



International Sociological Association

Research Committee on Sociology of Migration (RC-31)

RC-31 Newsletter, Autumn 2013

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From the President:

After Lampedusa ... Lampedusa?

by Marco Martiniello

October 2013 will be remembered as an exceptionally bad month for migration: about 400 people died in the Mediterranean Sea not far from the Sicilian island of Lampedusa, trying to reach the European continent. Immigration scholars are not surprised that such disasters continue to occur. Over the past 20 years, thousands of people lost their lives trying to cross the European or the North American borders. Many more have been luckier and have made it after one or several attempts. Everyday, thousands of people try to escape wars, political conflicts, environmental disasters, or economic strain to start a new life in regions where safety, freedom and economic opportunities still seem to be present. They do so by using all means available and very often paying for a service that is far from guaranteed.

Human disasters such as those of Lampedusa should shock any human being wherever she or he lives, and not only the inhabitants of the small island who are the first witnesses and the first aid providers to would-be migrants coming from various countries. However, many of us unfortunately get used to regular television images of rescued migrants or, far worse, corpses aligned in rudimentary wooden coffins on European

soil in Lampedusa or elsewhere. A minority don't care or are even happy. This is the case for example of the leaders of the Northern League in Italy who advised in the past to use cannons against irregular migrants at sea or at least to put an end to rescue operations in the Mediterranean. Others think this is an Italian problem that should be solved by Italy itself. The majority of us probably are sad and don't feel too comfortable but consider

that events like those of Lampedusa are accidents, with fatalities that can neither be predicted nor avoided.

Scholars of migration in my view have the responsibility to shout out what they know about the causes of migration and migration policies, and convey the results of our research on these matters to the public at large. Events like those of Lampedusa are not unforeseeable accidents or fatalities. On the contrary, they are predictable and logical. On the one hand, economic unbalance, political conflicts and environmental problems produce or reinforce emigration pressures in many countries. On the other hand, the avenues for legal migration to Europe or the US are severely restricted. This conjunction of causes explains the development of a profitable migration industry aimed at making money by smuggling in (or by promising to smuggle in) would-be migrants from the south of the world to the North. This is a global reality, not an Italian problem.

When are we going to admit that not only do we have the moral duty to help our fellow humans who risk their life to cross borders at sea or in the desert, but also we have the moral duty to look further by working on the root causes of such events? One thing is clear, unless we totally rethink migration policies at the global level, unless we really provide workable solution to global economic unbalance, political conflicts and environment problems, human beings will continue to risk their lives to give a future to their children – and events like those of Lampedusa will continue to occur. If things don't change radically in the way we approach migration, there will only be Lampedusa after Lampedusa.

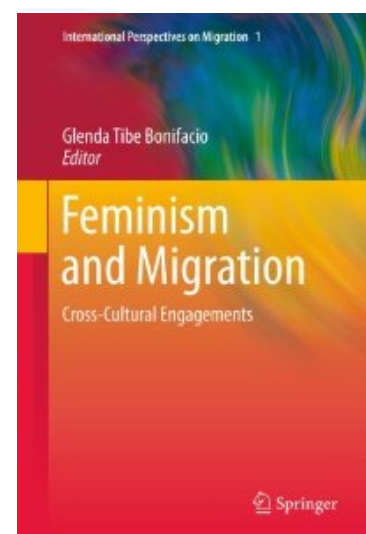
Marco Martiniello
FRS-FNRS and CEDEM –
University of Liège (Belgium)
RC-31 President

MEMBERS' NEW BOOKS

Glenda Tibe Bonifacio (ed.), *Feminism and Migration: Cross-Cultural Engagements*. Springer, 2012 ([link to publisher](#))

Feminism and Migration: Cross-Cultural Engagements is a rich, original, and diverse collection on the intersections of feminism and migration in western and non-western contexts. This book explores the question: does migration empower women? Through wide-ranging topics on theorizing feminism in migration, contesting identities and agency, resistance and social justice, and religion for change, well-known and emerging scholars provide in-depth analysis of how social, cultural, political, and economic forces shape new modalities and perspectives among women upon migration. It highlights the centrality of the various meanings and interpretations of feminism(s) in the lives of immigrant and migrant women in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Eastern Europe, France, Greece, Japan, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Spain, and the United States. The well-researched chapters explore the ways in which feminism and migration across cultures relate to women's experiences in host societies --- as women, wives, mothers, exiles, nuns, and workers---and the avenues of interactions for change.

