



Transcomm News

The Official Newsletter of the ESRC Transnational Communities Programme

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DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

I am delighted to introduce the Newsletter of the Economic and Social Research Council's Research Programme on Transnational Communities. Through this newsletter we aim to keep our project collaborators, colleagues in social scientific research, and members of a wide variety of user groups informed of developments surrounding the Programme's projects, events and publications. The Newsletter will be produced bi-annually in the Spring and Autumn while the Programme's website (<http://www.transcomm.ox.ac.uk>) will be updated regularly throughout the year.

The Research Programme on Transnational Communities was commissioned by the Priorities Board of the ESRC in 1997 with funds of £3.8 million. The purpose of the programme, which comprises a key component of the ESRC's Research Priority theme of Globalisation, is to study the rise and rapid transformation of social, political and economic networks linking people and institutions across the boundaries of nation-states and, indeed, around the world. Seventeen research projects have now been contracted and a further two are under negotiation. With most of its constituent projects commencing in the Autumn of 1998 (some with two-year durations, others spanning three years), the Programme is scheduled to run until the Autumn of 2002.

In this first issue of the Newsletter we describe the project selection process, list the Programme's projects and profile some of their leaders, describe initial Programme events and introduce our on-line world news digest and some of the Programme's affiliated publication series. We look forward to keeping you updated on the progress of this new Programme concerning an area of increasing significance to social scientific theory, public policy and international relations.



Dr Steven Vertovec



The Research Programme

The Selection Process

In September 1997 the ESRC advertised in the *Guardian* and *Times Higher Education Supplement* a call for research projects to be funded within the Transnational Communities Research Programme. Following the deadline of 31 October 1997, no less than 173 proposals were received from academics throughout Britain. The task of selecting the final group of projects to be funded was, therefore, no small one. Only one in ten proposals would ultimately be successful – meaning, of course, that a large number of excellent proposals would unfortunately have to be rejected.

The selection process was robust, with a distinguished committee of invited selectors drawn from academia and various ‘user’ bodies. The members of the Selection Committee for the Transnational Communities Programme are listed below.

The Selection Committee focused on the following criteria: innovative nature of project vision, contribution to the Programme as a whole as well as to one or more of the Programme’s sub-themes, soundness of methods, proposed project management structure, nature of collaboration with colleagues elsewhere in Britain or overseas, proposed contacts with targeted ‘user’ community, foreseen budget and overall value-for-money.

Following the first stage of selection in December 1997 the committee shortlisted 44 proposals. These proposals were subsequently sent to some 250 referees – again from both academic

and ‘user’ circles – who provided outstanding feedback. At the end of the second stage in April 1998, seventeen projects were finally chosen for funding (while two were asked to re-submit by way of certain modifications of project scope). There ensued various contract negotiation processes between the ESRC and the universities hosting projects. Most projects within the Programme commenced in October 1998 and some will be commencing at various times before 1 March 1999.

Selection Committee

Professor Martin Albrow, Roehampton Institute

Professor Robin Cohen, University of Warwick

Ms Nicole Dewandre, European Commission

Professor Mike Featherstone, Nottingham Trent University

Dr Marian Fitzgerald, Home Office Research Planning Unit

Professor David Fitzpatrick, Trinity College, Dublin

Professor Simon Frith, University of Strathclyde

Professor Jeffrey Henderson, Manchester Business School

Professor William Paterson (Chair), University of Birmingham and ESRC Research Priorities Board

Ms Marlena Schmool, Board of Deputies of British Jews

Professor Jack Spence, Royal Institute of International Affairs

Dr Steven Vertovec (ex officio), University of Oxford

Ms Caroline Wintersgill, University College London Press

The Projects

Research has been contracted within four thematic areas (here listed with name and affiliation of project leaders):

New approaches to migration

Prof A.D. Lane, University of Wales, Cardiff
The formation and maintenance of transnational seafarer communities

