

Professor Roger Waldinger
Department of Sociology
UCLA
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Office hours: Wed 2-3; Friday 10-2
Email: waldinge at soc.ucla.edu

Class: Wednesdays, 10-12:50, Humanities A45

Honors 108: Syllabus

Transnationalism, Diasporas, and Homeland-Hostland Politics

At the turn of the 21st century, “globalization” is the order of the day. With international migration bringing the alien “other” from third world to first, and worldwide trade and communications amplifying the feedbacks traveling in the opposite direction, the view that nation-state and society normally converge has waned. Instead, social scientists are looking for new ways to think about the connections between “here” and “there.” Observing that migration produces a plethora of connections spanning “home” and “host” societies, as well as linkages among migrants criss-crossing the globe, today’s scholarship emphasizes the limits (or possibly obsolescence) of assimilation, contending instead that a transnational or diasporic pattern offers the key to understanding the contemporary immigrant phenomenon.

This course seeks a critical encounter with the rapidly burgeoning literature on immigrant transnationalism and diasporas. We will seek to ask:

- Do immigrant loyalties, attachments, and behaviors remain home-country oriented? Or are immigrants instead turned into host-country nationals, committed to societies in which they have settled?
- How have immigrant long-distance attachments changed over the course of the past 100 years? How does the current age of mass migration differ from the age of mass migration at the turn of the 20th century?
- What are the impacts of home country attachments, whether “here” or “there”? What sorts of positive and negative effects do they produce?
- Can home country and host country attachments be reconciled? Or are they mutually exclusive (as so often argued)?

We will explore these questions through an ongoing encounter with an interdisciplinary social science literature, drawing readings from anthropology, history, political science, and sociology. Though we will principally focus on the experience of contemporary international migrants to the United States, we will extend our reach backwards in time as well as across to other places of relevance.

Readings: There is no textbook: readings involve journal articles, online reports or papers, or selected chapters from individual books. Most readings are available on-line,

via UCLA library. Some readings are directly available on the web: please use the on-line syllabus to access those readings. Other readings can be accessed via the course website.

Requirements:

Weekly memo: To facilitate your preparation, I will post discussion questions prior to every session. In addition, I will ask you to write a weekly, two paragraph memo in response to a question that I will send you the previous week. *The memos will be ungraded; each completed memo will receive one point toward your final grade.*

Exams: There will be two take-home exams, a midterm, and a final. The midterm will be due on February 13; the final will be due on the day that our final is scheduled. Each exam will ask you to write a number of essays, synthesizing readings and lectures. I will specify length later, though I am likely to ask you to write a total of 10-12 typed pages for each exam. I will post the midterm exam the week of January 28; I will post the final exam by March 7. Exams will be due on time; your grade per exam will drop half a point (e.g., from A to A-) for each day that any particular exam is late. *Each exam will be worth 35 points toward your final grade.*

Book review: Please read and review a book on immigrants' transnational, trans-state, or diasporic experiences. A list of recommended books, as well as a guideline to the review, is provided at the end of the syllabus. The book review is due the last day of class. *The book review will be worth 20 points toward your final grade.*

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Theoretical Perspectives

Robert Smith, *Mexican New York*, Chapter 1

Stephane Dufoix, *Diasporas*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008, chapters 1 & 2

Nina Glick Schiller, Linda Basch and Cristina Szanton Blanc (1995) Nina Glick Schiller, From Immigrant to Transmigrant: Theorizing Transnational Migration, *Anthropological Quarterly*, 1995, V68(N1):48-63; (available via UCLA library)

Portes, Alejandro, Luis E. Guarnizo, and Patricia Landolt. 1999. "The Study of Transnationalism: Pitfalls and Promise of an Emergent Research Field." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 22(2):217-37. (available via UCLA library)

Richard Alba and Victor Nee, *Remaking the American Mainstream*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2003, Chapter 1

Peggy Levitt and S. Khagram, "Constructing transnational studies," 2008 (on course website)

Week 3: Mexico and "its" Diaspora

Special session with Regents Lecturer, Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez, Executive Director of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad at Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

in preparation, consult institute website: <http://www.ime.gob.mx/>

and read:

Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez, "Fostering Identities: Mexico's Relations with Its Diaspora," *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 86, No. 2, Rethinking History and the Nation-State: Mexico and the United States as a Case Study: A Special Issue. (Sep., 1999), pp. 545-567. (on course website)

David Ayon, "Mexican Policy and Émigré Communities", 2006 (available on course website)

Robert Smith, Contradictions of Diasporic Institutionalization in Mexican Politics: The 2006 Migrant Vote and Other Forms of Inclusion and Control, 2007 (available on course website)

Stephane Dufoix, *Diasporas*, chapter 4

James McCann et al, "Transnational Political Engagement and the Civic Incorporation of Immigrants in the United States," unpublished paper, 2007 (on course website)

Optional: Rodolfo O. de la Garza and Louis DeSipio, "Interests not passions: Mexican-American attitudes toward Mexico, immigration from Mexico, and other issues shaping U.S.-Mexico relations." *International Migration Review* v32.n2 (Summer 1998): (available via UCLA library)

Week 4: Communities and lives across borders: evidence from Mexico and Mexican immigrants in the U.S.

