

# SOC585 MIGRATION, TRANSNATIONALISM AND THE CITY

Fall 2017

Instructors:

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**Guest lecturers:**

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## Course Outline

The course introduces students to the study of migration and immigrant incorporation from the perspective of transnationalism. It traces the formation of transnational approaches to the study of migration and its implications for the methodology of migration research. It explores how moving beyond the perspective of the nation state changes the study of migration and related phenomena. Moreover, the course studies transnational migration from the city perspective: it explores the city as a context of reception for immigrants and discusses how cities respond to the arrival of newcomers. Classes are highly interactive and special attention is paid to application of theoretical knowledge in the understanding of contemporary migration events as well as discussion of solutions to selected problems in the sphere of migration. Invited guest lecturers provide students with fresh insights into their work in the field of migration.

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

- Define and discuss transnational studies and transnational approaches to migration, including the critical assessment of transnationalism;
- Design a research methodology for studying transnational migration
- Analyze the context of reception for immigrants in a city
- Understand formation of integration policies for immigrants in the city context

## Conditions for Passing the Course

1. Participation in class (discussions, group projects) (25 %)  
- 5 points for each class
2. Assignments (25 %)  
- 5 points for each home assignment (discussion papers and peer-to-peer feedback)
3. Final paper (3,000 – 4,000 words) (50 % - 10% for the draft and 40 % for the final paper)

Evaluation is based upon this scale:

90-100 points - A

80-89 points - B

70-79 points - C

66-69 points - D

60-65 points - E

0-49 points - F

## Study Materials and Instructions

- For each session, readings are specified in the syllabus. All the required texts are available in electronic form in the IS Study Materials folder and are linked to the Interactive Syllabus.
- Instructions for group projects will be specified in class.
- Instructions for the assignments will be available in the Study Materials.
- Please, check the **Interactive Syllabus** regularly for actual readings and study instructions.  
<https://is.muni.cz/auth/el/1423/podzim2017/SOC585/index.qwarp>

## Timetable

The course is taught regularly in 3-hour sessions once in two weeks (even weeks) from 11:30 until 15:00 in classroom U34. Please note that there is no class on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

## Academic Honesty

The Faculty of Social Studies at MU expects students to know the study rules and maintain academic honesty by refraining from plagiarism and from cheating during exams. Plagiarism means that one presents other peoples' ideas as one's own and does not credit the author. Plagiarism is one of the most serious breaches of ethical standards in the academic environment, for it denies the mission of the university and the meaning of studying. From a legal perspective, plagiarism is the stealing of intellectual property. The official FSS policy on academic honesty is available in the course's interactive syllabus in IS. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated under any circumstances at FSS. **The minimum penalty for academic dishonesty is expulsion from the course, a grade of F for the semester, and referral to the Faculty disciplinary committee.**

## Course schedule

### 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE (September 19) (Jaworsky/ Klvaňová)

**Group Project (after-class):** Take a camera and search for signs of transnationality in the city of Brno (photographs to be uploaded to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vault by **October 1**)

### 2. TRANSNATIONAL THEORIES AND METHODOLOGY (October 3) (Klvaňová)

#### **Readings prior to class:**

Boccagni, P. 2012. "Rethinking transnational studies: Transnationalities and the transnationalism of everyday life." *European Journal of Social Theory* (2012) 15: Pp.117 - 132.

Amelina, Anna, Faist, Thomas. 2012. "De-naturalizing the national in research methodologies: key concepts of transnational studies in migration." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 35, 10 (2012): 1707–24.

**Discussion Paper:** to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vault by **October 1** (please check the discussion paper guidelines in Study Materials)

**Group Project (in-class):** Design a research project on migration and transnationalism.

#### **Additional reading (recommended):**

Szaló, Csaba. "Transnational Migrations: Cross-Border Ties, Homes, and Theories." In: Ondřej Hofírek, Radka Klvaňová, Michal Nekorjak (eds). 2009. *Boundaries in Motion. Rethinking Contemporary Migration Events*. Brno: CDK.

Amelina, Anna, Nergiz, Devrimsel Deniz, and Faist, Thomas, eds. 2012. *Beyond Methodological Nationalism: Research Methodologies for Cross-Border Studies*.

Interview with Peggy Levitt: <http://www.migrationsystems.org/how-can-migration-theory-do-better>

### **3. IMMIGRANTS IN THE CITY (October 17) (Ayse Caglar)**

#### **Readings prior to class:**

Glick Schiller, Nina and Caglar, Ayse. 2009. "Towards a Comparative Theory of Locality in Migration Studies: Migrant Incorporation and City Scale." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 35 (2), pp. 177-202.