Cross-cultural engagements point to the convergence and even disjunctures between (im)migrant and non-immigrant women that remain unrecognized in contemporary mainstream discourses on migration and feminism.



Larisa Fialkova and Maria Yelenevskaya, *In Search of the Self: Reconciling the Past and the Present in Immigrants' Experience*. ELM Scholarly Press, 2013 (email to publisher: mare@folklore.ee)

This book marks 15 years of the authors' collaborative writing devoted to the culture and language of ex-Soviet immigrants. It investigates problems as diverse as domestication of urban spaces, encounters with law, changes in festive traditions, and reflections about immigration in literature and political humor. Throughout the book the key concern of the authors is to explore the gradual reconfiguration of immigrants' identity and the dialogue of the self with various others in their old and new homelands.

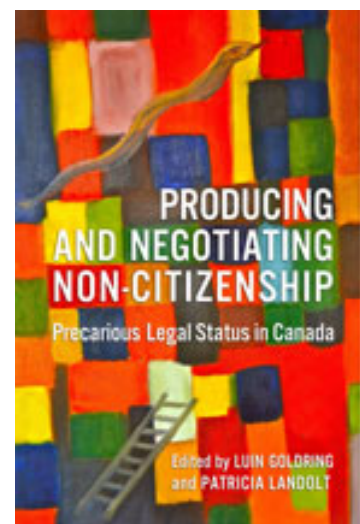
Chapters include: Israeli Towns through the Eyes of Russian-Speaking Israelis; Legal Anthropology: Dilemmas of Law and Order in Immigrants' Life; Holidays as Border Crossing: The Case of Russian-Speaking Immigrants in Israel; Immigrant Literature about the Fourth Wave of Russian Emigration: The Case of Germany; Representation of the Arab-Israeli Conflict in the Humor of Russian-Speaking Israelis



Luin Goldring and Patricia Landolt, eds. *Producing and Negotiating Non-Citizenship: Precarious Legal Status in Canada*. University of Toronto Press, 2013 ([link to publisher](#)).

Most examinations of non-citizens in Canada focus on immigrants, people who are citizens-in-waiting, or specific categories of temporary, vulnerable workers. In contrast, *Producing and Negotiating Non-Citizenship* considers a range of people whose pathway to citizenship is uncertain or non-existent. This includes migrant workers, students, refugee claimants, and people with expired permits, all of whom have limited formal rights to employment, housing, education, and health services.

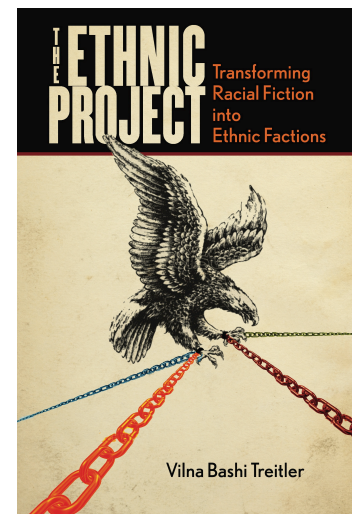
The contributors to this volume present theoretically informed empirical studies of the regulatory, institutional, discursive, and practical terms under which precarious-status non-citizens – those without permanent residence – enter and remain in Canada. They consider the historical and contemporary production of non-citizen precarious status and migrant illegality in Canada, as well as everyday experiences of precarious status among various social groups including youth, denied refugee claimants, and agricultural workers. This timely volume contributes to conceptualizing multiple forms of precarious status non-citizenship as connected through policy and the practices of migrants and the institutional actors they encounter.



Vilna Bashi Treitler, *The Ethnic Project: Transforming Racial Fiction into Ethnic Factions*. Stanford University Press, 2013 ([link to publisher](#); available in paperback and ebook)

Race is a known fiction—there is no genetic marker that indicates someone's race—yet the social stigma of race endures. In the United States, ethnicity is often positioned as a counterweight to race, and we celebrate our various hyphenated-American identities. But Vilna Bashi Treitler argues that we do so at a high cost: ethnic thinking simply perpetuates an underlying racism.

