Qualitative Approaches to Studying Migration

1-2-3 June 2022

Emeroteca Room

10 credits

Register online

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Organisers

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Instructors

Luigi Achilli (Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI)
Rainer Bauböck (Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI)
Cindy Horst (Peace Research Institute, Oslo)
Alice Massari (Marie Curie Global Research Fellow, University of Copenhagen/Ryerson University)
Chiara Milan (Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence)

Discussants (3rd day)

Andrew Geddes (Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI)
Cindy Horst (Peace Research Institute, Oslo)
Martin Ruhs (Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI)
Maarten Vink (Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI)

Workshop worth: 10 credits

Course description

The aim of this workshop is twofold. First, it provides the participants with thematic content in the field of migration studies. The workshop proposes a focus on four cutting-edge issues of the field from a qualitative approach: transnationalism and diasporas; solidarity movements with migrants; citizenship and belonging; and normative approaches in migration. The second objective of the workshop is to discuss the methods and ethics of studying migration and migrant populations. More specifically, it discusses how different qualitative methods (ethnography, interviews, visual analysis, etc.) can be used in various contexts.

The workshop should therefore answer the following questions: How is migration currently discussed in social science research? Are any methodological and ethical considerations unique to researching displaced, diasporic or migrant populations? How can these be applied in practice?

The aim is to provide researchers with the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate approaches from qualitative migration studies into their own work by improving their understanding of key debates in the field and by equipping them with strategies to address challenges they may encounter in their research. The workshop would thereby provide a strong grounding in the main qualitative approaches to studying migration; highlight the particular methodological/ethical considerations unique to the field; and facilitate a practical space for researchers to share their project, address potential concerns and receive feedback.

Requirements

Participants who wish to obtain the 10 credits for the workshop must fulfill the following requirements.
1. **Workshop participation**: active participation and engagement with readings
2. **Conference presentation and discussion**: 15-minute presentation on your own research and in light of the lessons learned from the workshop, followed by some Q&A. Actively participate in giving feedback to other presenters.

Readings

Each session counts with one required reading. At the end of the syllabus, you'll find other resources for each of the session if you wish to engage further with the literature.

Workshop schedule

1st of June

Session 1 (9:00 – 10:30)

Transnationalism and Diasporas

Rainer Bauböck

The session will begin by looking at transnationalism as a concept to overcome the 'container model' of society that methodological nationalism has imposed on the study of migration. We will then look more specifically at the concept of diasporas – seeking to answer questions such as what is a diaspora? What is the difference between a migrant and a member of a diasporic community? How is this distinction useful?

- Bauböck, R. 2017. "Introduction" in *Transnational citizenship and migration.* New York, NY: Routledge. pp. 1-10.

Session 2 (11:00 – 12:30)

Solidarity Movements with Migrants

Chiara Milan

This session will explore the definition of solidarity movements provided by social movement scholars. We will then look more specifically at the solidarity movements that emerged and developed since the 2015 "long summer of migration". We will seek to answer the following questions: What is the meaning of "solidarity"? What are the different understandings of solidarity in diverse contexts? Does this notion change according to the context in which solidarity movements unfold? And how do we account for power asymmetries in solidarity movements? Finally, we will explore in-depth the notion of contentious spaces of solidarity. Do solidarity movements get radicalized with the criminalization of solidarity activism?

- Passy, Florence. 2001. "Political Altruism and the Solidarity Movement. An Introduction". In *Political Altruism? Solidarity Movements in International Perspective*, ed. Marco Giugni and Florence Passy, 3-25. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Giugni, Marco. 2001. "Concluding Remarks: Conceptual Distinctions for the Study of Political Altruism". In *Political Altruism? Solidarity Movements in International Perspective*, ed. Marco Giugni and Florence Passy, 235–244. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Session 3 (14:00 – 15:30)

Methodological Approaches I: Visual analysis

Alice Massari

The aim of this session is to help us understand how we can use visual material (images, video, art, etc.) in our data collection and analysis.

- Bleiker, Roland. "Pluralist methods for visual global politics". *Millennium* 43, no. 3 (2015): 872-890
- Check the "further readings" list: there are also short videos that could be useful to watch before the class!

Session 4 (16:00 – 17:30)

Methodological Approaches II: Ethnography

Cindy Horst

This session will focus on ethnography. We will be looking particularly at multi-sited ethnography, its advantages and limits.

- Vives, L. (2012). Fragmented Migrant (Her)Stories: Multi-sited Ethnography and Feminist Migration Research. Feminism and Migration, 61–77.

2nd of June

Session 1 (9:00 – 10:30)

Citizenship and Belonging

Cindy Horst

This session examines processes of identification and feelings of belonging in a context of migration and mobility. How are transnational identities deployed in everyday life? What are the strategies developed by migrants to maintain ties to the homeland/to make a new home abroad? What are the different understandings of "citizenship"? How do transnational and practices and identification change over the life-course, and what can a generational perspective contribute? How do diasporic communities contribute to their home country's development?