Glick Schiller, Nina and Caglar, Ayse. 2013. "Locating migrant pathways of economic emplacement: Thinking beyond the ethnic lens." *Ethnicities* 13 (4), pp. 494-514.

**Discussion Paper:** to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vaults by **October 15**

**Group Project (in-class):** TBA

#### **Additional reading (recommended):**

Glick Schiller, N. and Caglar, A. 2013. "Locating migrant pathways of economic emplacement: Thinking beyond the ethnic lens." *Ethnicities* 13 (4), pp. 494-514.

Favell, Adrian. 2008. *Eurostars and Eurocities*. Blackwell Publishing.

**NOTE: There is NO CLASS on October 31.** Students work on a **Homework Assignment:** Paper topic due via e-mail by **October 31** to B. Nadya Jaworsky ([jaworsky@fss.muni.cz](mailto:jaworsky@fss.muni.cz)) and Radka Klvaňová ([klvanova@fss.muni.cz](mailto:klvanova@fss.muni.cz)); one paragraph describing your paper topic and theoretical perspective

### **4. CITIES AS A CONTEXT OF RECEPTION FOR IMMIGRANTS (November 14) (Brno Expat Center)**

#### **Readings prior to class:**

Jaworsky, B. N. et al. 2012. New Perspectives on Immigrant Contexts of Reception: The Cultural Armature of Cities. *Nordic Journal of Migration Studies* 2 (1), pp. 78-88.

Foner, N. 2007. "How exceptional is New York? Migration and multiculturalism in the empire city." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 30 (6), pp. 999-1023.

Blog of Brno Expat Centre: What do expats say (available at <http://www.brnoexpatcentre.eu/category/what-expats-say>)

**Discussion Paper:** to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vaults by **November 12**

**Group Project (in-class):** In the first part of this class, we will discuss the readings assigned for this week's meeting and analyze Jaworsky et al.'s concept of "cultural armature." Students should bring their own observations from a city of their choice that we would discuss in relation to the readings. Then, in the second part of this class, we will work on the project "Attracting Talent" – What are the potentially strong and weak points of Brno from the point of view of a foreigner? How could the city present itself to attract well-educated, talented individuals? For example, what would keep you here after your studies?

**Additional reading (recommended):** Kong, L. 2012. "Ambitions of a global city: arts, culture and creative economy in 'Post-Crisis' Singapore." *International Journal of Cultural Policy* 18 (3), pp. 279-294.

## **5. MIGRATION POLICIES AT THE CITY LEVEL (Klvaňová/Brno City Council – Office for integration of foreigners) (November 28)**

### **Readings prior to class:**

Borkert, M., and Caponio, T. 2010. "Introduction: the local dimension of migration policymaking." In Borkert, M., and Caponio, T. (eds.) *The Local Dimension of Migration Policymaking*. Pp. 9-32. IMISCOE Reports. Amsterdam University Press.

Princová, K., and Travasso, M. 2016. *Integration Without Borders*. (Chapter 3.3 Diversity Management, pp. 140-173). University Palackého in Olomouc.

**Discussion Paper:** to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vaults by **November 26**

**Group Project (in-class):** Students will perform the role of policy makers – diversity managers for the Masaryk University.

### **Additional reading (recommended):**

Penninx, R. et al. 2004. *Citizenship in European Cities. Immigrants, Local Politics and Integration Policies*. Routledge.

Gebhardt, D. 2014. *Building Inclusive Cities: Challenges in the Multilevel Governance of Immigrant Integration in Europe*. MPI Report: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/building-inclusive-cities-challenges-multilevel-governance-immigrant-integration-europe>

Margie McHugh. 2014. *Immigrant Civic Integration and Service Access Initiatives: City-Sized Solutions for City-Sized Needs*. MPI Report: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/immigrant-civic-integration-and-service-access-initiatives-city-sized-solutions-city-sized>

## **6. RESEARCH DESIGN WORKSHOP & CONCLUSION (December 12) (Jaworsky/Klvaňová)**

We will devote the entire session to the discussion of the drafts of the final papers. Students will shortly present their ideas on the topics of their final papers and they will receive feedback that is aimed at improving the quality of their papers. First, the peer-review partner will comment on the draft, and then, the rest of the class will join in the commenting.

### **Homework assignments:**

1. Final paper draft: to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vaults by **December 8**.

2. Peer-to-peer feedback on your colleague's paper proposal: to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vaults by **December 11**.