

SO202 A Lexicon of Migration

Seminar Leader: Agata Lisiak

Course Times: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:45 am-12.15 pm

Room: TBA

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1-2.30 pm, Thursdays 10 am-12 pm

As one of the most important features of today's globalized world, migration remains highly debated on local, national, and international levels. Migration is assigned various meanings and statuses (high-skilled and low-skilled, legal and illegal, documented and undocumented, forced and voluntary, restricted and unrestricted), which are, in turn, contested in multiple ways through grassroots and individual activism, academic and artistic interventions, as well as the work of local and international NGOs. Today, migration affects everyone regardless of their own migratory status, and many contemporary societies – especially but not exclusively their urban centers – have been described as pluralist, post-migrant, or super-diverse. The Lexicon of Migration course critically explores migration from global and local perspectives, emphasizing the role of social inequalities in producing specific forms and taxonomies of migration. The selected readings will help students examine diverse social experiences of migration, as well as a range of related concepts such as belonging, border, movement, citizenship, and solidarity, among many others. Students will familiarize themselves with the UN refugee system, regional and national policies regarding migration, the challenges that emerge from them, as well as the ways in which they are contested. By the end of the semester, students will have gained insight into various histories of migration, migration regimes, and migrant infrastructures. Designed by scholars and educators from across the Bard network (AlQuds University in Palestine, American University of Central Asia in Kyrgyzstan, Bard College in the United States, Bard College Berlin in Germany) and affiliated with liberal arts colleges in the US through the Mellon Consortium grant (Vassar, Sarah Lawrence, Bennington, Bard), the course aims at advancing students' understanding of migration both in the specific local contexts in which they study, as well as from international perspectives. Through a series of joint assignments, students will have a unique opportunity to engage with their peers and professors from other campuses.

Requirements

Attendance and participation

Your preparation for class, attendance, and participation are crucial. Please complete the required readings, do your homework, be on time for each class, and contribute regularly to the discussions. Missing more than two sessions will affect your participation grade for this class. Please consult the Student Handbook for BCB's policy on absences. Attendance and participation make up up to 30% of the final grade. A self-assessment rubric will be distributed in class and completed at the end of the semester.

Readings

You will need a **course reader** (please purchase it in the library) and a copy of **Tayeb Salih's 1966 novel *Season of Migration to the North*** (a few copies will be available on the reserve shelf in the

library). On a weekly basis, you will be expected to devote about 4 hours to complete all the readings. As you read the assigned texts, please remember to annotate them: write down questions, comments, observations – we will use them as a basis for our class discussions. Please note that several of the readings (marked red in the syllabus) will be shared across the Bard network campuses taking part in this co-taught course initiative.

Assignments

Several assignments will add up to your final grade for this class alongside your participation grade: 1) an image assignment (10%); 2) a visual response to a prompt (10%); 3) a keyword (20%); 4) a 3000-word academic essay (30%). Most of the assignments will be developed in several stages, which will allow you to revise your and your peers' work. The deadlines listed in the box below refer to the *final* deadlines. Please make sure to check the syllabus schedule regularly for the in-between deadlines and details regarding the assignments. You will receive grading criteria for each assignment separately.

Policy on Plagiarism and Late Submission of Papers

As specified in The Student Handbook, "Bard College Berlin students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of integrity and intellectual engagement in their academic work. Attendance and thorough preparation for class, as well as commitment to the pursuit of excellence in written work, are fundamental requirements of Bard College Berlin's programs." Acts of academic misconduct (plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating) will be reported and result in a disciplinary process (please see The Student Handbook for details).

Assignments that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. If I agree to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade higher than a C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Grade Breakdown and Final Deadlines

Class participation: 30%
Assignment 1 (image response): 10% // 15 February
Assignment 2 (visual response): 10% // 28 February
Assignment 3 (keyword): 20% // 29 March
Assignment 4 (final paper): 30% // 15 May

How to read this syllabus:

HIGHLIGHTED – readings available online, *not* in the reader

RED – readings and events shared across the Bard network

BLUE – mandatory guest lectures, workshops, visits

GREEN – recommended off-campus visits funded by the Mellon grant

ASSIGNMENT 1a: Find an image that in your mind depicts or engages with migration. Email the image to Agata by **25 January** (if you are not the author of this image, make sure to include its source and author). Caption the image, write a 500-word explanation how this image engages with migration, and add 3 hashtags. Prepare to briefly (3 min) present your chosen image in relation to one or both of the texts assigned for 28 January.

