

Rethinking the Migrant

Berlin Perspectives Program
WiSe 2017-18, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Tuesdays 12-14, Room O323-26
Institutsgebäude, Hausvogteiplatz 5-7

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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.

The seminar will begin punctually at 12 and end at 14.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

We will

- critically engage with and deconstruct, more generally, structures, norms, ideologies, “objectivities”, binaries, and categories,
- destabilize and rehistoricize hegemonic notions of the migrant within regional, national, and European discourses whether it is policy, law, news, (social) medias, documentaries, 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.

COURSEWORK & ASSESSMENT:

All assignments must be completed to receive credit for the course. Guidelines for all assignments will be provided in class.

- 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 us as soon as possible. You will be required to complete a short, written make-up assignment.
 - **Readings** to be completed prior to each session including uploading several **short reactions** (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. 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).

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.

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 lecturers 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 an understanding that we are discussing real lives and livelihoods.

We are committed to providing equal opportunities to students so please contact us regarding accommodation if/when necessary.

Session 1

Introductions

Session 2

Knowledge Production, Meaning Making, and the Migrant

Bhambra, G. 2007. "Introduction: Postcolonialism, Sociology and the Politics of Knowledge Production" in *Rethinking Modernity: Postcolonialism and the Sociological Imagination*.

Tamboukou, M. 2017. "Narrative Phenomena: Entanglements and Intra-actions in Narrative Research" Selection from "The Field of Discourse Analysis" in *Discourse Analysis as Theory and Method*.

Session 3

"Europe"

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

Dussel, E. "Eurocentricism and Modernity".

Hansen, P. 2002. "European Integration, European Identity and the Colonial Connection".

Session 4

(Post)coloniality and the Migrant

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

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

Session 5

Race and the Migrant

Lentin, A. 2008. "Europe and the Silence about Race".

Meer, N. 2012. "Racialization and religion: race, culture and difference in the study of antisemitism and Islamophobia".

Session 6

Borders and the Migrant

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

Selection from Casas-Cortes, M., S. Cobarrubias, et al. 2016. "New Keywords. Migration and Borders".
Vives, L. 2011. "White Europe: an alternative reading of the Southern EU border".

Session 7

Culture and the Migrant

de Leeuw, M. & S. van Wichelen. 2012. "Civilizing migrants: Integration, culture and citizenship".

Vertovec, S. 2011. "The Cultural Politics of Nation and Migration".

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*.

"Culture" entry from the Sage Dictionary of Cultural Studies.

Session 8

Gender and the Migrant

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

Khoja-Moolji, S. 2016. "The sounds of racialized masculinities: examining the affective pedagogies of Allahu Akbar".

Mulinari, D. & A. Neergard. 2017. "Theorising Racism: Exploring the Swedish racial regime".

Session 9

The "State" and the Migrant

Anderson, B., M. Gibney & E. Paoletti. 2011. "Citizenship, deportation and the boundaries of belonging".

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

Goldberg, D. T. 2001. "States of Racial Distinction" in *The Racial State*.

Session 8

European Foreign Policy and the Migrant

Jones, E. & C. Weinhardt. 2015. "Echoes of Colonialism in Trade Negotiations between the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries" in *Echoes of Empire: Identity, Memory and Colonial Legacies*.

Vonk, L. 2017. "Reverse Robin Hood: The Historical Scam of Global Development". *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

Session 11

Crisis and the Migrant

De Genova, N., M. Tazzioli, et al. 2016. "Europe/Crisis: New Keywords of "the Crisis" in and of "Europe".

Crawley, H & D. Skleparis. 2017. "Refugees, migrants, neither, both: categorical fetishism and the politics of bounding in Europe's 'migration crisis'".

Session 12

Economy and the Migrant

Fassin, E. & A. Windels. 2016. "The German Dream: Neoliberalism and Fortress Europe".

Davison, S. & G. Shire. 2013. "Race, migration and neoliberalism" in *After Neoliberalism?*

The Kilburn Manifesto.

Bloch, A. & L. Schuster 2002. "Asylum and Welfare: Contemporary Debates".

Session 13

"Saving" the Migrant, Deservingness and the Migrant

Aas, K & H Gundhus. 2015. "Policing Humanitarian Borderlands: Frontex, Humanitarianism and the Precariousness of Life."

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

Arps, J. O. 2016. "'Nur Essen austeilen alleine reicht nicht' - Turgay Ulu und Bino Byansi Byakuleka im Gespräch". (Translation will be provided)

Nayeri, D. 2017. "The ungrateful refugee: 'We have no debt to repay'". The Guardian.

Session 14

Law (Illegality) and the Migrant

Aas, K. F. "The Ordered and the Bordered Society: Migration Control, Citizenship, and the Northern Penal State" in *The Borders of Punishment: Migration, Citizenship, and Social Exclusion*.

Maneri, M. 2017. "Media Discourse on Immigration: Control Practices and the Language we Live."

Session 15

Security and the Migrant

Huysmans, J. 2006. "Politics of insecurity, technology and the political" in *The Politics of Insecurity: Fear, migration and asylum in the EU*.

Linke, U. 2010. "Fortress Europe: Globalization, Militarization and the Policing of Interior Borderlands".

Session 16

Reflections