



# Transcomm News

The Official Newsletter of the ESRC Transnational Communities Programme

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## Director's Foreword

The Transnational Communities Programme has rounded the bend and is heading into the home stretch. Ten of its nineteen constituent projects have finished, while the rest will end by mid-2002. In this newsletter we summarise some of the final reports. A number of closing activities are in store, including a major academic conference in July (at which experts from across the social sciences will review TransComm project results) and a one-day public event in October (when Programme highlights will be presented to politicians, civil servants, trade unionists and members of the media, industry, NGOs and community groups). The subsequent issue of TransComm News will cover these events and other Programme achievements.

The events of 11 September 2001 have demonstrated dark dimensions of transnationalism. The kinds of issues and topics studied within the TransComm Programme – particularly concerning the emergence and nature of global financial, political, ethnic and religious networks – have direct bearing on our attempts to understand the development and activities of groups such as those who carried out such terrible deeds. The TransComm Programme presents both academic and non-academic user communities with high quality data and analyses regarding all kinds of globalised group practices. Now arguably even more relevant, TransComm meetings and publications will continue to inform significantly a range of contemporary theory and policy.

Dr Steven Vertovec

*A set of TransComm Projects were presented at a special workshop during the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Metropolis Conference convened in Rotterdam, 26-29 November 2001. Metropolis provides a key international venue for migration-related policymakers and academics. In sheer attendance at least, the TransComm workshop proved to be one of the most popular of this major event. Pictured from left to right: Frank Pieke (University of Oxford), Katie Willis (University of Liverpool), Steve Vertovec (University of Oxford), Bridget Anderson (University of Warwick), David Ley (University of British Columbia) and Khalid Koser (University College London).*



# Programme Conferences

Autumn 2001 saw the convening of two flagship conferences in Warwick and London. Each dealt with themes central to the concerns of the Transnational Communities Programme.

## **Multinational Enterprises: Embedded organisations, transnational federations or global learning communities?**

**Arden House, University of Warwick  
September 6-8, 2001**

In early September an international group of scholars met at the University of Warwick for a



*Speaker: Glenn Morgan, University of Warwick*

Transcomm programme-sponsored conference on forms and dynamics of corporate transnationalism.

The study of multinational firms has become increasingly concerned with the inter-relationship between centrally managed processes of control and coordination and the capacities and capabilities of local sites within the multinational. The notion of the multinational as a 'differentiated', 'learning' network implies a new attention to the social relationships within the firm. This has created a new urgency for inter-disciplinary

research and analysis broadening the traditional paradigm of international business to include sociologists, anthropologists and historians. The participants in the conference represented these ar-



*Speaker: Tony Edwards, Kingston Business School*

eas as well as economics, business and management. Papers were organised into sessions with the following themes:

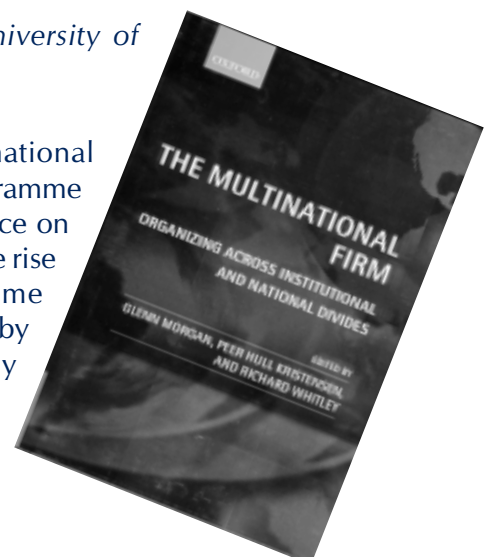
- Impact of home-based institutions on the strategy and structure of multinationals
- Impact of internationalisation and multinationals on institutions of host countries
- Power and control in multinationals: subsidiary-head office relationships
- Transferring learning and knowledge assets in multinationals
- Changing firms under the impact of internationalization
- Patterns of internationalization and forms of multinational expansion

The conference provided a stimulating environment in which different theoretical positions on the strategy and structure of multinational firms from different countries were discussed. A selection of the papers will be published in a Special Issue of the *Journal of Management Studies*. Further details of the conference are available from the organisers ([glenn.morgan@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:glenn.morgan@warwick.ac.uk) and [rwhitley@man.mbs.ac.uk](mailto:rwhitley@man.mbs.ac.uk)).

