

Graduate Seminar: Approaches to Media and Migration

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DESCRIPTION

The course will investigate a broad range of approaches to the topic media and migration, engaging with various theoretical and methodological paradigms for transnational film and media studies. The material in the class will focus on such topics are **Historical legacies of contemporary migration** (colonialism, slavery, globalization, postsocialism); **Migration of people** (film/media and contemporary “migration crisis”; academic and creative labor migration); **Migration of media objects and texts** (film festival circuits; global media/TV circulation; informal media circulatory networks); **Migratory processes in film, media and scholarship** (film/media and translation; transcultural mediations).

The broader goal of the course is to gain understanding and critical assessment of disciplinary-appropriate modes of transnational research and the way they intersect with other subfields and problems within the discipline.

ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are graded through a combination of instructor’s, self-, and peer-evaluation.

Keywords:

We will keep a directory of **keywords** throughout the semester, finalizing it by the end of the term in an on-line glossary.

Every week I am asking you to pick one term from the readings which you think is important to our understanding of media and migration, and log in its definition/discussion of how it is used, and a very brief bibliography. In the last week of class, we will discuss all the chosen terms in and together decide which ones will comprise the **final collaborative database for keywords, bibliography and filmography** aimed to help others who are interested in learning about migration in relation to film and media.

Teaching Demo (in groups of 2) **on a topic of your choice, as related to the broader themes of the course:**

As part of the seminar, you will be responsible for teaching one class in the course of the semester on a topic related to the goals of the seminar. In groups of 2 and in consultation with the instructor). You will choose/supplement the readings for that week and choose screenings, if appropriate. You will design the teaching format (lecture/discussion/workshop, etc – approximately 1 hour) and will be responsible for running the class that week. Each “teaching demo” will be followed by a debriefing. Dates and topics to be decided on the first week of class. **Reports/evaluations** of peer-taught class (1 page each, 4 total, including your own. Each report is due the week after the class under review. The template for the evaluation will be provided in class)

Online Responses are due 24 hours before class and will be used to orient the discussion in the seminar.

Seminar Schedule

Week One

Introduction to the Seminar

Readings:

- Radha S. Hegde, *Mediating Migration*, pp. 1-15.
- Dina Iordanova, “Migration and Cinematic Process in Post-Cold War Europe”, in *European Cinema in Motion: Migrant and Diasporic Film in Contemporary Europe*.
- Vijay Devadas, “Rethinking Screen Encounters: Cinema and Tamil Migrant Workers in Singapore”
<http://www.screeningthepast.com/2011/11/rethinking-screen-encounters-cinema-and-tamil-migrant-workers-in-singapore/>
- Charles Heller and Lorenzo Pezzani, “Drifting Images, Liquid Traces” *AntiAtlas Journal* #2-Spring 2018

Suggested reading (if you are less familiar with the topic of transnational film/media studies and/or globalization):

- Saskia Sassen, “Globalization or Denationalization?” *Review of International Political Economy* 10:1 February 2003: 1–22.
- Frederick Jameson, “Globalization as a Philosophical Issue” (Chapter 17 in *Valences of the Dialectic*, Verso, 2010).
- Higbee, Will and Song Hwee Lim. “Concepts of Transnational Cinema: Towards a Critical Transnationalism in Film Studies.” *Transnational Cinemas* 1/1 (2010): 7-21.
- Fisher, Austin and Iain Robert Smith. “Transnational Cinemas: A Critical Roundtable.” *Frames Cinema Journal* 9 (April 2016).

<http://framescinemajournal.com/article/transnational-cinemas-a-criticalroundtable/>

Web Post:

Please discuss your interests in relation to the topic of this course – any experience you may already have with this subject, any way that you think it may intersect with your own research interests, and any specific directions or topics you would find potentially useful or exciting to pursue. And more generally – what kinds of topics, issues or questions can the broader topic of “media and migration” deal with? How can we think of the relationship- historical, conceptual, or practical - between these two concepts?

Week Two

Conceptualizing the border: Part 1

Readings:

- Casas-Cortes, Maribel, Sebastian Cobarrubias, Nicholas De Genova, Glenda Garelli, Giorgio Grappi, Charles Heller, Sabine Hess, et al. “New Keywords: Migration and Borders.” *Cultural Studies* 29, no. 1 (January 2015): 55–87.
- Sandro Mezzadra and Brett Neilson, *Border as Method, or the Multiplication of Labor*, pp. 1-25.

Suggested:

Mezzadra and Neilson, *Border as Method*, pp. 131-204.

Chalcraft, J. 2007, ‘Labour in the Levant’, in *New Left Review*, 45, May – June: 27-47.

