

**Washington University
International and Area Studies &
Department of Political Science**

Immigration, Identity, and Technology

IAS L97 452/PoliSci L3292 4510

Fall 2011

TuTh 1-2:30 pm, Seigle 205

Professor Sunita Parikh

Seigle 239; 935-5830

Office Hours: Tu & Th 11-12 or by appt.

saparikh@wustl.edu

TA: Jay Krehbiel

jkrehbiel@wustl.edu

Course description

This class examines a critical issue in contemporary societies: How do changes in technology affect the process of immigration and how immigrant identity is shaped? While some immigrants have chosen to maintain strong symbolic and material ties to their home countries throughout history, technology has greatly reduced the costs of doing so. Increasing and less expensive opportunities for the acquisition of information, communication, and travel mean that immigrants can choose different areas in which to settle without giving up access to their home culture. In addition, they frequently know much more about the new country, and they can develop transnational identities that give equal attention to the home and new country cultures. How do these changes affect patterns of immigrant settlement, political participation, and socialization?

While these questions are important and timely, research on the interaction of immigration and technology is still in its early stages. Therefore, in this class we will combine studies of immigration with studies of the social uses of technology, as well as research that directly addresses transnational identities and processes.

Requirements: Two short literature review papers of 5-7 pages, one on immigration topics and one on the social uses of technology, will be due during the semester. In addition, students will keep **logs** of their internet and field research activity. A 12-15 page paper that builds on these reviews and draws on the material gathered through your research. will be due at the end of the semester.

The class will be structured as a seminar, so students are required to have done the readings beforehand and attendance is mandatory (students may miss one class without explanation or penalty).

Literature reviews: 15% each

Field research logs: 15%

Attendance and participation: 15%

Final paper: 40%

Course Materials: All course materials will be available on ERes. Those that cannot be on ERes due to copyright restrictions will be available via on-line access and marked in the syllabus accordingly. The ERes password is “sunita”.

Class Schedule

August 30: Introductory class; no readings

September 1: Current findings on immigrant use of technology

Pew Research Center, *Report on Latino Digital Use and Technology 2010*.

September 6, 8: Immigration Overview

John Higham. 1987/1955. “Strangers in the Land.” In Ronald Takaki, ed., *From Different Shores*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 67-71.

John Higham. 2000. “Instead of a Sequel, or How I Lost My Subject.” *Reviews in American History* 28(2):327-339.

Aristide Zolberg. 2006. *A Nation By Design*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, Ch. 11.

September 13, 15: Immigration in Comparative Perspective

Gary P. Freeman. 2004. “Immigrant Incorporation in Western Democracies.” *International Migration Review* 38(3): 945-969.

Christian Joppke. 1996. “Multiculturalism and Immigration: A Comparison of the United

States, Germany, and Great Britain.” *Theory and Society* 25(4):449 -500.

Will Kymlicka. 2003. “Immigration, Citizenship, Multiculturalism: Exploring the Links.” *Political Quarterly* 74(s1): 196-208.

September 20, 22: Ethnicity and Assimilation

Huntington, *Who Are We? The Challenges to America’s National Identity*, New York: Simon & Schuster. Ch. 8.

Jimmy M. Sanders. 2002. “Ethnic Boundaries and Identity in Plural Societies” *Annual Review of Sociology* 28:327-357.

Richard Alba & Victor Nee. 1997. “Rethinking Assimilation Theory for a New Era of Immigration.” *International Migration Review* 31(4): 826-874.

September 27, 29: Immigration and Identity

K. Anthony Appiah. 2006. *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*. New York: WW Norton. Ch. 1, 7, 8, 9.

Samuel Huntington. 2004. *Who Are We? The Challenges to America’s National Identity*. Ch. 2, 4, 10.

October 4, 6: Transnationalism

Alejandro Portes et al. 1999. “The Study of Transnationalism.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 22(2): 217-237.

Thomas Faist. 2000. “Transnationalization in International Migration: Implications for the Study of Citizenship and Culture.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 23(2): 189-222.

Peter Kivisto. 2001. “Theorizing Transnational Immigration: A Critical Review of Current Efforts.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 24(4):549-577.

October 11, 13: Immigration and new technology

Steven Vertovec. 2004. “Cheap calls: The Social Glue of Migrant Transnationalism.” *Global Networks* 4(2): 219-224.

