

Semester 3; Batch 1: Optional Course

**Department of Sociology
Faculty of Social Sciences
South Asian University - New Delhi**

Diaspora and Transnationalism

**Master of Arts in Sociology - Third Semester - 2012
(4 Credits)**

Course Description:

This course is an exploration of the concepts of migration, diaspora and transnationalism and their intersections with theory and practice. The course examines various perspectives and issues related to migration and diaspora studies addressing the following questions: what are the forces and factors of migration?; what are connections between globalization, transnationalism and diaspora?; what is the nature of the interface between global and local phenomena? The course will also introduce students to the major themes in South Asian migration and diaspora. It particularly seeks to explore the history of South Asian migrants in the Europe, United States and elsewhere. Each of these diaspora communities of South Asian origin has a distinct story. In this course, we will examine the parallels and divergences in these narratives which are all connected through the idea of the 'homeland.' Some of the most current scholarship on the South Asian migration and diaspora will be consulted to examine issues of culture, ethnicity, identity, gender and sexuality, assimilation, acculturation, multiculturalism and discrimination. The course will draw from multidisciplinary sources, combining academic readings and theoretical essays along with films and works of fiction to understand complex issues of migration and diaspora. The suggested readings contain an extensive list of possible texts. The course instructor will select a series of texts from each section that will become compulsory texts for the course each time it is offered.

Readings and specific chapters for books will be announced in class the week before. Students are advised that readings will either be emailed as pdfs or available as photocopy off prints in the library.

Assessment Essay: Internal assessment for the course will involve one midterm and one final exam (30 % each) as required by regulations of SAU as well as presentation (5 %) and research paper based on qualitative and/or quantitative analysis about diaspora members from India/or any country of origin in the neighborhood or refugees living in New Delhi or comparative analysis of different diaspora communities (25 %). The topic of research paper will have to be chosen together with the instructor and you are expected to write an essay between 5,000-6,000 words. You will be notified about the guidelines and due dates during the semester. The students are also expected to write 2 pages-long response paper on a movie/documentary related with our subject (10 %).

Week 1 Introduction

Spread across two classes.

Castles, Stephen. 2010. Understanding Global Migration: A Social Transformation Perspective, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36:10, 1565-1586

Brettel, Caroline. 2009. Anthropology, Migration, and Comparative Consciousness. *New Literary History*, 40: 649–671

Nicholas Van Hear .2010. Theories of Migration and Social Change, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36:10, 1531-1536

Vertovec, Steven. 2004. Migrant Transnationalism and Modes of Transformation *International Migration Review*, 38 (3) : 970-1001

Week 2 Theoretical Approaches and Introduction to Globalization and Transnational Migration

Class 1 & 2

The first class of the week will introduce students to existing theoretical approaches covering classical approaches. Then we shall deal with the relationship between movement and place

What is globalisation? What do we understand as global flows of ideas, goods and people? What makes globalisation so important to our present world? Does globalisation make us rethink prior approaches to migration?

Appadurai, A. 1990, 'Disjunction and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy.' In, *Theory, Culture and Society*, 7(2-3)

Glick Schiller, N., Basch, L., Szanton Blanc, C. 1995. 'From Immigrant to Transmigrant: Theorizing Transnational Migration,' *Anthropological Quarterly*. 68(1): 48-63

Jenisson, Roel. 2007. Causality Chains in the International Migration Systems Approach. *Population Research Policy Review* 26:411-436

Malkki, Liisa. 1992. National Geographic: The Rooting of peoples and the Territorialization of National Identity among Scholars and Refugees. *Cultural Anthropology* 7 (1): 22-24

Kunz, Egon. 1973. The Refugee in Flight: Kinetic model and forms of displacement. *International Migration Review*. 7(2): 124-146

Week 3 Diasporas

Class 1

What is Diaspora? What kind of ideas and social formations do we look at when we deal with diaspora?

Clifford, James. 1994. Diasporas. *Cultural Anthropology* 1(3): 302-338

Tololyon, Kachig. 1991. The Nation-State and its others: in lieu of a practice. *Diaspora* 1(1):2-7

Straton, Jon. 1997. (Dis)placing the Jews :Historicizing the Idea of Diaspora. *Diaspora* 6(3): 302-329

Brubakers, Rogers. 2005: The 'Diaspora' Diaspora. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 28(1): 1-19
http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/soc/faculty/brubaker/Publications/29_Diaspora_diaspora_ERS.pdf

Class 2 The South Asian Diaspora.

