

## COURSE SYLLABUS

# Postwar diaspora(s) – construction of identity and ethnicity out of war and (forced) migration

### **Instructor:**

Name, title: Dr. Ana Mijić, M.A.  
Department: Nationalism Studies  
Central European University  
Semester/term, year: Winter Term 2022  
Course level (MA, PhD): MA  
# Credits (# ECTS Credits): 2  
Office hours by appointment

### **Course Description**

The seminar focuses on an intensive examination of the construction of identity and alterity in the context of war and forced migration. The first part of the seminar is dedicated to sociological and social psychological theories and perspectives on identity, collective identity, and ethnicity. The second part will (theoretically) deal with the specifics of (collective) identity construction in the context of (forced) migration and discuss the analytical potential of the concept of ‘diaspora’ to examine these processes. These theoretical considerations will be complemented by a discussion of empirical studies in this field of research, their key findings and central challenges for future research.

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students

- ✓ will have an overview about the most frequently discussed sociological and social psychological theories on identity, collective identification, and ethnicity.
- ✓ will be able to critically engage with and discuss competing theories on identity, collective identification, and ethnicity.
- ✓ will be able to critically engage with the concept of diaspora.
- ✓ will be able to understand the processes of identity construction and the construction of ethnicity out of war and migration.
- ✓ will be able to understand the interplay of individual and collective self-identification and categorisation by others as well as the role of power in this process.

## Course Requirements

- (1) Regular preparation and active participation (20% of the final grade). Student attendance, preparation, and active participation in class are required. Students must come to class having carefully read all the assigned material and prepared to discuss it by also constructively engaging with other student's points.
- (2) Oral presentation (30% of the final grade). Each student will be expected to give a short presentation (as a part of a group) addressing one of the topics listed in the course schedule. Presentations should provide a summary and critical review of one or two of the listed readings.
- (3) Final Paper (50% of the final grade). Students can choose if they want to submit a proposal for a research project on identity and/or ethnicity in the context of war and/or migration or a substantive research paper. Both should be 3,000-3,500 words long and based on the student's own interests. Students should choose the topic of their final paper and discuss it with the instructor by Week 10.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 1 (13.01.2022). Introduction.

- *What is identity? Why study identity (while studying nationalism)?*
- *What characterizes the sociological perspective?*

Discussion of the syllabus and the assignments

Background reading

Peter Ludwig Berger, *Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective* (New York: Anchor Books Doubleday, 1963), 29–38.

### Week 2 (20.01.2022). Identity.

- *How to conceptualize identity?*
- *What is the significance of identity in social theory?*
- *Why socialization matters?*
- *What could possibly be the effects of war and migration on identity?*

Background reading

Mandatory

Richard Jenkins, 'Identity', in *Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, ed. Austin Harrington, Barbara L. Marshall, and Hans-Peter Müller (London; New York: Routledge, 2006).

Richard Jenkins, *Social Identity*, Fourth Edition, Key Ideas (New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2014), chap. 2 and chap. 4.

Optional

Zygmunt Bauman, 'Identity in the Globalising World', *Social Anthropology* 9, no. 02 (June 2001), <https://doi.org/10.1017/S096402820100009X>.

Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann, *The Social Construction of Reality. A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge* (New York, 1966), chap. 3.

Peter L. Berger, *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion* (New York: Anchor Books, 1990) (Introduction).

Erving Goffman, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (New York, NY et al.: Doubleday, 1959).

George Herbert Mead, *Mind, Self and Society* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1934), chaps 19–22.

**Week 3 (27.01.2022). Collective Identity**

- *What is meant by “collective identity”*
- *How to conceptualize the connection between ‘I’ and ‘We’, between individual and collective identity?*
- *What is meant by the “simultaneity of group identification and categorization.” Think about the role of power in this context.*
- *What effects do the experiences of war and migration possibly have on collective identity?*

## Background reading

## Mandatory

Richard Jenkins, *Social Identity*, Fourth Edition, Key Ideas (New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2014), chap. 9.

## Optional (\*recommended for presenters)

Ohad David and Daniel Bar-Tal, ‘A Sociopsychological Conception of Collective Identity: The Case of National Identity as an Example’, *Personality and Social Psychology Review* 13, no. 4 (November 2009): 354–79, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1088868309344412>.

\*Shmuel Noah Eisenstadt and Bernhard Giesen, ‘The Construction of Collective Identity’, *European Journal of Sociology* 36, no. 1 (May 1995): 72–102, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003975600007116>.

Norbert Elias, *The Society of Individuals*, ed. Michael Schröter (New York: Continuum, 2001), extracts from chap. 3.

**Week 4 (03.02.2022). Beyond Identity**

- *Is it at all beneficial to use the concept of identity in social research?*
- *What is essential to bear in mind when using “identity” in our research?*

## Background reading

## Mandatory

Rogers Brubaker and Frederick Cooper, ‘Beyond “Identity”’, *Theory and Society* 29, no. 1 (1 February 2000): 1–47, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3108478>.

