

**SYLLABUS****Migration and Development in Central Asia: Policy, Economic Impact and Society****AN/SC/EC-222, AN/SC/EC-223**

Fall 2015

American University of Central Asia

**Instructors:**

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<b>Class time and location:</b> Lectures: Tuesdays: 12:45-14:00, Location 207 Seminars: Thursdays: 12:45-14:00, Location 206		

**Course Description:**

Migration in the 21st century has become an extremely complex phenomenon, which cannot be understood through the prism of a singular discipline. This course does not claim to be exhaustive of all possible ways of looking at migration, but it does look at it from at least three wide angles: legal, economic and socio-cultural. Accordingly, the course is taught by three lecturers: lawyer, economist and anthropologist.

The lawyer will discuss with students the rights of migrants and citizens, legal frameworks of migration, global legal conventions, criminalization of irregular migration and various migrant strategies for navigating the law. The economist will help students analyze the migration-development nexus, connection of migration and labor, role and forms of remittances, development of the skills market, brain-drain, -gain and -circulation, and determinants of international migration. The anthropologist will facilitate students' engagement with main theories of migration and transnationalism and discuss with them the place of migrants in cities, role of gender in migration, formation of transnational families and identities, and questions of migrants' assimilation and integration.

These three frameworks, however, will not be taught as separate modules; the main goal of the course is to show how three perspectives overlap and intersect in complex ways. This goal is achieved by creatively mixing topics and discussions throughout the semester to achieve coherence and keep students interested and challenged.

**Grading:** The final grade will be based on class attendance/participation, presentation 3 module exams and a final research paper. A breakdown of the scoring appears below:

Activity	Percent of course grade
Attendance/Participation	25%
Module Exam 1	15%
Module Exam 2	15%
Module Exam 3	15%
Article presentation	10%
Research Paper	20%
Total	100%

Final scores out of 100 will be translated to letter grades on the following basis: A (93-100), A- (90-92.9), B+ (87-89.9), B (83-86.9), B- (80-82.9), C+ (77-79.9), C (73-76.9), C- (70-72.9), D+ (67-69.9), D (63-66.9), D- (60-62.9), E (below 60).

**Attendance and participation**

For each class missed without a proper, documented reason, you will lose 2%. The absence can be excused only if you notify the instructor or office manager at the anthropology department before class and then bring a certificate from your doctor. Participation, first of all, relates to the discussion of home readings. For each participation you will receive 2%. If you do not participate in class, you can write a reflection paper within one week from the day of discussion.

**Module exams**

We have three modules in class: 1) socio-cultural, 2) legal and 3) economic, each lasting for five weeks. At the end of each module, there will be an exam, where you will be given questions on the basis of class materials. You will be given three questions and you will have to answer two – 15 minutes per question.

### Article presentation

During the semester you will be given one article, which you will have to present in class.

### Research paper

Towards the end of semester, you will have to produce a research paper on the topic of your choice. You should use interdisciplinary approach and, if possible, look at it from socio-cultural, legal and economic perspectives.

## Tentative course outline and schedule of classes

### Week 1: Course Introduction; Building a Home

First class: Explanation of syllabus, course introduction/interdisciplinary approach to migration /history of migration  
In the second class we will look at the role of remittances sent by Kyrgyz and Tajik migrants in the development of construction sector of Kyrgyzstan. We will analyze this phenomenon in three spheres: multi-storey residential construction in Bishkek and Dushanbe, construction of housing in *novostroikas* and *mahallas* of Bishkek and Dushanbe and construction of houses in the villages of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. We will try to understand what the construction of house in the home country means for migrants and their families and how differences in the political, economic and socio-cultural contexts of two countries affect the ways the construction sectors develops.

- 1) L. Smith, V. Mazzucato (2009) *Constructing Homes, Building Relationships: Migrant Investment in Houses*, Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie, Vol. 100, No. 5, pp. 662–673
- 2) S. Lopez (2010) *The Remittance House: Architecture of Migration in Rural Mexico*, Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, Volume 17, Number 2, Fall 2010, pp. 33-52

### Week 2: Impact of Migration on Remaining Families; Building a Discourse on Migration and Development

Impact of migration is usually discussed in relation to remittances sent by migrants to their families. Annual figures of remittances contributing to the large share of GDP, particularly in Central Asia, are often portrayed in a very positive light. However, there is much less discussion of the costs of migration to the families, who remain behind: parents, of migrants, their spouses and children. In this class, we will portray the "absence" of migrants in the life of remaining family members and impact such absence has on their well-being, health, and social relations.

After discussing the two contrary perspectives on migration and development: one that shows the positive effect on the development of construction sector given the right circumstances, and one that shows negative effects on families remaining behind, we are ready to engage in a broader discourse of how migration and development are connected in complex ways.