Should we look at South Asian Diasporas in the plural? What are the histories and experiences we must consider when we think about the South Asian Diaspora?

Class exercise-

Look at two of the cases. Think back to the readings for class1 for the week. How do the south Asian cases relate to some of the existing theoretical engagements on Diasporas? The class will be divided into three groups where you will discuss your observations. Each group will put together a short presentation in class

Gardner, Katy. 1993. Desh-Bidesh: Sylheti Images of home and away. *Man New Series* 28(1): 1-15

Werbner, Pnina. 2004. Theorising Complex Diasporas: Purity and Hybridity in the South Asian Public Sphere in Britain. *Journal of Migration and Ethnic Studies* 30(5): 895-911

Pariyar, Mitra. 2011. Cast(e) in Bone: The Perpetuation of Social Hierarchy among Nepalis in Britain. <http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/publications/working-papers/wp-11-85/>

Shukla, Sandhya. 2000. New Immigrants, New Forms of Transnational Community: Post 1965 Indian Migrations. *AmerAsia Journal* 25 (3): 19-38

Jayaram, N. (ed) 2011. *Diversities in The Indian Diaspora: Nature, Implications, Responses*. New Delhi: OUP- Selected Chapters

Shukla, Sandhya. 2001. 'Locations for South Asian Diasporas'. In *Annual Review of Anthropology* 30:551-72.

There are more readings in the library.

[Pakistan and its diaspora : multidisciplinary approaches](#)

by Lyon, Stephen M ; Bolognani, Marta .

: **Copies available for loan:** SAU Library [954.91053 P1525] (1).



[Masculinity, sexuality, and illegal migration : human smuggling from Pakistan to Europe](#)

by Ahmad, Ali Nobil .

Copies available for loan: SAU Library [364.137 A2861m] (



[New homelands : Hindu communities in Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad, South Africa, Fiji, and East Africa](#)

by Younger, Paul .

Type:  Book; Format: print bibliography ; Literary form: not fiction Publisher: Oxford ; New York : Oxford University Press, 2010. Availability: **Copies available for loan: SAU Library [304.80882945 Y788n]**



[Transnational South Asians : the making of a neo-diaspora](#)

by Koshy, Susan ; Radhakrishnan, R. (Rajagopalan) .

Type:  Book; Format: print bibliography ; Literary form: not fiction Publisher: New Delhi ; New York : Oxford University Press, 2008. Online Access: [Contributor biographical information](#) | [Publisher description](#) | [Table of contents only](#) Availability: **Copies available for loan: SAU Library [305.8914 T7726]**

[Global South Asians : introducing the modern diaspora](#)

by Brown, Judith M. (Judith Margaret) .

Type:  Book; Format: print bibliography ; Literary form: not fiction Publisher: Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 2006. Online Access: [Publisher description](#) | [Table of contents only](#) | [Contributor biographical information](#) Availability: **Copies available for loan: SAU Library [909.04914 B8787g]**

Week 4 Immigration, Multi-Culturalism and managing migration

Class 1

What is Immigration? What is Multiculturalism?

*Kymlicka, Will. Immigration, Citizenship and Multiculturalism: exploring the links. In Vertovec, Steven (ed). *Migration Volume II*. London: Routledge

Schuster, Liza. 2010. Globalisation, Migration and Citizenship. From Collins, Patricia Hill and John Solomos (eds.) *The Sage Handbook of Race and Ethnic Studies*. London: Sage. Pages 332-350

Kivisto, Peter. 2010. Multiculturalism and Racial Democracy: State Policies and Social Practices. From Collins, Patricia Hill and John Solomos (eds.) *The Sage Handbook of Race and Ethnic Studies*. London: Sage. Pages 253-274

Marimuthu, T. 2011. Integration, Assimilation, or Multiple Identities: The case of the Malaysian Indian Diaspora. In Jayaram, N. (ed) 2011. *Diversities in The Indian Diaspora: Nature, Implications, Responses*. New Delhi: OUP- Selected Chapters

*Jain, R.K (1998). 'Indian Diaspora, Globalisation and Multiculturalism: A Cultural Analysis.' *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 32 (2): 337-360.

