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 readings, listed at the end of the syllabus, will be posted on coursework. They cover the last two centuries, all continents, and both international and internal movements. 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 feasible, primary sources (e.g. censuses, passenger records, family letters, immigrant diaries and memoirs, oral interviews).

Assignments are due on the following dates:

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research prospectus with annotated bibliography (3-4 pages)</td>
<td>Week 3, Sept. 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation of progress report on your research project</td>
<td>Weeks 4 (Sept. 27) to 6 (Oct. 11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft of research paper</td>
<td>Week 11, Nov. 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final oral presentation of your research project</td>
<td>Weeks 13 &amp; 14, Nov 29, Dec 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>Monday, Dec. 12</td>
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**GRADE**

The grade breakdown is as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in class discussions</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three-page research prospectus &amp; annotated bibliography</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two oral presentations on your research and a draft of the paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
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**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS & READINGS**

**Week 1. September 6. Introduction**
First class. No reading

**Week 2. September 13. Theoretical and Historiographical Reviews**


3-José C. Moya, “Gender and Migration: A search for recurrent patterns and an integrated explanation”
A recent paper that attempts to find an explanation for the differences in the sex ratio of migratory flows based on recurring empirical patterns that seem intrinsic to population movements in general rather than on local specificities and circumstances.

Reviews the scholarly literature on the topic while focusing on three questions: How is gender related to the decision to migrate--i.e. what are the causes and consequences of female or male-
dominated flows of migration? What are the patterns of labor market incorporation of women immigrants—i.e. what accounts for their participation in the labor force and their occupational concentration? And what is the relationship of the public and the private—i.e. what is the impact of work roles on family roles and of the experience of migration on the immigrants themselves?

The First Wave: 1830-1930

This article uses data from the mid seventeenth to the mid nineteenth century and compares the slave trade with other transatlantic labor migrations during the period mainly to the U.S. to show the limits of the assumption that adult males accounted for the major share of the traffic and offers explanations for the found patterns.

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.

Examines post-famine migration looking at changes in marriage and inheritance practices, and lack of industrialization to explain high female participation.

Week 4. September 27. Urban Work and Political Activism
Welsh immigrants aspired to achieve middle-class ideals of female domesticity, the male breadwinner, and the family wage in the U.S. Employers had other goals and hired Welsh immigrant women to train American women in tinplate work. This article examines the protest by Welsh tinplate 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.

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 sawing 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*

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

**Week 5. October 4. Domestic Service**


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.


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 11. Sexuality, Trafficking and Fear**


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.

**The Second Wave: 1960s to the Present**

**Week 7. October 18. Latin America**


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.

Based on in-depth interviews with 86 Maya and Ladina women in Guatemala and Los Angeles, examines link between paid and household work, family relations, and gender definitions, finding that the process may be global but the results are particular, localized, historically situated.


Shows that unlike Ecuadorian migration to the U.S., that to Spain was initially led by women, many of whom left families behind, and explores its significance.

Week 8. October 25. Latin America

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.

2-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 9. November 1. Asia

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).


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 a specially cheap and flexible labour 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 IF industry.

Week 10. November 8, Election Day, no class

Week 11. November 15. Africa
   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.

   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.

   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 12. November 22. Marriage (As a Way Out and as a Market)
   China, the Philippines, the Vietnamese Diaspora, and the U.S.
   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.

   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 world for mistress].

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 13. November 29. Feminization & Masculinization**

**Bangladesh, Albania/Greece**


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.


**China, Sub-Saharan Africa**


Argues that rural women whose first baby is a boy are more likely to migrate that 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


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 12**