

Interdisciplinary Programmes

Academic year 2018-2019

Race and Mobility: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

MINT131 - Spring - 6 ECTS
Tuesdays 08:15-10:00 / S3

Course Description

Mobility is often taken for granted. It is also commonplace to assume a world of expanding mobility. Mobilities have historically been quite complex and reflect interesting continuities over time. Frequently coerced, they have also been regulated in various ways. The Atlantic slave trade exemplifies its centrality to capitalism and modernity, while the end of formal slavery marked new associations between mobility and coercion. Since the nineteenth century other forms of mobility became more deeply marked, notably by race, as political barriers went up to replace falling physical barriers to distance. Continuities and discontinuities in the regulation of mobility are hence a key focus of this seminar. How can these histories illuminate the contemporary regulation of mobility and its underlying assumptions? How do regulatory regimes structure what we know and cannot know about mobility, and frame related discourses, populist responses, public policies, and resource decisions? What can they tell us about the liberal governance of mobility, and about liberal inter-/national institutions and governance?

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This syllabus is provisional and subject to revision.

Evaluation

(1) An individual/paired paper—3000/5000 words / 40 per cent:

This could be a conventional research paper, historical or contemporary, related to the theme of the seminar. You will normally pair up for the paper. Other forms of (individual) creative written output relating to the seminar may also be possible—e.g. essays, short stories, reflective accounts of personal experiences, etc. Papers (and other written output) will be presented and discussed in class.

Schedule and deadlines:

Paper topics: **12 March**

500 word abstracts with references (where relevant): **2 April**

Presentations: **21 and 28 May** (presentation drafts and slides, or any other visual materials, to be circulated by 16h00 on **19 and 26 May respectively**)

Revised papers: **2 June** (16h00)

(2) Moderated class discussion / 30 per cent:

The discussion could be in a 'talk-show' mode involving one or two groups of up to six participants, and with each discussion lasting about 45 minutes. Groups will form themselves and design and execute the talk-show independently, and from scratch. The topic would be related to the seminar, and the material will be research-based and broadly pre-scripted. The script would guide the assessment, and need not be the actual text of the discussion. ([Click here for a podcast version of the Spring 2018 class discussion of 'Who can be a refugee?'](#)) Other format suggestions welcome.

or

Two reading responses—1000 words each / 30 per cent:

This is an option for those not taking part in the 'talk show'. The responses will be based on readings from **Weeks 3-5** and **Weeks 6-9**. Deadlines: **9 and 30 April respectively**

(3) Class participation / 30 per cent

'Class participation' covers regular attendance, engaged and reflective participation based on the readings, and creative contribution and leadership in class discussions and tasks

Syllabus

Note: 'race' here denotes a social construct intersecting in particular with class, gender, and ethnicity.

Week 1 / 19 February 2019 / Introduction

Course introduction and preliminary discussion of paper topics and topics for class discussion

Week 2 / 26 February 2019 / TBA

Week 3 / 5 March 2019 / Bodies in Motion

This class will discuss nineteenth century population movements around the world and their explanations.

Adam McKeown, 'Global Migration, 1846-1940', *Journal of World History*, 15:2, 2004

Sucheta Mazumdar, 'Localities of the Global: Asian Migrations between Slavery and Citizenship', *International Review of Social History*, 52:1, 2007

Week 4 / 12 March 2019 / Race, Labour, and Exclusion

We will build on distinctions between free and unfree labour (Week 3) to explore connections between labour, race, and mobility.

Mooh-Ho Jung, *Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor, and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation* (Baltimore: JHU Press, 2006), ch. 1, 'Outlawing Coolies'

Marilyn Lake and Henry Reynolds, *Drawing the Global Colour Line: White Men's Countries and the International Challenge of Racial Equality* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), Introduction and ch. 1, 'The Coming Man: Chinese Migration to the Goldfields'

Week 5 / 19 March 2019 / Imperial Bleach

Here we will explore how the formation of white working class identities against an imperial backdrop helped foster racialized immigration policies

James R. Barrett and David Roediger, 'In between Peoples: Race, Nationality and the New Immigrant Working Class', *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 16: 3, 1997

Kornel Chang, 'Circulating Race and Empire: Transnational Labor Activism and the

Politics of Anti-Asian Agitation in the Anglo-American Pacific World, 1880–1910', *Journal of American History*, 96: 3, 2009

Tylor Stovall, 'National Identity and Shifting Imperial Frontiers: Whiteness and the Exclusion of Colonial Labor after World War I', *Representations*, 84: 2003

Week 6 / 26 March 2019 / Mobility, Subversion, Suppression

Racial immigration policies blended into policies to suppress transnational radical political movements

Moon-ho Jung, 'Seditious Subjects: Race, State Violence, and the U.S. Empire,' *Journal of Asian American Studies*, 14: 2, 2011

Seema Sohi, 'Race, Surveillance, and Indian Anticolonialism in the Transnational Western U.S.-Canadian Borderlands,' *Journal of American History*, 98: 2, 2011

Week 7 / 2 April 2019 / Geopolitics and Mobility

Immigration policies are not just about exclusion, they are also about admittance and deportation

Matthew Coleman, 'Immigrant Il-Legality: Geopolitical and Legal Borders in the US, 1882–Present,' *Geopolitics*, 17: 2, 2012

Paul Kramer, 'The Geopolitics of Mobility: Immigration Policy and American Global Power in the Long Twentieth Century,' *American Historical Review*, 123: 2, 2018

Week 8 / 9 April 2019 / Governing Mobility

This class will attempt to situate the liberal governance of mobility in the context of the transnational regulation of labour mobility.

Matthew Guterl and Christine Skwiot, 'Atlantic and Pacific Crossings: Race, Empire, and "the Labor Problem" in the Late Nineteenth Century,' *Radical History Review*, 91: 2005

Hagar Kotef, *Movement and the Ordering of Freedom: On Liberal Governances of Mobility* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2015) ch. 1

Week 9 / 16 April 2019 / Immigration and Security

As immigration has grown more securitized, immigration policies have become aspects of security policies. They have also together spread through our lives and societies.

Amy Kaplan, 'Where Is Guantanamo?' *American Quarterly*, 57: 3, 2005

Jef Huysmans, *The Politics of Insecurity: Fear, Asylum, and Migration in the EU*, New York: Routledge, 2006, ch. 4

Virginie Mamadouh, 'The Scaling of the 'Invasion': A Geopolitics of Immigration Narratives in France and the Netherlands,' *Geopolitics*, 17: 2, 2012

Week 10 / 30 April 2019 / Reading and writing break

Week 11 / 7 May 2019 / TBA

Week 12 / 14 May 2019 / Moderated class discussion

Week 13 / 21 May 2019 / Presentations

Week 14 / 28 May 2019 / Presentations / Review and reflection