Oommen, T.K.1997. *Citizenship, Nationality and Ethnicity*. Cambridge: Polity Press
Read Chapter 8-Immigration and the Chauvinism of Prosperity. Available in the library

*Werbner, Pnina. 2000. Divided Loyalties, Empowered Citizenship? Muslims in Britain. *Citizenship Studies*, 4(3):307-324

Class 2 Managing Migration

How do states seek to control migration? Who are Illegal Migrants What role do borders play? How do states establish spatial techniques in dealing with immigrants –fencing, immigrant detention camps.

*De Genova, Nick. 2002. Migrant "Illegality" and Deportability in Everyday Life. *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 31: 419-447

*Van Schendel, Willem and Michiel Baud. 1997. Towards a comparative history of borderlands, *Journal of World History* 8(2): 211-242



*Fassin, Didier. 2005. Compassion and Repression: The Moral Economy of Immigration Policies in France *CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY* 20(3): 362–387

*Samaddar, Ranabir. 1999. *The Marginal Nation: Transborder migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal*. New Delhi, Thousand Oaks, London: Sage publications

Alvarez, R R. 1995. The Mexican-U.S. border: the making of an anthropology of borderlands. *Annu. Rev. Anthropol.* 24:447-70

[Masculinity, sexuality, and illegal migration : human smuggling from Pakistan to Europe](#)

by Ahmad, Ali Nobil .

Type:  Book; Format: print bibliography ; Literary form: not fiction Publisher: Farnham, Surrey ; Burlington, VT : Ashgate, c2011. Availability: **Copies available for loan:** SAU Library [364.137 A2861m]

Week 5 Rethinking flows- reverse flows and internal migration

Class 1

First migration is typically treated as a movement from one point on the map to another. Yet there is a growing recognition of migration involving two way movements. The first class will take the case of return migration and then the issue of remittances.

Gmelch, George. 1980. Return Migration. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 9: 135-159

*Oxford, Ellen, and Lynellyn Long (eds). 2004. *Coming Home? Immigrants, refugees and those who stayed behind*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania- Introduction an selected chapters

*Levitt, Peggy. 1998. Social Remittances: Migration Driven Local-Level Forms of Cultural Diffusion . *International Migration Review*, 32(4): 926-948

Also available in the Vertovec, Steven (ed) *Migration Vol II. Available in the library*

*Gardner, Katy. 2008. Keeping Connected: security, place, and social capital in a ‘Londoni’ village in Sylhet. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 14: 477-495

Osella, Filipo and Caroline Osella. 2000 Migration, money and masculinity in Kerala. *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. 6(1): 115-131

*Upadhyay, Carol and Mario Rutten. 2012. PROVINCIAL GLOBALISATION TRANSNATIONAL FLOWS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA. Pro Glo Working Paper Number 4. Can be downloaded on the following Link

I recommend that students interested in this topic visit the website for Provincial Globalisation

Class 2

Migration in South Asia often takes place within the region and even within the country historically. What does internal migration mean in an age of globalisation?

*Sivaramakrishnan, K. and Vinay Gidwani. 2003. Circular migration and rural cosmopolitanism in India *Contributions to Indian Sociology New Series*. 37(1-2): 339-367

*Spencer, Jonathan. 2003. A nation living in different places: Notes on the impossible work of purification in postcolonial Sri Lanka. *Contributions to Indian Sociology (n.s.)* 37(1-2): 1-23

Shah, Alpa. 2006. The Labour of Love: Seasonal Migration from Jharkhand to the Brick Kilns of Other States in India. *Contributions to Indian Sociology (n.s.)*. 40 (1): 91-119

Siu, Helen. 2007. Grounding Displacement: Uncivil Urban Spaces in South China *American Ethnologist*, 34 (2): 329-350

Chapters from outcast labour in asia. Pdfs.

Week 6- Forced Migration

The 20th century in many respects is the century of forced migration, with large numbers of people being displaced from their homes due to conflict and disasters. Often the emergence of the modern nation state has been accompanied by large scale displacement and 'transfer of populations'.

Class 1

Discussions of forced migration, the categories of forced migrants-Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.