<http://www.uninomade.org/the-gaze-of-autonomy-capitalism-migration-and-social-struggles/>

Web Post: keywords

Week Three

Conceptualizing the border: Part 2

Reading:

- Dimitris Papadopoulos, Niamh Stephenson and Vassilis Tsianos, *Escape Routes: Control and Subversion in the 21st Century*, Prologue
- Ellie Hernández and Gloria Anzaldúa. “Re-Thinking Margins and Borders: An Interview with Gloria Anzaldúa.” *Discourse*, vol. 18, no. 1/2, 1995, pp. 7–15.
- Mbembe, J. Achille. “At the Edge of the World: Boundaries, Territoriality, and Sovereignty in Africa.” *Public Culture* 12, no. 1 (January 1, 2000): 259–84.

Web Post: keywords; discuss which particular discussion and conceptualization of the concepts of border and/or migration is most interesting and productive for you.

Week Four

Historical legacies 1

Readings:

- Christina Sharpe, “The Ship” in *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being*, pp. 34-67
- Papadopoulos, Stephenson and Tsianos, “Vagabonds” in *Escape Routes*, pp. 42-55
- Adam M. McKeown, *Melancholy Order: Asian Migration and the Globalization of Borders*, pp. 1-15; 43-65.

Strongly Recommended

Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*, chapter 1

Roberto Dainotto, *Europe (in Theory)*, “The Discovery of Europe”, pp. 1-51

Alejandro Lugo, “The Invention of Borderlands Geography: What Do Aztlán and Tenochtitlán Have to Do with Ciudad Juárez/Paso del Norte?” in *Fragmented Lives, Assembled Parts: Culture, Capitalism, and Conquest at the US-Mexico Border* (2008), pp. 15-47.

WebPost: which additional historical perspectives on migration do you think are missing here? what other historical and geopolitical phenomena do you think needs to be addressed for us to engage more fully with the phenomenon of global migration and media?

Week Five:

Historical legacies 2

Readings:

- Dirlik, Arif. "Postsocialism? Reflections on "socialism with Chinese characteristics"." *Critical Asian Studies* (1989)
- Gaetano, Arianne. "Rural Woman and Modernity in Globalizing China: Seeing Jia Zhangke's *The World*." *Visual Anthropology Review* (2009)

Recommended:

Losurdo, Domenico. "Has China turned to capitalism?—Reflections on the transition from capitalism to socialism." *International Critical Thought* (2017)

Screening: *The World* (Jia Zhangke, China, 2004)

Week Six

Regimes of (In)visibility, border spectacle, and connected migrant

Readings:

- Shannon Mattern, "All Eyes on the Border," *Places*: September 2018
<https://placesjournal.org/article/all-eyes-on-the-border/?cn-reloaded=1>
- Nicholas De Genova, "Spectacles of migrant ›illegality‹: the scene of exclusion, the obscene of inclusion." In: *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (2013) 36 (7). 1180–1198.
- Lorenzo Pezzani, "The Two Lives of the Cap Anamur: Media Aesthetics and Humanitarianism from the South China Sea to the Mediterranean"

Recommended:

- Interview with Heller and Pezzani by Sophie Hinger in *Movements: Journal for Critical Migration and Border Regime Studies*

<https://movements-journal.org/issues/06.wissen/12.hinger--transformative-trajectories-the-shifting-mediterranean-border-regime-and-the-challenges-of-critical-knowledge-production-charles-heller-lorenzo-pezzani.html>

- Leurs, K. and K. Smets. "Five Questions for Digital Migration Studies: Learning From Digital Connectivity and Forced Migration In(to) Europe." *Social Media and Society*, vol. 4, no. 1, 1-16.

Week Seven

Regimes of (In)Visibility, border spectacle, and connected migrant: Part 2

Readings:

- Koen Leurs and Sandra Ponzanesi, "Connected Migrants: Encapsulation and Cosmopolitanization." *Popular Communication* (2018) Vol 16 no 1, 4-20.

- Dana Diminescu, « The connected migrant: an epistemological manifesto », *Social Science Information sur les Sciences sociales, N° Spécial Migrants et clandestinité / Special Issue Migrants and clandestinity*, Vol 47(4), pp. 565–579.
- Mirca Madianou, 2019. The biometric assemblage: surveillance, experimentation, profit and the measuring of refugee bodies. *Television and New Media*, 20.
- Juan Llamas Rodriguez, “Tunneling Media: Geoblocking and Online Border Resistance,” in *Geoblocking and Global Video Culture*, eds. Ramon Lobato and James Meese, 2016.

Web Post: choose two essays assigned for this week and compare them in terms of their 1)conceptual framework; 2) research methodology

Week Eight

Drones and Borders

Readings:

- Emery, John R. "The Possibilities & Pitfalls of Humanitarian Drones." *Ethics & International Affairs* 30, no. 2 (2016): 153-165.
- Jumbert, Maria Gabrielsen. "Creating the EU Drone: Control, Sorting and Search and Rescue at Sea." *The Good Drone* (2016): 89-108.
- Mangold, Eli B., & Charles Goehring. "The Visual Rhetoric of the Aerial View: From Surveillance to Resistance." *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 105, no. 1 (2019): 25

Screenings and other creative work to see:

Tomas van Houtryve’s border drone-photography found here:

<https://tomasvh.com/> -- please specifically take a look at his works titled "Divided" and "Blue Sky Days"

Josh Begley's "Best of Luck with the Wall" (found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sle9p7tslpg&fbclid=IwAR2FapzInvpIDJx2vsHTTVIXdgh5qnGC-TK2298q5JHAKEiMx5_KK1EGnt0).

