

**3389F/9224B Special Topics in Refugee and Migrant Studies\:
Topic: Risky Passages and Restrictive Borders
Refugees and the Contemporary Challenges
2017-2018, Winter Term
(Tentative Course Outline)**

Class time: Tuesdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Room location: SSC 3102

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Credit Value: 0.5

Prerequisite(s): Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 essay course.

Airports, harbours and militarized borders furnished with cameras and detectors are symbols of an era of increasing fear, discrimination, and dehumanization of migrants and refugees. Some scholars use the term “global apartheid” to describe borders as barriers. ‘Fortress Europe’ being a clear example for restricting and controlling the entry of most people from the global South. In this global landscape, place of origin, class, national/ethnic identity, or religion are markers for inclusion or exclusion, of acceptance or rejection, but of mobility and immobility. In contrast, borders-as-bridges facilitate the movement of people deemed ‘civilized’ and ‘risk-free’, along with capital and commodities. National security and the threat of terrorism are slogans invoked to mobilize support for this skewed cartography, and used as pretexts to deny entry, deport or detain individuals, who are often victims of wars and weapons unleashed by the very states restricting or preventing entry. Refugee status and citizenship have become much more difficult to obtain for people fleeing wars, violence, persecution, or natural disasters. Moreover, those seeking refuge, are increasingly recast as potential criminals, undesirable, security threats, or queue-jumpers deviously manipulating western humanitarianism, democracy, and ‘tolerance’. However, the increasing militarization of borders is not hindering many of the poor or those exposed to violence and wars from attempting to seek safety, and a better life. Many take perilous journeys, risking death by drowning as they sail high seas in flimsy boats, or crossing harsh deserts to avoid guards and sophisticated border technologies that aim to catch and trap them, as one does insects or animals in a net. Others remain trapped on borders in detention centers, miserable refugee camps, or within dangerous zones, unable to seek any form of protection or safety from any state. Using readings, lectures, presentations, class discussions and documentary films, the course engages students to critically examine changing and complex borders and what they tell us about the global order, and the effects of these on migrants and their journeys. In the first part our focus is historical and global, dealing with the emergence of the international refugee regime, followed by the contemporary erosion of refugee rights and international protection. We will draw on case studies and ethnographies such as the US-Mexico border, Fortress Europe, and other examples from around the world, including the recent massive displacement of people from the Middle East and North Africa. We will discuss how refugees strategize to adapt to changing border regimes. We will read/hear through stories and documentaries, the voices of refugees as we follow their precarious journeys to desired harbours of refuge, which do not necessarily turn out to be the ‘promised land’ they imagined, and do not always have happy endings.

Reading Materials: The reading materials will be posted on OWL.

Please note that the dates and number of presentations and documentaries might be slightly modified, depending on the number of students enrolled and available documentaries.

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze state control of borders and border policies to inequalities in political and economic power at a global scale.
- Analyze contemporary approaches and definitions of a 'refugee' as related to the emergence of nation-states, and concepts of territorial sovereignty marked by borders.
- Examine borders and borderlands as sites to analyze the state from the margins.
- Trace the history of the international refugee regime, the definition of a 'refugee' in international law, and the erosion of the right to seek protection from another state.
- Identify and distinguish among various types of borders (solid, fluid, complex) and what these tell us about political, socio-economic and cultural contexts.
- Apply the knowledge acquired on militarized borders in order to better comprehend refugee experiences.
- Identify and learn about particular cases where borders have become restrictive, such as the US-Mexico and European borders and their effects on the experiences of refugees.

Selected sample of possible readings (might be modified; some will apply only to graduate students):

Ashutosh, Ishan & Alison Mountz

2012 The Geopolitics of Migrant Mobility: Tracing State Relations Through Refugee Claims, Boats, and Discourses, *Geopolitics*, 17:2, 335-354.

Bosworth, Mary

2012 Subjectivity and identity in detention: Punishment and society in a global age, *Theoretical Criminology* 16(2) 123-140.

Burridge, Andrew

2009 Differential Criminalization under Operation Streamline: Challenges to Freedom of Movement and Humanitarian Aid Provision in the Mexico-US Borderlands. *Refugee* 26(2):78-91.

Chimni, B.S.

2000 Globalization, Humanitarianism and the Erosion of Refugee Protection. *Journal of Refugee Studies* 13(3): 2-23.

Dauvergne, Catherine

2008 Making People Illegal: What Globalization Means for Migration and Law. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Read:** Chapter 2 "Making People Illegal" pp. 9-28.

del Valle, Hernan

2016 Search and Rescue in the Mediterranean Sea: Negotiating Political Differences, *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 35, 22-40.

Derluyn, Ilse, Charles Watters, Cindy Mels, and Eric Broekaert

2012 'We are All the Same, Coz Exist Only One Earth, Why the BORDER EXIST': Messages of Migrants on their Way, *Journal of Refugee Studies* 27 (1): 1-20.