Junho H. Choi et al. 2006. "Comparing World City Networks: A Network Analysis of Internet Backbone and Air Transport Intercity Linkages." *Global Networks* 6(1): 81-99.

Heather Horst. 2006. "The Blessings and Burdens of Communications: Cell Phones in Jamaican Transnational Fields." *Global Networks* 6(2):143-159.

Caroline Nagel and Lynn Staeheli. 2004. "Citizenship, Identity, and Transnational Migration: Arab Immigrants to the United States" *Space and Polity* 8 (1): 3-23.

1st paper due in class October 13

October 18, 20: The Social Uses of the Internet

John A. Bargh and K.Y.A. McKenna. 2004. "The Internet and Social Life." *Annual Review of Psychology* 55:573-590.

Pew Research Center, *Social Isolation and New Technology*.

Menzie Chinn and Robert Fairlie. 2007. "The Determinants of the Global Digital Divide." *Oxford Economic Papers* 59(1): 16-44.

October 25, 27: New Technology in the Developing World

Eli Noam. 2009. "Why Broadband Internet Should Not Be the Priority for Developing Countries" In W.H. Lehr and L.M. Pupillo (eds.), *Internet Policy and Economics*, Springer, pp. 73-78.

Robert Tynes. 2007. "Nation-building and the diaspora on Leonenet: a case of Sierra Leone in cyberspace" *New Media Society*, 9: 497-518.

Deborah Wheeler. 2006. *The Internet in the Middle East*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press. Ch. 3, 4.

November 1, 3: Mechanisms of Transnational Ties

Heinz de Haas and Roald Plug. 2006. "Cherishing the Goose with the Golden Eggs: Trends in Migrant Remittances from Europe to Morocco 1970-2004." *International Migration Review* 40(3): 603-634.

Luin Goldring. 2002. "The Mexican State and Transmigrant Organizations: Negotiating the Boundaries of Membership and Participation." *Latin American Research Review* 37(3): 55-99.

Michael Jones-Correa. 2001. "Under Two Flags: Dual Nationality in Latin America and Its Consequences for the United States." *International Migration Review* 35(4): 997-1029.

November 8, 10: Ascriptive Characteristics and Immigration – Ethnicity I

Aristide Zolberg and L.L. Woon. 1999. "Why Islam is Like Spanish: Cultural Incorporation in Europe and the United States." *Politics and Society* 27(1):5-38.

J.P Van Oudenhoven and Anne-Marie Eisses. 1998. "Integration and Assimilation of Moroccan Immigrants in Israel and the Netherlands." *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*. 22(3):293-307.

Lauren McLaren and Mark Johnson. 2007. "Resources, Group Conflict, and Symbols: Explaining Anti-Immigration Hostility in Britain." *Political Studies* 55(4): 709-732.

2nd paper due in class November 10.

November 15, 17: Ascriptive Characteristics and Immigration – Ethnicity II

Christine Delphy. 2005. "Gender, Race, and Racism: The Ban of the Islamic Headscarf in France." In Meenakshi Thapan, ed., *Transnational Migration and the Politics of Identity*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, pp. 228-251.

Christian Joppke. 2007. "State neutrality and Islamic headscarf laws in France and Germany." *Theory and Society* 36: 313-342.

John Bowen. 2004. "Beyond Migration: Islam as a Transnational Public Space." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 30(5): 879-894.

November 22: Turn in draft of Internet and field research log

No assigned readings.

November 24: Thanksgiving Break!!!

November 29, December 1: Ascriptive Characteristics and Immigration --Gender

Arlie Russell Hochschild. 2003. "The Commercialization of Intimate Life," Berkeley: University of California Press, ch. 14 ("Love and Gold").

Aparna Rayaprol. "Being American, Learning to be Indian: Gender and Generation in the Context of Transnational Migration." In Thapan, ed., *Transnational Migration and the Politics of Identity*, pp. 130-149.

Bridget Anderson. 2001. "Different Roots in Common Ground: Transnationalism and Migrant Domestic Workers in London." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 27(4): 673-683.

December 6, 8: Project Discussion, Concluding Remarks and Student Feedback

No assigned readings.

Final Paper (with log/journal) is due on day of Final Exam (There is no final exam for this class)