

**SOC585/SOC585E**  
**MIGRATION AND TRANSNATIONALISM –**  
**MIGRATING PEOPLE, MIGRATING CULTURE:**  
**OPTICS, METHODS, AND IMPACTS**  
**Fall 2013**

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# Migration studies at FSS

- Courses (Sociology and Social Anthropology)
- Research: identities, ethnicization, ethnic economies, inclusion/exclusion, transnationalism, gender
- Publications
  - Transnational Migration (in Czech)
  - Boundaries in Motion
  - Social Studies – Transnationalism (in Czech)

# Course sessions

- **Session 1** (26.9.) *Introduction to the course* (RK)
- **Session 2** (14.10.) *Transnational Studies and Transnational Approaches to Migration/Studying Culture in Motion* (PL)  
Group project: Design a research methodology for studying culture in motion.  
Redesign your own research project using a transnational optic
- **Session 3** (15.10.) *The Cultural Armature of Cities* (PL)  
Group Project: What is the nature of the cultural armature in the city where you live? What would you do to make it more conducive to immigration integration?
- **Session 4** (16.10.) *Using Culture to Create Diverse Communities* (PL)  
Group Project: Curate your own museum exhibit on immigration and/or cosmopolitanism
- **Session 5** (17.10.) *Global Social Protection Regimes* (PL)  
Group Project: Design a new kind of education, health, pension, or social welfare program that responds to transnational migration
- **Session 6** (18.10.) Lecture by Peggy Levitt at *Identities in Conflict, Conflict in Identities* conference
- **Session 7** (14.11.) *Migration and Transnationalism in CEE* (RK)
- **Session 8** (5.12.) *Conclusion* (RK)

# Conditions for Passing the Course

- 1. Participation in class (discussions, group projects) (20%)
- 2. Peer-to-peer feedback on the outline of the final paper (20%)
- 3. Final paper (3,000 – 5,000 words) (35%)
- 4. Written final exam (25%)

Total: 100 points

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

# Study Materials and Instructions

- IS Learning Materials – in electronic form
- Instructions for the final essay as well as written final exam will be available in the IS Study Materials folder.
- Please, **check the study materials folder regularly** for actual readings and study instructions.

# Final paper

- Length: 3,000 – 5,000 words
- Group or individual
- Based on group projects from class with PL or a topic of individual choice based on literature, interesting case study etc.
- Form: academic paper
  - more information will follow...
- Draft of the paper will be discussed by colleagues on the last session (5.12.)
  - to be delivered by **24.11.** (to IS Homework Vaults)
- **Deadline: 12.1.2014**

# Written exam

- Take-home exam
- Orientation in the literature and main concepts
- Date: to be specified

# Introduction

- Your background (where have you lived, studied, background in migration study)
- Field of interest in social science/sociology
- Motivation, hopes, expectations towards the course...



# Brainstorming on transnationalism

- What is transnationalism?
- What social groups come to your mind?
- Your life in a transnational perspective?
- Plurality of definitions of transnationalism

# Anthropologists' discovery of a new phenomena?

- 1990s – new form of migration: transnational migration
  - Critical to conventional theories of immigration
  - Focus on cross-border processes and identities
- Basch, Glick Schiller, Szanton Blanc (1994):  
*Nations Unbound: Transnational Projects, Postcolonial Predicaments, and Deterritorialized Nation-States*
  - “By living their lives across borders, transmigrants find themselves confronted with and engaged in the nation building processes of two or more nation-states. Their identities and practices are configured by hegemonic categories, such as race and ethnicity, that are deeply embedded in the nation building processes of these nation states.” (p. 22)
  - Transnationalism as a form of resistance

# Conventional immigration theories

- The problem of assimilation (Americanization)
- Chicago School of Sociology
  - „Problem of maintaining political order...in a community that has no common culture“
  - Migrants: „peoples who have abandoned the political allegiance of the old country, and are gradually acquiring the culture of the new (Park and Burgess 1969)
- Melting pot, cultural pluralism (Glazer, Moynihan)
  - ethnic groups and their culture (=roots, not vital links)

Critique: Social sciences participate in nation-building projects (lack of reflexivity)