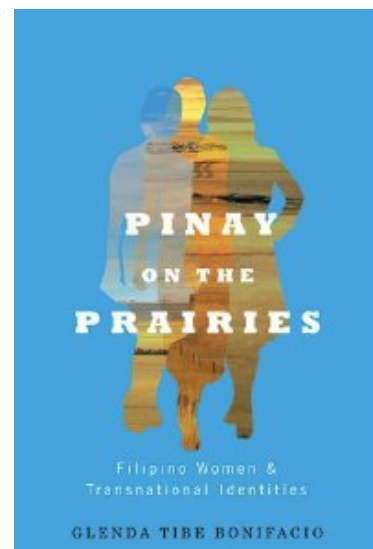
In *The Ethnic Project*, Bashi Treitler considers the ethnic history of the United States from the arrival of the English in North America through to the present day. Tracing the histories of immigrant and indigenous groups—Irish, Chinese, Italians, Jews, Native Americans, Mexicans, Afro-Caribbeans, and African Americans—she shows how each negotiates America's racial hierarchy, aiming to distance themselves from the bottom and align with the groups already at the top. But in pursuing these "ethnic projects" these groups implicitly accept and perpetuate a racial hierarchy, shoring up rather than dismantling race and racism. Ultimately, *The Ethnic Project* shows how dangerous ethnic thinking can be in a society that has not let go of racial thinking.



Glenda Bonifacio, *Pinay on the Prairies: Filipino Women and Transnational Identities*. UBC Press, 2013 ([link to publisher](#))

For many Filipinos, one word – *kumusta*, how are you – is all it takes to forge a connection with a stranger anywhere in the world. In Canada's prairie provinces, this connection has inspired community building, and created both national and transnational identities for the women who identify as *Pinay*.

This book is the first to look beyond traditional metropolitan hubs of settlement to explore the migration of Filipino women in Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. Based on interviews with first-generation immigrant Filipino women and temporary foreign workers, this book explores how the shared experience of migration forms the basis for new identities, communities, transnational ties, and multiple levels of belonging in Canada. It also considers the complex cultural, economic, and political factors that motivate Filipino women to leave their country and family in search of better opportunities in a strange land and the welcome that awaits them in Canada, where multiculturalism plays a large role.

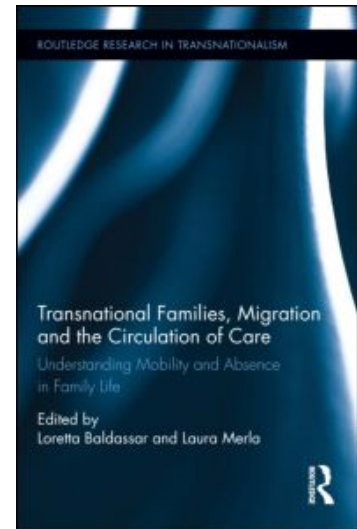


A groundbreaking look at the experience of Filipino women in Canada, Bonifacio's work is simultaneously an exploration of feminism, migration, and diaspora in a global era.

Loretta Baldassar and Laura Merla (eds.) *Transnational families, migration and the circulation of care: understanding mobility and absence in family life*. Routledge, 2013 ([link to publisher](#)).

Nominated as “book of the month” by the European Sociological Association and available from the publisher at a 20% discount with code IRK98.

Without denying the difficulties that confront migrants and their distant kin, this volume highlights the agency of family members in transnational processes of care, in an effort to acknowledge the transnational family as an increasingly common family form and to question the predominantly negative conceptualisations of this type of family. It re-conceptualises transnational care as a set of activities that circulates between home and host countries – across generations – and fluctuates over the life course, going beyond a focus on mother-child relationships to include multidirectional exchanges across generations and between genders. It highlights, in particular, how the sense of belonging in transnational families is sustained by the reciprocal, though uneven, exchange of caregiving, which binds members together in intergenerational networks of reciprocity and obligation, love and trust that are simultaneously fraught with tension, contest and relations of unequal power. The chapters that make up this volume cover a rich array of ethnographic case studies including analyses of transnational families who circulate care between developing nations in Africa, Latin America and Asia to wealthier nations in North America, Europe and Australia. There are also examples of intra- and extra- European, Australian and North American migration, which involve the mobility of both the unskilled and working class as well as the skilled middle and aspirational classes.