Dr F.N. Pieke, University of Oxford
At the margins of the Chinese world system: the Fuzhou diaspora in Europe

Dr M.S. Stewart, University College London
Citizenship and belonging: local expression of political and economic restructuring



Distribution of Research Project bases within the UK

Economics

Dr J.V. Beaverstock, Loughborough University
Embeddedness, knowledge and networks: British expatriates in global financial centres

Dr P.A. Crang, University College London
Commodity culture and South Asian transnationality

Dr N.J. Melvin, University of Leeds
The Russian diaspora and post-communist political and economic transformation

Prof A. Phizacklea, University of Leicester
Impact of legal status and children on transnational household strategies of migrant domestics

Prof R.D. Whitley, Manchester Business School
Transnational communities: Japanese and Korean expatriate managers in the UK

Politics

Dr. R. Black, University of Sussex
Mobilisation of transnational exile communities in post-conflict reconstruction

Prof Z. Layton-Henry, University of Warwick
Transnational communities and the transformation of citizenship

Ms E.K. Østergaard-Nielsen, London School of Economics

Diaspora-politics of immigrants and refugees from Turkey residing in Germany, The Netherlands, UK and Denmark

Dr S.A. Radcliffe, University of Cambridge
‘We are all Indians?’: Ecuadorian and Bolivian transnational indigenous communities

Dr K.D. Willis, University of Liverpool
Gender, households and identity in British and Singaporean migration in China

Society and Culture

Dr T.C. Cheesman, University of Wales, Swansea

Axial writing: Transnational literatures, cultural politics and state policies

Dr P.K. Dresch, University of Oxford
Connection and imagery: transnational culture-flows and the Arab Gulf

Prof J.S. Nielsen, Selly Oak Colleges
Ethnicity, politics and transnational Islam: a study of an international Sufi order

Prof K. Robins, University of Newcastle
Negotiating spaces: media and cultural practices in the Turkish diaspora in Britain, France and Germany

Advisory Board

Advisory Board

Dr Nadia Auriat,
UNESCO

Professor Manuel Castells,
University of California

Professor Mary Chamberlain,
Oxford Brookes University

Dr Jeff Crisp,
IOM & UNHCR (Advisory Board Chair)

Professor Robin Cohen,
University of Warwick

Professor Stuart Hall,
Open University

Ms Noriko Hama,
Mitsubishi Research Institute

Professor Ulf Hannerz,
University of Stockholm

Professor Jeffrey Henderson,
Manchester Business School

Mr Edward Mortimer,
Financial Times

Professor Bhikhu Parekh,
University of Hull

Professor William Paterson,
ESRC Priorities Board & University of Birmingham

Professor Ceri Peach,
University of Oxford

Professor Peter Rivière,
University of Oxford

Professor Jack Spence,
Royal Institute for International Affairs

Ms Sarah Spencer,
Institute for Public Policy Research

The members of the advisory board are drawn from diverse backgrounds, both in academia and user groups. The Chair is Jeff Crisp of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Whilst the main role of the board is to advise the Director on general strategy for the Programme in order to achieve its scientific and impact objectives it is hoped that individuals will take a particular interest in the projects closely related to their own fields. An important area of this is the communications strategy, especially engagement with and dissemination to potential users of the research.

In June of this year the board met and introduced themselves for the first time following a public seminar given by Professor Robin Cohen. Amongst other things they discussed the shape of the programme and ideas on how to reach and involve a wide audience.

The board will meet twice a year, the next meeting being in early December.