Week 1: The Worlds of Migration

28 January

- Hedge, Radha S. *Mediating Migration*. Cambridge: Polity, 2016. 1-15.
- Mitchell, WJT. 2012. Migration, Law, and the Image: Beyond the Veil of Ignorance. In: *Seeing Through Race*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 126-148.

30 January

- Massey, Doreen. 1994. A Global Sense of Place.
- De Haas, Hein. 2014. What Drives Human Migration? In: B. Anderson and M. Keith (eds) *Migration: A COMPAS Anthology*. Oxford: COMPAS, 2014.

Week 2: Forced Displacement and Refugees 1

4 February

- [The 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees](#)
- [UNHCR Forced Displacement in 2017 \(Global Trends Report\)](#)

ASSIGNMENT 1b: In-class hashtag exercise.

6 February

- Arendt, Hannah. 1943. We, Refugees. *Altogether Elsewhere: Writers on Exile*. Ed. Marc Robinson. Boston: Faber & Faber, 110-119.
- Said, Edward. 2000. *Reflections on Exile and Other Essays*. Cambridge: Harvard UP,
- Nayeri, Dina. 2017. [The Ungrateful Refugee: We Have No Debt to Repay](#). *The Guardian*.
- Shire, Warsan. 2011. Conversations about Home. *Teaching My Mother How To Give Birth*.

Week 3: Forced Displacement and Refugees 2

11 February

- deGenova, Nicholas. 2017. Introduction to *The Borders of "Europe" and the European Question*. Durham: Duke UP. 1-24.
- Crawley, Heaven, et al. 2017. *Unravelling Europe's 'Migration Crisis': Journeys over land and sea*. Bristol: Policy Press. Excerpts.

ASSIGNMENT 1c: Students revise their original 500-word statement and 3 hashtags and email them to Agata by 15 February.

13 February

- Malkki, Liisa. 1996. *Speechless Emissaries: Refugees, Humanitarianism, and Dehistoricization*. *Cultural Anthropology* 11.3: 377-404.
- Burrell, Kathy and Kathrin Hörschelmann. 2018. Perilous Journeys: Visualising the Racialised "Refugee Crisis". *Antipode*. Online first.
- Fiddian-Quasmiyeh, Elena. [Representations of Displacement Series](#). *Refugee Hosts*. 2017.

Week 4: What is Europe now? 1

18 February

- Rodney, Walter. 1972. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. London: Verso. Excerpts.

- Hansen, Peo and Stefan Jonsson. 2011. Demographic Colonialism: EU–African Migration Management and the Legacy of Eurafica. *Globalizations* 8.3: 261-276.

ASSIGNMENT 2a: **What is Europe now?** – based on our discussions so far, respond visually to this prompt. Take a picture, create a collage, draw, make a short video, etc. in response to the prompt and email it to Agata by **25 February** together with a caption and a 500-word description engaging critically with one or more of the themes we have been exploring this semester.

20 February

- Gutiérrez Rodríguez, Encarnación. 2018. The Coloniality of Migration and the “Refugee Crisis”: On the Asylum-Migration Nexus, the Transatlantic White European Settler Colonialism-Migration and Racial Capitalism. *Refuge* 34.1: 16-28.
- García Agustín, Óscar and Martin Bak Jørgensen. 2016. Solidarity without Borders: Gramscian Perspectives on Migration and Civil Society Alliances. *Solidarity without Borders*. London: Pluto Press. 3-19.

ASSIGNMENT 3a: Pick three keywords from the keywords of migration pool created by faculty and/or add different keywords. Submit the selected keywords to your professors by **27 February**, specifying your first, second, and third choices.

*** evening film screening and Q&As: NATURA URBANA by Matthew Gandy (TBC) ***

Week 5: What is Europe now? 2

25 February

Prem Kumar Rajaram, CEU – guest lecture

27 February

EuropeNow Workshop

ASSIGNMENT 2b: Following up on today’s workshop, please revise your visual response and/or the accompanying caption and description and email the final versions to Agata no later than midnight, **28 February**. Selected pieces will be featured in a special issue of the academic journal [EuropeNow](#).

Week 6: Keywords of Migration 1

4 March

- Williams, Raymond. 1983. *Humanity. Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Casas-Cortes, Maribel et al. 2015. “New Keywords: Migration and Borders.” *Cultural Studies* 29(1): 55-87.

6 March

- Anzaldúa, Gloria. 2012 (1987). *The Homeland. Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books.
- Saúl A. 2018. “[Documenting the undocumented: how the US-Mexico border shaped my mother’s life.](#)” *Media Diversified*.

