

SOC 585 MIGRATION, TRANSNATIONALISM AND THE CITY

Fall 2017

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Images of transnationality in Brno

A SERVIS
CH TELEFONŮ



MOBILMAX.CZ

SAMSUNG

Nová řada Galaxy A
Galaxy A810 A5

Galaxy zůstává. Přístup se mění.



Galaxy S8



SONY NOKIA ht





Cuisines know no Borders!



Brno meets everybody! Everything begins with an encounter (Pope Francis).



International Business Makers



The formation of transnational approaches to migration

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
 - Assimilation as an inevitable historical process
 - „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)

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)

SECOND EDITION

The Uprooted

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



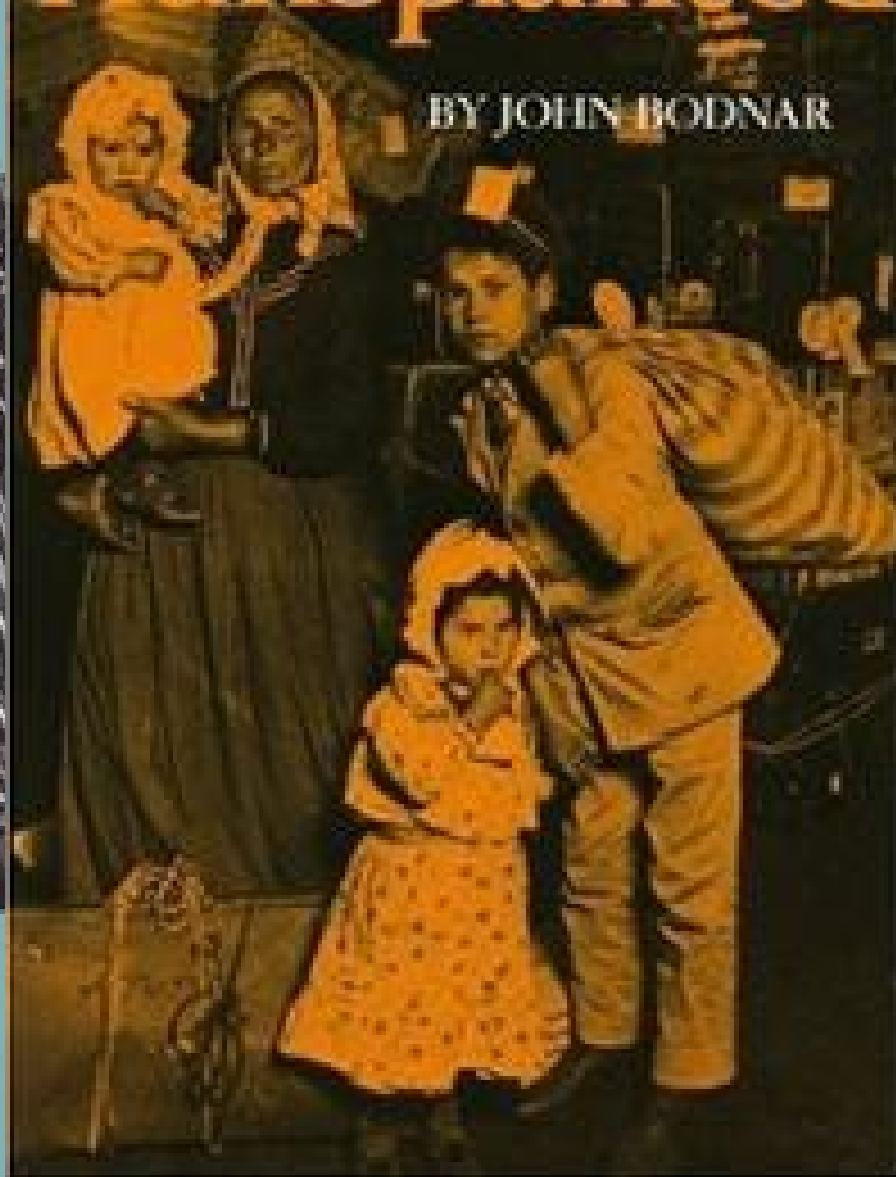
Oscar Handlin

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE
FOR HISTORY

The Transplanted

*A History of Immigrants
in Urban America*

BY JOHN BODNAR



THE MELTING POT

THE
GREAT AMERICAN DRAMA

BY
ISRAEL ZANGWILL



**What is methodological
nationalism and how does it
influence research?**

Methodological nationalism

- Naturalization of ethnicity/nationality - culture
- Container view on society
- Overemphasis on ethnic/national background
- Ethnic lens (Glick Schiller, Caglar)
- Groupism (Brubaker)



When people meet me, they want to know what culture I come from or where my family is from. They want to put me in a box or assign me a label. So the question of ‘what are you’ has always made me feel defensive of who I am and how I’m presented in the world. — Shirley Acuna, 22, Peruvian-American

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/09/21/opinion/sunday/exposures-children-immigrant.html?_r=0

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-betweenes
 - 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?

What is transnationalism(s)?

- Empirical transnationalism
- Methodological transnationalism
- Theoretical transnationalism
- Philosophical transnationalism
- Public transnationalism

(Khagram, Levitt, 2007: Transnational Studies Reader)

Transnational Studies Methodology

Transnational Studies (Khagram, Levitt)

- Global vs. Local vs. National?
- Transnational perspective
 - No assumptions about what level of analysis is the most important for concrete research problem – only empirical exploration can reveal it
- Rejection of methodological nationalism: naturalization of nation state and ethnic belonging
- But continuing relevance of nation state!

Transnational methodology

- Methodological transnationalism/cosmopolitanism
- Focus on:
 - Ambivalence of multiple identities
 - Other than ethnic attributes of the migrants, intersectionality
 - Transnational social networks and other links of the migrants to their homeland

Units of analysis

- Migrants' (transnational) families
- Migrants' religious communities
- Migrants' social movements
- Labour migrants in particular industry
- Migrant online networks

Scales – layers of relevance

- Global
- Regional
- National
- **City scale**
- Postcolonial context
- Transnational social field/space

Methods and techniques

- Multi-sited research
- Mobile ethnography
- Deterritorialized empirical field – migrants' online communities
- Longitudinal research
- Self-reflexive approach
- De-ethnicization

Group project

- Prepare a research proposal on migration using a transnational lens, try to avoid methodological nationalism
- Narrow down the focus of your research – what will be the **layers of relevance**? what will be the **research unit**?
- Formulate a research question – what will be the **main subject** of your research? What do you want to find out?
- Design a research methodology – what **methods** will you use to collect your data?
- What are the possible limitations of the research methodology?

Final reflection

- Free writing on the topic: **What is transnationalism?**
 - Write a text in full sentences, not just words
 - Don't go back to what you have written, do not correct or delete
 - Write all the time – even when you don't know what – you can write e.g.: „How can I continue...“ and try to go back to the topic

Literature

- Amelina, Anna, Nergiz, Devrimsel Deniz, and Faist, Thomas, eds. 2012. *Beyond Methodological Nationalism: Research Methodologies for Cross-Border Studies*.
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- Levitt, P. & Glick Schiller, N., 2004. Conceptualizing Simultaneity: A Transnational Social Field Perspective on Society. *International Migration Review*, 38(3), 1002-1039.
- Wimmer, A. & Schiller, N.G., 2002. Methodological nationalism and beyond: nation-state building, migration and the social sciences. *Global Networks*, 2(4), 301-334.
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