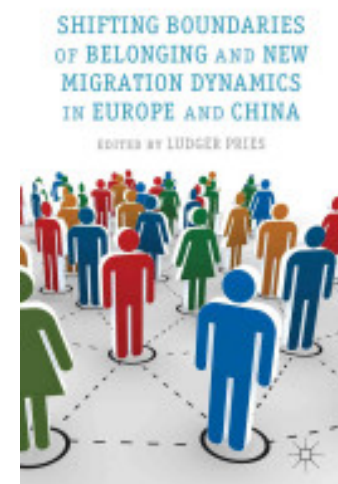


Ludger Pries, ed. *Shifting Boundaries of Belonging and New Migration Dynamics in Europe and China*. Palgrave, 2012 ([link to publisher](#))

Both China and Europe have in recent years witnessed the emergence of new migration dynamics. In China, hundreds of millions of migrant workers help to fuel China's economic growth with their labour whilst Europe has witnessed an increase in various new forms of migration by people from within and without seeking refuge, family-reunion or work.

In all societies significantly affected by migration, governments are rushing to adjust and implement rules and institutions so as to regulate these new forms of migration. This is accompanied by strong public discourse on how to name and characterise the newcomers and how to define who is a wanted migrant and who is unwanted.

This volume systematically explores the role that boundary making plays in creating a societal understanding of current migration dynamics and, by extension, in legitimizing migration regimes. By comparing recent developments in Europe and China, it reveals insights on convergent social and political practices of boundary making under divergent conditions.

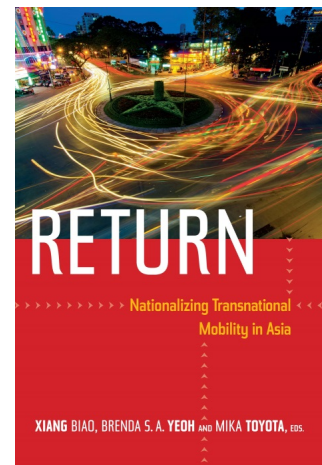


Glenda Bonifacio, ed. *Gender and Rural Migration : Realities Conflict and Change*. Routledge, 2013 ([link to publisher](#))

Gender and Rural Migration: Realities, Conflict and Change explores the intersection of gender, migration, and rurality in 21st-century Western and non-Western contexts. In a world where heightened globalization is making borders increasingly porous, rural communities form part of the migration nexus. While rural out-migration is well-documented, the gendered dynamics of rural in-migration - including return rural migration and the connectivity of rural-urban/global-local spaces - are often overlooked. In this collection, well-grounded case studies involving diverse groups of people in rural communities in Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Norway, the United States, and Uzbekistan are organized into three themes: contesting rurality and belonging, women's empowerment and social relations, and sexualities and mobilities. As demonstrated in this anthology, rural areas are contested sites among queer youth, same-sex couples, working women, young mothers, migrant farm workers, temporary foreign workers, in-migrants, and return migrants. The rich expositions of various narratives and statistical data in multidisciplinary perspectives by emerging and established scholars claim gender and rurality as nodal points in contemporary migration discourse.

