

Rethinking the Migrant

Semester:	Summer Semester 2018
Course Instructor:	Amber Kepple Jones, rethinkingthemigrant@gmail.com
Subject Area:	Social Sciences
Credits:	5 ECTS
Time:	Tuesdays, 12 – 14 s.t
Room:	0203

Course Description:

In January 2016, The Sun, the most highly read “newspaper” in the UK, published an article with the headline: “Refugee Crisis: Berlin so swamped by migrants that city is in ruins”. Though such hyperbolic claims are often quickly dismissed, they also echo and reiterate fears existing within hegemonic discourses surrounding “migrants” and reflect public consciousnesses about the “crisis” in not only the UK but in Berlin, in Germany and, more generally, the Global North. This interdisciplinary course seeks to contextualize and deconstruct the figure of the migrant using critical interdisciplinary approaches while placing them into wider discussions of the various related “crises” in “raceless”, postcolonial Europe.

Learning Objectives:

We will:

- critically engage with and deconstruct, more generally, structures, norms, ideologies, “objectivities”, narratives, and categories,
- destabilize and rehistoricize hegemonic notions of the migrant within regional, national, and
- European discourses whether it is policy, law, news, (social) medias, or social acts as well as,
- critically reflect on topics while reflecting our own positionality,
- work towards an interdisciplinary, more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the figure of the migrant in Berlin and wider Europe.

Assessment

- Attendance and active participation (40% of final grade). Only two sessions (barring a doctor’s note) may be missed. If you are unable to attend class, please email as soon as possible. You will need to complete a short, written make-up assignment.
 - Readings to be completed prior to each session including uploading several short responses (2-3 sentences per text) responding to the texts to Moodle each week. Readings are available on Moodle.
- Critical reflection journals (included in the participation grade) to be completed after every two sessions starting with session 2. 400-500 words to be submitted up to 5 days after the second meeting via Moodle.
- Group Presentation (25% of final grade).

- Individual Take-Home Exam (35% of final grade).

Language Requirements:

A high level of academic spoken and written English is required (at least B2).

Timetable & Literature:¹

Session 1: Introductions

Session 2: "Knowledge" and Meaning Making

Selection from Jørgensen & L. Philipps. 2002. "The Field of Discourse Analysis" in Discourse Analysis as Theory and Method.

Bhabra, G. 2007. "Introduction: Postcolonialism, Sociology and the Politics of Knowledge Production" and "Modernity, Colonialism, and the Postcolonial Critique" in Rethinking Modernity: Postcolonialism and the Sociological Imagination.

Session 3: "Europe"

Bhabra, G. 2009. "Postcolonial Europe: Or, Understanding Europe in Times of the Postcolonial".

De Genova, N. 2016. "The European Question: Migration, Race, and Post-Coloniality in Europe".

El-Tayeb, F. 2008. "'The Birth of a European Public': Migration, Postnationality and Race in the Uniting of Europe".

Session 4: (Post)coloniality

Michel, N. 2015. "Sheepology: the Postcolonial Politics of Raceless Racism in Switzerland".

Fernando, N. 2016. "The Discursive Violence of Postcolonial Asylum in the Irish Republic".

Prashad, V. 2017. "Academic arguments backing white supremacy and colonialism are making an ominous comeback".

Session 5: Race and Racism

Excerpt from Grosfoguel, R. 2016. "What is Racism?".

Goldberg, D. T. 2006. "Racial Europeanization".

Essed, P. 2001. "Everyday Racism: A New Approach to the Study of Racism" in Race Critical Theories.

Session 6: "Borders" and "Mobility"

Mezzadra, S., Brett Neilson. 2013. "The Proliferation of Borders" in Border as method, or, the multiplication of labor.

van Baar, H. 2015. "The Perpetual Mobile Machine of Forced Mobility: Europe's Roma and the Institutionalization of Rootlessness" in The Irregularization of Migration in Contemporary Europe.

van Houtum, H. 2010. "Human blacklisting: the global apartheid of the EU's external border regime".

