

COURSE SYLLABUS

Migration and Identity

Instructor:

Name, title: Dr. Ana Mijić, M.A.
Department: Nationalism Studies
Central European University
Semester/term, year: Winter Term 2024
Course level (MA, PhD): MA
Credits (# ECTS Credits): 2
Office hours by appointment

Course Description

This course provides a critical examination of the relationship between migration and identity. Beginning with the “transnational turn,” which compelled researchers to reconsider their approaches to a wide range of topics related to migration, including ethnicity (going beyond the “ethnic lens”) and nationalism (moving beyond methodological nationalism), we will explore the various forms of migration and their effects on identity. We will discuss the processes of categorization of “migrants,” “guest workers,” “refugees,” and “expats,” and examine how these categories are constructed by researchers and in politics. We will also consider the implications of these categorizations for agency and power in the context of migration. This will encompass a discussion of issues related to citizenship and the challenges faced by migrants regarding their legal status and access to rights.

We will explore potential tensions between external categorizations and self-identification and, in the process, delve into the question of belonging. This exploration will involve an examination of concepts such as “diaspora,” or “hybridity.” We will adopt a critical approach to identity research, recognizing the limitations of essentialist approaches and emphasizing the need to explore the complexities of identity formation and transformation in the context of migration. Additionally, we will examine the methodological challenges of transnational migration research and stress the importance of reflecting on one's own positionality as a researcher within the process of analysis. We will also delve into the role of power dynamics, biases, and ethical considerations in research both with and on migrants. This examination will encompass the challenges and opportunities of reflexive research and how it can help address the limitations of traditional migration research.

Overall, this course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of migration and identity, equipping them with the skills and tools to engage with these complex and pressing issues in contemporary society.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Critically analyze the complex relationship between migration and identity, and identify the different forms of migration and their effects on identity.
- ✓ Understand the process of categorization of “migrants,” “guest workers,” “refugees,” “expats,” and other groups, and critically assess how these categories are constructed by researchers and politics.
- ✓ Identify the implications of categorizations on agency and power in the context of migration, including issues of citizenship, legal status, and access to rights.
- ✓ Recognize potential tensions between external categorizations and self-identification, and analyze the question of belonging by examining concepts such as “hybridity” and “diaspora.”
- ✓ Analyze the limitations of essentialist approaches to identity research and explore the complexities of identity formation and transformation in the context of migration.
- ✓ Understand methodological challenges in transnational migration research and the importance of reflecting on one's own positionality as a researcher.
- ✓ Analyze power dynamics, biases, and ethical considerations in research with and on migrants and identify the challenges and opportunities of reflexive research.
- ✓ Develop critical thinking skills and apply them to contemporary issues related to migration and identity in various settings, such as politics, media, and everyday life.
- ✓ Develop research skills and the ability to design and execute research projects related to migration and identity.

Course Requirements

- (1) Regular preparation and active participation (30% of the final grade). Your attendance, preparation, and active participation in class are required. You 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. Laptops and tablets are only allowed for displaying course-related materials (e.g. readings, notes, presentations). If you are not able to attend a class (due to illness, emergency care obligations, etc.) you should contact me in advance. Under these circumstances, and with my approval, you should answer the week's guiding questions in writing and email them to me within one week of the missed class.
- (2) Oral presentation (20% of the final grade). Each student will be expected to give a short (max. 15 minutes) 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. In addition to the presentation, two or three discussion questions should be prepared for discussion during the class. These questions should be uploaded to the learning platform no later than 10 a.m. on the day of the respective session.

(3) Final Paper (50% of the final grade). Students are expected to write an 3000-3500 words long essay. Throughout the term, a range of essay topics will be presented to the students, allowing them to choose a question that aligns with their interests and engages with the key themes of the course. The essay will require students to demonstrate their understanding of the complex relationship between migration and identity, critically analyze the implications of categorizations, and apply their research and analytical skills to contemporary issues related to migration and identity. The essay will also serve as an opportunity for students to showcase their ability to reflect on their own positionality as a researcher and engage with ethical considerations in research with and on migrants. Students should choose the topic of their final paper and discuss it with the instructor by Week 10.

Note: In order to receive a passing grade, your performance should be at least 50% for each type of assessment. You will receive interim feedback on your class attendance and participation in Week 6.

Grades:

A	> 90 points
A-	81 – 90 points
B+	75 – 80 points
B	66 – 74 points
B-	60 – 65 points
C+	51 – 59 points
F	< 51 points or performance below 50% on any form of assessment.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (11.01.24). Introduction.*Discussion of the syllabus and the assignments***Week 2 (18.01.24). Questions of/Approaches to Migration Research**

Background reading

Mandatory

Peter Scholten, Asya Pisarevskaya, and Nathan Levy, ‘An Introduction to Migration Studies: The Rise and Coming of Age of a Research Field’, in *Introduction to Migration Studies*, ed. Peter Scholten, IMISCOE Research Series (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2022), 3–24, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-92377-8_1;

Caroline Brettell and James Frank Hollifield, eds., *Migration Theory: Talking across Disciplines*, Fourth edition (New York, NY: Routledge, 2023); Introduction.