## Optional

Stuart Hall, ‘Who Needs “Identity”?’’, in *Questions of Cultural Identity* (London: SAGE Publications Ltd, 2011), 1–17, <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781446221907.n1>.

Richard Jenkins, *Social Identity*, Fourth Edition, Key Ideas (New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2014), chap. 1.

**Week 5 (10.02.2022). Ethnicity**

- *What is ethnicity? How to conceptualize ethnicity?*
- *Think about ethnicity in the context of war and migration?*

## Background reading

## Mandatory

Richard Jenkins, 'Rethinking Ethnicity. Identity, Categorization and Power', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 17, no. 2 (1994): 197–223, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.1994.9993821>.

## Optional (\*recommended for presenters)

- \*Rogers Brubaker, 'Ethnicity without Groups', *European Journal of Sociology* 43, no. 2 (August 2002): 163–89, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003975602001066>.
- Rogers Brubaker, 'Beyond Ethnicity', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 37, no. 5 (16 April 2014): 804–8, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2013.871311>.
- Rogers Brubaker, Mara Loveman, and Peter Stamatov, 'Ethnicity as Cognition', *Theory and Society* 33, no. (February 2004): 31–64, <https://doi.org/10.1023/B:RYSO.0000021405.18890.63>.
- Richard Jenkins, *Social Identity, Fourth Edition, Key Ideas* (New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2014), chap. 11.
- Michèle Lamont, 'Reflections Inspired by "Ethnic Boundary Making: Institutions, Power, Networks" by Andreas Wimmer', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 37, no. 5 (16 April 2014): 814–19, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2013.871312>.
- Mary C. Waters, *Ethnic Options. Choosing Identities in America* (Berkeley/Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1990).
- Mary C Waters, 'Optional Ethnicities: For Whites Only?', in *Origins and Destinies: Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity in America*, ed. Silvia Pedraza and Rubén G. Rumbaut (Belmont, Calif: Wadsworth, 1996), 444–54.
- Andreas Wimmer, 'The Making and Unmaking of Ethnic Boundaries: A Multilevel Process Theory', *The American Journal of Sociology* 113, no. 4 (January 2008): 970–1022.

**Week 6 (17.02.2022). Postwar Identities in Bosnia-Herzegovina***Lecture and discussion on identity-related postwar transformations in Bosnia-Herzegovina*

## Background reading (details will be announced in the first session)

- Ana Mijić, 'Identity, Ethnic Boundaries, and Collective Victimhood: Analysing Strategies of Self-Victimisation in Postwar Bosnia-Herzegovina', *Identities*, 5 April 2020, 1–20, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1070289X.2020.1748348>.
- Elissa Helms, *Innocence and Victimhood: Gender, Nation, and Women's Activism in Postwar Bosnia-Herzegovina*, *Critical Human Rights* (Madison, Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin Press, 2013).

**Week 7 (24.02.2022). Diaspora.***What constitutes 'diaspora'?*

Background reading

Mandatory

Rogers Brubaker, 'The "Diaspora" Diaspora', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 28, no. 1 (January 2005): 1–19, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0141987042000289997>

Highly recommended

Claire Alexander, 'Beyond the "The 'Diaspora' Diaspora": A Response to Rogers Brubaker', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 40, no. 9 (15 July 2017): 1544–55, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2017.1300302>.

Rogers Brubaker, 'Revisiting "The 'Diaspora' Diaspora"', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 40, no. 9 (15 July 2017): 1556–61, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2017.1308533>.

Optional

Rainer Bauböck and Thomas Faist, *Diaspora and Transnationalism Concepts, Theories and Methods* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2010); E. Ben-Rafael, 'Diaspora', *Current Sociology* 61, no. 5–6 (1 September 2013): 842–61, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011392113480371>

Stuart Hall, 'Cultural Identity and Diaspora', in *Identity: Community, Culture, Difference*, ed. Jonathan Rutherford (London: Lawrence & Wishart Ltd, 1990), 222–37

William Safran, 'Diasporas in Modern Societies: Myths of Homeland and Return', *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* 1, no. 1 (1991): 83–99, <https://doi.org/10.1353/dsp.1991.0004>

Khachig Tölölyan, 'Rethinking Diaspora(s): Stateless Power in the Transnational Moment', *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* 5, no. 1 (1996): 3–36, <https://doi.org/10.1353/dsp.1996.0000>

Khachig Tölölyan, 'The Nation-State and Its Others: In Lieu of a Preface', *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* 1, no. 1 (1991): 3–7, <https://doi.org/10.1353/dsp.1991.0008>

Steven Vertovec, 'Three Meanings of "Diaspora," Exemplified among South Asian Religions', *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* 6, no. 3 (1997): 277–99, <https://doi.org/10.1353/dsp.1997.0010>.

