Course Description

This course examines the emergence of transnational communities, recent patterns of migration and the role of media forms and practices in redefining culture and national belonging. We will explore how media practices define culture and identity for diasporic groups within the landscape of global cities. What role do media play in the (re)imaging of cultural politics, nationalism and everyday life in the context of global relocations? How do technology and media enable new configurations of cultural resistance and identification within (and between) different immigrant groups? What does this mean in terms of negotiating the global and local in various aspects of immigrant lives? Through field trips, field work, discussion and lectures, students will be exposed to contemporary issues and research.

Course Objectives

To expose students to current research and theory drawn from interdisciplinary sources in the comparative study of transnational mobility, diasporic identity and media forms and practices in urban landscapes.

Evaluation

• Students are expected to actively participate in daily seminars. Your participation, involvement in discussions, and level of engagement in class will be graded. (30%)

• Research rationale/questions: This is a short paper of 3-5 pages where you will identify a project and area of interest. This will be the topic that you will explore in depth and will then turn into your final project. The project should explore the role and meaning of media practices in relation to transnational communities. (10%)

• Final Research paper (15-20 pages) on a topic of interest that is related to the issue of transnational cultures, communities, and media practices. The paper will combine theoretical discussion and data from research conducted on a specific question. (60%)

Field Trips

Walking tour of the East End with Prof. S.I. Martin
Tour of the BBC
Refugee Council of London
Visit to Southall, Southall Black Sisters
Museum of London Docklands: London, Sugar & Slavery Tour
Theater: National Theater of London
Websites to follow:
We will list websites of interest and related information on Blackboard but here are some to get started.

• Open Democracy
  http://www.opendemocracy.net/globalization-migrationeurope/issue.jsp
  Follows issues on globalization, mobility, borders, etc – all themes related to this course

• The Guardian, BBC and other British media for current immigration related articles
  http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/immigration
  http://news.bbc.co.uk/

• The New York Times’ article on Southall section of London
  This may prove helpful for those studying the south asian diaspora, and we will be visiting this section of London on 6 January

• Refugee Council
  http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/
  Familiarize yourself with this site, we will be visiting the organization while in London

• European Council of Refugees and Exiles
  http://www.ecre.org/

• Home Office and Rules regarding immigration to the UK
  http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/

• Untold London is a good site to follow for information on London’s transnational communities
  http://www.untoldlondon.org.uk/

• Museum of London Docklands: London, Sugar & Slavery
  http://www.museumindocklands.org.uk/English/EventsExhibitions/Special/LSS/
  We will be visiting this museum with a guided tour by Dr. Tom Wareham on 11 January

• Dark Matter 101, edited by Ash Sharma
  http://www.darkmatter101.org/site/

• Transport for London: Tube & Bus Maps, General Info
  General: http://www.tfl.gov.uk/
WEEK 1

Monday 01/04  Session 1: Globalization and Migration  ROOM 352
Field trip: History of transnational communities | Walking tour with Prof. S.I. Martin

Tuesday 01/05  Session 2: Contested Politics of Arrival  ROOM 253
10:00am  Guest Speaker: Arun Kundnani | Institute for Race Relations, London
1:00pm  Field trip: Refugee Council | 240-250 Ferndale Road. London SW9 8B.

*** Meet at 1 pm to take tube to Brixton; meeting at Refugee Council will begin at 2pm ***

Wednesday 01/06  Session 3: Space, Presence and Identity  ROOM 254
Field trip: Visit to Southall led by Poulomi Desai (http://www.usurp.org.uk)

Thursday 01/07  Session 4: Gendered Logics of Admittance  ROOM 252
Guest Speaker: Rabila Gupta | Journalist | The Guardian (http://www.guardian.co.uk/profile/rabilagupta)

Friday 01/08  Session 5: Cultural Production and Politics  ROOM 252
Guest Speaker: Ashwani Sharma | School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies | University of East London.

