Mobility and Forced Migration

Programme Code: NINT 5346 A | CRN: 7497 | Fall Term 2017
Thursdays, 8.00-9.50 p.m. | 66 W 12th St., Room 502
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Office hours: by appointment.

*Mobility and Forced Migration* introduces students to the key notions, norms, and narratives of human mobility. It engages in discussions on the commonalities and differences between various forms of spatial mobility from legal, sociological, and normative perspectives. The course will further participants’ understanding of how forced migrants—including refugees and IDPs—and so called voluntary migrants are conceptualized, as well as of the different policy and legal responses in both, the international and the domestic spheres. The latter include policies aiming at immigration control, immigrant integration, and refugee protection.

Highlighting the social worlds of migrants in different scenarios in the global North, as well as in the global South, the course emphasizes the agency of migrants and gender differences in the experiences and effects, as well as the role their legal status plays. It will address the root causes of displacement and migration, migrants’ trajectories and issues of social justice. Connected to current phenomena and debates, the course also includes discussions on displacement and migration issues in the recent agenda on sustainable development, ‘climate refugees’, and current crisis migration.

**Key learning goals**

At the end of the course, students will

- Have acquired substantial understanding of:
  - Key definitions and conceptual differences of various forms of human mobility.
  - International norms on refugees and forced migration.
  - Social worlds of refugees in different scenarios in the global North and South.
  - Legal and policy responses to forced migration in the global North and South.
  - Social worlds of migrants in different scenarios in the global North and South.
  - The role of migrants’ agency and gender differences when assessing the impact of migration and related policies.
  - Media narratives, representation of migration issues and securitization of human mobility.

- Be able to apply frameworks and approaches to a variety of forced migration scenarios and differentiate between the needs and capabilities of different groups.

- Have enhanced analytical writing capabilities and techniques of media analysis.
Course Assessment

Grading: The final grade for this course will be made of four components:

1) 2 response papers: 30 %
2) Group research paper: 40 %
3) Class attendance: 5 %
4) Class participation: 25 %

Response Papers: Students will write two short response papers to the weekly readings of their choice (except for week 13). These papers of up to 800 words have to be submitted before the day of the respective class via email. Response papers should substantially discuss a specific issue that attracts students' interest in the assigned reading material by either comparing how the different texts relate to the chosen issue or by using additional literature to discuss the issue. This should consider the six guiding principles below and they need to follow the guidelines for response papers that are uploaded on Canvas (please read them carefully). Of the two papers that you write, the paper with the highest grade will count 20%, the other one 10% of the final grade.

Group Research Project: In groups of 3-4 students, course participants will engage in actual analysis of debates. This will involve a meaningful content analysis of media reports, parliamentary debates or official discussions at the United Nations General Assembly on issues related to the class. The concrete topic will be discussed with the course instructor and approved in advance. To this end, after an initial discussion in week 7 (October 19), student teams will elaborate a draft outline of the project that spells out the key questions, their relevance, the state-of-the art and the research methodology. A two-page outline for the research project is due to be submitted by email by October 24, 2017. In week 13, student groups will present their findings to a panel of experts and each other. Final research reports (4,500-5,000 words) have to be submitted by email by December 18, 2017.

For the assessment of the research, I will evaluate the research and writing skills (including your writing style, grammar, spelling mistakes, and the structure of the paper), the quality of the primary research, use of quality literature and incorporation of references and ideas from the literature into the text, the value and clarity of ideas you present and stringency of argumentation. As these are group projects I will also ask for peer evaluation that I will consider in the grading process. You need to follow the guidelines for research papers that are uploaded to Canvas (please read them carefully).

Class Attendance: Discussions of the reading material in class are critical for this course. Hence, your attendance is too. If you cannot make a class for important reasons please inform me at least one hour before the class begins that you'll be unable to attend. If you are unable to make it is your responsibility to get informed about our discussion and learning progress.

