

Critical Immigration and Refugee Studies (Revised Oct 2)

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Office Hours: Tues. 3 – 5 p.m.; Thurs. 9:30-10:30 a.m.; and by appointment

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and active participation.
2. Discussion leader. Each student (or a pair of students) will lead one class discussion. In the presentations, characterize the stakes, methods, and objectives of the group of readings. Rather than summarize, discuss the interventions the works are making; i.e., into what debates are the pieces intervening, how and why, and for what ends? Which disciplinary or theoretical conventions are being criticized, and which employed? Over the course of the quarter, try to identify and discuss the divergences, contradictions, and oppositions between different projects and approaches represented in weekly units. You are welcome to bring in additional materials, if you think they are relevant.
3. Writing Assignments/Project. Please select one of these 4 options:
 - a) Three 5-pp response papers, one of which may be written on your presentation and due on the same day. Response papers are due on the day that the readings will be discussed in the seminar.
 - b) A 15pp. paper that draws on the course themes and materials. Turn in a one-page prospectus by week 3.
 - c) KeyWord and OurWord Essays –
KeyWord: Please select one keyword from the course and write a 7-8pp essay on it, drawing on 5-7 sources from course readings. The essay should have three components:
 - Define the keyword: track how different authors use the keyword, assess and synthesize the different definitions; and come up with your own definition
 - What kinds of critical projects does the keyword enable?
 - Are there ways of thinking that are occluded or obstructed by the use of this term?OurWord: Please come up with your own word (in any language) that captures for you the lived immigrant and refugee experience, and write a creative piece (7-8 pp.) that conveys this lived experience.
 - d) Public Action Event – Please submit ideas for approval first
4. Critical Refugee Studies Collective website: <http://criticalrefugeestudies.com>

Contribute to the website by submitting a Story Map or blog.

Required Readings:

- Eithne Luibheid. 2002. *Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Leisy Abrego. 2014. *Sacrificing Families: Navigating Laws, Labor, and Love Across Borders*. Stanford University Press.
- Jennifer Hyndman. 2000. *Managing Displacement: Refugees and the Politics of Humanitarianism*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian. 2015. *Security Theology, Surveillance, and the Politics of Fear*. Cambridge University Press.
- Lê thị diễm thúy. *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*. Anchor, 2004.
- All other readings available through the course's library eReserves page.

Schedule of Readings and Discussions

(Sept. 27) *Week 0 - Introduction*

Part I - Departures

(Oct. 4) *Week 1 - Problem-Oriented Approach to Immigration/Refugee Studies*
Discussion Leader: Greg Gushike

- Joysheel Shrivastava. "Distinguishing Between Asylum Seekers and Economic Migrants: An Analysis of State Practice." *Atha* January 2, 2018
<http://atha.se/blog/distinguishing-between-asylum-seekers-and-economic-migrants-analysis-state-practice>
- Park, Robert. 1928. "Human Migration and the Marginal Man." *American Journal of Sociology* 33 (1928): 881-93.
- Park, Robert. 1950. "Our Racial Frontier on the Pacific." Ch. 9, pp. 138-151 in *Race and Culture*. Glencoe, IL: Free Press.
- Min Zhou. 1997. "Growing Up American: The Challenge Confronting Immigrant Children and Children of Immigrants." *Annual Review of Sociology* 23: 63-95.
- Richard Alba and Victor Nee. 2003. "Assimilation Theory: Old and New." Chapter 2 in *Remaking the American Mainstream: Assimilation and Contemporary Immigration*.
- Alejandro Portes and Ruben Rumbaut. 2006. "A Foreign World: Immigration, Mental Health, and Acculturation." Chapter 6 in *Immigrant America: A Portrait*. University of California Press.
- Hana E. Brown. 2011. "Refugees, Rights and Race: How Legal Status Shapes Liberian Immigrants' Relationship with the State." *Social Problems* 58 (1): 144-163.
- Ostrand, Nicole. 2015. "The Syrian Refugee Crisis: A Comparison of Responses by Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States." *Journal on Migration and Human Security* 3 (3): 255-279