*Malkki, Liisa. 1995a. Refugees and Exile: From "Refugee Studies" to the National order of things *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24: 495-523

Marx, Emmanuel. 1990. The Social World of Refugees: A Conceptual Framework. *Journal of Refugee Studies* 3(3): 189-203

*Turton, David. 2003a. *Conceptualising Forced Migration*. Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford Working Paper 12. <http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/PDFs/workingpaper12.pdf>

*Turton, David. 2003b. *Refugees and other 'Forced Migrants'*. Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford Working Paper 13. <http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/PDFs/workingpaper13.pdf>

Mooney, Erin. 2005. The concept of Internal Displacement and the case for Internally Displaced Persons as a category of concern. *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 24(3): 9-26

Stein, Barry. 1981. The Refugee Experience: Defining the parameters of a Field Study. *International Migration Review*. 15 (1/2): 320-330

Stepputat, F and N. Sorenson. 2001. The Rise and Fall of the Internally Displaced People in the Central Peruvian Andes. *Development and Change* 32(4): 769-92

Class 2 Cases

Cases from South Asia, namely the Indian partition and recent experiences of forced migration in Sri Lanka. There will be an attempt to get students to think about forced migration in a comparative approach by introducing them to readings on forced migration in other parts of the world .

Class Exercise: Form into 3-5 groups and make presentations in the class between one South Asian case and one non-south Asian case. Choose from the list below

Malkki, Liisa. 1995b. *Purity and Exile: violence, memory and national cosmology among Hutu refugees in Tanzania*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Loizos, Peter. 2008. *Iron in the Soul: displacement, livelihood and health in Cyprus*. New York: Berghan books

Hirschon, Rene and John Gold. 1982. Territoriality and Home Environment in a Greek urban community. *Anthropological Quarterly* .55(2): 63-73

Khalili, Laleh. 2004. Grass-roots Commemorations: remembering the land in the camps of Lebanon. *Journal of Palestine Studies*. 34(1): 6-22

Sanyal, Romola. 2011. Squatting in Camps: Building and Insurgency in Spaces of Refuge. *Urban studies* 48(5) 877–890

South Asian cases-

Pandey, Gyanendra. 2001. *Remembering Partition: Violence, Nationalism and History in India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Ray, Manas. 2002. Growing up Refugee: on memory and locality. *History Workshop Journal*. 53(1): 149 – 179

Duschinski, Haley. 2007. India Displacing Indians for the Sake of India: Kashmiri Hindu Migrant Vendors and the Secular State. *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 30(1): 90-108

Ghosh, Gautam. 2004. God is a Refugee: Nationality, Morality and History in the 1947 Partition of India. In Imtiaz Ahmed, Abhijit Dasgupta and Kathinka Sinha-Kerkhoff (eds.) *State, Society and Displaced People in South Asia*. pp 20-51. Dhaka: The University Press Ltd.

Rehman, Mohammed Mahbubar and Willem Van Schendel. 2003. I Am Not A Refugee: Rethinking Partition Migration. *Modern Asian Studies*, 37(3): 551-584

Frechette, Anne. 2002. *Tibetans in Nepal: The dynamics of international assistance among a community in exile*. New York: Berghahn books

Brun, Catherine. 2003. Local citizens or internally displaced persons? Dilemmas of long term displacement in Sri Lanka. *Journal of Refugee Studies*. 16(4): 376-397

Edwards, David Busby. 1986. Marginality and Migration: Cultural Dimensions of the Afghan Refugee problem. *International Migration Review*. 20(2): 313-325

Daniel, E. Valentine. 1998. Suffering Nation and Alienation. In Arthur Klienman, Veena Das and Margaret Lock (eds.) *Social Suffering*. Pp 309-358. New Delhi: Oxford University Press

Sanyal, Romola. 2009. Contesting Refugeehood: squatting as survival in post-partition Calcutta. *Social Identities*. 15(1): 67-84

Week 7- Locating Migration in an unequal world-gender and class

This week will cover the question of gender. Is a migration a gender neutral phenomenon or does the lens of gender reveal different dimensions of migration as a process? How does class/caste affect the experiences of different groups of migrants? The readings will pay special attention to lives and experiences of economic labour migrants and forced migrants.

