Sociology 236A: International Migration
Syllabus

Roger Waldinger

This is the first part in a sequence of three courses that has been taught by a variety of Sociology faculty (Adrian Favell, Ruben Hernandez-Leon, Ivan Light, Don Treiman, Roger Waldinger). We seek to offer a comprehensive overview of the key current theoretical debates in the study of international migration. Our goal is to explore the possibilities of a comparative (historical and cross-national) research program in the field, linking North American, European and other global experiences of migration. The emphasis is on exploring both the theoretical debates of the field and the empirical data and case studies on which these debates hinge. The long term goal is to encourage students to undertake research in the field of migration research.

The field of international migration studies in sociology is, perhaps, unique in its interdisciplinary and methodologically pluralist nature: stretching from the demography and economics of migration, through political science, geographical and mainstream sociological approaches, to the ethnography and oral history of migrants. Migration is also a crucial research site for exploring the possibility of doing sociology ‘beyond’ the bounded nation-state-society focus of most sociological research. And, while opening the door to a crucial dimension of globalization, the comparative study of migration and migrants in North America and Europe also offers opens up fresh perspectives on conceptions of nationhood, citizenship and the state.

This installment begins with an orientation to the field and is then split into two main components. International migration is an inherently political phenomenon. Consequently, we principally focus on the development and implementation of policies controlling movement across territorial borders and into the political communities that “immigrant” receiving states seek to enclose. Discussion of the political sociology of international migration is bracketed by study of the mechanisms of migration and conditions in the sending contexts, whether preceding or following the advent of mass migration. Though in theory I aspire to a global orientation, in the main I settle for a comparative focus on Europe and the United States.

I anticipate that the more ‘classic’ issues of im-migration -- assimilation, integration, race/ethnic relations, transnationalism – will be encountered in Soc 236b, to be given in winter quarter, and with particular attention to the U.S. Soc 236c, to be given in spring quarter, will function as a research seminar, designed to facilitate the development of
empirical research projects on international migration, whether at M.A., Ph.D., or en route levels.

Course requirements

The basic requirement is to do the readings. There are plenty of them and you need to stay on top of the material at all times. The teaching style will be to have a structured discussion. This means that everyone participates; those who don’t raise hands can expect to be called on, in every class.

Starting with session number two, I will ask each student to write a weekly memo addressing key issues in the readings. I will distribute memo questions for the next session early in the previous week. Your memos should be posted to the class web site by the Wednesday evening prior to our class meeting. Although the memos will be ungraded, they will help shape our discussions. In addition, every week, one reading apiece will also be assigned to students for a brief 3-5 minute summary and critique. As brevity will be the key to successful presentations, please be prepared for me to cut you off, it you go over the 5 minute mark. These assignments will rotate around the class.

There will be a comprehensive, take-home final, due at the end of exam period.

Readings

Many of the readings are available on line; some hypertext links are provided below, and can most conveniently be found in the html version of the syllabus. Remaining readings are available via the course web page. There are three required books, which should be available for purchase at UCLA bookstore:


October 1: Session 1: Democracy, community, and freedom of movement


October 8: Session 2: Theories of Migration

Caroline Brettell and James Hollifield, “Introduction” in Brettell and Hollifield, eds

Chiswick chapter in Brettell and Hollifield

or: Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal
Douglas S. Massey; Joaquin Arango; Graeme Hugo; Ali Kouaouci; Adela Pellegrino; J. Edward Taylor
Population and Development Review > Vol. 19, No. 3 (Sep., 1993), pp. 431-466
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0098-7921%28199309%2919%3A3%3C431%3ATOIMAR%3E2.0.CO%3B2-P

Michael Piore, Birds of Passage, 1979, Chapters 1 and 2

Recommended: George J. Borjas, Economic Theory and International Migration
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0197-9183%28198923%2923%3A3%3C457%3AETAIM%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Y

October 15: Session 3: Mechanisms of Migration

Douglas Massey, et. al., 1987, Return to Aztlan, Berkeley: University of California Press, Chapter 6;
Charles Tilly, Durable Inequality, UC Press, 1998, chapter 5
Roger Waldinger and Michael Lichter, How the Other Half Works, chaps 4-5


Optional:


October 22: Session 4: Immigration and the state (1): Immigration policy


Gary Freeman, "Modes of Immigration Policies in Liberal Democratic Societies," *International Migration Review*, 1995, plus comment by Brubaker and Freeman response; (JSTOR)


Hollified chapter in Brettell and Hollifield.

Optional:

John Torpey, *Coming and Going: On the State Monopolization of the Legitimate" Means of Movement"*, *Sociological Theory*, 1998; available online via UCLA libraries

October 29: Session 5: U.S. Immigration Policy

Daniel Tichenor, *Dividing Lines*, Chapters 3-5, 7-9


November 5: Session 6: Comparative Immigration Policy making

November 12: Veterans’ Day Holiday: no class

**November 18: Session 7: Immigration and the state (2): Citizenship**


Rogers Brubaker (1992) *Nationhood and Citizenship in France and Germany*, preface, ch.1


**Recommended:**


**November 25 Session 8: Immigration and the state (3): rights and multiculturalism**

Yasemin Soysal (1994) *Limits of Citizenship*, pp.1-8 + ch.2


Koopmans et al, chap 2

Bloemraad, Chapter 4 and conclusion


December 3: Session 9: Implementation, Policing, Bordering

Peter Andreas, *Border Games*, Cornell, 2000, chs 1, 5, 7
Wayne A. Cornelius, *Death at the Border: Efficacy and Unintended Consequences of US Immigration Control Policy*
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?stici=0098-7921%28200112%2927%3A4%3C661%3ADATBEA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-F
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?stici=0197-9183%281998%2932%3C561%3ATSPOUB%3E2.0.CO%3B2-2
Torpey, chapter 5, 143-58
M.B. Salter, “POLICY IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES Passports, Mobility, and Security: How smart can the border be?” *International Studies Perspectives*, 2004 (available online via UCLA libraries)
or
http://tecn.rutgers.edu/cgcg/Papers/Koslowski_money_and_migration.pdf
Or
Or

The last age of migration

Ewa Morawska, *With Bread and Butter*, Chapters 1 and 2.
Jose Moya, *Cousins and Strangers: Spanish Immigrants in Buenos Aires*, Chapter 1
Timothy Hatton, “The Age Of Mass Migration: What We Can And Can’t Explain,” 1999, 
John Torpey, *The Invention of the Passport*, chapter 4
Hatton and Williamson, *Global Migration*, Chapter 2; 62-76; chapter 8
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?stici=0013-0117%28199408%292%3A4%3C661%3ADATBEA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-8