Class Participation: In addition to mere physical presence I expect students to actively participate in class discussions. “Active participation” requires sufficient reading in advance of the seminar to enable clear arguments and informed opinions related to the topic under discussion. I expect that you not only read the course readings but also have notes and that you have reflected on key aspects before we met. This way, our discussions will be meaningful and we can all benefit from each other’s insights. Thus, I will evaluate how prepared you come to class, how much of original critically thinking you bring to the discussion and how you discuss competing concepts and theories with other students.

Zipstrr video feedback: This semester, I am experimenting with an additional way of sharing impressions from class with each other. On a voluntary basis, course participants can create a free Zipstrr account. After each class, those participating in the experiment will record a short video statement of 20-30 seconds in which they highlight their main take-away points. Students can record these videos (or zips) on a smart phone and then upload them to the app, which automatically compiles these reactions into a short, joint video.

In the short video reactions, you can share: wWhat surprised you? wWhat was interesting? wWhat should be remembered for the future? wDo you see a link to a previous class/discussion?

This way we hear from everyone about key points and the videos serve as a collaborative notepad that you can revisit to refresh your knowledge in the future. Participation in this exercise will count toward your participation in class but your decision not to participate will not negatively affect your grade. Think of it as a fun bonus assignment!

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**Current item:** Each day, important news appear on refugees and migrants. This ranges from news on political statement and debates to calamities, from reports about new studies, new policies or technologies used by or for mobile populations to achievements by refugees and migrants. I want you to pay attention to current news that are connected to this course. For this reason, the last 10 min of each class are dedicated to current events. You can suggest topics that you see on the news, blog posts or other information sources. While news items need to be in English, you can suggest short publications from around the world. These items don’t have to be connected to the main topic of the weekly session (but they can). They do not have to be from the week in which we discuss them but they should be fairly recent. Please upload new ideas to [http://tinyurl.com/jcvaroo](http://tinyurl.com/jcvaroo) by Tuesday 3pm before our class and provide brief key questions. I will then choose an item from your list that we will discuss.

**Guiding Principles**

Throughout the course, students are encouraged to scrutinize the reading material by critically considering the following six guiding principles.

1. **Policy responses and their legitimacy:** What legal and policy responses have been adopted by what institutions and at what levels (international, regional, national, sub-national, local)? What issues do these responses address and what are their shortcomings? What can you say about the commonalities and differences between groups and categories that are treated differently (or lumped together)? What role does time play in the responses and their legitimacy?

2. **Assessing the impact:** What is the impact of different forms of migration and mobility on individuals, their families, communities of origin, transit and destination? How does the movement and mobility of people affect our understanding of political community, social membership, and citizenship?

3. **Migrants’ agency:** Where do we find agency on the part of migrants and refugees and how do people make use of their choices? In what ways do migrants engage in transnational activities? What are the key determinants for migrant women and men to exercise more or less power over their situation? How do policies and narratives reflect or neglect agency?

4. **Gender sensitive analysis:** In what way play gender differences a role when analyzing the phenomenon at hand, especially, regarding the determinants and the impacts? Are there gender-specific potentials, vulnerabilities, or needs that should be considered? Is the representation of the migration phenomena under scrutiny skewed toward specific narratives of men, women or gender roles in general? What policy options exist?

5. **Specific versus generalizable knowledge:** To what extent are the described concepts, processes, and effects generalizable and where are they determined by, and limited to, specific framing conditions and situation-specific parameters?

6. **Adopting a researcher’s mindset:** In an era of “fake news” and “alternative facts”, what are the empirical questions we have to explore to adequately discuss the claims made in the political sphere or by scholars? What are the underlying (often not explicitly stated) assumptions about migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons? What language, research, and narratives would be appropriate to address these issues head-on?
Course Overview

Week 1: Trends and Notions of International Migration
Voluntary: download zipstrr app and create account
31 Aug

Week 2: Gender, Human Rights and Transnational Perspectives on Migration and Displacement
7 Sept

Week 3: Drivers and Root causes: explaining migration and displacement
14 Sept

No class (University holiday for Rosh Hashanah)
21 Sept

Week 4: Deterrence Policies: In search of controlling mobility
28 Sept

Week 5: Who is a refugee? Access and Processes of Status Determination
5 Oct

Week 6: The Securitization of Migration
12 Oct

Week 7: Session on Group Projects on Asylum and Migration Narratives and Debates
19 Oct