**Week 8 (03.03.2022). Introduction to Ex-Yugoslavian Diaspora in Austria / Film Screening "Unten" [Down there] (Djordje Čenić)**

„The documentary filmmaker Djordje Čenić sets out on an autobiographical journey through time, which begins in the mid-seventies in the Yugoslavian “guest worker milieu” in Linz and leads him to his original home town, which was destroyed by war, in today’s Croatia. In sometimes absurdly comical, sometimes tragic episodes telling of minor triumphs and major defeats, of homesickness and class oppositions, Čenić allows us deep insights into his family history, thereby illustrating the balancing act between “above” and “below”, exemplifying generations of guest workers.” (crossingeurope.at)

## Background Reading:

Barbara Franz, 'The Bosnian Community in Austria: Linking Integration to Transnationalism - Some Comparative Observations', in *The Bosnian Diaspora. Integration in Transnational Communities*, ed. Marko Valenta and Sabrina P. Ramet (Farnham, Surrey, England; Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2011), 143–60.

**Week 9 (10.03.2022). Ex-Yugoslavian (Post)war Diaspora(s)**

- *Discussion of the film "Unten"*
- *Are there any particular characteristics of (post)war diaspora?*

## Background reading

## Mandatory

Hariz Halilovich, 'Trans-Local Communities in the Age of Transnationalism: Bosnians in Diaspora', *International Migration* 50, no. 1 (February 2012): 162–78, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2435.2011.00721.x>.

Ana Mijić, 'Together Divided–Divided Together: Intersections of Symbolic Boundaries in the Context of Ex-Yugoslavian Immigrant Communities in Vienna', *Ethnicities* 20 (2020): 1071–92, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468796819878202>.

## Optional

Jolle Demmers, 'Diaspora and Conflict: Locality, Long-Distance Nationalism, and Delocalisation of Conflict Dynamics', *The Public* 9, no. 1 (2002): 85–96

Ana Mijić, '(Non-)Belonging in the Context of War and Migration: Reconstructing the Self-Examinations of a 1.5 Generation Refugee', in *Global Processes of Flight and Migration. The Explanatory Power of Case Studies*, ed. Eva Bahl and Johannes Becker (Göttingen: Göttingen University Press, 2020), 185–200, <https://doi.org/10.17875/gup2020-1320>

Hazel Smith and Paul B. Stares, eds., *Diasporas in Conflict: Peace-Makers or Peace-Wreckers?* (Tokyo; New York: United Nations University Press, 2007).

Zlatko Skrbiš, *Long-Distance Nationalism: Diasporas, Homelands and Identities* (Brookfield, VT: Ashgate Pub., 1999).

Marko Valenta and Sabrina P. Ramet, eds., *The Bosnian Diaspora. Integration in Transnational Communities* (Farnham, Surrey, England; Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2011).

Nicholas Van Hear, 'Refugees, Diasporas, and Transnationalism', in *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*, ed. Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh et al., First Edition (Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2014), 176–87.

**Week 10 (17.03.2022). Afghan Diasporas and Refugees**

## Background reading

## Mandatory

Carolin Fischer, 'Imagined Communities? Relations of Social Identities and Social Organisation among Afghan Diaspora Groups in Germany and the UK', *Journal of Intercultural Studies* 38, no. 1 (2 January 2017): 18–35, <https://doi.org/10.1080/07256868.2016.1269060>.

Marije Braakman and Angela Schlenkhoff, 'Between Two Worlds: Feelings of Belonging While in Exile and the Question of Return', *ASIEN* 104 (2007): 9–22

## Optional

Leonardo Schiocchet, Christine Nölle-Karimi, and Monika Mokre, eds., *Agency and Tutelage in Forced Migration* (Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2020), [https://doi.org/10.1553/RoR-n\\_Plattform\\_Vol\\_02\(1\)](https://doi.org/10.1553/RoR-n_Plattform_Vol_02(1)).

Ceri Oeppen and Angela Schlenkhoff, eds., *Beyond the Wild Tribes: Understanding Modern Afghanistan and Its Diaspora* (New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 2010).

Mir Hekmatullah Sadat, 'Hyphenating "Afghaniyat" (Afghan-Ness) in the Afghan Diaspora', *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* 28, no. 3 (December 2008): 329–42, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13602000802547898>.

Johanna Hiitola and Valtteri Vähä-Savo, 'Reassembling Attachments: Place and Well-Being among Afghan Refugees in a Small Rural Town', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 23 March 2021, 1–17, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2021.1905507>.

**Week 11 (24.03.2022). Afghan Disapora in Austria**

*Guest lecture by Gabriele Rasuly-Paleczek, University of Vienna*

**Week 12 (31.03.2022). Conclusion**

*Discussion and Evaluation*