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GENDER & MIGRATION: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Migration is, like most other human behaviors, a gendered process and this seminar will explore that dimension. Many scholars, journalists, and observers have stressed the recent “feminization” of international migration. But large-scale female participation in global migration is hardly new. It is true that today women make up almost half of the 200 million people who reside outside of their native country. But they made up a similar proportion half-a-century ago and in the U.S., the female proportion of all immigrants was actually ten percentage points higher in the 1930s and 40s (60%) than it is today. Women outnumbered men in the movement from Seville to the Americas in the late 1500s and in that out of Ireland during the 1800s.

What we seem to have is a bewildering diversity and the first question we will address in the seminar is why sex-ratios vary so much across place and time. Why, for example, was the Irish exodus significantly female, the Italian one heavily male, and Chinese migration almost exclusively male during the nineteenth and early twentieth century? Or why 70 percent of all Filipino migrants today are women while the reverse is true for Pakistanis? What factors could account for these drastic differences: labor markets, education, demographic and family structures, gender ideologies, religion, government regulations and legal status, intrinsic aspects of the migratory flow itself?

We will also address a series of related questions: Do men and women migrate for different reasons? Are there significant gender differences in the socio-economic integration in host societies, in the sending and receiving of remittances, in the rates of return? To what degree migration undermines or strengthens gender systems in the countries of origins and in the diaspora? Does emigration serve to empower women economically, reduce fertility, increase the value of education, make definitions of femininity and masculinity more androgynous? Or can greater freedom of movement coexist with continued restrictions in other realms?

Learning objectives:

- 1-explore the questions listed in the previous two paragraphs.
- 2-apply the research methods of history and sociology to the study of international migration, social adaptation, and their gendered components.
- 3-Learn how to evaluate the reliability of sources--including primary documents, statistical data, oral interviews, and images--and explore the nature of evidence in the social sciences.

Assignments

The assigned weekly readings will be posted on coursework. Each student will also select an article or book chapter related to her/his research topic for the class to read.

The written requirement for the class is a 12-15 research page paper on a topic agreed with the instructor and based on secondary sources (scholarly articles, books, and other publications) and, if useful and feasible, primary sources (e.g. censuses, passenger records, family letters, immigrant diaries and memoirs, oral interviews).

Assignments are due on the following dates:

Research prospectus with annotated bibliography (3-4 pages)	Week 3 Sept 17
Oral presentation of progress report on your research project	Weeks 4-6 Sept 24-Oct 8
Draft of research paper	Week 11 Nov 12
Final oral presentation of your research project	Weeks 12 & 14, Nov 19 & Dec 3
Research paper	Week 15 Monday Dec 9

GRADE

The grade breakdown is as follows:

Class attendance	10%
Participation in class discussions	10%
Three-page research prospectus & annotated bibliography	10%
Two oral presentations on your research and a draft of the paper	20%
Final paper	50%

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS & READINGS

Week 1. September 3. Introduction

First class. No reading

Week 2. September 10. The Deep History of Migration, Sex, and Gender

Migration is the origin of life on Earth and thus much older than sex, since life on our planet was asexual during its first 2.5 billion years. Migration is also one of the three essential activities of all sexual species: eating, reproducing, and moving in search of food and mates. Almost all animals leave their parents upon maturity and form new unions. The process, however, is sex biased. In some species, females are more likely to leave and move to the community of their male mates, and in others, the opposite is the case. The following three articles explore where and why our human ancestors fit in this range, how we differ from our primate cousins, and the consequences of this.

1-Carol R. Ember, "Residential Variation among Hunter-Gatherers," *Cross-Cultural Research*, 10:3 (1975):199-227.

2- Cristina M. Moya and José C. Moya "Sex, Gender, and Migration: A Natural and Social History," a draft of an article

3-R. Alexander Bentley, "Prehistory of Kinship," *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 51 (2022):137-54.

TOPICS AND READINGS FOR WEEK 3-14 ARE PROVISIONAL

Week 3. September 17. Gender in Slave Traffic & Slavery

1-Elizabeth Urban, "Race, gender and slavery in early Islamic History" *History Compass* 2022.

Examines the intersection of race and gender in the enslavement of Sub-Saharan Africans in the Arab-Islamic world since the 7th century CE.

2-G. U. Nwokeji, "African Conceptions of Gender and the Slave Trade" in *William and Mary Quarterly* 58, 1 (2001):47-68.

Using demographic evidence from the slave trade and ethnographic studies, it argues that African conceptions of gender—more than American demand--influenced who became a slave.

Week 4. September 24. Urban Work and Political Activism

1-Bill Jones and Ronald L. Lewis, "Gender and Transnationality among Welsh Tinsmith Workers in Pittsburgh: The Hattie Williams Affair, 1895" in *Labor History*, 48:2 (2007):175-94.