*Glenn Morgan, University of Warwick*

A previous Transnational Communities Programme supported conference on a similar theme gave rise to an edited volume published in 2001 by Oxford University Press.

ISBN:0-19-924755-2



## International Conference on the Caribbean Diaspora

Abbey Conference Centre,  
South Bank University, London  
30 August - 01 September 2001

The aim of this very successful conference was to highlight and explore some key, but relatively neglected, aspects of the Caribbean Diaspora and to provide an empirical basis for the meaningful assessment of these communities across the Atlantic.



*Plenary Session at Abbey Conference Centre, South Bank University*

The centrality of the Caribbean in a wide range of current debates about the performing and visual arts, literature, cultural studies, post-modernity, post-coloniality and history made it unnecessary to invite scholars to dwell on these. Instead, the conference was organised around issues that are of special concern to the social science community. These included the definition (spread, scope, variations) of the Caribbean Diaspora across the Atlantic over the last half century; the possession, consumption and benefits of Caribbean cultural and social capital or creativity; and the meaning of transnationality, citizenship and participation of Caribbeans in society and polity in different societies in the triangular Atlantic world of today.

The papers reflected the state of scholarship on some of these issues in societies such as Britain, France, the Netherlands, North America and the Caribbean itself. Papers were presented by established as well as younger scholars from across the social sciences.

The organisers were keen to ensure that the conference was not restricted to academic papers, but would include wider community participation. To this end, the conference included an additional set of events. These were, first, a panel discussion with the Caribbean publishers Jessica and Eric Huntley of Bogle L'Ouverture Publications and the Caribbean children's writer, Petronella Breinberg (Goldsmiths). Second, this session was followed by the launch of Mike Phillips' latest book, Lon-

don Crossings (Continuum, 2001). Third, Brian Scott, a broadcaster and media personality in Poland, gave an excellent presentation on the Caribbean presence in East Europe. Fourth, the conference served as an apt occasion for the launch of Harry Goulbourne & Mary Chamberlain's (eds) Caribbean Families in Britain and the Trans-Atlantic World (Macmillan, 2001) hot off the press

from Hong Kong. Copies at hand were sold out by Macmillan's senior commissioning editor, Nick Gillard. This book is itself one of the products of an earlier

ESRC Award held by Goulbourne and Chamberlain: Population and Household Change Programme.

The keynote address was given by the Caribbean's leading cultural scholar and one of the region's leading performers, Professor Rex

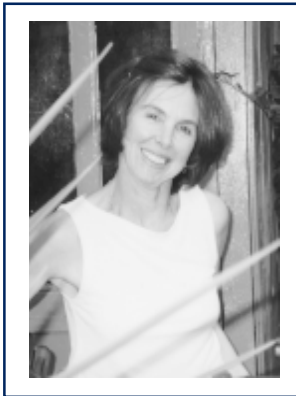


*Keynote Speaker: Rex Nettleford and Chair: Bill Morris*

Nettleford, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, and co-founder of the acclaimed National Dance Company of Jamaica, of which he remains artistic director. His talk entitled 'Creative Diversity: Defining Point of the Caribbean Diaspora', and this led to an extended evening of discussion by an audience made up of conference participants, members of the general Caribbean public and key Caribbean personalities such as High Commissioners, writers and broadcasters.

*Harry Goulbourne, South Bank University*

# Profiles



**Mary Chamberlain**, a TransComm Advisory board member, is one of the pioneers of oral history and life story methods. Her early research on women's history charted aspects of the everyday experience of working class women in 20<sup>th</sup> century Britain. Since 1988 the focus of her research has been

on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Caribbean history, on the relationship between Britain and the Empire and the interplay between the global and the local. She has now added a further dimension to life story methodology through an engagement with trans-generational and cross-cultural interviews. This approach opens up ways in which race, gender and class are integrated and implicated in the makings of memory and modern identities, including diasporic and transnational identities and into the contemporary meanings of Britain, nationhood and identity for the Caribbean and its peoples.