Week Nine

Academic Labor (and) Migration

Readings:

- A.C.H. Lim, “Lines of Flight: The New Ph.D. as Migrant.” *Workplace* 22 (2013), 98-108.
- Aihwa Ong, “Higher Learning in Global Space.” In *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty*, 139-156.
- Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. “Teaching for the Times” in *An Aesthetic Education in the Era of Globalization*, 137-157.
- Glenda Garelli and Martina Tazzioli. “Challenging the Discipline of Migration: Militant Research in Migration Studies, an Introduction.” *Postcolonial Studies* 16, no. 3 (September 2013): 245–49.
- . “Double Opening, Split Temporality, and New Spatialities: An Interview

with Sandro Mezzadra on ‘militant Research.’” *Postcolonial Studies* 16, no. 3 (September 2013): 309–19.

Recommended:

Boutang, Yann Moulier. “Cognitive Capitalism and Education: New Frontiers.” In *Universities in Translation: The Mental Labour of Globalization*, edited by Brett de Bary, 317-330. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009.

Roggero, Gigi. “The Production of Living Knowledge.” In *The Production of Living Knowledge: The Crisis of the University and the Transformation of Labor in Europe and North America*, 87-111. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2011.

Connell, Raewyn. “Peripheral Visions – Beyond the Metropole.” In *Globalizing the Research Imagination*, edited by Jane Kenway and Johannah Fahey, 53-72. New York: Routledge, 2009.

Web Post: your reactions to these readings, where do you position yourself in relation these arguments? What experiences have you had that shaped your position?

Week Ten

Migration of Knowledge Regimes and Media Translation Practices

Readings:

- Ramon Lobato, *Netflix Nation*, Chapters 4 and 5
- Masha Salazkina, "Introduction: Film Theory in the Age of Neoliberal Globalization," *Framework: The Journal of Cinema and Media* 2015: Vol. 56 : Iss. 2
- Bielsa, Esperança. “Globalization and Translation: A Theoretical Approach.” *Language and Intercultural Communication*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2005, pp. 131-144.
- Ascheid, Antje. “Speaking Tongues: Voice Dubbing in the Cinema of Cultural Ventriloquism.” *The Velvet Light Trap*, no. 40, pp. 32-41.

Screening: *Sense8* (Wachowski sisters, 2015), S01E01.

Week Eleven

Film and Media Labor Migration

Readings:

- Jeffries, Fiona. “Cyborg Resistance on the Digital Assembly Line: Global Connectivity as a Terrain of Struggle for the Commons in Alex Rivera’s *Sleep Dealer*.” *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, vol. 39, no. 1, pp. 21–37.
- Sarah Ann Wells, “The Scar and the Node: Border Science Fiction and the
- Mise-en-scène of Globalized Labor”
- Moritz Altenried and Manuela Bojadzije, *Virtual Migration, Racism, and Multiplication of Labor*

<http://spheres-journal.org/virtual-migration-racism-and-the-multiplication-of-labour/>

Screening: *Sleep Dealer* (Alex Rivera, 2008)

Week Twelve

Media Translation and Localization Practices, pt2

Readings:

- Ďurovičová, Nataša. "Vector, Flow, Zone: Towards a History of Cinematic Translatio." *World Cinemas, Transnational Perspectives*, edited by Ďurovičová Nataša and Kathleen Newman, Routledge, 2009, pp. 90-120.
- Annett, Sandra. 2014. *Anime Fan Communities: Transcultural Flows and Frictions*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, Chapter 6
- Dwyer, Tessa, and Ramon Lobato. "Informal Translation, Post-Cinema and Global Media Flows." *The State of Post-Cinema: Tracing the Moving Image in the Age of Digital Dissemination*, edited by Malte Hagener, Vinzenz Hediger and Alena Strohmaier, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, pp. 127-145.

Recommended:

Mandiberg, Stephen. 2015. "Playing (with) the Trace: Localized Culture in Phoenix Wright." *Kinephanos, Geemu and media mix: Theoretical approaches to Japanese video games*, 5 (1): 30.

Strukov, Vlad. "Translated by Goblin: Global Challenge and Local Response in Post-Soviet Translations of Hollywood Films." *Contexts, Subtexts and Pretexts: Literary Translation in Eastern Europe and Russia*, edited by Brian James Baer, John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2011, pp. 235-248.

Week Thirteen

Conclusions & Keywords Database Workshop