Postcolonial London

University of Leeds
Saturday 21st November

To look at the aesthetics and politics of representations of London since the 1950s in diasporic literatures

Registration fee: £15.00

For a full programme and registration details contact: Dr John Mcleod, School of English, University of Leeds, LS2 9JT, Tel: +44 113 233 4753, Fax: +44 113 233 4774, Email: j.m.mcleod@leeds.ac.uk

Profile

Professor Tony Lane, University of Cardiff

Tony Lane left his state grammar school in the Isle of Wight, by mutual consent, when he was 16. After a year at the School of Navigation, Warsash, which was then attached to Southampton University, he went to sea as a navigating officer cadet. An earlier diet of edifying boys fiction (having read the extensive and complete works of Percy F Westerman!) he romantically anticipated a life of adventure and the possibility of heroic deeds. None of this was forthcoming and only total ignorance of other labour markets kept him at sea for eight years (from 1955-1963). At the end of his sea career and before going to Ruskin College in 1963 he was 2nd mate of large crude oil tankers trading to the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. He has written about his seafaring career in an article for *History Workshop Journal* in 1985, 'Neither Officers Nor Gentlemen'.

After two years at Ruskin on a TUC Scholarship he went to read Social Science at Liverpool University on a Mature State Scholarship and graduated with a 'first' in 1968. By then aged 31, he began his academic career and published his first and only co-authored book, *Strike at Pilkingtons* (with Kenneth Roberts) in 1971. His second book, ambiguously entitled *The Union Makes Us Strong* (1974), grew out of his fieldwork experiences in St Helens during the then famous Pilkington strike. Not until after a two-year secondment as a research consultant to the Transport and General Workers Union (1979-81) did he renew his association with seafarers and the shipping industry. He published *Grey Dawn Breaking: British Merchant Seafarers in the Late Twentieth Century* in 1986. Simultaneously concerned with writing historical sociological ac-

counts of contemporary socio-economic questions, he published *Liverpool: Gateway of Empire* in 1987. This book went into a second, revised edition in 1997 as *Liverpool, City of the Sea*. Another historical-sociological study, *The Merchant Seamen's War* (1990 & 1993) is at once a detailed study of the everyday life of civilians in the 'front-line' of the war at sea, 1939-45, and a refutation of 'the peoples' war thesis'. A study of the globalisation of the shipping industry since the mid-1970s and its impact on seafarers is due for publication in 1999.

Tony Lane moved from a readership in sociology at Liverpool University to become director of the Seafarers International Research Centre (SIRC) at Cardiff University in 1997. Core-funded by the International Transport Workers' Federation's Seafarers Charitable Trust since 1995, SIRC has a permanent staff of four senior social science researchers working in the areas of occupational health and safety, seafarer communities afloat and ashore and the social relations of work and employment. The Centre is dedicated to research of potential benefit to the welfare of seafarers of all ranks and nationalities. The Centre also actively participates in debates in world shipping concerned with seafaring life and labour. Tony Lane thinks he is extraordinarily privileged to hold what will be his last job before retiring in 2002



Professor Tony Lane

Professor Zig Layton-Henry, University of Warwick

Zig Layton-Henry is Professor of Politics at the University of Warwick and the past Director of the ESRC Centre for Research in Ethnic Rela-

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tions. He was born in Carlisle in 1942 but quickly migrated to London where he was educated at St Benedict's School, Ealing. He read Economics, Politics and Sociology at Birmingham University graduating with a B.Soc.Sc I 1964. He continued at Birmingham for his doctorate on Political Youth Movements in Britain. In 1967 he joined a team under Professor Maurice Kegan at Brunel University studying the impact of computerisation on hospitals and the health service. After a year at Brunel he moved to the University of Warwick as lecturer in Politics.



Professor Zig Layton-Henry

Professor Layton-Henry's main research interests have been in the areas of party politics, electoral behaviour and policy immigration. In 1980 he published an edited volume on *Conservative Party Politics* which was followed by another on *Conservative Politics in Western Europe* (1982). He then published a number of books on the political impact of post-war immigration to Britain namely *The Politics of Race in Britain* (1984), *Race, Government and Politics in Britain*, (with Paul Rich, 1986) and *The Politics of Immigration: Race and Race Relations in Post-War Britain*, (1992).