Optional

Cathrine Talleraas, ‘Migration Forms: What Forms of Migration Can Be Distinguished?’, in *Introduction to Migration Studies*, ed. Peter Scholten, IMISCOE Research Series (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2022), 111–16, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-92377-8_6.

Anna Triandafyllidou, ‘Migration and the Nation’, in *Introduction to Migration Studies*, ed. Peter Scholten, IMISCOE Research Series (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2022), 207–18, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-92377-8_13.

Week 3 (25.01.24). Introduction: Identity, (Belonging), and Migration

Background reading

Mandatory

Paul Jones and Michał Krzyżanowski, ‘Identity, Belonging and Migration: Beyond Constructing “Others”’, in *Identity, Belonging and Migration*, ed. Gerard Delanty, Ruth Wodak, and Paul Jones, 1st ed. (Liverpool University Press, 2011), 38–53, <https://doi.org/10.5949/UPO9781846314537.003>.

Optional

- Marco Antonsich, 'Searching for Belonging - An Analytical Framework', *Geography Compass* 4, no. 6 (June 2010): 644–59, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-8198.2009.00317.x>;
- 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>.
- Richard Jenkins, 'Categorization: Identity, Social Process and Epistemology', *Current Sociology* 48, no. 3 (July 2000): 7–25, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011392100048003003>;
- Richard Jenkins, 'Identity', in *Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, ed. Austin Harrington, Barbara L. Marshall, and Hans-Peter Müller (London ; New York: Routledge, 2006)
- Vanessa May, 'Self, Belonging and Social Change', *Sociology* 45, no. 3 (June 2011): 363–78, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0038038511399624>;

Week 4 (01.02.24). Beyond Methodological Nationalism and the Ethnic Lens?

Background reading

Mandatory

- Andreas Wimmer and Nina Glick Schiller, 'Methodological Nationalism and beyond: Nation-State Building, Migration and the Social Sciences', *Global Networks* 2, no. 4 (October 2002): 301–34, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1471-0374.00043>.
- Nina Glick Schiller, Ayşe Çağlar, and Thaddeus C. Guldbrandsen, 'Beyond the Ethnic Lens: Locality, Globality, and Born-Again Incorporation', *American Ethnologist* 33, no. 4 (November 2006): 612–33, <https://doi.org/10.1525/ae.2006.33.4.612>.

Optional

- Janine Dahinden, 'A Plea for the 'de-Migranticization' of Research on Migration and Integration', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 39, no. 13 (20 October 2016): 2207–25, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2015.1124129>
- Nina Glick Schiller and Ayşe Çağlar, 'Locating Migrant Pathways of Economic Emplacement: Thinking beyond the Ethnic Lens', *Ethnicities* 13, no. 4 (August 2013): 494–514, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468796813483733>.
- Nina Glick Schiller, Linda Basch, and Cristina Blanc-Szanton, 'Transnationalism: A New Analytic Framework for Understanding Migration', *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 645 (July 1992): 1–24, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-6632.1992.tb33484.x>.

Week 5 (08.02.24). No class**Week 6 (15.02.24). Processes of Categorization and Power in the Context of Migration**

Background reading

Mandatory

Nadya, Jaworsky et al. 2023: 'Foreigner, Migrant, Refugee: What Lies Beneath the Lables', in *A Critical Cultural Sociological Exploration of Attitudes toward Migration in Czechia. What Lies Beneath the Fear of the Thirteenth Migrant*, ed. Nadya Jaworsky et al. Lexington.

Janine Dahinden, Carolin Fischer, and Joanna Menet, 'Knowledge Production, Reflexivity, and the Use of Categories in Migration Studies: Tackling Challenges in the Field', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 44, no. 4 (16 March 2021): 535–54, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2020.1752926>.

Optional

Simon Goodman, Ala Sirriyeh, and Simon McMahon, 'The Evolving (Re)Categorisations of Refugees throughout the "Refugee/Migrant Crisis"', *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology* 27, no. 2 (March 2017): 105–14, <https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.2302>.

Week 7 (22.02.24). Beyond Assimilation / Discussions on Integration

Background reading

Mandatory

Sarah Spencer, 'The Contested Concept of "Integration"', in *Introduction to Migration Studies*, ed. Peter Scholten, IMISCOE Research Series (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2022), 219–32, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-92377-8_14;

Willem Schinkel, 'Against "Immigrant Integration": For an End to Neocolonial Knowledge Production', *Comparative Migration Studies* 6, no. 1 (December 2018): 31, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-018-0095-1>.

