *American Journal of Sociology*, 108 (6): 1211-48.
- Itzigsohn, José, and Silvia Gioguli Saucedo. 2005. "Incorporation, Transnationalism, and Gender: Immigrant Incorporation and Transnational Participation as Gendered Process." *International Migration Review*, 39 (4): 895-920.
- Kivisto, Peter. 2001. "Theorizing Transnational Immigration: A Critical Review of Current Efforts." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 24 (4): 549-577.
- Levitt, Peggy, and Nina Glick Schiller. 2004. "Conceptualizing Simultaneity: A Transnational Social Field Perspective on Society." *International Migration Review*, 38 (3): 1002-1039.
- Levitt, Peggy, and Nadya Jaworsky. 2007. "Transnational Migration Studies: Past Development and Future Trends." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 33 (7):1-28.
- Moret, Joelle. 2018. *European Somalis' Post-Migration Movements. Mobility Capital and the Transnationalisation of Resources*. Springer, IMISCOE Research Series. Nieswand,
- Nieswand Boris. 2011. *Theorizing Transnational Migration. The Status Paradox of Migration*. Oxford: Routledge.
- Nieswand, Boris. 2018. "Border Dispositifs and Border Effects. Exploring the Nexus Between Transnationalism and Border Studies." *Identities*, 25 (5):592-609.
- Nowicka, Magdalena. 2013. "Positioning Strategies of Polish Entrepreneurs in Germany: Transnationalizing Bourdieu's Notion of Capital." *International Sociology*, 28 (1): 29-47.
- 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): 217-237.

Portes, Alejandro, William J. Haller, and Luis Eduardo Guarnizo. 2002. "Transnational Entrepreneurs: An Alternative Form of Immigrant Economic Adaptation." *American Sociological Review*, 67 (2):217-237.

Pries, Ludger, ed. 2008. *Rethinking Transnationalism. The Meso-Link of Organisations*. London and New York: Routledge.

Snel, Eric, Margarieta Hart, and Marianne Van Bochove. 2016. "Reactive Transnationalism: Homeland Involvement in the Face of Discrimination." *Global Networks*, 16 (4): 511-30.

Tarrius, Alain. 1993. "Territoires Circulatoires et Espaces Urbaine." *Annales de la Recherche Urbain*, 1993 : 51-60.

Vertovec, Steven. 2009. *Transnationalism. Key Ideas*. London and New York: Routledge.

Waldinger, Roger. 2015. *The Cross-Border Connection. Immigrants, Emigrants and Their Homelands*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Waldinger, Roger, and David Fitzgerald. 2004. "Transnationalism in Question." *American Journal of Sociology*, 109 (5): 1177-95.

Weiss, Anja. 2005. "The Transnationalization of Social Inequality: Conceptualizing Social Positions on a World Scale." *Current Sociology*, 54 (3): 707-728.

## Workshop on Methodological Issues

Laure Sandoz, Lea Portmann, Laura Ravazzini, and Yvonne Riaño, University of Neuchâtel

### **Abstract**

The workshop gives the participants the opportunity to discuss their current methodological challenges and questions and look for solutions together. It also enables the course facilitators to get a better idea of the needs of the participants and sets a basis for the discussions throughout the day. Experts in both quantitative and qualitative approaches will moderate the workshop and suggest ideas to contribute to the development of the research projects.

### **Compulsory Reading**

Participants are required to read the short text on methodological challenges written by Livia Tomás and Christina Mittmasser before the course and to send a short description of their own current methodological challenges by October 7, 2019 to [laure.sandoz@unine.ch](mailto:laure.sandoz@unine.ch).

### **Additional Readings**

Additional readings will be suggested to the participants based on their needs during or after the workshop.

## Understanding (Non)Migrant Transnationalism from a Cosmopolitan Perspective

Mihaela Nedelcu, University of Neuchâtel

### Abstract

The field of transnational migration has contributed significantly to the critique of methodological nationalism, while the new mobilities paradigm has opened original avenues of research to overcome this epistemological bias. This module aims at bringing new analytical and methodological insights in this discussion through a cosmopolitan lens, which invites to observe transnational mobilities and related complex diversities as part of a broader process of "cosmopolitanization from within". Moreover, it opens to discussion the heuristic value of a double inclusive "both/and" research posture that is at the core of "methodological cosmopolitanism". In other words, it invites reflecting on transnational processes and mobilities as the result of migrant and non-migrant social dynamics, entangled with various territorial scales.

### Compulsory Readings

Beck, Ulrich and Sznaider, Natan. 2006. "Unpacking Cosmopolitanism for the Social Sciences: A Research Agenda." *The British Journal of Sociology*, 57 (1): 1-23.

Nedelcu, Mihaela. 2013. "(Re)thinking Transnationalism and Integration in the Digital Era: A Shift Towards Cosmopolitanism in the Study of International Migrations." In Soderstrom O. et al., *Critical Mobilities*, PPUR & Routledge, 153-75.

### Additional Readings

Amelina, Anna and Faist, Thomas. 2012. "De-naturalizing the National in Research Methodologies: Key Concepts of Transnational Studies in Migration." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 35 (10): 1707-24.

Beck, Ulrich. 2002. "The Cosmopolitan Society and Its Enemies." *Theory, Culture & Society*, 19 (1-2): 17-44.