In the 1980s Professor Layton-Henry collaborated with Professor Tomas Hammar of Stockholm University in two major comparative projects. The first was a six nation study of Immigration Policy which was led by Professor Hammar. This project led to an edited book namely: *European Immigration Policy* (1985). The second project was a seven nation study of the rights of migrant workers which led to another edited book namely: *The Political Rights*

of Migrant Workers in Western Europe, (1990).

In 1992, Professor Layton-Henry was seconded from the Politics Department to the ESRC Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations as Associate Director. He became Acting Director in 1993 and Director in 1994. He has now returned to the Department of Politics and for the next two years will be largely concerned with the transnational communities project on the transformation of citizenship in Britain, Canada and Germany.

Jeff Crisp, UNHCR

Dr Jeff Crisp graduated in 1975 from the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, with a degree in International Politics and History, and subsequently completed a Masters degree and PhD at the Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham. His doctoral thesis, on labour migration, protest and control in Ghana's gold mining industry, was published by Zed Books in 1983.

After working with the British Refugee Council and the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, in 1987 he joined the Public Information Service of UNHCR, where he edited the monthly journal *Refugees*. He was subsequently appointed to the posts of Senior Evaluation Officer and Senior Policy Research Officer.

Jeff Crisp has published widely on refugee and humanitarian issues, African affairs and labour studies. His publications include *Refugees: The Dynamics of Displacement* (Zed Books, 1986), *The State of the World's Refugees: In Search of Solutions* (Oxford University Press, 1995) and *The State of the World's Refugees: A Humanitarian Agenda* (Oxford University Press, 1997). He currently serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Refugee Studies* and *Refugee Survey Quarterly*. One of his primary research interests is the return and reintegration of displaced populations, and in this context he has undertaken studies of repatriation and reconstruction programmes in countries such as Cambodia, Iraq, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Pakistan and Somaliland.

Programme Events

Transnationalism: An Exchange of Theoretical Perspectives from Latin American, Africanist and Asian Anthropology

The International Workshop was held at Chancellors Conference Centre, University of Manchester, on 16-18 May 1998. It was organised and convened by Pnina Werbner (Keele University) and John Gledhill (University of Manchester), under the auspices of the Joint Manchester-Keele International Centre for Contemporary Cultural Research. The Workshop was sponsored by the ESRC through the Transnational Communities Programme and by the Werner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. Additional support came from the University of Manchester Graduate School of Social Sciences, and the Departments of Social Anthropology, Manchester, and Sociology and Social Anthropology, Keele.

The Workshop was timed to coincide with the six-week stay of Lisa Malkki and James Ferguson the 1998 Visiting Simon Professor at Manchester, both from the University of California, Irvine. Other overseas visitors included Michael Kearney from Riverside, Frederico Besserer from the Autonomous Metropolitan University, Iztapalapa, Mexico, Robert Young of Columbia University, and Maila Stivens, the University of Melbourne.

The principle goals of the conference were to bring together perspectives on transnationalism, which had not previously been linked, both to advance theoretical dialogue and to allow for exchange of research on different parts of the world. Part of the challenge posed by the Workshop was to debate the special contribution that anthropological and cultural studies perspectives

can make to an understanding of boundary-crossing organisational and networked processes, and to their ideological, cosmological and political imaginaries. In stressing networks, the Workshop aimed to augment the recent ESRC Transnational Communities programme by exploring further the religious, economic, gendered, political and legal formations that transverse and challenge the boundedness and sovereignty of the nation-state.

