2019 Humanities Summer School
University of Bergamo (Italy) in collaboration with Fairleigh Dickinson University (USA)
17-28 June 2019, Bergamo (Italy)

Migration, identity and memory in a transnational perspective

Dr. Paolo Ruspini, University of Geneva (CH)

“They would close to the newcomer the bridge that carried them and their fathers over”
Source: "Looking Backward", Puck, 11 January 1893, by Joseph Ferdinand Keppler

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course aims at exploring contemporary migration, migrants’ identity and memory in a transnational setting - the way in which memory and identity migrate, glocalize, transform, multiply over temporal and spatial dimensions. Transnationalism as a concept is neither new nor limited to migration-related phenomena, but refers to a wide range of actions, processes and institutions that cross the boundaries of states or national-communities. In contemporary debates, the notion of transnationalism has been generally used to refer to migrants’ ongoing ties with source countries. By emphasising the transnational dimension, we can move beyond the nation state as unit of analysis and explore the linkages, interconnections of memory, migration, and identity between different localities in Europe and beyond. The course sketches contemporary trends and dynamics of international migration and the evolution of migration in and outside Europe. In this context, the EU polity shows open contradictions between border openings and closures, market integration processes and restrictive immigration policy. In the meantime, questions related to immigrant integration and transnationalism are coming to the fore and they demand a thorough revision of the immigration policy thinking. New patterns of circular, transit and return migration in Europe provide a set of challenges for integration policies. Therefore, we look at migration and memory processes in a continuum including the way these real and virtual flows of people and ideas reshape the sense of belonging across several
generations. At the end, the participants will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the current trends and dynamics of international migration; of the European immigration history since the end of the Second World War; of the interrelation between migrant transnationalism and immigrant integration; of the way memory, identity and migration intersect beyond the nation states; and finally, of the challenges that different migrant generations are currently facing.

Course outline
The course will be articulated in six sessions each including two lectures as follows:
Session 1: International migration: current trends and dynamics
Session 2: European immigration since the Post-Second World War era
Session 3: Migrant transnationalism: concept and practices
Session 4: Transnationalism and immigrant integration
Session 5: Migration, identity and memory beyond the nation state;
Session 6: Conclusions. Theoretical and empirical challenges ahead.

Course requirements and assessment
Indicative learning activities
In session
Tutor presentation on key readings, other relevant publications and migration related sources (databases, glossaries, videos, etc.).
Elaborating one’s own position about the current extent of international migration and memory processes in Europe and beyond through group and plenary discussion.
Presentation of one’s own position about international migration and memory processes in Europe and beyond through group and plenary discussion.

Follow-up
Revising/focusing/sharpening one’s own position about the current size and breadth of international migration flows, the linkage between migration and memory in a transnational setting and the challenges faced by different migrant generations based on the moderated discussions in session.

Approaches to teaching and learning
Independent self-study
Personal experience on the topic
Lecture
Reflection
Moderated discussion
Presentation
Final written exam
General references and sources


Creet, J., Kitzmann, A. (Eds) *Memory and Migration: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Memory Studies*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Glossaries and Statistics


Contents of the single sessions

Each session comprises two lectures each of two hours (dates and time to be agreed)

Session 1

*International migration: current trends and dynamics*

This preliminary session represents an opportunity to get acquainted with global migration trends, push, and pull factors of worldwide migration flows and the current changing character of international migration for students who lack pre-knowledge on these issues as well as possible refreshment for those more experienced on this topic. Additionally, it also includes a short introduction to a visual ethnographic approach to urban environments.

Required readings:


Session 2

European immigration since the Post-Second World War Era

Post-war migration into the western societies since the 1950s was central to the economic reconstruction of these countries and was structured by the development of the European economy that generated demand for migrant workers. The post-war economic boom in Western Europe was sustained by migrants from other European countries and beyond. There was, however, the assumption that this labour migration was temporary and that migrants would return to their countries of origin when economic conditions changed. By the late 1970s it was clear that supposed temporary migration had turned into permanent settlement. The session will provide an overview of three main periods of the European immigration history: (1) Labour migration between the 1950s and 1973-4 driven to a great extent by the exigencies of west European economic reconstruction; (2) Family migration from the 1970s onwards once labour recruitment was terminated; (3) The ‘third wave’ of migration developed in the aftermath of the end of the Cold War in 1989 with emphasis on asylum seeking migration and migration defined by state policies as ‘illegal’.

Required readings:


At: http://www.oapen.org/search?identifier=340025;keyword=Statistics%20and%20reality


At: http://www.oapen.org/search?identifier=340088;keyword=imiscoe

Session 3

Migrant transnationalism: concept and practices

The concept ‘transnationalism’ became usual in the last few years. However, the term is neither new nor limited to migration-related phenomena, but refers to a wide range of actions, processes and institutions that cross the boundaries of states or national-communities. The earliest use of this term regarding immigration is probably a famous essay by Randolph Bourne from 1916 in which he described America as a ‘transnational nation’ composed of, and constantly changed through, immigration from diverse origins. In contemporary debates, the notion of transnationalism has been generally used to refer to migrants’ ongoing ties with source countries.
Required readings:

Session 4
Transnationalism and immigrant integration

New patterns of circular, transit and return migration in Europe provide a set of challenges for integration policies. Under conditions of globalisation, the growing transnationalism and the role of diasporas urges a redefinition of the traditional notions of integration. Notions of identity are evolving as individuals increasingly ‘belong’ to more than one country and society. Purpose of this session is to discuss current transnational patterns of migration in Europe, the impact of immigration policies and the equation transnationalism-integration.

Required readings:

Session 5
Migration, identity and memory beyond the nation state

Emphasis on the transnational dimension allows to move beyond the nation state as unit of analysis and explore the linkages, interconnections of memory, migration, and identity between
different localities in Europe and beyond. This session aims at exploring the way migrants' identity and memory migrate, glocalize, transform, multiply over temporal and spatial dimensions.

**Required readings:**

**Session 6**
*Conclusions. Theoretical and empirical challenges ahead*

**Further readings:**
Creet, J., Kitzmann, A. (Eds) *Memory and Migration: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Memory Studies*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
Martiniello, M., Rath, J. (Eds) *An Introduction to Immigrant Incorporation Studies: European Perspectives*, IMISCOE Textbook Series, Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.

**Classes schedule**
Tuesday, 18 June 2019 (h. 10.00 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00)
*International migration: current trends and dynamics*

Thursday, 20 June 2019 (h. 10.00 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00)
*European immigration since the Post-Second World War Era*

Friday, 21 June 2019 (h. 14.00 – 17.00)
*Migrant transnationalism: concept and practices*

Tuesday, 25 June 2019 (h. 10.00 – 13.00 and 14.00-17.00)
*Transnationalism and immigrant integration*

Thursday, 27 June 2019 (h. 10.00 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00)
*Migration, identity and memory beyond the nation state*

Friday, 28 June 2019 (h. 14.00 – 17.00)
*Conclusions. Theoretical and empirical challenges ahead*

Final written exam (open questions in class) or alternatively an 8/10-page paper (for submission by the 12th July 2019)