**GEN343: Transnational Intimacies, Transnational Families**

**Fall 2022**

Mondays 12:40-13:30 at FASS 1099

Thursdays 11:40-13:30 at FASS 1089

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Office: FASS 2024

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**Course Description**

This course is about how human mobility across borders and state policies of immigration control shape and change intimate relations and family formations. In other words, it asks how states make and unmake families through their migration policies. It accordingly focuses on the institution of marriage and processes of reproduction (including having and caring for children). We will question who 'deserves' to have a ‘right to family’ by examining different country-specific cases of family reunification and family separation. We will discuss how migrant reproduction is governed and how mixed-immigration-status families work. We will address the challenges faced by transnational families and their shifting care arrangements. We will probe the place of different kinds of children (left-behind, unaccompanied and adoptee) in migration policymaking. In tackling all these issues, we aim to understand how migration and state responses to it disrupts, reinforces or rearranges gendered norms of family-making.

**Course Requirements**

**Attendance & Participation (10%):** I expect each student to come to class having read the required material and to actively participate in class discussions. Attendance will be taken in class, starting in W3. You are allowed to miss a total of three classes without an excuse. Any unexcused absences beyond that would be reflected in your grade. If you miss eleven or more classes, you will not be eligible for an attendance grade.

**Student co-instruction (5%):** The reading load for this class is about 40-50 pages a week. Students will have done all the required readings for reflection papers and the midterm exam. However, for purposes of student presentations, the class will be divided into two in alphabetical order and each half will be responsible for only one weekly reading. Every Monday, starting in W3, a student will present on the first weekly course reading (for about 10-15 minutes) and every Thursday another student will present on the second weekly course reading. The presentations will explain the problem posed or the argument made by the reading, detail the context or the case study involved, identify (if possible) one concept in the reading, and draw connections to readings of the previous week/s.

**Reflection Papers (20X3=60%):** A total of three reflection papers are due at the end of W4, W11 and the first week of finals, respectively. Each reflection paper will answer two guiding questions in the light of course readings covered in class. 3 pages minimum, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font. The instructor will post the questions on SUCourse+ Thursday after class and students are expected to upload their answers on SUCourse+ by midnight on the following Sunday.

**Midterm Exam (25%):** We will have a physical exam in W8. The exam will consist of two short-essay questions, similar in spirit to reflection papers.

**Grade Catalog**

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| 90 and above: A  (A-’s are automatically rounded up to A) | 89-86: B+ | 77-74: C+ | 64-60: D+ | Below 55: F |
| 85-82: B | 73-70: C |
| 81-78: B- | 69-65: C- | 59-55: D |

**Late Submission Policy:** For each day past the due date in the case of reflection papers, 1 point out of 20 will be marked off.

**Note on Plagiarism:** Please do not plagiarize, it is so not worth it! If you are caught plagiarizing, I will follow the disciplinary measures stipulated in the relevant University policy.

**Extra-Credit Policy:** No extra-credit opportunities will be available.

**Reading List**

All readings will be available on SUCourse+.

**W1 (Oct. 3-6):** Introduction

**W2 (Oct. 10-13):** Transnational migration and changing family formations

D.A. Boehm (2019) “Un/making Family: Relatedness, Migration, and Displacement in a Global Age”, in the *Cambridge Handbook of Kinship* (ed. S. Bamford). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 432-450.

S. Bonjour & L. Block (2016) “Ethnicizing citizenship, questioning membership. Explaining the decreasing family migration rights of citizens in Europe”, *Citizenship Studies*, 20(6-7): 779-794.

**Part I: Making family through migration**

**W3 (Oct. 17-20):** Cross-border marriages

N. Constable (2004) “A Tale of Two Marriages: International Matchmaking and Gendered Mobility”, in *Cross-Border Marriages: Gender and Mobility in Transnational Asia* (ed. N. Constable). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 166-186.

A. Fleischer (2012) “Marriage across Space and Time among Male Migrants from Cameroon to Germany”, in *Gender, Generations and the Family in International Migration* (eds. A. Kraler et al), Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, pp. 243-264.

**W4 (Oct. 24-27):** Policing marriage

J. Turner (2020) “Shams” in *Bordering Intimacy: Postcolonial Governance and the Policing of Family*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, pp. 100-134.