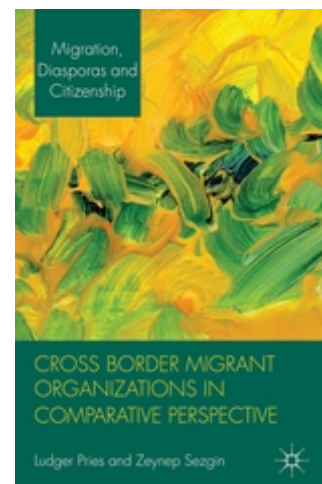
XIANG Biao, **Brenda YEOH** and **Mika TOYOTA**. *Return: Nationalizing Transnational Mobility in Asia*. Duke University Press, 2013. ([link to publisher](#))

Since the late 1990s, Asian nations have increasingly encouraged, facilitated, or demanded the return of emigrants. In this interdisciplinary collection, distinguished scholars from countries around the world explore the changing relations between nation-states and transnational mobility. Taking into account illegally trafficked migrants, deportees, temporary laborers on short-term contracts, and highly skilled émigrés, the contributors argue that the figure of the returnee energizes and redefines nationalism in an era of increasingly fluid and indeterminate national sovereignty. They acknowledge the diversity, complexity, and instability of reverse migration, while emphasizing its discursive, policy, and political significance at a moment when the tensions between state power and transnational subjects are particularly visible. Taken together, the essays foreground Asia as a useful site for rethinking the intersections of migration, sovereignty, and nationalism.



Ludger Pries and **Zeynep Sezgin**, eds. *Cross-Border Migrant Organizations in Comparative Perspective*. Palgrave, 2012 ([link to publisher](#))

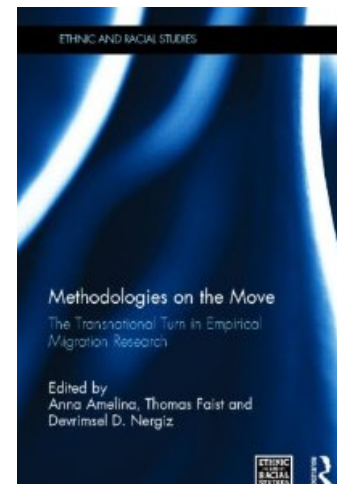
Do cross-border migrant organizations challenge integration in countries of arrival? Are they a risk for national sovereignty or an opportunity for connecting migration and development in countries of origin? This book analyzes the aims, activities and structures of such organizations in four European countries of arrival (Germany, Poland, Spain and the UK) and seven countries of origin (Ecuador, India, Morocco, Poland, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam). Integrating organizational research and migration studies, the book examines different patterns of cross-border resource mobilization and coordination and explores the pressure they put nation states under and how they define new issues and actors that are often neglected or overlooked by states and national societies.



Anna Amelina, Devrim Nergiz, and **Thomas Faist** (eds.), *Methodologies on the Move: The Transnational Turn in Migration Research*. Routledge, 2013 ([link to publisher](#))

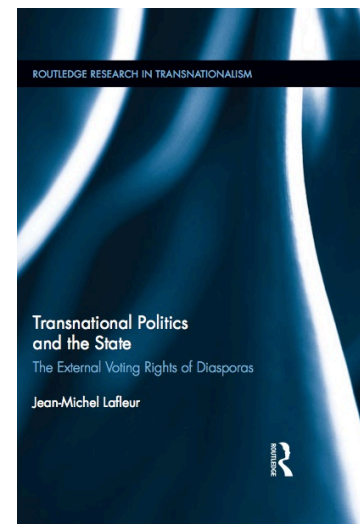
This volume establishes a new agenda for approaches to migration research and the corresponding methodologies. A wide range of international contributors focus on the question of how to overcome the so-called 'methodological nationalism' within empirical studies on migration. They address two main challenges: how to contextualize the empirical research field; and how to deal with national and ethnic categorizations within the empirical studies.

Methodologies on the Move outlines, first of all, a new epistemological basis for migration research, which is pinpointing the relational concept of space. Second, building on the multi-sited method of ethnography, it provides detailed insights into novel qualitative and quantitative research designs. Third, it presents innovative data collection methods on geographic and virtual mobility, and on cross-border social practices. This volume transcends the early criticisms of 'methodological nationalism' in migration research and suggests both general methodological lines as well as helpful tools for empirical analysis.



Jean-Michel Lafleur, *Transnational Politics and the State: The External Voting Rights of Diasporas*. London: Routledge, 2013 ([link to publisher](#))

Why do an increasing number of states grant their emigrants the right to vote in home country elections from abroad? How does external voting affect emigrants' relations with sending and receiving societies? And, how do transnational electoral campaigns modify relations between states? These are the questions that this book aims to answer looking at different European and Latin American case studies. This book sheds light on the changing nature of political connections between emigrants and their home and host countries in the era of globalization. With a multi-disciplinary approach, it will appeal to scholars and students of political science, sociology, international relations, migration and transnationalism.