- Cindy Horst, Marta Bivand Erdal & Noor Jdid (2020) The "good citizen": asserting and contesting norms of participation and belonging in Oslo, Ethnic and Racial Studies, 43:16, 76-95

Session 2 (11:00 – 12:30)

Normative Approaches in Migration

Rainer Bauböck

This session examines the normative aspects of migration, raising questions such as: Is there a right to move? What rights do migrants have, once they have crossed a border? On what criteria should a state deliver refugee status? Do we have any moral obligation towards refugees/migrants? This session will therefore help participants to think about the normative or moral issues throughout their research.

- Carens, J. 2013. "Introduction: Mapping the Ethics of Immigration" in *The ethics of immigration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. 1-13.

Session 3 (14:00 – 15:30)

Ethics I: How to work with "vulnerable" populations?

Luigi Achilli

This session will discuss ethical issues related to doing research on migration and with people on the move.

- Scheper-Hughes, N. (1995). The primacy of the ethical: propositions for a militant anthropology. *Current anthropology*, 36(3), 409-440.

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Session 4 (16:00 – 17:30)

Ethics II: Writing and giving back

Luigi Achilli

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This session would focus on the writing process (dealing with anonymity/confidentiality, what data can be included, and how our research could influence the lives of others). It also includes the post-research component, exploring how we can discuss outcomes with the populations of study and how we as researchers can "give back" to these communities/individuals.

- Mosse, D. (2006). Anti-social anthropology? Objectivity, objection, and the ethnography of public policy and professional communities. *Journal of the royal anthropological institute*, *12*(4), 935-956.

3rd of June

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All day (10:00 – 18:00*)

Exact times TBC one week before the start of the workshop

Participants presentations and feedback

Participants and discussants

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This session will involve presentations of students' own research to obtain feedback or to discuss challenges/solutions to studying migration. In this sense, it will have a "hands-on" component that involves students discussing the method/approach they want to apply to their research from what they learned in the workshop and reflect on this experience with the class.

Participants will have about 15 minutes to present followed by 15 minutes of Q&A and feedback (to be determined with final number of participants).

The session will be followed by an aperitivo!

Further readings

Transnationalism and Diasporas

- Portes, A., et al. (1999). "The study of transnationalism: pitfalls and promise of an emergent research field." Ethnic and Racial Studies 22(2): 217-237.
- Waldinger, R. and D. Fitzgerald (2004). "Transnationalism in Question." American Journal of Sociology 109(5): 1177–1195.
- Gamlen, A., 2019. *Human geopolitics: States, emigrants, and the rise of diaspora institutions*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 2

Solidarity Movements with Migrants

- Della Porta D. (2018). *Solidarity Mobilizations in the 'Refugee Crisis': Contentious Moves.* Palgrave MacMillan
- Steinhilper E. (2018). "Mobilizing in transnational contentious spaces: linking relations, emotions and space in migrant activism" *Social Movement Studies* 17(5): 574-91
- Atac I, Rygiel K and Stierl M. (2016). "Introduction: The Contentious Politics of Refugee and Migrant Protest and Solidarity Movements: Remaking Citizenship from the Margins" *Citizenship Studies* 20 (5): 527-44
- Agustin O.G and Jorgensen MG (2018). *Solidarity and the 'refugee Crisis' in Europe*, Springer
- Monforte P (2020). "From compassion to critical resilience: Volunteering in the context of austerity". *The sociological review* 68 (1), 110-126
- Milan C (2018). "Emotions that mobilise: the emotional basis of pro-asylum seekers activism in Austria" in Della Porta D. (ed) 2018 *Solidarity Mobilizations in the 'Refugee Crisis': Contentious Moves* Palgrave MacMillan 183-208
- Kleres J. (2018). "Emotions in the Crisis: mobilising for refugees in Germany and Sweden" in Della Porta D. (ed) 2018 S*olidarity Mobilizations in the 'Refugee Crisis': Contentious Moves* Palgrave MacMillan 209-241
- Monforte P and Maestri (2020). "Who Deserves Compassion? The Moral and Emotional Dilemmas of Volunteering in the 'Refugee Crisis'" *Sociology* 54 (5), 920-935.
- D. della Porta and E. Steinhilper (eds.) (2022) *Contentious Migrant Solidarity. Shrinking Spaces and Civil Society Contestation*. London: Routledge

Methodological Approaches I: Visual analysis

- Van Leeuwen, Theo, and Carey Jewitt, eds. *The handbook of visual analysis*. Sage, 2001
- Nikielska-Sekula, Karolina, and Amandine Desille. *Visual Methodology in Migration Studies: New Possibilities, Theoretical Implications, and Ethical Questions*. Springer Nature, 2021

- Rose, Gillian. *Visual methodologies: An introduction to researching with visual materials*. sage, 2016

