At the turn of the 21st century, “globalization” is the order of the day. With international migration bringing the alien “other” from third world to first, and worldwide trade and communications amplifying the feedbacks traveling in the opposite direction, the view that nation-state and society normally converge has waned. Instead, social scientists are looking for new ways to think about the connections between “here” and “there.” Observing that migration produces a plethora of connections spanning “home” and “host” societies, as well as linkages among migrants criss-crossing the globe, today’s scholarship emphasizes the limits (or possibly obsolescence) of assimilation, contending instead that a transnational or diasporic pattern offers the key to understanding the contemporary immigrant phenomenon.

This course seeks a critical encounter with the rapidly burgeoning literature on immigrant transnationalism and diasporas. We will seek to ask:

- Do immigrant loyalties, attachments, and behaviors remain home-country oriented? Or are immigrants instead turned into host-country nationals, committed to societies in which they have settled?
- How have immigrant long-distance attachments changed over the course of the past 100 years? How does the current age of mass migration differ from the age of mass migration at the turn of the 20th century?
- What are the impacts of home country attachments, whether “here” or “there”? What sorts of positive and negative effects do they produce?
- Can home country and host country attachments be reconciled? Or are they mutually exclusive (as so often argued)?

We will explore these questions through an ongoing encounter with an interdisciplinary social science literature, drawing readings from anthropology, history, political science, and sociology.

Readings: There is no textbook: readings involve journal articles, online reports or papers, or selected chapters from individual books. Most readings are available on-line, via UCLA library. Some readings are directly available on the web: please use the on-line syllabus to access those readings. Other readings can be accessed via the course website.

Requirements:
Course requirements

The basic requirement is to do the readings. There are plenty of them, and you need to stay on top of the material at all times. Most of our class time will consist of structured discussion, interwoven with occasional brief overview lectures. This means that everyone should anticipate participating in class discussions; those who don’t raise hands can expect to be called on, in every class.

In addition, each student will be asked to write two “issues papers,” surveying, synthesizing, and critically assessing the readings for any one session starting October 9; the papers should be roughly five pages in length and posted to the website by the Thursday morning before the relevant class meeting. The paper will then be presented orally at the session for which it is scheduled: you need to be sufficiently familiar and comfortable with the content of your paper so that you do not have to rely on reading. Please consider your preferences and send me an email, by no later than October 1, with three possible dates, listed in order of preference. I will then make assignments by no later than October 3.

Finally, you can choose between a final exam and a final paper. An exam would entail responding to two questions, with essays of roughly 10 pages in length each. The questions would ask you to develop a critical synthesis of different aspects of our readings and discussions.

Alternatively, you can write a paper, of minimum 20 pages in length. Ideally, the paper would be closely related to the topic of the class, but I am willing to entertain topics that are more distant from our concerns, as long as they deal with a migration-related theme. If the paper option seems attractive, I suggest that you contact me reasonably early so that we can determine whether the topic is appropriate and if so, to do some fine-tuning before you get too far along.

Deadline: Friday, December 18.

Week 1 (September 25): Introduction

Stephane Dufoix, Diasporas, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008, introduction, chapter 1 (on course website)


Peggy Levitt and S. Khagram, “Constructing transnational studies, “ 2008 (on course website)

Roger Waldinger, The Cross-Border Connection: Immigrants, Emigrants, and their Homelands, Chapter 3 (chapter 2 optional)
Debate in *Ethnic and Racial Studies Review*: reviews by Susan Eckstein, Nina Glick-Schiller, Jose Itzigsohn, Peter Kivisto, Peggy Levitt; rejoinder by Roger Waldinger


**Week 2 (October 2): No class**

**Weeks 3 (October 9): Historical Perspectives**


Donna Gabaccia, *Italy’s Many Diasporas*, Chapters 1, 3, 5


**Week 4 (October 16): Homeland connections: types, causes, consequences (all papers available through UCLA library except for Beauchemin and Safi, on course website)**

Chris Beauchemin and Mirna Safi, “From trans-migrants to trans-places: insights from the comparison of cross-border activities across three categories of migrants in France,” unpublished paper on course website


**Week 5 (October 23): Emigration Policy**


Natasha Iskander, The Creative State, Chapters 7, 9


**Week 6: Second generation connections: transmission and durability (October 30)**


Week 7: Emigrant/Diaspora politics (November 6)

Roger Waldinger, *The Cross-Border Connection*, chapter 5

Devesh Kapur, *Diasporas and Development*, Chapters 7 & 8


Ruud Koopmans, et al., *Contested Citizenship: Immigration and Cultural Diversity in Europe*, chapter 3

Week 8 (November 13): Diasporas and development

Devesh Kapur, *Diasporas and Development*, Chapters 2, 4

Natasha Iskander, *The Creative State*, Chapters 2-6


Week 9 (November 13): Communication and social ties across borders


Week 10: Home country impacts


Robert Smith, *Mexican New York*, chapter 4