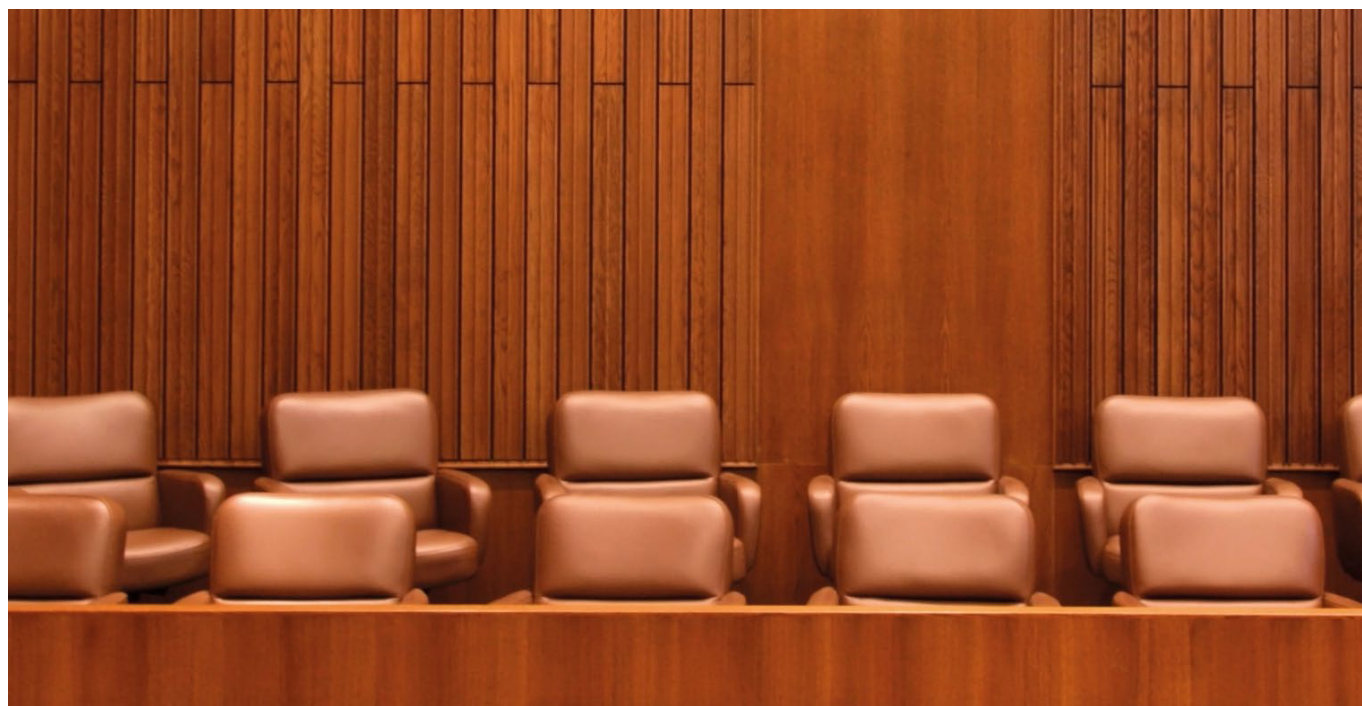




Public Lecture Series

Tuesday 13 January 2026

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Decentering Migration and Mobility Studies

Peggy Levitt, Wellesley College and the Global (De)Centre

Discussant: Janine Dahinden, University of Neuchâtel, nccr – on the move

18:00 – 19:30 CET

This talk will be held at the University of Neuchâtel, [Av. du Premier-Mars 26](#), Room C54 and on WEBEX ([link](#)).

Abstract

Peggy Levitt's talk will argue for the need to decenter migration and mobility studies. By that is meant, not just what we study but our methods, the concepts we use and the assumptions which underlie them, and how we work with and co-create scholarship. To make her case, she will draw on her recent work on transnational social protection (or the need to rethink social welfare across borders) and the relationship between migrating people and migrating culture (or the ways in which what we read, look at, and learn is being transformed or remains stubbornly the same when artists, writers, and thinkers, move). She will conclude by suggesting ways that the fields of migration and mobility studies can move forward that include not only decentering the ideas and content we work with but decentering ourselves as individuals, the institutions where we work, and the infrastructure that connect them.

Bio

Peggy Levitt is the Mildred Lane Kemper Chair of Sociology at Wellesley College and a co-founder of the Global (De)Centre. Her latest books include *Move Over, Mona Lisa: Reimagining What We Read, Look At and Learn* (forthcoming from Stanford University Press, 2026) and *Transnational Social Protection: Social Welfare Across National Borders* (co-authored with Erica Dobbs, Ken Sun, and Ruxandra Paul and published by Oxford University Press in 2023). Peggy co-directed the Transnational Studies Initiative and the Politics and Social Change Workshop at Harvard University from 1998-2020. She received Honorary Doctoral Degrees from the University of Helsinki (2017) and from Maastricht University (2014). She has held numerous fellowships and guest professorships including, most recently, at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio, Italy (2024); the University of Bologna (2024); The Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna (2023); and at the University of Edinburgh (2023). In 2025, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association. Her earlier books include *Artifacts and Allegiances: How Museums Put the Nation and the World on Display* (University of California Press 2015), *Religion on the Edge* (Oxford University Press 2012), *God Needs No Passport* (New Press 2007), *The Transnational Studies Reader* (Routledge 2007), *The Changing Face of Home* (Russell Sage 2002), and *The Transnational Villagers* (UC Press 2001).

This talk is organized within the framework of the launch of the [Swiss Association of Migration and Mobility Studies \(SAMMS\)](#). Please [register](#) by **5 January 2026** if you want to participate in the General Assembly that will take place at 16:15 and/or the reception that will follow Peggy Levitt's lecture.