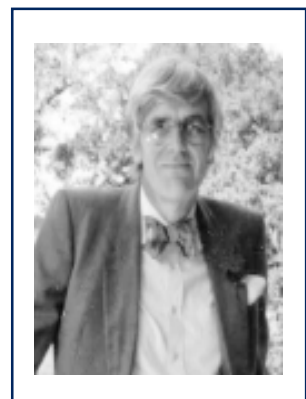
Her books include *Fenwomen: A Portrait of Women in an English Village* (1975, 1981), *Old Wives Tales* (1983), *Writing Lives* (ed) (1988), *Growing Up in Lambeth* (1989), *Narratives of Exile and Return* (1997), *Narrative and Genre* (ed. with Paul Thompson) (1997), *Caribbean Migration: Globalised Identities* (ed.) (1998) and *Caribbean Families in Britain and the Transatlantic World* (ed. with Harry Goulbourne) (2001).

She is currently completing a study on Caribbean families in Britain (with Professor Harry Goulbourne of South Bank University) funded by the ESRC Research Programme on Population and Household Change, and editing, with Professor Selma Leydesdorff from the Belle van Zuylen Instituut, University of Amsterdam, a book on *Gender and Transnational Families*. Mary Chamberlain is a (founding and) principal editor of the

Routledge Studies in Memory and Narrative, was a former associate reviews editor of *The International Yearbook of Oral History and Life Stories*, and reviews editor of the *Oral History Journal*. She has lectured widely on women's history, Caribbean history and migration, and oral history at Universities and conferences in Britain, Europe, North America and the Caribbean. She is a Trustee of the National Life Story Collection of the National Sound Archive of the British Library, a member of the UK Government's Caribbean Advisory Group, and of a range of academic, editorial and assessment panels. Mary Chamberlain is a graduate (in politics) of Edinburgh University, and (in International Relations) of the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is Professor of Modern Social History at Oxford Brookes University and has held fellowships and lecturing posts at the University of Essex, the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill), and at the London College of Printing (The London Institute).

**Edward Mortimer**, also on the TransComm Advisory board, is Director of Communications and head of the Speechwriting Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He has worked for the UN since July 1998, on extended leave of absence from the *Financial Times*, where he was the main Foreign Affairs commentator (writing a signed column as well as many of the editorials) from 1987 to 1998.

Born in 1943 at Burford, England, Mr. Mortimer is a British citizen. In 1962, after volunteer service as an English teacher in Senegal, he went up to Oxford University, where he took an M.A. degree in history and later became a Fellow of All Souls College. Between 1967 and 1985 he worked for *The Times* of London - first as assistant Paris correspondent, then, from 1973, as foreign specialist and leader-writer on Middle Eastern and Mediterranean affairs. He is the author of several books and pamphlets including *France and the Africans* (1969), *Faith and Power: the Politics of Islam* (1982), *The World That FDR Built* (1989), *European Security after the Cold War* (1992) and *A Few Words on Intervention* (1995); and co-editor of *People, Nation and State: the Meaning of Ethnicity and Nationalism* (1999).



**Gregor Benton**, who graduated in Oriental Studies from Cambridge in 1968, is Professor of Chinese History at Cardiff. Currently he leads a TransComm project on overseas Chinese business. He was Associate Professor in the Centre for Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Amsterdam (1979-89) and Professor of Chinese Studies at the University of Leeds (1989-99).

He has published books on Marxism, political humour, the history of the Chinese Communist Party, Red guerrillas in the 1930s, the Sino-Japanese War, dissent in China, Chinese Trotskyism, Hong Kong, the theory of moral economy, and overseas Chinese. His *Mountain Fires: The Red Army's Three-Year War in South China, 1934-1938* (Berkeley 1992) won several awards, including the Association of Asian Studies' prize for the best book on modern China. His latest book is *New Fourth Army: Communist Resistance Along the Yangtze and the Huai, 1938-1941* (Berkeley 1999). However, he is most proud of his four books on the Chinese Trotskyists, whom he set out to rescue from academic oblivion and Maoist contumely.