These objectives were fulfilled, in many ways beyond our expectations. Following an opening roundtable discussion to which a group of doctoral and postdoctoral students also contributed, the main proceedings began with presentations by Dr. Steven Vertovec and four leaders of successful transnational projects in the ESRC programme. Over the next two days there were sessions on Human Rights, Transnational Religious Cults and Movements, Cultural Politics, Transnationalism and the State, Diaspora, Gender and Diaspora, Refugees, International Development and Non-Governmental Organisations, and finally, Migration, Politics and the Postnatal State. Altogether, there were 32 presentations. Most papers were distributed and also appeared on our Web Site (<http://les.man.ac.uk/sa/transnat.htm>)

All the papers, without exception, were of very high quality and discussions were extensive, both within the sessions and outside them. There was substantial debate on the 'newness' or otherwise of transnational processes and organisations, and the extent to which anthropologists should feel that the transnational posed a challenge to their normal ways of thinking conceptually and doing ethnography. Important points were made about the need to revive and develop earlier trends in anthropology, such as field and central place theories which had stressed flows and networks, in order to extend present anthropological insights. This came along with a current engagement with broader interdisciplinary debates. The sessions on religious movements and cults, refugees and human rights, plus the session on international development and NGOs helped to ensure that the discussion did not focus solely on migration processes. The concept of diaspora was both attacked and defended energetically,

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complemented by substantive papers on the holocaust, South Asian, Mexican and Muslim diasporas. The inclusion of papers addressing issues of gender also helped to provoke valuable discussion, and the conference as a whole was distinguished by a strong desire on the part of participants to look beneath vapid generalities that often accompany discussions of globalisation and transnationalism, to concrete social and political processes that lend themselves to ethnographic research.

While few of the contributions had already been committed to publication elsewhere, the event produced enough good papers to fill two substantial edited volumes. It is hoped that these will appear under the imprint of Zed Press in the ICCCR series, 'Postcolonial Encounters'.

Pnina Werbner, ICCCR, Keele

First Annual Conference of the Transnational Communities Programme, 21-23 September 1998, St Antony's College, Oxford.

Synergy on Self-conscious Networks

Does consumption patterns of Patak sauces and popularity of Turkish writers in German have anything in common? May we detect parallel dynamics between the networks of seafarers and expatriate business managers? How does political lobbying of indigenous Indians from Ecuador differ from the strategies of post-conflict reconstruction of exile Eritreans?

In order to get an answer to these questions representatives of the selected projects teams met with each other and the advisory board at the first annual conference of the Transnational Communities Programme at St. Antony's College, Oxford University. The point of the conference was to present the projects, discuss common themes, 'synergize', and come up with ideas for future co-operation between the various project teams.

Steven Vertovec, the director of the Programme, opened the conference. He both praised the diversity of the projects and addressed the common ground, by launching a definition of

transnational communities as *self-conscious networks* that span the borders of nation states. He was followed by Ulf Hannerz from Stockholm University, one of the founding fathers of research on transnational communities within Anthropology. Hannerz presented his research of foreign correspondents, telling us of the networks and social lives of the people producing the media-image so vital for our understanding of the global state of world affairs.

Hannerz' research reflects the wide working definition of the Transnational Communities Programme where the units of research are both ethnic/national, and religious, as well as social, and occupational networks. Or, as is the case in a substantial part of the projects, communities which are a combination of common ethnic background and social position/occupation.

Before the project teams took over ESRC's Qualidata was introduced by Ms Day. She urged the project teams to prepare data for safekeeping from the outset of the research.

Then followed two and a half days of presentation by each project team and discussion of individual projects, as well as the 'clusters of projects' that has been formed during the selection procedures. The Programme is interdisciplinary right down to the composition of several of the project teams. And while some form of categorization into 'economics', 'politics' and 'new approaches to migration' etc. was neces-

Forthcoming Conference Society of Latin American Studies

9-11 April 1999
University of Cambridge

Provisional Speakers
Robert Andolina, University of Minnesota
Janet Lloyd, University of Liverpool
Pilar Larreamendy, University of Cambridge
Pablo Regalsky, Bolivia

Further details from: Professor Sarah Radcliffe, Tel: +44 1223 333383, Fax: +44 1223 333392 Email: sar23@cam.ac.uk

sary in order to structure the discussions, many of the projects overlapped in terms of themes, conceptual approaches, and communities in focus.