This article examines the protest by Welsh tinsmith workers that broke over the issue on both sides of the Atlantic to shed light on the gendered migration experience of a small, highly skilled transatlantic niche community.

2-Nancy L. Green, "Women and Immigrants in the Sweatshop: Categories of Labor Segmentation Revisited" in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 38, No. 3. (Jul., 1996), pp. 411-433.

Using the cases of Jewish immigrants in New York and Paris, it discusses how and why the garment industry shifted during the 19th century from needle to sewing machine, from tailor-made to ready-made garments, and from a male and native to a female and immigrant labor force.

3-Jose C. Moya, "Italians in Buenos Aires' Anarchist Movement: Gender Ideology and Women's Participation," in Donna Gabaccia and Franca Iacovetta eds., *Women, Gender, and Transnational Lives: Italian Women around the World* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002)

Explains why anarchism attracted a greater number of foreign-born women than other radical or mainstream social movements.

Week 5. October 1. Domestic Service

1-Joy K. Lintelman, "Our Serving Sisters: Swedish-American Domestic Servants and Their Ethnic Community" in *Social Science History*, 15 (3) 1991:381-95.

Offers a cultural answer to the question of why Swedish women in the U.S. concentrated in the domestic service: it did not have the same social stigma back home and in the immigrant community that it had in American society.

2-Jose C. Moya “Domestic Service in a Global Perspective: Gender, Migration, and Ethnic Niches,” in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 33, 4 (2007):559-79.

It examines the domestic service in Europe, the Western Hemisphere, Africa, Australia, India and Japan from early modernity to the present to reveal broad trends in gendered-labor, migration, and ethnic strategies that are often missed by local and national approaches. It detects a feminisation of the occupation that while temporally dissimilar was remarkably global, and attempts to find an explanation for this phenomenon in particular aspects of modernity.

Week 6. October 8. Sexuality, Trafficking and Fear

1-Lloyd P. Gartner, “Anglo-Jewry and the Jewish International Traffic in Prostitution, 1885-1914” in *AJS Review*, Vol. 7. (1982), pp. 129-178.

1-Victor Mirelman, “The Jewish Community versus Crime: The case of White Slavery in Buenos Aires” in *Jewish Social Studies*, 46, 2 (1984):145-68.

2-Laura Agustín, “The Disappearing of a Migration Category: Migrants Who Sell Sex” in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 32 (1) 2006: 29-47.

Argues that moral panic has shifted the study of these immigrants from migration studies to criminology and feminism, facilitating in the process the avoidance of uncomfortable truths for Western societies: their enormous demand for sexual services and the fact that many women do not mind or prefer this occupation to others available to them.

Week 7. October 15. Latin America

1-Douglas S. Massey, Mary J. Fischer, and Chiara Capoferro, “International Migration and Gender in Latin America: A Comparative Analysis” in *International Migration*, 44 (5) 2006: 63-91.

Authors use census data to assess the standing of five Latin American Nations (Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico) on a gender continuum ranging from patriarchal to matrifocal. They then show how those differences yield different patterns of female relative to male migration.

2-Sarah A. Radcliffe, “Gender Relations, Peasant Livelihood Strategies and Migration: A Case Study from Cuzco, Peru” in *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 5 (2) (1986):29-47.

Based on ethnographic fieldwork, discusses the reasons for migrating or staying, economic strategies, and attitudes in a rural community of 500 in the Andean highlands.

3-Jeffrey H. Cohen, Leila Rodriguez, Margaret Fox, “Gender and Migration in the Central Valleys of Oaxaca” in *International Migration*, 46, 1 (2008):79-101

Using ethnographic data from twelve communities in Oaxaca the article explores how local concepts of correct behavior shapes different outcomes in the migration of men and women.

Week 8. October 22. Asia

1-Siew-Ean Khoo; Peter C. Smith; James T. Fawcett, "Migration of Women to Cities: The Asian Situation in Comparative Perspective" in *International Migration Review*, 18 (4) 1984:1247-63. Tries to explain why men predominated in internal migration in Asia (and Africa) while women did so in Western Europe, Latin America, the countries of European settlement (U.S. Canada, Australia, and New Zealand).

2-Zai Liang, "Demography of Illicit Emigration from China: A Sending Country's Perspective" in *Sociological Forum*, Vol. 16, No. 4. (2001), pp. 677-701.

Examines demographic composition, including gender, of Fujianese emigration during the 1990s with some comparisons with Beijing.

3-X. Biao, "Gender, dowry and the migration system of Indian information technology professionals" in *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 12, 2-3 (2005):357-80

Based on in-depth fieldwork in Sydney, Australia and Andhra Pradesh, India, the article suggests that the gender relations prevalent in Andhra Pradesh, particularly the institution of dowry, have been critical in producing an especially cheap and flexible labor force, and in supporting it in the volatile global economy. In turn, the emergence of a group of mobile IT professionals contributes to the increase of dowry, with disturbing consequences for those underprivileged and seemingly unconcerned with the IT industry.