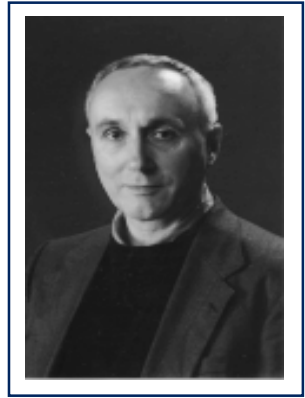
Benton's work on the Chinese revolution has been described by the distinguished diplomat and "old China hand" John Service as a "milestone to maturity in the study of Chinese communism" and by Lyman P. Van Slyke, Professor of History at Stanford, as "a combination of scholarly vision, energy, and patience that is truly astonishing". He was a founding member of "base area studies", a field of scholarship that seeks to understand the Chinese revolution by focussing (for the time being) on its local variation. His main contribution to the theoretical understanding of revolutions lies in his analysis of the role of national and local elites in leading movements whose popular images are of peasant nationalism or peasant revolution. He rejects the "structural" theory, which attributes the Chinese revolution to state breakdown together with agrarian revolt and vanguard leadership, and argues that class struggle did not well up but was whipped up in the Japanese War.

His interest in overseas Chinese studies started in 1979, when he recruited a group of post-graduates in Amsterdam to do anthropological research in the Chinese community. He is sceptical about some trends in transnational studies. He shares Adam McKeown's concern (voiced in *Chinese Migrant Networks and Cultural Change*) that the new scholarship tends to view transnational communities mainly in the light of recent shifts in the global order. Like McKeown, he wants to con-

struct a longer history of transnationalism. He is also interested in the motivation of the large numbers of immigrant Chinese who, in different places and at different times, actively avoid ethnic and transnational ties. His close collaborator in ethnic Chinese studies is Dr Edmund Terence Gomez of the Economics Faculty in the University of Malaya.

In the mid 1990s, Benton helped found Chinese Worlds at Curzon Press. This series has established itself as a major outlet for work on Chinese society and culture. One of its main areas of interest is international migration and ethnic Chinese studies.

Benton works in a wide range of languages, including Chinese, German, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, French, Swedish, Portuguese, and Welsh. He is also familiar with several creoles and pidgins, an area in which he worked for several years while at the University of Amsterdam. He has translated a dozen or so books from several languages, including the 1975 Penguin edition of *Marx's Early Writings*. He is a strong supporter of Welsh-language rights.



## Traces

Traces is an on-line news digest service provided by the Transnational Communities Programme for researchers and other interested parties. The aim of Traces is to make sense of the human dimensions of globalization by monitoring news stories from around the world and presenting them in summary form. These stories are selected for their relevance to the aims and interests of the Transnational Communities Programme.

**Issue 15 is available now -**  
<http://www.transcomm.ox.ac.uk/traces.htm>

For more information please see the  
 Transcomm website - [www.transcomm.ox.ac.uk](http://www.transcomm.ox.ac.uk)  
 or contact Emma Newcombe -  
[emma.newcombe@anthro.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emma.newcombe@anthro.ox.ac.uk)

# Programme Events

## **SIRC's Asia-Pacific Conference Merchant Court Hotel, Singapore 4 October 2001**

In October last year the TransComm team in Cardiff University's Seafarers International Research Centre (SIRC) – Tony Lane, Erol Kahveci and Helen Sampson – took their findings on transnational seafarers to Singapore. An invited audience of 42 shipping industry representatives in the Asia-Pacific region and mostly from Singapore and Hong Kong, took part in a one-day symposium. The symposium was funded by an additional grant from the ESRC to support dissemination of project findings.