<u>Video (from Prof. Roland Bleiker Twitter @rbleiker)</u>

- This video discusses general methodological challenges of studying visual phenomena across three realms: 1) how images are produced; 2) how to analyse their content and; 3) how to assess their political impact: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KU4dTurlP_Y
- This video introduces compositional analysis as a method to carefully observe and analyse the content of images and the political meanings contained in them: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yh9h-QkDRHA
- This video discusses semiotics as a method to explore the symbolic meaning of images and their political consequences: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzqEBrRL1cs
- The fourth video presents discourse analysis as a method to investigate the various links between images and power relations: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uv9Q5fugL60

Methodological Approaches II: Ethnography

- Boccagni, P. (2016) From the multi-sited to the in-between: ethnography as a way of delving into migrants' transnational relationships, International Journal of Social Research Methodology, 19:1, 1-16.
- Hage, G. (2005). A not so multi-sited ethnography of a not so imagined community. *Anthropological theory*, *5*(4), 463-475.
- Hannerz, U. (2003). Being there... and there... and there! Reflections on multi-site ethnography. *Ethnography*, *4*(2), 201-216
- Horst, C. (2009). Expanding sites: The question of 'depth' explored. *Multi-sited ethnography: Theory, praxis and locality in contemporary research*, 119-133.
- Marcus, G. E. (1995). Ethnography in/of the world system: The emergence of multi-sited ethnography. *Annual review of anthropology*, *24*(1), 95-117.
- Marcus, G.E (1999) What Is At Stake–And Is Not–In The Idea And Practice Of Multi-Sited Ethnography, Canberra Anthropology, 22:2, 6-14.
- Nadai, E., & Maeder, C. (2005). Fuzzy fields. Multi-sited ethnography in sociological research. In *Forum Qualitative Research, On-line Journal.* 6:3, 1-10).

Citizenship and Belonging

- Horst, C. (2018). Making a difference in Mogadishu? Experiences of multi-sited embeddedness among diaspora youth. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *44*(8), 1341-1356.

Normative Approaches in Migration

- Miller, D. (2016). Is there a human right to immigrate? Migration in Political Theory. S. F. a. L. Ypi. Oxford, Oxford University Press: 11-31.
- Oberman, K. (2016). Immigration as a Human Right. Migration in Political Theory. S. Fine and L. Ypi. Oxford, Oxford University Press: 32-56.
- Bauböck, R. (2020). "The Democratic Case for Immigration." Politische Vierteljahresschrift 61(2): 357–375 (text attached)

Ethics I: How to work with "vulnerable" populations?

- Cronin-Furman, K., & Lake, M. 2018. "Ethics Abroad: Fieldwork in Fragile and Violent Contexts." *PS: Political Science & Politics, 51*(3), 607-614.
- Khan, H. 2020. 'Friendships built on (dis)trust: navigating fragility during fieldwork'. The New Ethnographer. [https://www.thenewethnographer.org/the-new-ethnographer/2019/08/01/friendships-built-on-distrust-navigating-fragility-during-fieldwork].
- Bryman A, Bell E (2011) Business Research Methods. (3ʳᵈ edition). Ch. 5: Ethics in Business Research. Oxford University Press.
- Baird, A. (2018). 'Dancing with danger: ethnographic safety, male bravado and gang research in Colombia.' *Qualitative Research* 18(3): 342-360.
- Basini, H. (2016). ''Doing No Harm': Methodological and Ethical Challenges of Working with Women Associated with Fighting Forces/Ex-combatants in Liberia.' In A. Wibben (Ed.), *Researching War: Feminist Methods, ethics and politics* (pp.163-184). Oxon & New York: Routledge.
- Habib, R. R. (2019). "Ethical, methodological, and contextual challenges in research in conflict settings: The case of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon." *Conflict and Health*, *13*(1), 29.
- Markham, A. N.; Tiidenberg, K., & Herman, A. (2018). "Ethics as Methods: Doing Ethics in the Era of Big Data Research—Introduction." *Social Media + Society* 4(3): 1-9.
- Sluka, J. A. (2018). 'Too Dangerous for Fieldwork? The Challenge of Institutional Risk-Management in Primary Research on Conflict, Violence and 'Terrorism.'' Contemporary Social Science 0(0): 1–17.
- Tiidenberg K. (2018) Research Ethics, Vulnerability, and Trust on the Internet. In: Hunsinger J., Klastrup L., Allen M. (eds) Second International Handbook of Internet Research. Springer, Dordrecht

Ethics II: Writing and giving back

- Said, Edward W. 1989. 'Representing the Colonized: Anthropology's Interlocutors'. Critical Inquiry 15(2), 202-225.
- Spivak, Gayatri. 1988. 'Can the Subaltern Speak?' In, Nelson, Cary and Lawrence Grossberg (eds), Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture. Urbana : University of Illinois Press
- Curtis, D. A. (2019). "What Is Our Research For? Responsibility, Humility and the Production of Knowledge about Burundi." Africa Spectrum, 54(1), 4-21.