Complete mid-term feedback and suggestions
19 Oct

Outline for research project due
24 Oct

Week 8: Migrant and Refugee Integration in the ‘Global North’
26 Oct

Week 9: The Ethics of Immigration and Asylum
2 Nov

Week 10: Refugees in the ‘Global South’ I: Encampment and Life in Refugee Camps
9 Nov

Week 11: Refugees in the ‘Global South’ II: Protracted Situations and Durable Solutions
16 Nov

No class (University holiday for Thanksgiving)
23 Nov

Only two substantial classes left, hence, last chance to write your two response papers (no papers for week 13)

Week 12: The Syrian Refugee Crisis and Policy Responses in the Middle East and Europe
30 Nov

Submit one-page summary of draft research paper
5 Dec

Week 13: Group Presentations on Research Projects
7 Dec

Complete official course evaluations and separate feedback form
4 Dec

Week 14: The Future of Forced Migration and Mobility
14 Dec

Final research reports due
18 Dec
Course Plan

Week 1:  Trends and Notions of International Migration

What are important definitions of and differences in key notions of migration (statistical vs. other definitions (migrant, diaspora, mobility, refugee, IDP))? What are major flows and stocks of international migration? What are the key questions, analytical categories, and disciplinary tools of migration and forced migration studies? Is it justified to differentiate between the two areas of study? If yes, when and why? What are key disciplinary perspectives on migration and forced migration (e.g. sociology, economics, political science, etc.)?


Supplementary reading:

Week 2:  Gender, Human Rights and Transnational Perspectives on Migration and Displacement

Why are a gender-sensitive lens, a ‘human-rights based approach,’ a focus on individuals’ agency and a transnational perspective important for understanding human mobility? How is this neglected in many accounts of the involved phenomena?


Supplementary reading:
Week 3: Drivers and Root causes: explaining migration and displacement

What are key theories of migration and determinants of migration flows? What are shortcomings of many theories and why does it matter? What are the links between environmental factors and human mobility? What are key obstacles for legal and political recognition of the involved phenomena? What other factors do environmental aspects interact with and with what results? What policy options exist to prevent and address the negative impact?

Prepare to discuss the following questions:

- In November 2015, the European Union announced to increase official development aid (ODA) to Africa in order to decrease emigration. What are the assumptions this is based on and how do you assess them?
- In the Rawlence (2016) reading, Isha eventually leaves her home. Why does she? How is this connected to conflict? How would you describe the causes of her displacement?

- Watch the video: Changing Climate, Moving People, The Energy Resource Institute (TERI) for UNESCO (35 min, April 2015): www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSVUJQd9W5g

Supplementary reading:

- Video: Climate change and migration—Living on the Go, Climate and Development Knowledge Network (in Bangladesh, June 2014, 20min): www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Gz_EnVwR1w.
Week 4:  Deterrence Policies: In search of controlling mobility

With what policies do states deter asylum-seekers from claiming asylum? Why have some authors described today’s refugee regime as a ‘non-entrée regime’ (Orchard 2014)? How do deterrence policies affect the safety of migrants and refugees? What legal and moral obligations limit deterrence policies? What is the role of human smuggling and what can be done to make migration routes safer?


Supplementary reading:
- Browse the website https://missingmigrants.iom.int

Week 5:  Who is a refugee? Access and Processes of Status Determination

What are the international and domestic legal definitions and standards for being recognized as refugees? What differences exist and what are the underlying values? Specifically, what are the challenges of recognizing persons fleeing non-state persecution and gender-based violence?

What are processes of refugee admission in countries of the ‘Global North’? Why is it important to focus on processes and procedures? What objectives can admission policies have? What are current trends in the granting access to asylum seekers and refugees? And why does gender matter?

- Key Refugee Conventions (please read them!):

Supplementary reading:
- UNHCR Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status (UNHCR 1979) [Focus on Introduction and Part one, for the rest, skim].
Week 6: The Securitization of Migration

When do we speak of ‘securitization’ of an issue? What is the ‘widening debate’? To what extent are migration issues viewed as threats to security and what actors promote such perspectives? What approaches exist to de-securitize forced migration topics? What changes when we consider ‘human security’?

