Global population mobility:
international and transnational perspectives on migration
and the transformation of communities and places

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Wednesday 4th March – 3 hour class, lecture based
Thursday 5th March – 2 hour class, group discussion based

In advance of the Seminar please review at least two of the items listed below under Introductory Reading.
Please also read Voigt-Graf’s 2005 paper in advance of Group Discussion Part B.
Additional suggested reading will be provided after the Seminar for students who wish to deepen their understanding of the topic.

Lecture Topics

Part A: Perspectives on global population mobility
What is migration and why do people move?; Historical perspectives on global population mobility; Who is not a migrant? Displaced peoples and refugees; Global population movements in the 21st century; Globalisation: migration and labour markets; Regulating migration

Part B: Transnational migration
Changing perspectives on international population movements; Globalisation and a transnational turn; Conditions that made transnational migration possible; Political dimensions of transnationalism; Return migration; Is transnationalism migration just international migration is disguise?

Group Discussion Part A

All students are requested to reflect on the following topics in advance of the class and be prepared to discuss them in the class

1. International migration – the big picture
What are the socio-demographic attributes of Italian emigrants and immigrants today?
Does Italy have skilled occupation labour shortages? In what professions? Who fills jobs in these occupations?
What is the current Italian migration policy for non-EU citizens?

2. Peopling and personalising migration
Are there any stories of emigration in your family history? Do you know anything about the experiences of family members who built a new life in another country?
Do you know friends and/or have family members who live abroad today? Where are they living? Why did they move? What relationships do they maintain with friends and family back in Italy? Do they want to return to Italy? If they want to return, what conditions need to be in place to make return migration possible?

3. Human population movement and the transformation of communities and places
Can you think of any examples of how migration (emigration and immigration) have transformed places you know and had an effect upon the communities who live in those places?

Group Discussion Part B

Students should read the article and be prepared to discuss how it exemplifies the ways in which transnational migration can lead to the construction of multiple transitional spaces.

Introductory reading