

SOC 783 Transnational Studies – FALL 2012

B. Nadya Jaworsky, jaworsky@fss.muni.cz, Office 3.59

Office Hours: Mondays 16.00 – 17.00; Tuesdays: 14.00 – 15.00; or by appointment

In recent years, 'transnationalism' has become a common reference across the social sciences. Moving beyond theoretical approaches to the study of global social phenomena that have traditionally centered on the nation state as the central conceptual unit of analysis, transnational studies considers social life as the constantly evolving product of multiple economic, political, cultural and historical factors that manifest across 'social fields.'

This course charts the evolution of transnational studies from a sociological standpoint, taking into account multiple forms of regional, international and local scales, identities and scopes of inquiry. We will compare and contrast transnational dynamics in various social spheres – the state, the economy, the family, education, religion and civil society – to rethink assumptions about identity, sovereignty, citizenship and the political economy.

Utilizing theoretical work and empirical research from sociology, history, politics, economics, anthropology and cultural studies, we explore the ways that transnational practices and processes manifest, relate to, and inform each other in different domains, and at different levels of social interaction, affecting the organization of social life during different historical periods.

Course objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Define and discuss the concept of transnationalism
- Review and analyze its historical evolution
- Compare and contrast transnational practices in different domains and at different levels of social interaction
- Apply a sociological lens for analysis of transnational phenomena in various social spheres, including the state, the economy, the family, education, religion and civil society
- Assess and apply transnational research methods

Assessment methods

Conditions for passing the course:

1. Systematic work on and (short, 1-page) written responses to readings
2. Oral presentation and discussion leadership
3. Final essay (3,000 – 5,000 words)
4. Written final exam

Particular activities of students will be evaluated as follows:

- 25% - reading, responses and class participation
- 15% - oral presentation/discussion leader
- 25% - written exam
- 35% - academic paper

Evaluation is based upon these principles:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- 50-59 = E
- 0-49 = F

Literature

- *The transnational studies reader: intersections and innovations*, Sanjeev Khagram and Peggy Levitt, Routledge, 2007.
- *Transnational Villagers*, Peggy Levitt, University of California Press, 2001.

Optional:

- *Nations Unbound: Transnational Projects, Postcolonial Predicaments and Deterritorialized Nation-States*, Linda Basch, Nina Glick Schiller, Cristina Szanton Blanc, Routledge, 1993.
- *God Needs No Passport*, Peggy Levitt, New York: New Press, 2007.

Weekly Timetable: Below you will find the proposed readings for each week of the semester. However, and this is very **IMPORTANT:** You must check the Interactive Syllabus and the Study Materials pages for specific reading assignments and any last-minute changes. Please make it a habit to check these weekly, as this is where I will “communicate” with you!

	REQUIRED READINGS:
1st Seminar-Sept. 17: What is Transnationalism?	<i>No reading</i>
2nd Seminar-Sept 24: Historical Perspectives	Chapter 1, pp. 1-22 in <i>TS Reader</i> . Chapter 5, pp. 50-63 in <i>TS Reader</i> . Section 3 (Chapters 13-16), pp. 179-216 in <i>TS Reader</i> .
3rd Seminar-Oct. 1: Identity; Arts and Culture	Chapter 29, pp. 333-338 in <i>TS Reader</i> Chapter 31, pp. 342-346 in <i>TS Reader</i> Martiniello, Marco, and Jean-Michel Lafleur. 2008. "Ethnic Minorities' Cultural and Artistic Practices as Forms of Political Expression: A Review of the Literature and a Theoretical Discussion on Music." <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> 34:1191-1215. Sheringham, O. "A Transnational Space? Transnational Practices, Place-Based Identity and the Making of 'Home' among Brazilians in Gort, Ireland." <i>Portuguese Studies</i> 26:60-78. Levitt, Peggy. 2012. "The Bog and the Beast." <i>Ethnologia</i> , forthcoming (20 pp.)
4th Seminar-Oct. 8: The Diffusion of Values, Norms and Meanings	Section 8 (Chapters 33-34 & 36+37), pp. 359-371 & 377-410 in <i>TS Reader</i> Dekel, Tal. 2009. "Body, Gender and Transnationalism: Art and Cultural Criticism in a Changing Europe." <i>Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism</i> 9:175-197. Shavisinsky, Neil. J. 1994. "Transnational Popular Culture and the Global Spread of the Jamaican Rastafarian Movement." <i>New West Indian Guide/Nieuwe West-Indische Gids</i> 68:259-281.
5th Seminar-Oct. 15: Transnationalism and the Digital Age	Nedelcu, Michaela. 2012. "Migrants' New Transnational Habitus: Rethinking Migration Through a Cosmopolitan Lens in the Digital Age." <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> 38(9): 1139-1356. Schrooten, Mieke. "Moving Ethnography Online: Researching Brazilian migrants' online togetherness." <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 35(10):1794-1809. Carpenter, R. Charli and Betsy Jose, "Transnational Issue Networks in Real and Virtual Space: The Case of Women, Peace and Security." <i>Global Networks</i> 12(4):525-543. Morris, Karen A. "Diasporic Politics, Transnational Media Circulation, and the Multifocality of Côte d'Ivoire." <i>City & Society</i> 24(2): 240-59.