I would also like you to consider: Is a [potato dangerous? Why could it be a security risk? This may sound silly but please spend a few minutes thinking about the potato as a security risk.


Supplementary reading:

Week 7: Session on Group Projects on Asylum and Migration Narratives and Debates

To prepare for this session, each student should think about interesting research projects. This involves content analysis of debates in news media or other fora anywhere in the world (but consider the language implications of the research). This session will focus on the importance of narratives and on possible methodologies to conduct such analysis. You can have formed groups to work on group research projects before this session but often groups are formed based on the discussion of topics and interests in class. The better prepared you come the more you can shape your research projects.

The session will also discuss the following key questions: What are dominant representations of “the refugee” in media and by advocates? What narratives and underlying emotions are connected to these representations? Are mainstream representations ‘accurate’ or what are their shortcomings? How do certain representations and narratives related to the public opinion about displacement, immigration, security and connected issues?


Have a brief look at the methodology of these publications. What are their key research questions? How are they collecting information? How are they sampling publications and from publications?
• Koopmans, Ruud and Paul Statham. How national citizenship shapes transnationalism: A comparative analysis of migrant claims-making in Germany, Great Britain and the Netherlands WPTC-01-10 (particularly focus on pp. 21-23).


Supplementary reading:

Week 8: Migrant and Refugee Integration in the ‘Global North’
What does ‘integration’ of migrants and refugees mean and what specific measures have been enacted to facilitate their integration? What public policies have been put into place to ‘govern’ refugees and migrants, their social welfare, and integration? What challenges exist?


Supplementary reading:

Week 9: The Ethics of Immigration and Asylum
What are the key moral arguments made to admit refugees and other migrants? What are the underlying assumptions and who is defining the rights in access to space? To what extent are normative perspectives addressed in research and policy discussions on (forced) migration? What real developments, activities, and time-related factors are viewed as being significant from an ethical perspective and why? What are the differences between moral rights to access a geo-political space and moral claims after being admitted?

Week 10: Refugees in the ‘Global South’ I: Encampment and Life in Refugee Camps

What are the arguments for and against encampment of refugees and what actors favor which arguments? How do we assess life in refugee camps from the perspectives of human security and capabilities? What are specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and children?

In this class, we will play a simulation game, in which a fictive host state, refugees, and the UNHCR negotiate whether refugees should live in a refugee camp or not. More details on the simulation and the respective roles will be shared closer to the class.

- Watch 3 video stories of your choice from www.dadaabstories.org (tab: camp life; explore camp life).

Supplementary reading:

Week 11: Refugees in the ‘Global South’ II: Protracted Situations and Durable Solutions

What are protracted situations and what are their root causes? What durable solutions are discussed and how do you assess these solutions from normative and practical perspectives?

- Fagen, Patricia. 2011. Refugees and IDPs after Conflict, Why They Do Not Go Home, Special Report, United States Institute of Peace.


Supplementary reading:

Week 12: The Syrian Refugee Crisis and Policy Responses in the Middle East and Europe

What are the policy responses to the refugee crisis and their limitations in the neighboring countries (especially Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey) and in Europe? Why is Europe struggling to cope with the refugee crisis? What does this mean for longer-term development and refugee governance in the region, the EU, and globally?

[Given the current nature of this topic, the reading list may be updated closer to the date of the class.]

- Stavropoulou, Maria. 2016. Refugee protection in Europe: time for a major overhaul? Forced Migration Review 51. (The short piece is in the file with all articles from FMR 51).


- And please read the brief description of the EU’s Dublin regulation: www.ecre.org/topics/areas-of-work/protection-in-europe/10-dublinregulation.html.

Supplementary reading:
- Browse the short articles in the Forced Migration Review 51
For information on the regional response in Lebanon and Jordan, you can browse the following website (on the left, there is a bar with links to reports, data and statistics, situational updates, plans, etc.):
http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/

**Week 13: Group Presentations on Research Projects**

In this session, we will have presentations and discussions of the group research projects, highlighting the key findings, limitations, and challenges during the processes and the relevance of the results. A panel of experts will provide you with critical inputs and feedback for the group research papers.