Robert Smith, Mexican New York, Chapters to be assigned

David Fitzgerald, "Colonies of the Little Motherland: Membership, Space, and Time in Mexican Migrant Hometown Associations," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 50(1). 2008.

Ruben Hernandez-Leon, *Metropolitan Migrants: The Migration of Urban Mexicans to the United States*, forthcoming, UC Press, Chapter 4 (on course website)

Week of 1/28: Midterm posted

Week 5: Historical Perspectives

Morawska, Ewa. 2001. "Immigrants, Transnationalism, and Ethnicization: A Comparison of This Great Wave and the Last." pp. 175-212 in *E Pluribus Unum? Contemporary and Historical Perspectives on Immigrant Political Incorporation*, edited by Gary Gerstle and John H. Mollenkopf. New York: Russell Sage.

Russell A Kazal, *Becoming Old Stock: The Paradox of German-American Identity*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004: chaps 7 & 8

Donna Gabaccia, *Italy's Many Diasporas*, Chapters 1, 4, 5

Nancy Foner, *From Ellis Island to JFK* pp. 169-176

Midterm due: 2/13

Week 6: Diasporas and Development

Devesh Kapur and Kevin McHale, *Give Us Your Best and Brightest: The Global Hunt for Talent and its Impact on the Developing World*, Washington: Center for Global Development, chapters 7 & 8

David Wyman, *Round-trip to America: The Immigrants Return to Europe, 1880-1920*, Cornell University Press, 1993: chapter 6

de Haas, Hein (2005) International migration, remittances and development: myths and facts. *Third World Quarterly*, 26(8): 1269–1284.

El Salvador, United Nations Development Program, *A look at the new "US": The Impact of Migration*

Sarah Gammage, Exporting People and Recruiting Remittances: A Development Strategy for El Salvador? *Latin American Perspectives*, 11 2006; vol. 33: pp. 75 - 100.

Week 7: Diasporas between homeland and hostland politics

Yossi Shain, *Marketing the American Creed Abroad*: Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1999, chapter 3 (on Arab-Americans)

Fergal Cochrane, "The Power of the Diaspora: Lessons from Irish-America in Building Constituencies for Peace," *Journal of Peace Research*, V. 44, 2 2007

Susan Eckstein, "Cuban Americans and the Making of a Modern Political Machine," 2006 working paper, on course website

Ostergaard-Nielsen, Eva. 2001. "Transnational Political Practices and the Receiving State: Turks and Kurds in Germany and the Netherlands." *Global Networks*. V. I, 3: 261-82; available on-line through UCLA library

Ruud Koopmans, et al., *Contested Citizenship: Immigration and Cultural Diversity in Europe*, chapter 3 (on course website)

Stephane Dufoix, *Diasporas*, Chapter 4 & conclusion

Week 8: Diasporas: for "bad"?

Yossi Shain, "The role of diasporas in conflict perpetuation or resolution," *SAIS Review* 22.2 (Summer-Fall 2002): p115-144, (available via UCLA library)

Sarah Wayland, "Ethnonationalist Networks and Transnational Opportunities: the Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora," *Review of International Studies*, 2004 (v30): 405-26 (available via UCLA library)

Prima Kurien, "Multiculturalism, Immigrant Religion, and Diasporic Nationalism: The Development of an American Hinduism," *Social Problems*, August 2004, Vol. 51, No. 3, Pages 362-385, available via UCLA libraries

Fiona Adamson, "Displacement, Diaspora Mobilization, and Transnational Cycles of Political Violence," in John Tirman, ed., *Maze of Fear: Security and Migration After September 11th* (New York: New Press, 2004): 45-58.

Daphne Winland, "The Politics of desire and disdain: Croatian identity between 'Home' and 'Homeland'," *American Ethnologist*, August 2002, Vol. 29, No. 3, pp. 693-718

Rogers Brubaker, *Nationalism Reframed*, Cambridge University Press, 1996: 13-22; 55-78 (on course website)

Week 9: The second generation and beyond

Robert Smith, *Mexican New York*, chapters to be assigned

Andrea Louie, *Chineseness Across Borders: Renegotiating Chinese Identities in China and in the U.S.* Duke University Press, 2004, chapters to be assigned.

