

Geography 9109: Geographies of Migration

Winter Term 2012

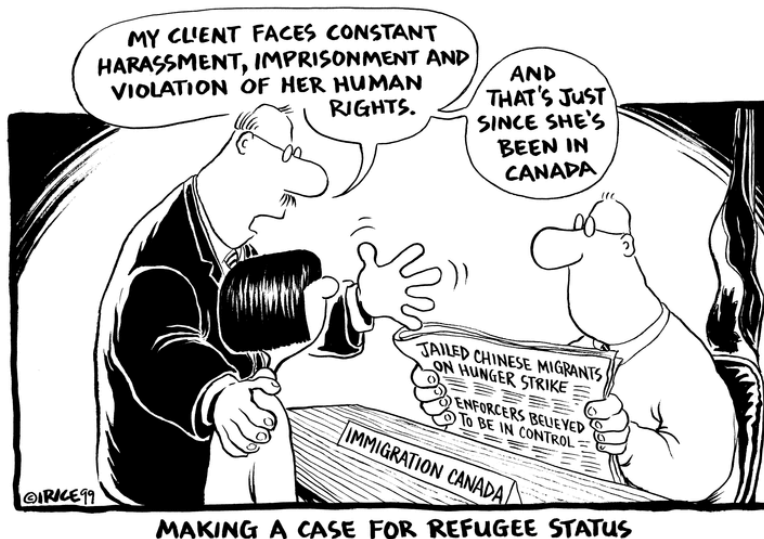
Instructor: Prof Belinda Dodson, Department of Geography
e-mail: bdodson@uwo.ca
Venue: Pleva Room (SSC 2322E)
Time: Wednesdays 09h30 -12h30

Note: First class will be on Wednesday January 18th (second week of classes)

Outline and Approach:

Migration is inherently geographical. It necessarily involves the movement of people across space and territorial boundaries, thus causing separation from familiar places and environments and requiring integration into new social, economic, cultural, political and physical milieux. International movements of people create and sustain transnational linkages, networks and flows, ranging from inter-personal social and family ties to the exchange of capital, goods and information. The very process of migration re-shapes places and landscapes and produces new geographies of culture, ethnicity and language - geographies which are themselves often unsettled and contested. Migration can thus be understood at a variety of scales, from the macro-scale flows between countries or continents to the micro-scale geographies of housing, neighbourhoods and everyday lived experience.

Given that students taking this course come from a number of different disciplinary backgrounds, the approach adopted will bring other disciplines into dialogue with geographical scholarship in order to foster inter-disciplinarity and to demonstrate how a geographical approach can enhance understanding of the processes, patterns and experiences of migration. Students will be actively engaged in representing their “home” disciplines’ perspectives and bringing their particular insights to class discussion.



Proposed Weekly Themes:

Week 1	Jan 18	Introductions and course overview
Week 2	Jan 25	Geographical patterns and trends in international migration
Week 3	Feb 1	Theoretical debates in migration studies / migration geography
Week 4	Feb 8	Transnationalism and diaspora
Week 5	Feb 15	Migration and work
Week 6	Feb 22	No class – Reading/Conference Week
Week 7	Feb 29	Refugees and forced migration
Week 8	Mar 7	Gender, family and migration
Week 9	Mar 14	Migration, development and remittances
Week 10	Mar 21	Urban geographies of immigrant settlement
Week 11	Mar 28	Racism, xenophobia and exclusion
Week 12	Apr 4	Citizenship and belonging
Week 13	Apr 11	Student presentations
Week 14	Apr 18	Student presentations (if second session is required)

The specific themes are open to negotiation with students and may be modified or revised accordingly. Also note that many of these themes are cross-cutting, so that gender, for example, will be covered in a number of different sessions.

Evaluation and Assignments:

Assignment 1: Article review	25%	Due Feb 15
Assignment 2: Term paper	40%	Due Mar 28
Presentation	15%	Apr 11 or 18
Class participation and contributions	20%	All term

Assignment details TBA. The first will be a critical review of a journal article, while the second will be a term paper on a relevant topic of your choice.

Readings

A full list of articles and book chapters to be read for the following week will be provided at each week's class. Class discussion will be based primarily on the assigned readings. Students are expected to arrive in class having done all the required readings and prepared to engage actively in discussion and debate.

Key texts that will be used in the course are the following:

Castles, Stephen and Mark J. Miller, 2009. *The Age of Migration* (4th edition). New York and London: Guilford.

Samers, Michael, 2010. *Migration*. London: Routledge.

These are available either in the Weldon Library (on reserve) or from the instructor.

Further Reading

In addition to prescribed readings, the following journals are likely to be helpful in assignment preparation and in further reading related either to this course or to students' own research in the field of migration studies:

Population, Space and Place (formerly *International Journal of Population Geography*)
International Migration
International Migration Review
Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies
Journal of International Migration and Integration
Ethnic and Racial Studies
Global Networks

Academic Geography journals in which articles on international migration occasionally appear include the following:

Annals of the Association of American Geographers
Canadian Geographer
Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers
Antipode
Area
Children's Geographies
Economic Geography
Environment and Planning (A, B, C and D, but especially D: *Society and Space*)
Gender, Place and Culture
Geoforum
Geopolitics
Journal of Economic Geography
Political Geography
Professional Geographer
Progress in Human Geography
Social and Cultural Geography (formerly *Ecumene*)
Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie

Given their topicality and significance, international migration and geographical mobility in general have been the theme of a number of recent novels (and films). Among my own favourites are the following:

Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*
Austin Clarke, *More*
Kiran Desai, *The Inheritance of Loss*
Andrea Levy, *Small Island*
Marina Lewycka, *Strawberry Fields* (published in the UK as *Two Caravans*)
Rose Tremain, *The Road Home*
M G Vassanji, *No New Land*