For instance, a common theme for all the projects is to consider ways in which the transnational dimension of all the projects contribute to our understanding of 'belonging'. Similarly, many of the projects consider how states accommodate or counter, and possibly affect agendas and activities of transnational communities. We further discussed the significance of media, literature and (for that matter) food, for identifying self in diaspora. And when and how economic contacts intersect with a sense of community and with what possible consequences?

At this preliminary stage of the research, where conceptions and research strategies are being rethought and sharpened, the conference provided a unique opportunity to discuss common issues across a range of disciplines and empirical areas of interest. While fruitful exchange of speculations took place at the conference, the next three years of research will provide systematic data to explore such questions further. To this end, as important as the more abstract conceptual discussions, there was ample opportunity for the representatives of the projects to meet and discuss common research interests, and potential co-operation.

Eva Østergaard-Nielsen, St. Antony's College, Oxford

Opening Seminar Series

The first series of Transnational Community seminars was successfully launched in Trinity Term. The seminar series aims at bringing together an interdisciplinary group of scholars, who are all in one way or another looking at transnational and globalisation phenomena.

This first series, which ran under the title of 'Conceiving Transnational Activities', included the following guest speakers and lecture topics:

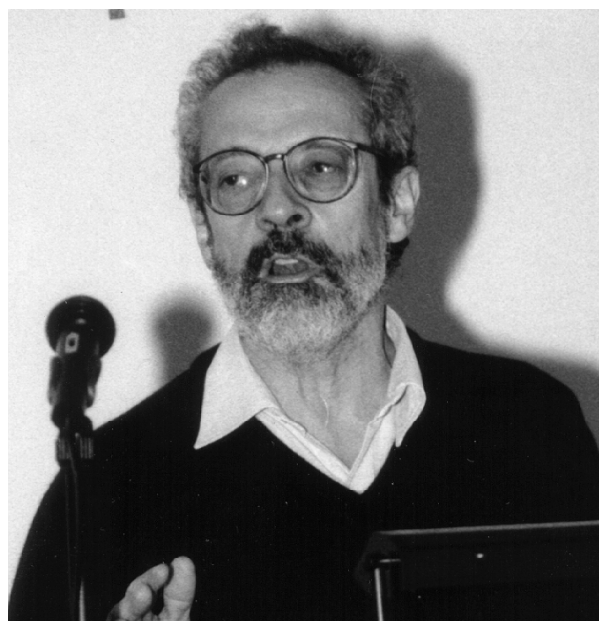
- **Professor Martin Albrow**, School of Sociology, Roehampton Institute 'Frames and Transformations in Transnational Studies'
- **Professor Kevin Robins**, Centre for Urban

and Regional Development Studies, University of Newcastle, 'Spaces of Global Media'

- **Professor Leslie Sklair**, Department of Sociology, London School of Economics, 'Transnational Practices and the Analysis of Global System'
- **Professor Alejandro Portes**, Department of Sociology, Princeton University, 'Globalisation from Below: The Rise of Transnational Communities'
- **Professor Zygmunt Bauman**, University of Leeds, 'Ethnic Networks in a Networked World'
- **Professor Stephen Castles**, Institute of Social Change, University of Wollongong, 'New Migrations, Ethnicity and Nationalism in Southeast and East Asia'
- **Professor Robin Cohen**, Department of Sociology, University of Warwick, 'Transnational Social Movements: An appraisal'

This diverse group of speakers, their wide-ranging research interests and perspectives, coupled with the growing interest in transnationalism, continuously attracted large audiences and brought about stimulating discussion.

The seminar series will run throughout the year 2002 and will no doubt continue to invite leading scholars who are working on cutting edge transnational and globalisation issues.