SECOND EDITION

# The Uprooted

THE EPIC STORY OF THE  
GREAT MIGRATIONS THAT MADE  
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



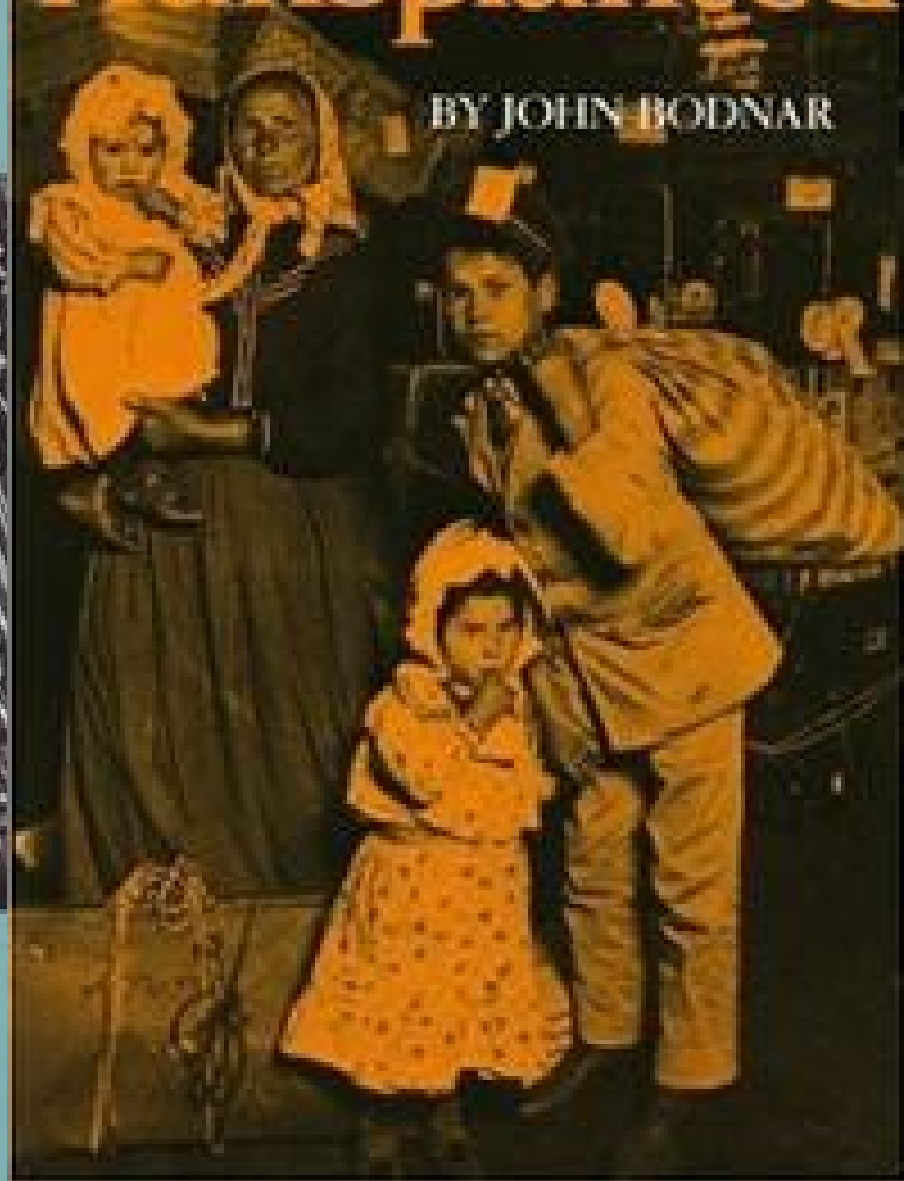
Oscar Handlin

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE  
FOR HISTORY

# The Transplanted

*A History of Immigrants  
in Urban America*

BY JOHN BODNAR



# Americanization project

- “There can be no divided allegiance here. We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language, for we intend to see that the crucible turns our people out as Americans, of American nationality, and not as dwellers in a polyglot boarding-house; and we have room for but one soul loyalty, and that is loyalty to the American people.” (Theodore Roosevelt, 1919)

THE  
**MELTING POT**

THE  
GREAT AMERICAN DRAMA

BY  
**ISRAEL ZANGWILL**



# The critique of methodological nationalism

- Methodological nationalism – the tendency to accept nation state as a given unit of social analysis, society = nation state
- Critique of bounded concepts of ethnicity, race, culture – social constructs that reflect power relations
- BOTH/AND instead of EITHER/OR logic
- New phenomena requires new conceptual tools: transmigrant, transnational migration, deterritorialized nation state, transnational social field
- Wimmer, Glick Schiller. 2002. *Methodological nationalism and beyond: nation state building, migration and the social sciences.*

**A new phenomena or a new  
perspective?**



# A new phenomena or a new perspective?

- Transnationalism in History studies
- David Gerber – transnational activity of personal correspondence of 19th century immigrants to America
  - Letters as sites of construction of identity
  - reflection of in-betweenness
  - Negotiation of personal relationships
  - Exchange of social intelligence



„Let us do our American and Czech duty.“

„Fight for our independence.“

(Branch of Czech National Society in Hallettsville, Texas, around 1917)

# A transnational turn in migration studies

- Critical perspective: critique of methodological nationalism
- Shift in the focus on cross-border processes, flows, movement
- Social networks, links b/n. new homes and original homes
- Formation of migrant identities, hybridity
- Transnationalism vs. Globalization?



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# Kabyle 100%

**MOURAD GUERBAS**



**FAHEM**



**SAID YUCEF**



**MALIKA YAMI**



**LAHLOU**

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**IGUERCHA**



**KARIMA**



**RABAH ASMA**



**IDEBALEN A. CHERFAOUI**



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