Some 40 per cent of the world's ships are owned in Asia and more than half of the world's seafarers come from Asian countries. Since these morphological features were reproduced in our research aboard ships, among seafarers' families and in transnational communities in Hamburg and Rotterdam it was plain that a report-back in Asia's dominant hub port was essential. Our research had also critically depended on the access provided by shipowners, shipmanagers, trade unions and welfare agencies and at the outset we had promised some reciprocity. Papers were presented on shipboard social relations among multinational crews, seafarers' strategies for accessing the global labour market and seafaring and family life in India and the Philippines. Discussions were lively



*'Participant observer', Helen Sampson, with Croatian and Filipino crew members of a large tanker in Canada after a North Atlantic voyage from Norway.*

and feedback we received after the conference was extremely encouraging. Considerable appreciation was expressed for our efforts in making our findings available to the industry generally and in particular to those who had been so co-operative and helpful. A typical response came from a Hong Kong shipowner who reproached us for not asking for access to his ships but left us with an open invitation for the future.

*Tony Lane, University of Wales*

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## **Connections and Identities: Understandings of the Arab Gulf St John's College, University of Oxford 24- 26 September 2001**

The project on 'Connection and Imagery: Transnational Culture-Flows and the Arab Gulf' organised a conference, under the direction of Paul Dresch. Sixteen papers were delivered, and participants came from the United States, Europe, and the Gulf. The conference sought to analyse practical inter-connections and modes of self-definition of Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states and populations with transnational flows of capital, persons, and ideas.

The project team presented papers on their main research. Dr Dresch spoke on 'Debates on Marriage and Nationality in the United Arab Emirates'. He explained that the Marriage Fund in the United Arab Emirates has, since 1992, encouraged marriage among citizens and discouraged the marriage of Emirati men to foreign women. Although there is divided opinion on the subject, there are considerable internal fears that so small a state risks losing its national identity if the trend towards marrying 'outsiders' (a not entirely transparent category) continues unabated. Even as the UAE is pulled by transnational forces, then, it may lead to heightened concerns about national solidarity.

Madawi Al-Rasheed spoke on her research on the Zanzibari Omanis in Muscat. Since their return to Oman in the 1970s, they have created an identity that is based on multiple localities – at once Zanzibari, Omani and 'Gulfi'. They have, in fact, functioned as cultural mediators between Omanis and the outside world. In the process, they have contributed to the writing of an official Omani history that builds on and celebrates regional and cultural diversity. Christa Salamandra, research assistant to the project, also emphasised the theme of cultural mediation in her paper on 'Globalisation and Gulf Arab London'. Cultural brokers have appeared to formalise Gulf heritage and to re-present it to Gulf audiences. Specifically, publications, art

galleries, and educational institutions in London engage in the production of local knowledge, but these have virtually become industries that have essentialised and commodified Gulf culture.

In his paper on the *hajj*, James Piscatori noted that, contrary to the assumption that the Saudis have successfully manipulated the annual Islamic pilgrimage, the larger picture demonstrates that it may be counter-productive. The daily management of the pilgrimage has often been inefficient; the expansion of the holy places to accommodate ever growing numbers of pilgrims has stirred controversy throughout the Muslim world; and attempts to facilitate the conduct of the ritual itself flies in the face of well-established traditions. The end result is that a transnational force like the *hajj*, if not undermining state authority, may at least challenge regime legitimacy.

These and other papers brought inter-disciplinary perspectives to bear on various dimensions of contemporary Gulf society and politics.

They stimulated a rich discussion that helped to elucidate the extent to which authoritative self-definitions emerge from, and qualify understandings of, transnational interactions in the Arab Gulf.

*James Piscatori,  
University of Oxford*




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**International Scientific Conference on Borders as Barriers and Bridges: A Comparative Look at Three Borderlands**  
Science and Research Centre, Koper, Slovenia,  
14-16 September 2001

This meeting was co-organized by TransComm and the Science and Research Centre (ZRS) and hosted by the latter in Koper. Participants came from throughout Europe to offer papers relating to three border areas: Slovenia/Italy, Ireland/Northern Ireland and the 'wet' border between Southern Europe and North Africa. The European Union continues to move toward further expansion of its borders as well as enacting stronger measures of integration among members states. As a result of these two linked processes, international borders come to represent especially sensitive areas for the study



and understanding of a range of broader social, political, cultural and economic processes taking place



within the EU. They highlight, especially, issues related to governance, identity, security and economic development as they impact on society at a series of scales, from the EU itself to those of the nation-state, regions and local borderland neighbourhoods.