Week 9. October 29. Africa

1-Kate Hampshire, "Flexibility in Domestic Organization and Seasonal Migration among the Fulani of Northern Burkina Faso" in *Africa* 76:3 (2006):402-23.

Shows how migration patterns among the Fulani have changed in recent decades from transhumance involving whole families to seasonal rural-to-urban migration involving young men. It then examines how households accommodate to the temporary loss of productive members and the effect of this on domestic relations.

2-Theresa Ulicki and Jonathan Crush, "Gender, Farmwork, and Women's Migration from Lesotho to the New South Africa" in *Canadian Journal of African Studies / Revue Canadienne des Études Africaines*, 34:1 (2000): 64-79.

Based on surveys and interviews, it examines the socioeconomic background of the emigrants, the reasons for leaving, the desired and actual jobs (finding a heavy male concentration in mining and female in trade), and attitudes toward the experience and the host country.

3-Elizabeth Francis, "Gender, Migration and Multiple Livelihoods: Cases from Eastern and Southern Africa," *Journal of Development Studies* 38:5 (2002):167-90.

Uses case studies from Kenya, Lesotho, and South Africa to examine the connection between labor migration and family relations in the migrant places of origin.

Week 10. November 5. Election Day. No Class meeting**Week 11. November 12. Marriage (As a Way Out and as a Market)**

China, the Philippines, the Vietnamese Diaspora, and the U.S.

1-C. Cindy Fan and Youqin Huang, “Waves of Rural Brides: Female Marriage Migration in China” in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 88:2 (1998): 227-251.

A review of the historical and social roles of marriage in China shows that its transactional nature undermines women's status but offers disadvantaged women an opportunity to achieve social and economic mobility by marrying into rural areas in more developed regions and by moving over long distances.

2-Andrea Lauser, “Philippine Women on the Move: A Transnational Perspective on Marriage Migration” in *Internationales Asienforum* 37:3-4 (2006):321-37

Nine-tenths of the 200,000 Filipinos that are married to foreigners are women. This has become a mechanism of migration and producer of images. Lauser argues that “American men—a category that includes all ‘Caucasian’ or ‘Western’ men—are imagined as good providers, romantic lovers and, unlike Filipinos, as men who do not keep ‘queridas’ [the Spanish word for mistress].

3-Daniel Goodkind, “The Vietnamese Double Marriage Squeeze” in *The International Migration Review*, 31:1 (1997):108-27.

War and excess male emigration has created for women in Vietnam one of the strongest national deficits of male partners in the world. The same emigration patterns have produced an even greater shortage of Vietnamese women for the *Viet Kieu* (young male overseas Vietnamese).

Week 12. November 19. Feminization & Masculinization

Bangladesh, Albania/Greece

1-Petra Dannecker, “Transnational Migration and the Transformation of Gender Relations: The Case of Bangladeshi Labour Migrants” in *Current Sociology*, 53:4 (2005): 655–74.

Discusses the feminization of Bangladeshi migration to Malaysia and its impact on public discourses of masculinity and femininity and on gender relations in general.

2-P. Papailias, “‘Money of kurbet is money of blood’: The making of a ‘hero’ of migration at the Greek-Albanian border” in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 29:6 (2003):1059-78

A young Albanian who hijacked a Greek public bus in May 1999 has been apotheosised as a ‘hero of migration’ by fellow-Albanians. This paper considers how the hijacker's story, as narrated in a pirated cassette-recorded memorial song, has served as a collective document of everyday exploitation and violation at the hands of Greek bosses and the police, as well as a vehicle for fantasizing revenge and recouping agency, voice and masculinity.

Week 13. November 26. NO CLASS

Week 14. December 3. Decision-Making, Children, Husbands

China, Sub-Saharan Africa

1-Caroline Hoy, “Gender Preference for Children and its Consequences for Migration in China” in *Geografiska Annaler*, 81:1 (1999):41-53

Argues that rural women whose first baby is a boy are more likely to migrate than those whose first child is a girl and that this indicates that migration is driven not only by opportunities but also by autonomy and status (women whose first child is a boy are in a stronger position to negotiate decisions regarding migration opportunities). Migration, however, evens sex ratios to biological levels. So the sex ratio of children born to women who started childbearing before migration was 152 (152 boys for every 100 girls) and a natural 102 for women who started childbearing after their first migration

2-Martin Brockerhoff and Hongsook Eu, "Demographic and Socioeconomic Determinants of Female Rural to Urban Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa," *International Migration Review*, 27:3 (1993): 557-577.

Examines the role of age, marital status, fertility, ethnicity and education on internal migration of women in Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, and Uganda.

Research paper due Monday, December 9