WEEK 2

Monday 01/11  Session 6: Labor and Migration  ROOM 252
Guest Speaker: Kavita Dutta | University of London
Field Trip: Museum of London Docklands: London, Sugar & Slavery Tour with Dr. Tom Wareham
http://www.museumindocklands.org.uk/English/EventsExhibitions/Special/LSS/

*** Meet at 1:00pm to take Tube to Museum ***

Tuesday 01/12  Session 7: Crisis of European Identity  ROOM 624
Guest Speaker: Sara Silvestri | City University of London
Field Trip/Discussion: Gholam Khibany | London Metropolitan University

Wednesday 01/13  Session 8: Media, Children and Migration  ROOM 631
Guest Speaker: Liesbeth de Block | Institute of Education, University of London

Thursday 01/14  Session 9: Media and Cultural Practices  ROOM 252
Field Trip: Theater: Tom Stoppard’s “Every Good Boy Deserves Favour” | National Theater of London
(http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/47002/productions/every-good-boy-deserves-favour-2010.html)

Friday 01/15  Session 10: Concluding Session  ROOM 253
Final Project

Papers Due: February 10
Suggested Length: 2,500 words

In this project, you will examine how a specific site of or subject concerning migration (historical or otherwise) is complicated by media, new technologies, and social practices. The objective of this paper is two-fold: 1) present a critical, ethnographically focused discussion on transnational communities in the global/urban context of London, and; 2) consider how multiple forms of media and mediated practices have transformed or complicated aspects of migrant communities.

Project Techniques:
1. Provide a brief overview of your expected research topic/interest, including research questions, and possible methods. If you are choosing a topic that can be studied comparatively between New York and London, be sure to specify why a comparative project is preferred. Post this on Blackboard under “Discussion Board.”
   DUE DATE: December 30

2. Select a field site(s): You will begin by choosing a specific site(s) or subject(s) of migration in London. This may be a site we visit as a class, or your own independent selection based on your research interests; or, you might want to follow a specific subject which has migration as its core discourse (e.g. media event; group identity; citizenship status; etc.). You need not wait until we arrive in London, although you may want to give yourself a few options which can be narrowed down.
   When thinking about your site(s) or subject(s) concerning migration, it will help to expand the sense of ‘media’ beyond electric, digital, or print forms, and to consider multiple forms of mediation.
   DUE DATE: January 7 (third day in London)

3. During the time in London, you should make several visits to your field site(s), and take notes on the spatial character, descriptions of economy/consumption, social institutions, political activities, media practices, media choices (e.g. local newspapers, museums, etc.), etc. Your focus should take into account the course readings, discussions, presentations, current events, and news sources.
   If you choose a 'subject' to follow, choose sites in London where you can observe this subject playing out ‘on the ground’ in the local context of London or its neighborhoods.
   Ethnographic methods are encouraged for either approach.

4. To advance a critique of the communities and their transformation, we suggest you use 3 or 4 related key words from the list below to consider how media, new technologies, and social practices have necessitated a revision or transformation of these constructs. The terms are to be used as a framework to enable you to think analytically (historically, comparatively, etc.) You should focus on your field site(s) or subject(s), and identify the ways in which your observations and ethnographic findings place these terms in tension.
   Your project may also take a comparative approach, comparing a specific site in New York to your London site. Of course, a comparative project will deploy and utilize the related key words in the discussion.

   You should incorporate readings from the class, and no more than 3 scholarly sources external to the assigned reading list. Current events and news sources do not count as external sources, so there is no limit (within reason).
**List of Key Words**:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nation/National identity</th>
<th>Global Civil Society</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>Scale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonality</td>
<td>Spatiality &amp; Temporality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connectivity</td>
<td>Multiplicity</td>
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<td>Transnational Public Sphere</td>
<td>Dispossession</td>
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<td>Citizenship</td>
<td>Mobility</td>
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<td>Memory</td>
<td>Visibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desire</td>
<td>Politics</td>
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</tbody>
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*This list should be actively added to, arising from readings & course discussions*