<http://jmhs.cmsny.org/index.php/jmhs/article/view/51>

Part II - Border Making, Securitization, and Statecraft

(Oct. 11) Week 2 - Critical Geopolitics: Borderscapes, Sea Space, and Dis-“Place”ment Discussion Leader: Oscar Gutierrez

- Prem Kumar Rajaram and Carl Grundy-Warr. “Introduction,” pp. ix – xxx in *Borderscapes: Hidden Geographies and Politics at Territory’s Edge*. University of Minnesota Press, 2007.
- Michael Pugh. “Drowning Not Waving: Boat People and Humanitarianism at Sea.” *Journal of Refugee Studies* 17 (1): 50-69, 2004.
<https://academic.oup.com/jrs/article/17/1/50/1557490>
- Forensic Oceanography: <http://www.forensic-architecture.org/case/left-die-boat/>
- Suvendrini Perera. 2013. “Oceanic Corpo-graphies, Refugee Bodies and the Making and Unmaking of Waters.” *Feminist Review* 103: 58-79.
- Naomi Paik. “Carceral Quarantine at Guantánamo: Legacies of US Imprisonment of Haitian Refugees, 1991 – 1994.” *Radical History Review* (2013) 115: 142-168.
- Fiona McConnell. “Governments-in-Exile: Statehood, Statelessness and the Reconfiguration of Territory and Sovereignty.” *Geography Compass* (2009) 3 (5): 1902-1919.

(Oct. 18) Week 3 - Borders on Belonging: Criminalization, Incarceration and Detention Discussion Leaders: Marisol Cuong; Melina Economou

- Catherine Dauvergne. 2003. “Making People Illegal.” In *Critical Beings: Law, Nation, and the Global Subject*, edited by Peter Fitzpatrick and Patricia Tuitt. Ashgate.
- Matthew Coleman and Austin Kocher. 2011. “Detention, deportation, devolution and immigrant incapacitation in the US, post 9/11.” *Geographical Journal* 177 (3): 228-237.
- Perera, Suvendrini. 2002. “What Is a Camp? Borderphobias—the Politics of Insecurity Post-9/11,” *Borderlands e-journal* 1(1).
http://www.borderlands.net.au/vol1no1_2002/perera_camp.html
- Alissa R. Ackerman & Rich Furman. 2013. “The Criminalization of Immigration and the Privatization of the Immigration Detention: Implications for Justice.” *Contemporary Justice Review* 16:2, 251-263.
- Dennis Childs. “‘You Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet’: Beloved, the American Chain Gang, and the Middle Passage Remix.” *American Quarterly* 61: 2 (2009): 271-29.

(Oct. 25) Week 4 - Immigration Control and Body Politics Discussion Leaders: Asia Feiss; Rochelle McFee

- Eithne Luibheid. 2002. *Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Nayan Shah. 2001. “Making Medical Borders at Angel Island.” Ch. 7 in *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco’s Chinatown*. UC Press.

- Joseph Pugliese. 2002. "Penal Asylum: Refugees, Ethics, Hospitality." *Borderlands* 1(1). http://www.borderlands.net.au/vol1no1_2002/pugliese.html

(Nov. 1) Week 5 - *The Global and the Intimate*

Discussion Leaders: Lorena Cruz; Maxie Gluckman

- Leisy Abrego. 2014. *Sacrificing Families: Navigating Laws, Labor, and Love Across Borders*. Stanford University Press.
- Geraldine Pratt. 2012. "Waiting and the Trauma of Separation." Ch. 2 in *Families Apart: Migrant Mothers and the Conflicts of Labor and Love*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Video: Elvia Mendoza, *Nosotros Tambien Migramos*. [This video is password protected. Instructions will be given in class on how to access the video]