Optional

Rogers Brubaker, 'The Return of Assimilation? Changing Perspectives on Immigration and Its Sequels in France, Germany, and the United States', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 24, no. 4 (January 2001): 531–48, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870120049770>.

Lea M. Klarenbeek, 'Relational Integration: A Response to Willem Schinkel', *Comparative Migration Studies* 7, no. 1 (December 2019): 20, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-019-0126-6>

Floya Anthias, 'Beyond Integration: Intersectional Issues of Social Solidarity and Social Hierarchy', in *Contesting Integration, Engendering Migration*, ed. Floya Anthias and Mojca Pajnik (London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2014), 13–36, https://doi.org/10.1057/9781137294005_2.

Week 8 (29.02.24). Diasporic Identities

Background reading

Mandatory

Daniel Naujoks, 'Diasporic Identities Reflections on Transnational Belonging', *SSRN Electronic Journal*, 2010, <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2555352>.

Optional

Rogers Brubaker, 'The "Diaspora" Diaspora', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 28, no. 1 (January 2005): 1–19, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0141987042000289997>;
 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>.
 Benedict Anderson, ed., 'Long Distance Nationalism', in *The Spectre of Comparisons: Nationalism, Southeast Asia, and the World* (London ; New York: Verso, 1998), 58–74.

Week 9 (07.03.24). A Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Identity and (forced) Migration – Lecture

Background reading

Ana Mijić, '(Re-)Construction of Identity and Belonging after Forced Migration: A Sociology of Knowledge Approach', *Journal of Refugee Studies* 35, no. 3 (31 October 2022): 1107–25, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/feac020>.
 Ana Mijić and Michael Parzer, 'The Art of Arriving: A New Methodological Approach to Reframing "Refugee Integration"', *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 2022.

Ana Mijić and Michael Parzer, 'Refugees' Arriving through the Lens of Fiction: Unveiling the Ambivalences of Hegemonic Expectations', *Arts* 12, no. 2 (14 March 2023): 55, <https://doi.org/10.3390/arts12020055>.

Week 10/1 (14.03.24). Guest Lecture by Viktoriya Sereda: In Search of Belonging

Background reading

Viktoriya Sereda, 'In Search of Belonging: Rethinking the Other in the Historical Memory of Ukrainian IDPs', *The Ideology and Politics Journal* 2, no.6 (2020): 83–107.

Viktoriya Sereda, "'Social Distancing" and Hierarchies of Belonging: The Case of Displaced Population from Donbas and Crimea', *Europe-Asia Studies* 72, no. 3 (2020): 404–31.

Week 10/2 (15.03.24). Guest Lecture by Anna Babka: Homi Bhabha's Concept of Hybridity

Background reading

Homi K. Bhabha, 'The Third Space', in *Identity: Community, Culture and Difference: Community, Culture, Difference*, ed. Jonathan Rutherford, Revised. (London: Lawrence & Wishart, 1998), 207–21.

Homi K. Bhabha, *The Location of Culture* (London: Routledge, 1994).

Floya Anthias, 'New Hybridities, Old Concepts: The Limits of "Culture"', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 24, no. 4 (January 2001): 619–41, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870120049815>.

Nilay Kılınç, Allan M. Williams, and Paul Hanna, 'From "Inbetweeners" to "Transcultural Mediators": Turkish-German Second-Generation's Narratives of 'return' Migration, Third Spaces and Re-Invention of the Self', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 45, no. 14 (26 October 2022): 2726–48, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2022.2039400>.

Week 11 (21.03.24). Translocational Positionalities

Background reading

Mandatory

Floya Anthias, 'Thinking through the Lens of Translocational Positionality: An Intersectionality Frame for Understanding Identity and Belonging', *Translocations: Migration and Social Change* 4, no. 1 (2008): 5–20.

Optional

Floya Anthias, 'Intersectional What? Social Divisions, Intersectionality and Levels of Analysis', *Ethnicities* 13, no. 1 (February 2012): 3–19, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468796812463547>.

Floya Anthias, *Translocational Belongings: Intersectional Dilemmas and Social Inequalities*, Routledge Research in Race and Ethnicity (London ; New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2021).

Floya Anthias, 'Identity and Belonging: Conceptualizations and Reframings through a Translocational Lens', in *Contested Belonging: Spaces, Practices, Biographies*, ed. Halleh Ghorashi, Kathy Davis, and Peer Smets (Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing Limited, 2018), 137–59, <https://doi.org/10.1108/9781787432062>.

Week 12 (28.03.24). Conclusion – Discussion and Evaluation