CALL FOR PAPERS

The 3rd Ruppin International Conference on Immigration and Social Integration: Migration trends over the past quarter century

May 19-20, 2014, Ruppin Academic Center, Israel

The 2014 Ruppin International Conference will focus on the current situation of migration in the world. Over the past quarter century, the volume of international migrants has more than doubled, and the number is likely to increase in the decades ahead. The downfall of the Berlin wall 25 years ago marks a significant change in migration trends in the world, which became since more global and open. Economic migrants, asylum seekers and refugees are on the move and researchers from various disciplines try to assess migration and integration processes in the macro and micro levels. The presence of migrants poses significant social and economic challenges to the host countries. In the current conference we will address and discuss issues relevant to assessing the current situation of migration around the world.

The Institute for Immigration and Social Integration at Ruppin Academic Center in cooperation with the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS), invites proposals for papers on a broad range of themes related to the current situation of migration in the world:

- Immigration and policy issues
- Economic aspects of migration and integration
- Immigration and globalization
- Labor migrants
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Public views and attitudes towards immigrants and immigration
- Immigrants and the mass media
- Social and educational aspects of immigration
- and integration
- Cultural aspects of immigration and integration (language, identity)
- Immigration and health
- Immigration and the third sector
- Immigrant communities
- The impact of migration on sending and receiving countries

Papers on related topics not listed here will also be considered. We welcome proposals from academics, field experts, and policy makers.

Submission procedure: Abstracts should be no more than 250 words long, for a paper of 20 minutes duration, and include the paper title, author name, institutional association, and abstract. Abstracts should be sent to the organizers to the following e-mail address: Ruppin-conference@ruppin.ac.il by November 30, 2013. The abstracts will be evaluated by an international academic committee chaired by Prof. Moshe Semyonov. Answers will be sent back by December 30, 2013. Upon acceptance of the paper, we will require a brief biographical note (approximately 60 words).

RECENT PHD COMPLETION

Kristine Aquino (Maquarie University)

Everyday racism and resistance: The lives of Filipino migrants in Australia

According to several scholars, over the last few decades, the over theorisation of racism has lost connection with political struggles to end racism. If we are to better understand why racism continues to endure, more research needs to be undertaken to make concrete our abstract ideas of race and the taken for granted ways of thinking about how racism operates. But more importantly, we need to

know more about how racialised individuals cope with and resist ongoing racist marginalisation, subjugation, and humiliation in their ordinary day to day lives. This thesis investigates how Filipino migrants living in Australia experience, understand, and manage racism in their everyday lived experiences. Through ethnographic fieldwork conducted with Filipinos living in metropolitan Sydney, my study is premised on two key research questions: Firstly, how is race produced and racism experienced in everyday routine situations across diverse social spaces? Secondly, in response to the dearth in literature on everyday strategies of antiracism, what are the quotidian tactics of resistance – material and subjective – that Filipino migrants deploy to cope with everyday racism?

My analysis of everyday racism and antiracism is themed broadly around the complex intersection of *race, class, and gender*; the *transnational* nature of Filipino lives; and the struggle for *respect*. I argue that race, class, and gender, intersect in intricate ways to shape the content of racisms experienced by Filipino migrants and the kinds of cultural and economic resources they mobilise as tactics of resistance. Such junctures also shape the varied ways in which Filipinos understand these experiences and generate ways of being in the world. Moreover, I suggest that the regimes of power that structure experiences of everyday racism for Filipino migrants are also transnational in nature. The transnational character of racial systems, racist practice, and acts of resistance is yet to be fully elaborated in racism literature which has a tendency to fix migrant experiences within local nation-state frameworks. Lastly, central to my findings, is the manner in which respect is redeemed by Filipino migrants in the face of constant denial of dignity. Respect is sought in a range of ways and comprise of different meanings and, therefore, I argue towards a more situated politics of recognition.