Part III -The Dis-"Placed" as Critical Beings

(Nov. 8) Week 6 - *Refugee Host States in the Global South*

Discussion Leaders: Morgen Chalmiers; Leslie Gautsch

- Jennifer Hyndman. 2000. *Managing Displacement: Refugees and the Politics of Humanitarianism*. University of Minnesota Press.
- *Refugees and Migration Movements in the Middle East*, edited by Marc Lynch and Laurie Brand. The Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS), March 2017. https://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/POMEPS_Studies_25_Refugees_Web.pdf

Please read the following articles:

- "Introduction: Refugees and Displacement in the Middle East." Pp. 3-7
- "The Nexus: Human Smuggling and Syrian Refugees' Trajectories across the Middle East and the Balkans." Pp. 8-11
- "Leveraging Sovereignty: The Case of Jordan and the International Refugee Regime." Pp. 12-15
- "The Real Refugee Crisis Is in the Middle East, not Europe." Pp. 56-58
- Yen Le Espiritu. "Militarized Refuge(es)." Ch. 2 in *Body Counts: The Vietnam War and Militarized Refuge(es)*. UC Press, 2014.

(Nov. 15) Week 7 - *Refugees as "Critical Beings"*

Discussion Leaders: Beatrice Waterhouse; Daniel Rios

- Yen Le Espiritu. 2014. "Critical Refugee Studies." Ch. 1 in *Body Counts*. University of California Press.
- Diana Allan. 2013. "Introduction." In *Refugees of the Revolution: Experiences of Palestinian Exile*. Stanford University Press.
- Patricia Tuitt. 2003. "Refugees, Nations, Laws and the Territorialization of Violence." In *Critical Beings: Law, Nation, and the Global Subject*, edited by Peter Fitzpatrick and Patricia Tuitt. Ashgate.
- Peter Nyers. 2003. "Abject Cosmopolitanism: The Politics of Protection and the Anti-Deportation Movement." *Third World Quarterly* 24 (6): 1069-1093.

- Ilana Feldman. 2007. "Difficult Distinctions: Refugee Law, Humanitarian Practice, and Political Identification in Gaza." *Cultural Anthropology* 22(1): 129-169.
- Patricia Owens. 2009. "Reclaiming 'Bare Life'?: Against Agamben on Refugees." *International Relations* 23 (4): 567-582.
- Ilse Derluyn, Charles Watters, Cindy Mels, and Eric Broekaert, "'We're 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, 2012.
<https://academic.oup.com/jrs/article/27/1/1/1586763>

Recommended: Arendt, Hannah. 1978. "We Refugees." *The Menorah Journal* XXXI (1943), reprinted in *The Jew as Pariah: Jewish Identity and Politics in the Modern Age*. Edited by R.H. Feldman. New York: Grove Press.

(Nov. 22) - Thanksgiving Holiday

(Nov 29) *Week 9 - Re-Presentation, Stories and Memory Work*

Discussion Leaders: Youngoh Jung; Jessica Aguilar

- Critical Essay: Caitlin Chandler. "The Hierarchy of Refugee Stories." 2/11/2015
<https://africasacountry.com/2015/02/the-hierarchy-of-refugee-stories>
- Poem: Warsan Shire. "Home."
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlgDg2Xiygo>
- Ted Talk: Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. "The Danger of a Single Story." TED: Ideas Worth Spreading. July 2009.
www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story.h
- Short Story: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "The Thing Around Your Neck," in *The Thing Around Your Neck*.
<https://ia600102.us.archive.org/26/items/THETHINGAROUNDYOURNECK/THE%20THING%20AROUND%20YOUR%20NECK.pdf>
- Novel: lê thị diễm thúy. *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*. Anchor, 2004.

(Dec. 6) *Week 10 - Those "Who Keep on Existing"*

Discussion Leader: Christiane Assefah

- Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian. 2015. *Security Theology, Surveillance, and the Politics of Fear*. Cambridge University Press.
- Yen Le Espiritu and Lan Duong. "Feminist Refugee Epistemology: Reading Displacement in Vietnamese and Syrian Refugee Art." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 2018.
- Omise'eke Natasha Tinsley. "Black Atlantic, Queer Atlantic: Queer Imaginings of the Middle Passage." *GLO: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 14 (2/3), 2008.