New and differential challenges are especially thrown up by EU integration and expansion strategies: some erstwhile international borderlines have become internal boundaries between fellow-members of the Schengen Agreement, some are now lines creating a dividing line between Schengen and non-Schengen EU members, while yet others have assumed a more rigorously defined and applied status as the lines between the EU and its neighbours. The implications for governance, security, identity-formation etc. is seen with especially striking effect at the international borders and their borderlands.

To consider the dynamics of these processes, fifteen participants presented papers from the three comparative study areas. Three separate sessions covered the historical background to contemporary events; the current situation in each of the chosen case study areas; and future developments. The range of subjects covered include studies of conflict and resolution at borders; the emergence of ethno-nationalism; ethnic awareness and bilingualism; state and borderland definitions of social space; the formation of borderland political culture; seaport views about border-creation; and nation-state reorientation following border status change. It became evident that, while it is possible to generalize about borders and borderlands to a limited extent, each border situation, because of its particular history, its cultural, social, political and economic context, remains a unique case. And each will demand a special response from policy-makers and strategists as Europe continues to evolve in the future. Selected papers are to be edited in book form.

*Warwick Armstrong, University of Oxford*

# Final Project Reports

Since we are now in the final year of the programme, by way of dissemination and wrapping up we plan to give a very brief summaries of projects that have been completed. Further information, and End of Award Reports for these and our other projects can be found on the Transcomm website:

<http://www.transcomm.ox.ac.uk/research.htm>

Information and reports will also be available from the ESRC database, Regard:

<http://www.regard.ac.uk/regard/home/index>

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## Transnational Communities and the Transformation of Citizenship

**Researchers: Dr Birgit Brandt & Prof. Zig Layton-Henry, University of Warwick**

**Aims:** to identify and analyse transnational dimensions of citizenship. This would take a 'dual perspective' approach in order to consider developments that take place at the state level as well as perspectives and activities of individuals and groups. This is essential to understand crucial developments that affect citizenship in the short, medium and long-term.

**Methods:** The study was empirical and based on qualitative data. Alongside an extensive critical review of the secondary literature, a total of 230 interviews were conducted. These were with 'organised' and 'unorganised' members of minority ethnic groups (African Caribbeans in Britain and people of Turkish origin in Germany) as well as representatives from groups attempting to influence policy, civil servants, officials and politicians at city and national levels.

**Findings:** The dimensions of citizenship examined were membership, rights and political engagement. Throughout the case studies, the practice

of transnational dimensions of citizenship proved to be dependent upon six main factors: the political situation in the country of origin of the so called first generation; second, the intensity and character of nationalist state discourse in all locations; third, the economic position of members of minority ethnic communities; fourth, age; fifth the geographical proximity as well as travel costs between relevant countries; and sixth, the level and quality of inclusive policies offered by Britain and Germany. The practice of transnational dimensions of citizenship is remarkably more common amongst German-Turks than African Caribbeans in the UK.

### Some Outputs:

Brandt, Birgit (2002, forthcoming) 'Agents of Change. Young Berliners of Turkish Origin and the Transformation of Citizenship', *Citizenship Studies*.

Brandt, Birgit (2002, forthcoming) *The Transformation of Modern Citizenship. Ethnic Minorities and the Politics of Citizenship in Germany* (Ashgate).

Layton-Henry, Zig (2001) 'Patterns of Privilege: Citizenship Rights in Britain' in A Kondo (ed), *Citizenship in a Global World*, Palgrave, pp118-135.

Layton-Henry, Zig (2002, forthcoming), *Transnational Communities, Citizenship and Political Engagement*.

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## Gender, Households And Identity In British And Singaporean Migration To China

**Researchers: Dr Katie Willis, University of Liverpool and Dr Brenda Yeoh, National University of Singapore**

**Aims:** The international migration of professional workers has increased in scope over the past twenty years as skilled workers are needed when companies' activities cross national borders. While this trend has been recognised from an economic perspective, very little has been researched from a social angle. There has been scant attention paid to the gender composition of this population movement, and the impacts of such migration on households, particularly women's work patterns and the organisation of domestic work. This project focuses on these issues and particularly cultural differences (both business culture and social norms regarding gender and the family), using the case studies of British and Singaporean migration to China.

