**ANTHROPOLOGY OF MIGRATION AND THE CITY**

ANTH 321/521 (Spring 2023)

Wednesdays, 11.40 – 13.30

Thursday, 12.40 – 13.30

**This course will be taught online.**

**Kristen Biehl[[1]](#footnote-1)**

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**Course Description:** Migration stands out as one of the most characteristic and complex features of the 21st century as more people than ever, coming from increasingly more disparate places, are migrating to new destinations for a greater variety of reasons and under distinct circumstances. A shared aspect is that most of these migrations are urban in nature, being concentrated in cities attracting human, financial and other flows from across the globe. This course is designed to understand the impact of such migrations from an anthropological perspective, which centers on the experiences of people. It focuses on several conceptual approaches gaining interest over the recent decade and situates these within the expanding field of international migration research in Turkey. Weekly class meetings will consist of a mixture of instructor’s lectures, discussion of assigned materials, as well as several guest lectures.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of anthropological approaches (theoretical and methodological) to the study of migration
2. Explain and compare key concepts underpinning current discussions around the impacts of migration on cities
3. Explore and evaluate the experiences of diverse migrant groups in Turkey and their urban social and economic impacts
4. Engage in constructive debates and discussions
5. Apply theoretical concepts to actual events and observations

**Requirements and Grading:**

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| **Undergraduate Students**  ***Attendance & Participation (15%):*** Students are expected to attend all classes (10%) and come prepared to discuss the assigned readings in the syllabus (5%). Contributions to the discussion might involve introducing a topic, examining assumptions, questions about what the author is trying to communicate, and the like.Arriving late or departing early will affect your grade if happening recurrently.  ***Quizzes (15%):*** Students are required to read all assigned readings before class and to listen to and take notes during lectures. The instructor will carry out 3 pop-up quizzes throughout the term where students will be asked to write short reflections on the course materials and/or discussions. For those having a right to make-up, an extra quiz will be given at the end of term.  ***Mid-term exam* (30%):** The mid-term will be an open book exam conducted in class, aimed at testing students’ familiarity with the basic discussions and conceptualization of urban migrations from an anthropological perspective. Students will be asked to write short essays from a list of questions to choose from. Exam materials will be graded on the breadth of materials covered and on structure of essays.  ***Final Exam (40%):*** The final exam will also be an open book exam conducted in class and students will be asked to write short essays from a list of questions to choose from. Exam materials will be graded on the breadth of materials covered and on structure of essays. | **Graduate Students**  ***Attendance & Participation (15%):*** Students are expected to attend all classes (5%) and come prepared to discuss the assigned readings in the syllabus (10%). Contributions to the discussion might involve introducing a topic, examining assumptions, questions about what the author is trying to communicate, and the like.Arriving late or departing early will affect your grade if happening recurrently.  ***Position Papers (45%):*** Students will be required to write 3 position papers (700-800 words) throughout the semester (one paper due at the end of each month). In these papers students should either discuss at least 2 texts together (e.g. showing similarities and differences of arguments; what is confusing or satisfying about it, etc.) or can choose a single text that is discussed in relation to an empirical case researched by the student (e.g. media article, film or news clips, personal experiences, field observations, etc.).  ***Final Paper (40%):*** Students will expand upon one of their response papers to write an essay (around 1500 words), which can be a conceptual paper, bringing different concepts/articles into critical conversation, or an empirical paper, that analyzes one or more concept/approach introduced in the course in relation to certain data (e.g. textual data like news articles, or original research like interviews). Students are encouraged to develop this short essay topic in consultation with the instructor. Essays will be graded on the strength of the arguments made, on the works cited, and on structure. |

**Important:** In all assignments students are expected to give references properly and avoid plagiarism at all costs. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the university’s policy on plagiarism and academic integrity: http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/eng/?genel\_bilgi/felsefemiz/akademikdurustlukilkeleri.html

**Week 1 Introduction to course**

**Week 2 Anthropological approaches to migration**

Bretell, C. (2018). “Conceptualizing migration and mobility in anthropology: An historical analysis.” *Transitions: Journal of Transient Migration,* 2(1): 7-25.

Vertovec, S. (2007). “Introduction: New directions in the anthropology of migration and multiculturalism.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies,* 30(6): 961-978

**Week 3 Ethnographic methods in migration research**

Boccagni, P., Schrooten, M. (2018). Participant Observation in Migration Studies: An Overview and Some Emerging Issues. In: Zapata-Barrero, R., Yalaz, E. (eds) *Qualitative Research in European Migration Studies*. IMISCOE Research Series. Springer, Cham.