ASSIGNMENT 3b: Get in touch with your peers and start working on your keyword. Your professors will share a google doc with you, which you should use for this assignment. You will also receive a handout that will help you structure your work. Your keyword is due on **17 March**.

Week 7: A Borderless World?

11 March

- Calais Writers. 2017. *Voices from the "Jungle": Stories from the Calais Refugee Camp*. 2017. London: Pluto Books. Excerpts.
- Mbembe, Achille. 2018. The idea of a borderless world.
- Crawley, Heaven, et al. 2017. *Unravelling Europe's 'Migration Crisis': Journeys over land and sea*. Bristol: Policy Press. Excerpts.

13 March

- Tyler, Imogen. 2013. *Revolting Subjects: Social Abjection and Resistance in Neoliberal Britain*. London: Zed Books. Excerpts.
- Juno, Mac and Molly Smith. 2018. *Borders. Revolting Prostitutes: The Fight for Sex Workers' Rights*. London: Verso.

Week 8: Lands of Strangers

18 March

- Amin, Ash. 2013. *Land of Strangers*. Cambridge: Polity. Excerpts.
- Wise, Amanda. 2016. Mobilizing Sentiment for Multiplicity. *Encountering the City: Urban Encounters from Accra to New York*. Ed. Helen Wilson and Jonny Darling. London: Routledge. 25-44.

ASSIGNMENT 3c: For next week's session, go through all the keywords saved on Google Classroom and think how you would like to arrange them. Bring your ideas to class on **25 March**.

20 March

- Lisiak, Agata. 2018. A Sense of Disorder: Orientation and Migration in the 'New' West. *Cities of the South/Cities of the North*. Eds. Kerry Bystrom, Ashleigh Harris and Andrew Webber. London: Routledge. 199-215.
- Hentschel, Christine. 2018. Dark Truths in East German Towns in Times of Islamophobia. *Cities of the South/Cities of the North*. Eds. Kerry Bystrom, Ashleigh Harris and Andrew Webber. London: Routledge. 217-235.

Week 9: Keywords of Migration 2

25 March

Keywords workshop

BCB and AUCA students discuss how to arrange their keywords. Time for final edits. Revised keywords due **29 March**.

27 March

A surprise film screening!

HOMEWORK: Find a YouTube video that features music or other sound(s) that engage with migration-related themes in some way. Send the link to the YouTube video to Agata by 1 April.

Week 10: Migration in/and Ordinary Cities 1

1 April

- Simone, AbdouMaliq. 2004. People as Infrastructure: Intersecting Fragments in Johannesburg. *Public Culture*, 16(3): 407-429.
- Hall, Suzanne M. (2015) Migrant urbanisms: ordinary cities and everyday resistance. *Sociology*, 49 (5): 853-869.

3 April

Off-campus visit (TBC)

HOMEWORK: Go through the YouTube playlist and select one video (other than the one you posted yourself) and write a brief (300-500 words) response that relates the video to one or more of the assigned readings, topics discussed in class, etc.). Email your response to Agata *and* post it on GoogleDrive by **April 9**.

Week 11: Migration in/and Ordinary Cities 2

8 April

- Muniandy, Parthiban. 2018. From the pasar to the mamak stall: refugees and migrants as surplus ghost labor in Malaysia's food service industry. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.
- Haid, Christian. 2013. Contentious Informalities - The Narratives of Picnicking at Berlin's Thai Park. *dérive - Zeitschrift für Stadtforschung*, (51), pp. 43 –48.

10 April

- Rostock, Petra. 2014. Subjects that Matter? Nonidentitarian Strategies of Pro-“Migrant” and “Migrant” Protest in Germany. In: Katarzyna Marciniak and Imogen Tyler (eds) *Immigrant protest: politics, aesthetics, and everyday dissent*. 209-223.

Guest visit by a Berlin-based migrants' rights activist (tbc)

Week 12 – SPRING BREAK

Week 13: Season of Migration 1

22 April

- NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK

24 April

- de Waal, Alex. 2004. [Counter-Insurgency on the Cheap](#). *London Review of Books*.
- Fanon, Frantz. 1986 (1952). The Fact of Blackness. In: *Black Skin White Masks*. London: Pluto Press, 82-108.

[Fatin Abbas, guest lecture and film screening](#)

+++ weekend visit to Thai Park incl. guest talk by Christian Haid (Saturday or Sunday) +++

Week 14: Season of Migration 2

29 April

- Salih, Tayeb. 1966. *Season of Migration to the North*.

1 May

NO CLASS – INTERNATIONAL WORKERS’ DAY

Week 15

6 May

- Salih, Tayeb. 1966. *Season of Migration to the North*.

8 May

final discussion