Week 10: One world? Telecommunication and "digital diasporas"

Readings to be specified

OR

Week 10: Citizenship: Dual or Exclusive?

Michael Jones-Correa, "Under two flags: Dual nationality in Latin America and its consequences for naturalization in the United States". . *International Migration Review* 35.4 (Winter 2001), available via UCLA library

Jonathan Fox, "Transnational Citizenship"

Irene Bloemraad, "Who claims dual citizenship? The limits of postnationalism, the possibilities of transnationalism, and the persistence of traditional citizenship," *International Migration Review*, 2004, vol. 38, n^o2, pp. 389-426

Center for Immigration Studies, "Dual Citizenship and American National Identity," *Panel Discussion Transcript*, January 31, 2002, National Press Club Washington, DC, <http://www.cis.org/articles/2002/dualcitpanel.html>

Alexander Aleinikoff, "Between Principles and Politics: U.S. Citizenship Policy," in Aleinikoff and Klusmeyer, eds. *From Migrants to Citizens: Membership in a Changing World*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2000, chapter 4

Book review assignment

Write a review of a recent book on immigrants' transnational, trans-state, or diasporic experiences. Below you will find a list of acceptable candidates; as the list is quite varied, and many of the books are available in paperback I suggest that you pick from this list. If, however, you have another book in mind, you may proceed, contingent on my approval. To obtain approval, please submit the name and author on a 3 x 5 card no later than February 3.

The review should accomplish the following objectives:

describe the *intellectual question* that the author seeks to answer: what is the issue at stake? is there a debate with which the author engages and if so, what is the nature of that debate? what is the author's point of view?

briefly summarize the book: describe the nature of the research, the types of evidence that the author brings to bear on the question, and the main conclusions;

assess the book: does it answer the question it poses? is the evidence convincing? is the argument consistent and logical? are there unanswered questions left to pursue?

Though you may use quotations where appropriate, making sure to provide proper references, the paper must be written in your own words.

Books for review:

Robert Alvarez, *Mangos, chiles, and truckers : the business of transnationalism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 2005

Eiichiro Azuma, *Between Two Empires: Race, History, and Transnationalism in Japanese America* (Oxford University Press, 2005)

Basch, Linda, Nina Glick Schiller, Cristina Szanton Blanc, 1994. *Nations Unbound: Transnational Projects, Postcolonial Predicaments, and Deterritorialized Nation-States*. New York: Gordon and Breach.

Robin Cohen, *Global diasporas : an introduction*: Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1997.

Das Gupta, Monisha, *Unruly immigrants : rights, activism, and transnational South Asian politics in the United States*. Duke University Press, 2006

Yen Le Espiritu, *Home bound : Filipino American lives across cultures, communities, and countries*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Gamburd, Michele, *Transnationalism and Sri Lanka's migrant housemaids : the kitchen spoon's handle*, New Delhi, 2002

- Sheba Mariam George, *When women come first : gender and class in transnational migration* Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Glick-Schiller, Nina and Georges Fouron. 2001. *Georges Woke Up Laughing: Long-Distance Nationalism and the Search for Home*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Steven J. Gold. *The Israeli Diaspora*. London: Routledge, 2002.
- Laguerre, Michel, *Diaspora, politics, and globalization*, New York : 2006
- Lesser, Jeffrey, *A discontented diaspora : Japanese Brazilians and the meanings of ethnic militancy, 1960-1980*, Duke University Press, 2007
- Peggy Levitt, *The Transnational Villagers*, Berkeley : University of California Press, 2001.
- Peggy Levitt, *God has no country*, New York: The New Press, 2007
- Eva Østergaard-Nielsen, *Transnational politics : Turks and Kurds in Germany* . London: Routledge, 2002
- Pribilsky, Jason, *La chulla vida : gender, migration, and the family in Andean Ecuador and New York City*, Syracuse University Press, 2007
- Ramirez, Bruno. 1991. *On the Move: French Canadian and Italian Migrants in the North Atlantic Economy, 1860-1914*. Toronto: McClellan and Stewart.
- Robert Smith, Robert C. Smith, *Mexican New York: Transnational Lives of New Immigrants*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.
- Soyer, Daniel. 1997. *Jewish Immigrant Associations and American Identity in New York, 1880-1939*. Daniel Soyer. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- Wyman, Mark, 1992, *Round-trip to America*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press.