Beck, Ulrich. 2006. *Qu'est-ce que le cosmopolitisme*. Paris: Aubier.

Beck, Ulrich and Grande, Edgar. 2010. "Varieties of Second Modernity: The Cosmopolitan Turn in Social and Political Theory and Research." *The British Journal of Sociology*, 61 (3): 409-44.

Cresswell, T. (2010) "Towards a Politics of Mobility," *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 28 (1): 17-31.

Nedelcu, Mihaela. 2012. "Migrants' New Transnational Habitus: Rethinking Migration Through a Cosmopolitan Lens in the Digital Age." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 38 (9): 1339-56.

Sheller, Mimi and Urry, John. 2006. "The New Mobilities Paradigm". *Environment and Planning A*, 38: 207-26.

Wimmer, Andreas and Glick Schiller, Nina. 2002. "Methodological nationalism and beyond: nation-state building, migration and the social sciences." *Global Networks*, 2 (4): 301-34.

## Courses of Lives, Imagination and Transnational Dynamics

Tania Zittoun, University of Neuchâtel

### Abstract

Transnational dynamics can be studied at various levels; one of those levels is people's experience. As persons, people live their lives mostly in relation to other people. These people can be more or less mobile, and their close or distant relationships can be mobile or immobile too. These relationships can take place through transnational dynamics, or be shaped by these. In that sense, mobility and transnational dynamics participate to the course of life of people – how this unfolds over time, what people do, what they imagine, their engagements, their choices or the constraints they experience. The goal of this session is to introduce a perspective capturing people's experience, and thus to invite a reflection on the implications of transnational mobilities for people's courses of life.

### Compulsory Readings

Zittoun, Tania (forthcoming). "Imagination in People and Societies on the Move: A Sociocultural Psychology Perspective." *Culture & Psychology*.

Zittoun, Tania, & Levitan, Deborah (2019). "A sociocultural psychology of repeated mobility: Dialogical challenges / Una psicología sociocultural de la movilidad repetida: desafíos dialógicos." *Estudios de Psicología*, 40 (1): 79-106.

### Additional Readings

Adams, Megan, & Fleer, Marilyn (2016). "Social Inclusion and Exclusion of a Young Child: A Cultural - Historical Perspective of an International Mid-semester Transition into an International School in Malaysia." *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood*, 41(3): 86-94.

Cangià, Flavia (2018). "Precarity, Imagination, and the Mobile Life of the 'Trailing spouse.'" *Ethos*, 46(1), 8–26.

Gillespie, Alex, Kadianaki, Irini, & O'Sullivan-Lago, Ria (2012). Encountering Alterity: Geographic and Semantic Movements. In J. Valsiner (Ed.), *Oxford Handbook of Culture and Psychology* (pp. 695–719). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Levitan, Deborah (2019). "The Art of Living in Transitoriness: Strategies of Families in Repeated Geographical Mobility". *Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Science*, 53(2), 258–282.

Zittoun, Tania (2012). "Lifecourse." In J. Valsiner, *Handbook of Culture and Psychology* (pp. 513–535). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Zittoun, Tania, & Gillespie, Alex (2015). "Integrating experiences: Body and mind moving between contexts." In B. Wagoner, N. Chaudhary, & P. Hviid (Eds.), *Integrating experiences: Body and mind moving between contexts* (pp. 3–49). Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

Zittoun, Tania, & Gillespie, Alex (2016). "Imagination: Creating alternatives in everyday life." In V. P. Glăveanu (Ed.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Creativity and Culture Research* (pp. 225–242). London and New York: Palgrave.



## The Transnationalization of Social Inequalities? Selective Migration Policies, Global Businesses, Mobile People

Laure Sandoz, University of Neuchâtel

### Abstract

Globalization has not created a borderless world. Citizens of rich countries have gained new mobility rights, but such rights have stagnated or even diminished for other regions. Moreover, the development of skill-focused immigration programmes in post-industrialising countries has given rise to new selective border regimes aimed to attract 'the best and the brightest' while preventing the immigration of 'unwanted' people. In this context, nationality and skills have become central criteria for selecting migrants and defining their residence rights. This session discusses the impact of these changes on current migration processes and explores the way they contribute to framing social inequalities at a global level.

### Reading Guidelines

Try to connect the texts with your own research and reflect on the following questions: How would you describe the social positioning of the people you study? With reference to what? How is their migration experience and social positioning framed by other actors? Who are these other actors?

### Compulsory Readings

Weiss, Anja. 2005. "The Transnationalization of Social Inequality: Conceptualizing Social Positions on a World Scale." *Current Sociology*, 53 (4): 707–728.

Sandoz, Laure. 2018. "Understanding Access to the Labour Market through Migration Channels." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*: DOI: 10.1080/1369183X.2018.1502657.

### Additional Readings

Beck, Ulrich. 2007. "Beyond Class and Nation: Reframing Social Inequalities in a Globalizing World." *The British Journal of Sociology*, 58 (4): 679–705.

Favell, Adrian. 2008. "Rebooting Migration Theory. Interdisciplinarity, Globality, and Postdisciplinarity in Migration Studies." In *Migration Theory. Talking across Disciplines*, edited by Caroline B. Brettell and James F. Hollifield, 259–78. New York: Routledge.