Professor Stephen Castles, University of Wollongong

Publications

Traces

Traces is an on-line news digest service available from the Programme's website. It surveys the world's newspapers and press agencies to identify subjects of interest to transnational studies. Each issue contains around twenty or so individual stories drawn from around the world. The aim is to provide up-to-date factual information on relevant topics and events. Over time, *Traces* will also constitute a valuable resource for teaching. It will provide course organisers and students with a readily available store of information. *Traces* is issued quarterly, and the first three issues of 1998 are already available.

The main features in the first three issues are dual citizenship, transnational crime and the new terrorism. In 1998 Mexico introduced dual nationality for Mexicans outside the country, joining a growing list of countries which are reorganising the relationship between territory and citizenship rights. *Traces* also includes articles on the dual nationality issue in Korea, Armenia, Hungary and elsewhere. Across the world, national security and police agencies are being forced to address the spreading networks of transnational crime and terrorism. Issues 2 and 3 of *Traces* outline the main developments in international and regional co-operation, including reactions to so-called Islamic terrorists in the USA and UK.

Other articles address such events as the papal visit to Cuba and the reaction from the Cuban exile community; national elections in such places as Lithuania and Germany and the involvement of foreign nationals and expatriates; the war in Kosovo and the role of the Albanian exile community; and the response to the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Israel from among the Jew-

ish diaspora. Diasporic groups such as Chinese, Kurds, Armenians, Sikhs, Russians are also featured in the first three issues. There are articles on the role of remittances and the appeal by national governments for financial aid and investment from overseas communities, notably from India, Pakistan and El Salvador.

Future issues will continue to inform on diasporic and transnational communities of all kinds, including expatriate workers, transmigrants, criminal organisations etc.. *Traces* will search for wherever the relationships between communities, states, territories and borders are being transformed by globalisation from above and from below.

Alisdair Rogers, University of Oxford

The Origins of the Global Diaspora Series

Like many ideas, the notion of a series of books on *Global Diasporas* arrived serendipitously. On study leave late in 1989, I was trying to find some way of bridging my continuing interest in patterns of international migration with the end of my responsibilities of directing the ESRC's Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations at Warwick. Looking meditatively (or was that vegetatively?) at the garden out of my window, I suddenly thought how often migration studies used terms like 'uprooting', 'scattering', 'transplanting' and the newly-fashionably word 'hybridity'. My interest mounted when I found that 'diaspora' was derived from the Greek work *speiro* ('to sow') and *dia* ('over').

Could a revised notion of the old idea of 'diaspora' provide a means for understanding how revived and new forms of transnationalism were mapping on to, and changing, the accepted ways of understanding national identities, immigration, settlement and integration? 'Discoveries' are hardly the happy lot of the individual social scientist because, of course, many other people had got there before me or were rapidly to supersede my initially simple ideas. Stuart Hall, Paul Gilroy and James Clifford wrote pioneering work while, perhaps an even greater sign that the concept had arrived, was the launch of a

new journal called *Diaspora: a Journal of Transnational Studies* in 1991 under the editorship of the formidable Armenian scholar, Khachig Tölöyan.

In November 1998 I was lucky enough to be at the same conference at the Sorbonne on 'Diasporas and Transnationalism' with Khachig Tölöyan when he recited a list of the 36 communities who had designated themselves or had been identified as 'diasporas' in the articles published in his journal. Around 1991, when I had checked the Library of Congress catalogue, it was extremely rare to find an entry outside the Jews, Armenians, Africans and Greeks. Clearly the term had struck some chord. Yet there is by no means a consensus emerging that it is an appropriate concept. Also at the Paris conference was an Israeli historian who angrily denounced us for 'stealing one of the symbols of Jewish history'. A few feminist authors have also been worried at the 'masculine' idea of the dissemination of seed being given precedence over the 'feminine' idea of rooting and branching. Floya Anthias provides a more general denunciation, particularly directed at my work, in a recent article in the British journal *Sociology*.