This thesis essentially aims to reconnect theory with empirically grounded research - to reconnect the study of race and racism with the *lives* that racism continues to distress in both violent and measured ways. Moreover, it attempts to contribute to research on antiracism by expanding on the micro struggles people undertake to counteract racism. Such infrapolitics have the potential to change the often limited scope in which existing notions of antiracism is conceived.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Research Associates - The UK Citizenship Process: Understanding Immigrants' Experiences University of Leicester – Department of Sociology

Salary Grade 7 - £31,331 to £36,298 per annum, ****pro rata**** (0.40 FTE)

You will be working on the project 'The UK Citizenship Process: Understanding Immigrants' Experiences' (Principle Investigator: Leah Bassel; Co-Investigators: David Bartram, Barbara Misztal, Pierre Monforte). This is a three-year ESRC-funded project which analyses immigrants' lived experience of the 'citizenship process': citizenship tests, ceremonies, the preparation courses many immigrants take beforehand. The project will explore the lived experiences of the citizenship process as a whole via participant observation and interviews and will be conducted in Leicester and London. To analyse the effects of the process on the longer term, statistical analysis of survey data will also be undertaken. The overall goal is to learn about immigrants' perceptions and experiences of this process, to understand how it affects their sense of belonging, political participation and subjective well-being (happiness). You will also undertake administrative duties.

Both RAs will be based in Leicester; one will undertake research in Leicester and the surrounding area while the other will undertake research in London. Both posts are for 40% FTE. The closing date for this post is midnight on **October 25, 2013**. We anticipate that interviews will take place on the week of November 11, 2013. Further information and details about this position: [click here](#). Informal enquiries are welcome and should be made to Leah Bassel on LB235@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 2522730.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vilna Bashi Treitler recently appeared on Deutsche Welle (the German television channel) on the English-language program Agenda, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. A link to viewing the program can be found [here](#).

RECENT ARTICLES/CHAPTERS

David Bartram

2013. "Happiness and economic migration: a comparison of Eastern European migrants and stayers". *Migration Studies* 1(2): 156-175 (article available [here](#))

Paolo Boccagni

2013. "Building Democracy or Reproducing 'Ecuadoreanness'? A Transnational Exploration of Ecuadorean Migrants' External Voting", *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 45(4): 721-50, with J Ramirez.

2013. "Care (and) circulation revisited: A conceptual map of diversity in transnational parenting". In L. Baldassar & L. Merla (eds.), *Transnational families, migration and the circulation of care*. London, Routledge, with P. Bonnizoni.

Thomas Faist

2013. "The Mobility Turn: A New Paradigm for the Social Sciences?" *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 36, 6 (article available [here](#))

Luin Goldring and Patricia Landolt

2012. "The Impact of Precarious Legal Status on Immigrants' Economic Outcomes." IRPP Study 35. Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy (paper available [here](#)).

Lanre Ikuteyijo

2014. "The Impact of European Union migration policies on irregular migration in Sub-Saharan Africa", in *Territoriality and Migration in the EU Neighbourhood*, ed. Margaret Walton-Roberts and Jenna Hennebry. Springer. (chapter available [here](#)).

Lilach Lev Ari

2012. "North Americans, Israelis or Jews? North Americans, Israelis, or Jews? The Ethnic Identity of Immigrants' Offspring", *Contemporary Jewry* 32(3): 285-308 (article available [here](#)).

2013. "Multiple Ethnic Identities among Israeli Immigrants in Europe," *International Journal of Jewish Education Research*, forthcoming.

Manashi Ray

2013. "The Global Circulation of Skill and Capital – Pathways of return migration of Indian Entrepreneurs from the United State to India", in *Diaspora Engagement and Development in South Asia*, eds. Tan Tai Yong and Md Mizanur Rahman, Palgrave Macmillan.

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Visit the [RC-31 web site](#).

MEMBERSHIP dues are \$20 for a four-year period: to join, visit the ISA web site [here](#).

SUBMIT YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS!

(Not only announcements – there is also scope for longer pieces in the form of op-eds, etc.)

Send submissions for the next issue to David Bartram, d.bartram@le.ac.uk