S. Scheel (2017) “Appropriating mobility and bordering Europe through romantic love: Unearthing the intricate intertwinement of border regimes and migratory practices”, *Migration Studies*, 5(3): 389-408.

**1st Reflection Paper due by midnight on Oct. 30th!**

**W5 (Oct. 31- Nov. 3):** Queer families

T. Simmons (2008) “Sexuality and immigration: UK family reunion policy and the regulation of sexual citizens in the European Union”, *Political Geography*, 27: 213-230.

S. Ritholtz & R. Buxton (2021) “Queer kinship and the rights of refugee families”, *Migration Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/migration/mnab007>

**Part II: Family separation and the transnational family**

**W6 (Nov. 7-10):** Feminization of migration and the transnational family

P. Hondagneu-Sotelo (2002) “Families on the frontier: from braceros in the fields to braceras in the home”, in *The New Immigration* (eds. M.M. Suárez-Orozco and M.M. Páez). Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 167-177.

J. Dreby (2006) “Honor and Virtue: Mexican Parenting in the Transnational Context”, *Gender and Society*, 20(1): 32-59.

**W7 (Nov. 14-17):** Left-behind children and gender politics

R. Parrenas (2013) “The Gender Revolution in the Philippines: Migrant Mothering and Social Transformations” in *How Immigrants Impact their Homelands* (eds. S. Eckstein and A. Najam). Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 191-212.

B. S. A. Yeoh et al (2020) “Doing Family in ‘Times of Migration’: Care Temporalities and Gender Politics in Southeast Asia”, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 110(6): 1709-1725.

**W8 (Nov. 21-24): No class on Monday. Midterm in class on Thursday.**

**W9 (Nov. 28- Dec. 1):** Transnational nurturing nexus and returns

A. Bloch (2017) “‘Other Mothers’, Migration, and a Transnational Nurturing Nexus”, *Signs*, 43(1): 53-75.

K. Olwig (2012) “The ‘successful’ return: Caribbean narratives of migration, family and gender”, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 18: 828-845.

**Part III: Reproduction and migrating children**

**W10 (Dec. 5-8):** Migrant reproduction

H. Castaneda (2008) “Paternity for Sale: Anxieties over ‘Demographic Theft’ and Undocumented Migrant Reproduction in Germany”, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 22(4): 340-359.

E. Luibheid (2006) “Sexual Regimes and Migration Controls: Reproducing the Irish Nation-State in Transnational Contexts”, *Feminist Review*, 83: 60-78.

**W11 (Dec. 12-15):** Transnational adoption

K. De Graeve (2015) “‘They Have Our Culture’: Negotiating Migration in Belgian–Ethiopian Transnational Adoption”, *Ethnos*, 80(1): 71-90.

B. Yngvesson (2012) “Transnational Adoption and European Immigration Politics: Producing the National Body in Sweden”, *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, 19(1): 327-345.

**2nd Reflection Paper due by midnight on Dec. 18th!**

**W12 (Dec. 19-22):** Unaccompanied migrant children

N. Empez Vidal (2012) “Social construction of neglect: the case of unaccompanied migrants from Morocco to Spain” in *Gender, Generations and the Family in International Migration* (eds. A. Kraler et al), Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, pp. 121-138.

S. Walker & Y. Gunaratnam (2021) “Young, unauthorised and Black: African unaccompanied minors and becoming an adult in Italy”, *Journal of Sociology*, 57(3): 690-706.

**Part IV: Lived experiences of il/legality and deportation**

**W13 (Dec. 26-29):** Mixed immigration status families

J. Dreby (2015) Ch. 3 “Stuck: Dependence in Intimate Relationships” in *Everyday Illegal: When Policies Undermine Immigrant Families*, Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 57-97.

M. Griffiths (2021) “‘My passport is just my way out of here’. Mixed-immigration status families, immigration enforcement and the citizenship implications”, *Identities*, 28(1): 18-36.

**W14 (Jan. 2-5):** Gendered deportations

T. Golash-Boza & P. Hondagneu-Sotelo (2013) “Latino immigrant men and the deportation crisis: A gendered racial removal program”, *Latino Studies*, 11: 271–292.

H. Drotbohm (2015) “The Reversal of Migratory Family Lives: A Cape Verdean Perspective on Gender and Sociality pre- and post-deportation”, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 41(4): 653-670.

**3rd Reflection Paper due by midnight on Jan. 12th!**