- Esteban, Valeriano and Ana Maria Lopez Sala
2007 Breaking down the Far Southern Border of Europe: Immigration and Politics in the Canary Islands. *Migraciones Internacionales* 4 (1):87-110.
- Fassin, Didier and Estelle D'Halluin
2005 The Truth from the Body: Medical Certificates as Ultimate Evidence for Asylum Seekers, *American Anthropologist*, 107 (4): 597-608.
- Fleay, Caroline and Sue Hoffman
2014 Despair as Governing Strategy: Australia and the Offshore Processing of Asylum-seekers on Nauru, *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 33 (2): 1-19.
- Gerard, Alison and Sharon Pickerin
2014 Gender, Securitization and Transit: Refugee Women and the Journey to the EU, *Journal of Refugee Studies* 27 (3): 338-359.
- Griffiths, Melanie
2013 Living with Uncertainty: Indefinite Immigration Detention, *Journal of Legal Anthropology* 1 (3): 263-286.
- Haggis, Jane & Susanne Schech
2010 Refugees, Settlement Processes and Citizenship Making: An Australian Case Study. *National Identities* 12(4): 365-379.
- Hassan, Ali and Linn Bio'rklund
2016 The Journey to Dreamland Never Ends: A Refugee's Journey from Somalia to Sweden *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 35, 116-136.
- Heyman, Josiah McC. and Hilary Cunningham
2004 Movement on the Margins: Mobilities and Enclosures at Borders, special issue of *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* 11(3): 303-327.
- Infantino, Federica
2016 State-bound Visa Policies and Europeanized Practices. Comparing EU Visa Policy Implementation in Morocco. *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 31(2): 171-186.
- Ioanna Kotsioni
2016 Detention of Migrants and Asylum-Seekers: The Challenge for Humanitarian Actors, *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 35, 41-55.
- Jones, Reece
2016 The West Bank Wall, *Journal of Borderline Studies*, 31(3): 271-279
- Lippert, Randy and Sean Rehaag
2010 Sanctuary in Context. *Refuge* 26(1):2-6.
- Loescher, Gil
1996 *Beyond Charity: International Cooperation and the Global Refugee Crisis*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read: chapter 2 "The Origins of the International Refugee Regime" pp. 32-54.
- Loescher, Gil and John A. Scanlan

1986 *Calculated Kindness: Refugees and America's Half-open Door, 1945 to the Present*. London: Collier Macmillan. Read: "Jews, Displaced Persons, and the First Refugee Act" pp. 1-24

Luke Stobart

2009 Borders, Labour Impacts, and Union Responses: Case of Spain. *Refuge* 26 (2):28-40.

Marfleet, Philip

2006 *Refugees in a Global Era*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. Read Chapter I "Globalization and Forced Migration" pp. 1-37 and Chapter 2, "Crisis of the State" p. 38-57.

Mittermaier, Verena

2009 Refuge in Europe? Church Asylum as Human Rights Work in Fortress Europe. *Refuge* 26(1): 68-70.

Molavi, Shourideh C.

2009 Stateless Citizenship and the Palestinian Arabs in Israel, *Refuge* 26:6, 19-28.

Nethery, Amy, Brynna Rafferty-Brown and Savitri Taylor

2012 Exporting Detention: Australia-funded Immigration Detention in Indonesia, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 26 (1): 88-109.

París-Pombo, María Dolores and Diana Carolina Peláez-Rodríguez

2016 Far from Home: Mexican Women Deported from the US to Tijuana, Mexico. *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 31(4):551-561.

Ramos, Carolina D.

2017 Identity Performances in a US-Mexico Border Celebration, *Journal of Borderline Studies*, 32 (2): 233-247.

Razack, Sherene

2008 Casting Out: The Eviction of Muslims from Western Law and Politics. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Read, "Your Client Has a Profile" pp. 25- 58.

Schindel, Estela

2016 Bare life at the European borders. Entanglements of technology, society and nature. *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 31(2): 219-234

Van Hear, Nicholas

2006 "I Went as Far as My Money Would Take Me": Conflict, Forced Migration and Class. In *Forced Migration and Global Processes: A View from Forced Migration*, Francois Crepeau et al. eds., Pp. 125-157. Lanham: Lexington Books.

Van Houtum, Henk

2005 The Geopolitics of Borders and Boundaries, *Geopolitics*, 10:672-679.

Villegas, Paloma E.

2015 Moments of Humiliation, Intimidation and Implied 'Illegality': Encounters with Immigration Officials at the Border and the Performance of Sovereignty, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 41(4): 2357-2375.

Zetter, Roger

Documentaries:

ASSIGNMENTS AND WEIGHTS

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| 1. Essay: | 35% |
| 2. First (short) exam | 15% |
| 3. Second exam | 25% |
| 4. Presentation: | 15% |
| 5. In-class reflection paper: | 5% |
| 6. Participation: | 5% Attendance & participation in class discussions. |

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