Montero-Sieburth, M. (2020), "Ethical dilemmas and challenges in ethnographic migration research", *Qualitative Research Journal*, Vol. 20 No. 3, pp. 281-291

**Week 4 Migration research in Turkey**

Tolay, J. (2015). “Discovering Immigration into Turkey: The Emergence of a Dynamic Field” *International Migration* Vol. 53 (6): 57-73

Kaşka, S. (2020). “Exploring “Women” and “Gender”: Trajectories of Migration Research in Turkey.” In: Williams, L., Coşkun, E., Kaşka, S. (eds) *Women, Migration and Asylum in Turkey*. Migration, Diasporas and Citizenship. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

**Week 5 Migration statuses, (il)legality and governance**

Basia D. E. and Henderikus, J. S. (2018). “Cycles of deportability: Threats, fears, and the agency of ‘irregular’ migrants in Canada”, Migration Studies, Volume 6, Issue 3, Pages 321–344

Koçak, M. (2020) “Who is “Queerer” and Deserves Resettlement?: Queer Asylum Seekers and Their Deservingness of Refugee Status in Turkey”,*Middle East Critique*, 29:1, 29-46

Guest speaker: Mert Koçak

**Week 6 Temporalities of migration**

Brun, C. (2015). “Active waiting and changing hopes: Toward a time perspective on protracted displacement.” *Social Analysis: The International Journal of Social and Cultural Practice*, *59*(1), 19–37.

Biner, Ö. and Biner, Z.Ö. (2021). “Syrian refugees and the politics of waiting in a Turkish border town.” *Social Anthropology*, 29: 831-846.

Guest speaker: Souad Osseiran

**Week 7 Locating migration in the urban scale**

Glick Schiller, N. & Caglar, A. (2013). “Locating Migrant Pathways of Economic Emplacement: Thinking beyond the Ethnic Lens.” *Ethnicities*, 13 (4): 494-514.

Ikizoglu Erensu, A. and Z. Kasli (2017). “A Tale of Two Cities: Multiple Practices of Bordering and Degrees of ‘Transit’ in and through Turkey.” *Journal of Refugee Studies* 29(4): 528-548

**Week 8 Mid-terms**

**Week 9 Arrival areas and migration infrastructures**

Hanhörster, H., & Wessendorf, S. (2020). “The Role of Arrival Areas for Migrant Integration and Resource Access.” *Urban Planning*, *5*(3), 1–10.

# Lindquist, Johan; Xiang, Biao; Yeoh, Brenda S.A. (2012). “Opening the Black Box of Migration: Brokers, the Organization of Transnational Mobility and the Changing Political Economy in Asia.” *Pacific Affairs*, 85(1), 7-19.

Guest speaker: Marhabo Saparova

**Week 10 Diversity and urban encounters**

Matejskova, T., & Leitner, H. (2011). Urban encounters with difference: the contact hypothesis and immigrant integration projects in eastern Berlin. *Social & Cultural Geography*, 12 (7): 717-741.

Can, S. (2020). “Fragile diversities: Antakya (Hatay) as a border city.” In *Refugee Encounters at the Turkish-Syrian Border: Antakya at the crossroads.* New York: Routledge.

Guest speaker: Şule Can

**Week 11 Living together 1: Conviviality**

Wessendorf, S. (2014). “'Being open, but sometimes closed'. Conviviality in a super-diverse London neighbourhood.” *European Journal of Cultural Studies.* 2014, Vol. 17(4): 392–405.

Radice, M. (2016). “Unpacking Intercultural Conviviality in Multiethnic Commercial Streets”, *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 37:5, 432-448.

Guest speaker: Susanne Wessendorf

**Week 12 Living together 2: Hospitality**

Rottmann, S. B. and Nimer, M. (2021). ‘We always open our doors for visitors’—Hospitality as homemaking strategy for refugee women in Istanbul, Migration Studies, 9(3): 1380–1398

Alkan, H. (2021), The gift of hospitality and the (un)welcoming of Syrian migrants in Turkey. American Ethnologist, 48: 180-191.

**Week 13 Sensory dimensions**

Aydar Z. (2020). ‘Please don't turn the stove off!’: Travelling with the çaydanlık and Turkish tea. <https://www.routedmagazine.com/travelling-turkish-tea>

Nimer, M. and Rottman, S. (2020). “Textures of Hospitality in Homes of Refugee Women in Istanbul - The Sociological Review.” <https://thesociologicalreview.org/magazine/september-2020/texture/textures-of-hospitality-in-homes-of-refugee-women-in-istanbul-tactile-and-affective-dimensions-of-sociality-and-agency/>

# Vandevoordt, R. (2020). “Rethinking the Politics of Food and Hospitality.” <https://www.rethinkingrefuge.org/articles/rethinking-the-politics-of-food-and-hospitality>

Ogut, E. H. (2021). “The Short History of Syrian Street Music in Istanbul: Challenges and Potentials.” *Music & Minorities* Vol1, 1-28.

Guest speakers:Evrim Hikmet Öğüt / Susan Rottman

**Week 14 Objects and other species**

Walsh, K. 2006. "British Expatriate Belongings: Mobile Homes and Transnational Homing." *Home Cultures* 3 (2):123-144.

Shamma, Y. (2022). “Making Home in the Earth: Ecoglobalism in the Camps.” In: Shamma, Y., Ilcan, S., Squire, V., Underhill, H. (eds) *Migration, Culture and Identity. Politics of Citizenship and Migration*. Palgrave Macmillan

Guest speaker:Hilal Alkan

1. The course instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any point during the course. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)