HIS 201W – GLOBAL MIGRATION HISTORY
Advanced Topics in World History
(Archives, partially redacted version, Winter 2020 Quarter)

Professor: Dr. Stacy Fahrenthold

Course Description:
This graduate reading seminar examines some of the historical literature on migration in a global perspective, focusing on the nineteenth century through the present. It focuses on theoretical approaches to the study of migration as well as on case studies, moving between longue-durée and comparative issues on the one hand and local effects of global movements on the other hand. The readings emphasize major themes and questions in migration theory, including free and forced migrations; networks and diaspora; labor migration; refugees; ethnicity, race, gender, and class; empire; and questions of border surveillance.

Readings will comprise a book and selection of articles weekly. The books represent recent empirical works in migration studies, and each is paired with canonical article contributions grounded in migration theory. Students prepare weekly reading responses, occasional presentations, and a seminar paper related to their field of interest.

Designed primarily for students preparing for higher degrees in history (Advanced Topics in World History); open to other graduate students with instructor’s consent.

Course Requirements
Books: The following required books are available for purchase at the university bookstore (list here in order of appearance):

7. Lewis Seigalbaum and Leslie Page Moch, Broad is my Native Land: Repertoires and Regimes of Migration in Russia’s Twentieth Century (Cornell, 2014).

All readings must be read by the day for which they are assigned, and students should bring readings to class to aid in our discussions.
Course Schedule

January 7: Orientation, then Introduction to Debates in Migration History, I


January 14: Introduction to Debates in Migration History, I

Leo Lucassen, “Migration and World History: Reaching a New Frontier,” 89-96.
Lesley Page Moch, “Connecting Migration and World History: Demographic Patterns, Family Systems and Gender,” 97-104.
Ulbe Bosma, “Beyond the Atlantic: Connecting Migration and World History in the Age of Imperialism, 1840–1940,” 116-123.
Adam McKeown, “Regionalizing World Migration,” 134-142.
Author-meets-critics debates are common in Migration History, because the field depends on scholars collaborating—and critiquing each other—across subfields. What do you make of this conversation? Whose ideas resonate, and why?

**January 21: Middle Passages: Coercion and the Agency Problematic**

**Read:**  


Thomas Nail, “Introduction,” and “Conclusion,” *The Figure of the Migrant* (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2015), 1-10; 235-238.

**Respond:**  
How does the concept of “passage” (and its variants “transit,” “expulsion,” “exile,” or “liminality”) shift our understanding of migration? How do the authors trouble—or refine—the notion of migrant agency?

**January 28: Ethnicity and Networks in the Borderlands**

**Read:**  
Delgado, *Making the Chinese Mexican: Global Migration, Exclusion, and Localism in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*


**Respond:**  
What is the relationship of migration to ethnicity and race? How do these authors locate the production of ethnic or racial identities? Do they agree?

**February 4: Gender and Work: Labor History is Migration History**

**Read:**  
Guglielmo, *Living the Revolution: Italian Women's Resistance and Radicalism in New York*

**Part of an IMR feature on “Gender and Migration Revisited” url:** https://www.jstor.org/stable/i27645575

Respond: How do the authors juxtapose gender and class, and toward what ends? What do these analytic categories do for Migration History?

February 11: Migration and the State: Who Makes the Law?


Respond: Who makes immigration law? What sorts of processes, conflicts, or compromises produce policy aimed at governing migration/citizenship?

February 18: Diaspora and Empire
Read: Arsan, *Interlopers of Empire: The Lebanese Diaspora in Colonial French West Africa*


Respond: What is diaspora (as an analytic), and can it be productively situated within empire? How do these pieces collectively use the concept to challenge bordered, sedentary histories, and does it work?

February 25: Guestworkers and the Economy of Migration Restriction
Read: Hahamovitch, *No Man’s Land: Jamaican Guestworkers in America and the Global History of Deportable Labor*


Respond: What happens when migration and its regulation become big business? How does this migration industry impact migrant agency? How do scholarly calls for open borders fit in these debates?

**March 3: Writing a National History of Migration: a New Genre?**

Read: Siegelbaum and Moch, *Broad is My Native Land: Repertoires and Regimes of Migration in Russia's Twentieth Century*

Respond: Siegelbaum and Moch’s book is an attempt to revise Russian history with migration processes at the fore (each chapter comprising a migration type). Does it work? Link their typologies with other things we’ve read this quarter.

**March 10: Refugees**

Read: Besteman, *Making Refuge: Making Refuge: Somali Bantu Refugees and Lewiston, Maine*


Patricia Owens, “Reclaiming ‘Bare Life”?: Against Agamben on Refugees,” *International Relations* 23, no. 4 (2010), 567-582.


Respond: Despite the public discourse, scholars insist that “refugee” is not a category of migration, but a category of human rights (or to the contrary, a categorical deprivation of rights). Examine the debates about the refugee as living in a state of legal exception, and meaningfully connect it to Besteman on resettlement.