<p>6th Seminar-Oct. 22: Religious Life across Borders and Transnational Islam</p>	<p>Section 6 (Chapters 27-28), pp. 308-332 in <i>TS Reader</i>. Grillo, Ralph. 2004. "Islam and Transnationalism." <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> 30:861-878. van der Veer, Peter. 2004. "Transnational Religion: Hindu and Muslim Movements." <i>Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies</i> 3(7):4-18.</p>
<p>7th Seminar-Oct.29: No class – reading period</p>	<p>pp. 1- 176 in <i>Transnational Villagers</i>, Peggy Levitt, University of California Press, 2001.</p>
<p>8th Seminar-Nov. 5: Migration</p>	<p>Levitt, Peggy, and B. Nadya. Jaworsky. 2007. "Transnational Migration Studies: Past Developments and Future Trends." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 33:129-156.</p>
<p>9th Seminar-Nov. 12: Corporations, Classes and Capitalism</p>	<p>Section 9 (Chapters 38, 39, 41), pp. 411-414 & 429-458 in <i>TS Reader</i>. Mirchandani, Kiran, 2004, "Practices of global capital: gaps, cracks and ironies in transnational call centres in India," <i>Global Networks</i> 4(4): 355–373. Leslie Sklair, 2000, "The transnational capitalist class and the discourse of globalization," <i>Cambridge Review of International Affairs</i> 14(1): 67</p>
<p>10th Seminar-Nov. 19: Non-state Actors, NGOs and Social Movements</p>	<p>Section 10 (Chapters 43-44), pp. 474-500 in <i>TS Reader</i>. Conway, Janet, 2008, "Geographies of Transnational Feminisms: The Politics of Place and Scale in the World March of Women," <i>Social Politics</i> 15(2): 207-231. Levitt, Peggy and Merry, Sally, 2009 "Vernacularization on the ground: local uses of global women's rights in Peru, China, India and the United States," <i>Global Networks</i> 9(4): 441–461 Ru, Jiang and Ortolano, Leonard, 2009 "Development of Citizen-Organized Environmental NGOs in China," <i>Voluntas</i> 20: 141–168.</p>
<p>11th Seminar-Nov. 26: Security, Crime and Violence (focus on terrorism)</p>	<p>Section 11 (Chapter 49), pp. 555-562 in <i>TS Reader</i>. Beck, Ulrich, 2002, "The Terrorist Threat: World Risk Society Revisited," <i>Theory, Culture & Society</i> 19(4): 39–55. Asal, Victor, Nussbaum, Brian, and D. William Harrington. 2007. "Terrorism as Transnational Advocacy: An Organizational and Tactical Examination." <i>Studies in Conflict and Terrorism</i> 20:15-39 Bowman, Blythe A. 2008 "Transnational Crimes Against Culture: Looting at Archaeological Sites and the "Grey" Market in Antiquities," <i>Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice</i> 24: 225-242.</p>
<p>12th Seminar-Dec. 3: Methodological Practices – what does it mean to use a 'transnational lens' to study social phenomena?</p>	<p>Section 2 – Chapter 9, pp. 104-117 Amelina, Anna and Thomas Faist, "De-naturalizing the National in Research Methodologies: Key Concepts of Transnational Studies in Migration." <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 35(10)1707-1724. Mazzucato, Valentina, 2008, "Simultaneity and Networks in Transnational Migration: Lessons Learned from an SMS Methodology," In DeWind, Josh and Holdaway, Jennifer (eds) <i>Migration and development within and across borders: Research and policy perspectives on internal and international migration</i>, Geneva: International Organization for Migration, p. 69-100. Olesen, Thomas, 2007, "The Porous Public and the Transnational Dialectic: The Muhammed Cartoons Conflict," <i>Acta Sociologica</i> 50(3): 295–308.</p>
<p>13th Seminar-Dec. 10: Conclusion – What is the future of 'transnational studies'?</p>	<p>Levitt, Peggy and Deepak Lamba-Nieves. 2010. "Social Remittances Revisited." <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> 37(1):1-22. Eckstein, Susan, and Thanh-Ngai Nguyn. "The Making and Transnationalization of an Ethnic Niche: Vietnamese Manicurists." <i>International Migration Review</i> 45(3):639-674.</p>