In preparation of the discussion, all groups have to submit a one-page summary of the preliminary draft paper by December 5 (23.59pm). Please also read the other groups’ one-pagers so as to provide them with comments and questions.

**Week 14: The Future of Forced Migration and Mobility**

The last session discusses the emerging Global Compact for Refugees and the proposed Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. What is it? What is missing? Why do you think that is?

The session also ties the various aspects of Forced Migration and Mobility discussed during the semester together. Please review your notes from the classes throughout the semester. What concepts, interlinkages, normative approaches or facts stand out for you? Thus, what are your “take-away” points from the semester?

*Given the current nature of this topic, the reading list may be updated closer to the date of the class.*

- United Nations General Assembly. 2016. New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. *(This was already part of Week 1’s readings. But please re-read it now.)*
- Action Committee. 2016. 1st Consolidated civil society feedback on the zero-draft of the outcome document and the Global Compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees.
- Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Migration. 2017. *Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields* (A/71/728).

**Supplementary reading:**

Resources

The university provides many resources to help students achieve academic and artistic excellence. These resources include:

• The University (and associated) Libraries: http://library.newschool.edu. This website provides excellent and easily searchable resources, such as full-text, electronic academic journal articles, as well as references to books and other references in affiliated libraries. This should be your first stop for any research activity.

• The University Writing Center: www.newschool.edu/admin/writingcenter

• University Disabilities Services: www.newschool.edu/studentservices/disability-services/). In keeping with the university’s policy of providing equal access for students with disabilities, any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations is welcome to meet with me privately. All conversations will be kept confidential. Students requesting any accommodations will also need to contact Student Disability Services (SDS). SDS will conduct an intake and, if appropriate, the Director will provide an academic accommodation notification letter for you to bring to me. At that point, I will review the letter with you and discuss these accommodations in relation to this course.

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Compromising your academic integrity may lead to serious consequences, including (but not limited to) one or more of the following: failure of the assignment, failure of the course, academic warning, disciplinary probation, suspension from the university, or dismissal from the university. The New School views “academic honesty and integrity” as the duty of every member of an academic community to claim authorship for his or her own work and only for that work, and to recognize the contributions of others accurately and completely. This obligation is fundamental to the integrity of intellectual debate, and creative and academic pursuits. Academic honesty and integrity includes accurate use of quotations, as well as appropriate and explicit citation of sources in instances of paraphrasing and describing ideas, or reporting on research findings or any aspect of the work of others (including that of faculty members and other students). Academic dishonesty results from infractions of this “accurate use”.

The standards of academic honesty and integrity, and citation of sources, apply to all forms of academic work, including submissions of drafts of final papers or projects. All members of the University community are expected to conduct themselves in accord with the standards of academic honesty and integrity. Students are responsible for understanding the University’s policy on academic honesty and integrity and must make use of proper citations of sources for writing papers, creating, presenting, and performing their work, taking examinations, and doing research. It is the responsibility of students to learn the procedures specific to their discipline for correctly and appropriately differentiating their own work from that of others.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

• Cheating on examinations, either by copying another student’s work or by utilizing unauthorized materials

• Using work of others as one’s own original work and submitting such work to the university or to scholarly journals, magazines, or similar publications

• Submission of another students’ work obtained by theft or purchase as one’s own original work

• Submission of work downloaded from paid or unpaid sources on the internet as one’s own original work, or including the information in a submitted work without

• Proper citation

• Submitting the same work for more than one course without the knowledge and explicit approval of all of the faculty members involved

• Destruction or defacement of the work of others

• Aiding or abetting any act of academic dishonesty any attempt to gain academic advantage by presenting misleading information, making deceptive statements or falsifying documents, including documents related to internships

• Engaging in other forms of academic misconduct that violate principles of integrity

(This is an abridged version of the policy. For the full policy text, which includes adjudication procedures, visit: www.newschool.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=81698 )