**Methods:** 150 interviews were conducted with Singaporeans and Britons in the UK, Singapore, Hong Kong and mainland China. In addition, interviews were conducted with personnel managers for ten companies who post employees to China. Representatives of the Singapore Clubs and British Chambers of Commerce in all study areas were interviewed, as were representatives of a number of expatriate organisations.

**Findings:** Listed here are just a few of the things that were uncovered during the research:

- Migration can lead to a renegotiation of gender identities in a positive and negative ways. Both British and Singaporean single migrants often saw migration as a form of 'liberation' from the constraints 'at home'. On the other hand married women who had given up their jobs to accompany their husbands to China often reported frustrations in being defined as an 'expat wife' in the domestic sphere, rather than an individual worker in their own right

- Migration heightens a sense of national identity. Being away from 'home' gives a new perspective on national identity, particularly as overseas, nationality is one of the characteristics used to identify migrants. For Britons, this sense of national identity is often a new experience, while for Singaporeans used to government rhetoric about 'being Singaporean', the concept is not new, but is reworked.

- Chinese Singaporeans have greater 'culture shock' than British-born Chinese. British-born Chinese migrants usually conceive of themselves as 'western', so despite Chinese ancestry, they do not expect to 'fit in' in China. For Singaporeans, the 'culture shock' is usually greater.

#### **Some outputs:**

Willis, Katie & Brenda Yeoh (2000) 'Introduction: Gender and Migration', in Katie Willis and Brenda Yeoh (eds.) *Gender and Migration* Edward Elgar 'International Studies in Migration' series, pp. xi-xxii.

Willis, Katie & Brenda Yeoh (2000) 'Gender and transnational household strategies: Singaporean migration to China', *Regional Studies* 34:3, pp. 253-264.

Yeoh, Brenda, Shirlena Huang & Katie Willis (2000) 'Global cities, transnational flows and gender dimensions: The view from Singapore', *Tijdschrift Voor Economische en Sociale Geografie* 91:2, pp. 147-158.

Also see: [www.liv.ac.uk/~kwillis/ESRC.html](http://www.liv.ac.uk/~kwillis/ESRC.html)

## **Mobilisation of Transnational Exile Communities in Post Conflict Reconstruction**

**Researchers: Dr Richard Black, University of Sussex, Dr Khalid Koser, University College London and Dr Nadje Al-Ali, University of Essex**

**Aims:** to examine three aspects of the relationship between refugees abroad and reconstruction at home: refugees' desire to participate in reconstruction, their ability to do so, and the policies and attitudes of host and sending countries that either facilitate or create barriers to refugees' positive contributions. Also to contribute to the emerging academic debate on 'transnational migration', said to involve people who develop loyalties that transcend a single nation-state, and/or who engage in economic, social and political activities that systematically cross state boundaries

**Methods:** Two years of fieldwork on Eritrean and Bosnian refugees residing in Western Europe (UK, the Netherlands, Germany) as well as short-term fieldwork in two sites in the US (Chicago and San Francisco), has uncovered numerous ways in which exile communities continually engage with the society, culture, politics and economy of their home countries.

**Findings:** The results of this project have challenged traditional assumptions about the refugee experience. Although the two communities investigated have had very different experiences, it was found that they share at least three characteristics: most refugees have not returned home (for a wide variety of reasons), the majority have not severed links with their country of origin, and that many refugees are willing and able to be involved in the process of post-conflict reconstruction in their countries of origin. Although we stop short of describing Bosnian and Eritrean exiles as 'transnational communities', it is clear that they are developing a number of transnational activities and practices.