Class 1- Gender

*Tsing, Anna. 1994. From the Margins. *Cultural Anthropology* 9(3): 279-297

*James, Deborah. 1999. "Bagagešu" (Those of My Home): Women Migrants, Ethnicity, and Performance in South Africa. *American Ethnologist*, 26(1): 69-89

Olwig, Karen Fog. 2001. *Work and Migration: Life and Livelihoods in a globalizing world*. London: Routledge. Selected chapters

*Frantz, Elizabeth. 2008. Of Maids and Madams: Sri Lankan Domestic Workers and their employers in Jordan. *Critical Asian Studies* 40(4)

Daniel, E. Valentine. 1998. Suffering Nation and Alienation. In Arthur Klienman, Veena Das and Margaret Lock (eds.) *Social Suffering*. Pp 309-358. New Delhi: Oxford University Press

*Mills, Mary Beth. 1997. Contesting the Margins of modernity: women, migration and consumption in Thailand. *American Ethnologist* 24(1): 37-61

*Osella, Filipo and Caroline Osella. 2000. Migration, Money and Masculinity in Kerela. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 6(1): 117-133

Class 2- Class and Transformation

*Berger, John. 1975. Seventh Man (extract). *Race & Class* 16(3): 251-257

*De Haan, Arjan. 2003. Calcutta's Labour migrants: encounters with modernity. *Contributions to Indian Sociology (n.s.)* 37 (1-2): 189-215

*Daniel, E. Valentine. 1998. Suffering Nation and Alienation. In Arthur Klienman, Veena Das and Margaret Lock (eds.) *Social Suffering*. Pp 309-358. New Delhi: Oxford University Press

Fuller, Christopher and Haripriya Narsimhan. 2008a From landlords to software engineers: migration and urbanization among Tamil Brahmins. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 50: 170-96.

Breman, Jan. 1996. *Footloose Labour: working in India's informal economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

*Kaur, Ravinder. 2008. Narrative Absence: An Untouchable account of partition migration. *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 42(2): 281-306

Week 8-Migrant spaces-home, place and belonging and Diasporic nationalisms

Class 1-Siting Migrants

*Gupta, A. and Ferguson, J. 1992. 'Beyond Culture: Space, Identity and the Politics of Difference.' In, *Cultural Anthropology* Vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 6-23.

*Feldman, Ilana. 2006. Home as a Refrain Remembering and Living Displacement in Gaza. *History & Memory*, Volume 18(2):10-47

Brun, Catherine. 2001. Re-territorialising the link between people and place in refugee studies. *Geografiska Annaler* 83B(1): 15-25

Stiffler, Steven. 2007. Neither here nor there: Mexican Immigrant workers and the search for home. *American Ethnologist* 34(4): 674-688

*Gardner, Katy. 1995 *Global Migrants, Local Lives: Migration and Transformation in Rural Bangladesh*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

*Parry, Jonathan. 2003. Nehru's dream and the village 'waiting room': Long-distance labour migrants to a central Indian steel town *Contribution to Indian Sociology New Series* 37 (1-2): 217-249

Thiranagama, Sharika. 2007. Moving on? Generating homes in the future for displaced northern Muslims in Sri Lanka. In Janet Carsten (ed) *Ghosts of Memory: essays on remembrance and relatedness*. pp 126-149 Oxford: Blackwell Publishers

*Stoller, Paul 2007. Spaces, Places, Fields: The politics of West African trading in New York City's Informal Economy in *Sensuous Scholarship* . Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press

Class 2-Diasporas and Nationalism

*Axel, Brian Keith. 2002. The Diasporic Imaginary. *Public Culture* 14(2): 411-428

*Jeganathan, Pradeep. 1998. Eelam.com: Place, nation and imagination in cyberspace.
Public Culture 10(3):

*Jaffrelot, Christoph and Ingrid Therworth. Western Hindutva: Hindu Nationalism in the UK and North America. In Heath, Deana and Chandana Mathur (eds) *Communalism and Globalisation in South Asia and its Diaspora*. London :Routledge. Available in library see other chapters of interest.

Pattie, Susan. 1997. *Faith in History: Armenians rebuilding community*. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian University Press

Gellner, Ernest. *Nations and Nationalism*. Malden, MA: Blackwell –see chapter on long distance nationalism