¹ Please note: readings are still being finalized and should not exceed 55 pages a week

Session 7: Gender & Sexuality

Berg, L. & M. Lundahl. 2016. "Un/veiling the West: Burkini-gate, Princess Hijab and Dressing as Struggle for Postsecular Integration".

de Hart, B. 2017. "Sexuality, Race and Masculinity in Europe's Refugee Crisis" in Migration on the Move.

Kehl, K. 2018. "'In Sweden, girls are allowed to kiss girls, and boys are allowed to kiss boys': Pride Järva and the inclusion of the 'LGBT other' in Swedish nationalist discourses".

Session 8: "Culture"

Lentin, A. 2005. "Replacing 'race', historicizing 'culture' in multiculturalism".

Ha, K. N. 2016. "Integration as Colonial Pedagogy of Postcolonial Immigrants and People of Colour: A German Case Study" in Decolonizing European Sociology: Transdisciplinary Approaches.

McIntosh, L. 2014. "Impossible presence: race, nation, and the cultural politics of 'being Norwegian'".

Session 9: The State

Davies, T., A. Isakjee & S. Dhesi. 2017. "Violent Inaction: The Necropolitical Experience of Refugees in Europe".

Rajas, J. 2015. "Disciplining the human rights of immigrants: market veridiction and the echoes of eugenics in contemporary EU immigration policies".

Kmak, M. 2015. "Between citizen and bogus asylum seeker: management of migration in the EU through the technology of morality".

Session 10: Economy and Welfare

Jørgensen, M. B. & T.L. Thomsen. 2016. "Deservingness in the Danish Context: Welfare chauvinism in times of crisis".

Bhambra, G. & J. Holmwood. 2018. "Colonialism, Postcolonialism and the Liberal Welfare State".

Curcio, A. 2014. "Paths of Racism, Flows of Labor: Nation-State Formation, Capitalism and the Metamorphosis of Racism in Italy".

Session 13: Foreign Policy

Hansen, P. & S. Jonsson. 2011. "Demographic Colonialism EU-African Migration Management and the Legacy of Eurafica".

Rutazibwa, O. 2014. "In the name of human rights: the problematics of EU ethical foreign policy in Africa and elsewhere".

Samaddar, R. 2015. "If You Push Regime Change, You Get the Refugees Too".

Session 12: Law, Criminality, & Security

Hathaway, J. & T. Gammeltoft-Hansen. 2015. "Non-Refoulement in a World of Cooperative Deterrence".

Bruce-Jones, E. 2017. "Transgression: law and the choreography of race and place" in Race in the Shadow of Law: State Violence in Contemporary Europe.

Bosworth, M., K. Franko, S. Pickering. 2018. "Punishment, globalization and migration control: 'Get them the hell out of here'".

Session 13: "Saving" the Migrant, Producing the "Crisis"

Danewid, I. 2017. "White innocence in the Black Mediterranean: hospitality and the erasure of history".

Loftsdóttir, K. 2016. "International Development and the Globally Concerned European Subject".

Bhambra, G. 2017. "The current crisis of Europe: Refugees, colonialism and the limits of cosmopolitanism".

Session 14: Reflections & "Conclusions"

Final Remarks:

Our Classroom, Our Learning Community

It is our goal to create an inclusive, non-hierarchical learning community where we all contribute to our collective and individual learning and growth. Thus, it is important that we, both lecturer and students, consider our roles in the ongoing creation of this community as well as contribute actively to it.

There will be no space for bigotry or harassment of any kind – be it racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, ableism, transphobia, etc. The topics we learn about are reality for actual people (including seminar participants) and thus discussions should be rooted in this understanding.

In order to ensure an equitable learning environment, accommodation can be provided if/when necessary.

Academic Integrity:

The use or reproduction of words, data, or ideas without proper credit is not tolerated and will be penalized.

Reading Calendar:

It is important to note that due to the present relevance of our topic there is a great chance that the reading schedule will be changed or supplemented. This will be reflected in Moodle.