#### **Some outputs:**

Koser, K. ed. (in press) *New African Diasporas*, London: Routledge

Al-Ali, N., Black, R., Koser, K. (2001) 'Refugees and transnationalism', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 27 (4): 615-34

Al-Ali, N., Black, R. and Koser, K., (2001) 'The limits to "transnationalism": Bosnian and Eritrean refugees in Europe as emerging transnational communities', *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 24 (4): 578-600

# Publications

## Routledge Book Series: TRANSNATIONALISM Edited by Steve Vertovec

New networks, organizations and practices now criss-cross the globe. Their density and importance require research that supersedes conventional state-centric perspectives. The Transnationalism series comprises books from a number of disciplines analysing emerging transnational processes and patterns. There are a total of 5 titles already in print and seven more forthcoming. For more information please see the Transcomm website: <http://www.transcomm.ox.ac.uk/wwwroot/routledge.htm>

### **Frank Webster, ed. (2001) *Culture and Politics in the Information Age***

This volume addresses these key issues through an analysis of important theoretical debates on issues such as digital democracy, cultural politics and transnational communities. It will be significant for students in areas including Politics, Communications and IT, Sociology and Cultural Studies. Hb:0-415-24635-0: £55.00 / Pb: 0-415-24635-9: £18.99

### **Peter G. Mandaville (2001) *Transnational Muslim Politics: Reimagining the Umma***

This radical book argues that translocal forces are leading the emergence of a wider Muslim public sphere. Furthermore, the critical discourses enabled by this translocal space amount to a reconceptualisation and reimagining of the umma. It will be invaluable for researchers in International Relations, Islamic studies, Cultural Studies, Sociology, Religion and Politics. Hb: 0415-24694-6: £55.00

### **Ludger Pries, ed. (2001) *New Transnational Social Spaces: International Migration and Transnational Companies in the Early Twenty-first Century***

Contributions to this book present a theoretical and empirical examination of the crucial aspects of new transnational social spaces in the fields of

international migration and international business. Hb: 0-415-23736-X:£50.00

### **Nadje Al-Ali and Khalid Koser, eds. (2001) *New Approaches to Migration? Transnational Communities and the Transformation of Home***

Critically evaluating the transnational communities approach to contemporary international migration, this book will be an important resource for scholars of migration, Human Geography and Cultural Studies. Hb: 01-415-25432-9: £55.00

### **Ninna Nyberg Sorensen and Karen Fog Olwig, eds. (2001) *Work and Migration: Life and Livelihoods in a Globalising World***

Using case studies from those who have moved either transnationally or within their own country, international contributions offer various definitions of what it means to make a living on the move. Hb: 0-415-26372: £55.00

### **Forthcoming Titles:**

#### **James Anderson, ed. *Transnational Democracy***

Authors explore how Contemporary globalisation both challenges conventional forms of democracy and is opening up new needs and possibilities for democratisation beyond the territoriality of national states. Hb:0-415-22342-3:£55.0 / Pb: 0-415-22343-1: £16.99

#### **Karim Karim, ed. *Diaspora and Communication: Mapping the Globe***

*Diaspora and Communication* examines how diasporic communities have used new communications media to maintain and develop community ties on a local and transnational level. This collection of essays from a wide range of different diasporic contexts is a unique contribution to the field. Hb: 0-415-27930-5

#### **Eva Ostergaard-Nielsen, *Trans-State Loyalties and Policies***

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# TrinityTerm Seminars 2002

## The Cultural Politics of Transnationalism

- 2nd May** Jørgen Nielsen, University of Birmingham  
*Transnational Sufism: A Case Study*
- 9th May** Susan Pattie, University College London  
*Transforming Transnational Narratives in Armenia*
- 16th May** Tom Cheesman, University of Wales  
*Translational Community: Kanak Attack in Alemania*
- 23rd May** Kevin Robins, University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne  
*Banal Transnationalism*
- 30th May** Michael Stewart, University College London  
*Hungary's Status Law and Issues of Citizenship*
- 6th June** Paul Dresch, University of Oxford  
*Debates on Marriage and Nationality in the United Arab Emirates*
- 13th June** Ruth Mandel, University College London  
*The Return of the Citizen in German Debates on Identity and Nationhood*
- 20th June** Zig Layton-Henry, University of Warwick  
*The Limits of Transnationalism*



All seminars on Thursdays, 2.00 - 3.30 pm  
Senior Common Room, School of Geography  
University of Oxford, Mansfield Road



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