Fortunately, the idea seemed rich enough to persuade the then new university press, UCL Press, to launch major series. The first two volumes are out – a comparative, taxonomic and historical work by myself and an examination of diasporas-in-the-making arising from recent migration crises by Nick van Hear. Also recently published is the first of about 15 volumes to be published on individual ethnic diasporas – the Sikh Diaspora. In production is a volume on the Italians; while others signed up are the British, the Greeks, the Ukrainians, the Japanese, Israelis and others. The series will be concluded by a comprehensive, annotated bibliography.

The series has strayed rather far from 'ethnic relations' or 'migration studies', as traditionally conceived and has very much been a lone-scholar effort with no secretarial or administrative back up. I was therefore only too delighted when Stephen Vertovec suggested that we use the series as one means to diffuse the findings of the new Research Programme on Transnational Communities. (He also, of course, has many

other plans for dissemination.)

The UCL Press series has found a happy home in the programme and I already have to record my thanks to Anna Winton, the administrator, for lifting an enormous burden of responsibility off my shoulders in keeping the flow of correspondence going between authors, publishers and the editor. More about the series (and an order form too if you can be tempted to buy) can be found under 'Publications' on the Programme's web site (<http://www.transcomm.ox.ac.uk>). Meanwhile, if there are suggestions for authors (nominated or self-nominated) I welcome correspondence at R.Cohen@warwick.ac.uk

Robin Cohen, University of Warwick

Working Paper Series

WPTC-98-01	Globalisation from Below: The Rise of Transnational Communities Alejandro Portes
WPTC-98-02	Frames and Transformations in Transnational Studies Martin Albrow
WPTC-98-03	Europe of Strangers Zygmunt Bauman
WPTC-98-04	Transnational Practices and the Analysis of the Global System Leslie Sklair
WPTC-98-05	Belonging, ethnic diversity and everyday experience: co-existing identities on the Italo-Slovene frontier Warwick Armstrong
WPTC-98-06	Spaces of Global Media Kevin Robins
WPTC-98-07	Zurich's Miami: Transethnic relations of a transnational community Andreas Wimmer
WPTC-98-08	'Singapore Unlimited'?: Configuring social identity in the regionalisation process Brenda Yeoh and Katie Willis
WPTC-98-09	New Migrations, Ethnicity and Nationalism in Southeast and East Asia Stephen Castles
WPTC-98-10	Transnational social movements: an assessment Robin Cohen
WPTC-98-11	Transnationalism and Diasporas: The Kurdish Example Östen Wahlbeck

The papers are available in hard copy or can be downloaded from our website.

Seminars Michaelmas 1998

Globalisation and the 'Old' Diasporas

- 22 October **Dr Frank Pieke**, Institute of Chinese Studies, University of Oxford
The overseas Chinese and the world system: new configurations of an 'old' diaspora
- 29 October **Dr Michael Stewart**, University College London
Hungarians in Romania: from mother tongue education to regional autonomy
- 5 November **Dr Susan Pattie**, University College London
New Homeland for an Old Diaspora? The Armenian world in transition
- 12 November **Dr George Prevelakis**, Institut de Géographie, Paris
Finis Graeciae or the return of the Greeks? State and diaspora in the context of Globalisation
- 19 November **Mr Ronald Segal**, Author
Globalisation and the Black diaspora
- 26 November **Professor Thomas Acton**, University of Greenwich
Globalisation, Romani communities and Gypsy politics
- 3 December **Dr Jonathan Webber**, Centre for Hebrew Studies, University of Oxford
Transnationalism and the problem of static models: some reflections on the Jewish case

All Seminars on Thursdays, 2.00 - 3.30 p.m.
Senior Common Room, School of Geography, Mansfield Road, Oxford

Transcomm News is the official newsletter of the ESRC Research Programme on Transnational Communities. If you or your organisation wishes to be placed on our mailing list please contact **Anna Winton**, tel: **01865 274711**, fax: **01865 274718**, email: **anna.winton@anthro.ox.ac.uk** or write to her at **Transnational Communities, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, 51 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PE.**

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