#### Subtopic: Microeconomic impact of migration on families left behind (by Nurgul Ukueva)

- 1) Glick-Schiller, N. (2010) *A Global Perspective on Migration and Development*, in Schiller & Faist (eds) *Migration, Development and Transnationalization: A Critical Stance*, Beghahn Books: New York, Oxford
- 2) Nasritdinov, E. and N. Schenkan (2012) *Portrayal of Absence: Skipped Generation Households in Kyrgyzstan*, report for the OSI and HelpAge International

### Week 3: Transnationalism: Lifestyle, Families and Identities

Academic literature on migration in the last 20-30 years has been expanding in the field of transnationalism studies. Proponents of transnationalism theories argue against the fallacies of "methodological nationalism", which perceive nation-states as given units of analysis when it comes to the study of migration. Transnationalists, instead, look at various kinds of complex socio-cultural, commercial, and political entities forming across borders, with migrants playing

the decisive role in the way these entities exist and operate. In this class we will be looking at how living across borders affects migrants' lifestyle, their family life and their identities.

- 1) Levitt, P. and N. Glick Schiller, 2007. *Conceptualizing Simultaneity: A Transnational Social Field Perspective on Society*. In Portes, A. and J. DeWind, eds. *Rethinking Migration: New Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives*. Beghahn Books
- 2) Burns, A., 1999. Identities in the Diaspora: Mayan Culture in the World Economy. In Goldin, L., eds. *Identities on the Move: Transnational Processes in North America and the Caribbean Basin*. University of Texas Press

#### **Week 4: Gender and Migration**

The Post-Fordist turn in economics and shift from large-scale mass production of goods, which required strong male labor force, towards flexible production, services and knowledge economy resulted in the larger demand for female labor. This led to the feminization of migration in all major countries of destination. With more and more women from developing countries joining the migrant labor force, it has strong impact on the communities of migrants: on one hand, traditional gender roles and notions of masculinity and femininity are challenged, on the other hand, more and more women fall victims to the various kinds of discrimination and human trafficking. What does migration mean for women's safety, reputation, well-being?

##### Subtopic 1: Facts and Economic Implications of Female Migration (by Nurgul Ukueva)

##### Subtopic 2: Rights of Female Labor Migrants (Tatiana Zlobina)

- 1) Brettel, C., 2003. *Women are migrants too*, in *Anthropology and Migration: Essays on Transnationalism, Ethnicity and Identity*. Altamira Press
- 2) Salih, R., 2002. Shifting Meanings of "Home": Consumption and Identity in Moroccan Women's Transnational Practices between Italy and Morocco. In N. Al-Ali and K. Khoser, eds. *New Approaches to Migration? Transnational Communities and the Transformation of Home*. Routledge

#### **Week 5: Living in the Border**

Very large number of people today live in the border zones between nation-states. Places like Ferghana Valley, where borders of three Central Asian countries: Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan often make no sense whatsoever, illustrate how complex the socio-cultural, economic and political organization of space can be in such territories. Many similar spaces around the world are described as "in-between spaces" or "spaces of exception". Situations in the border territories are particularly difficult for people living in the zones of conflicts, for example on the Thai-Burmese border. What does cross-border mobility or immobility mean for people who live in these contested areas?

##### Subtopic: Border Management (by Tatiana Zlobina)

- 1) Reeves, M. (2012) *Border Works, Spatial Lives of the State in Rural Central Asia*, Cornell University Press
- 2) Tangseefa, D. (2014) *Taking Flight in Condemned Grounds: Forcibly Displaced Karens and the Thai-Burmese In-Between Spaces*, *Alternatives* 31 (2006), 405–429

#### **Week 6: International Legal and Cooperation Framework for the Development of Labor Migration Policies**

Covering this topic, we will look into the core migration legal terminology; international legal framework focused on the protection of migrant workers and learn about international cooperation for the facilitation of labor migration and the levels of this cooperation. You will be introduced to migrants' civil rights, employment related rights and others. The special attention will be devoted to the new pattern of cooperation in the sphere of labor migration within the EAEU (Eurasian Economic Union).

- 1) International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), available at (and also in the reading materials file):  
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/cmw.htm>

- 2) Kathryn Anderson, Luca Barbone. International Experience on Protection of Labor Migrants' Rights and Its Application to Kyrgyzstan. 2013. Research made by the AUCA TSPC, available at (and also in the reading materials file):  
[https://auca.kg/uploads/Tian%20Shan%20Policy%20Center/TSPC%20Publications/International%20Experience%20%20Barbone%20final%20Eng.doc\\_final.pdf](https://auca.kg/uploads/Tian%20Shan%20Policy%20Center/TSPC%20Publications/International%20Experience%20%20Barbone%20final%20Eng.doc_final.pdf)

### **Week 7: Human Rights of Migrant Workers**

This session will introduce us to the migrant workers basic rights and freedoms. You will also look into other rights of migrant workers connected with their employment, social security, portability of social security benefits, education.

- 1) Migration for Employment Convention, 1949 (No. 97), available at (and also in the reading materials file):  
[http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:312242](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312242)
- 2) Poletaev Dmitri. "Best practices in assisting labor migrants from Kyrgyzstan in Russia". 2013. Research made by AUCA TSPC, available at (and also in the reading materials file):  
[https://auca.kg/uploads/Tian%20Shan%20Policy%20Center/TSPC%20Publications/Dmitry%20Poletaev\\_Migration%20Report\\_ENG%20final.doc\\_25.07.2013.pdf](https://auca.kg/uploads/Tian%20Shan%20Policy%20Center/TSPC%20Publications/Dmitry%20Poletaev_Migration%20Report_ENG%20final.doc_25.07.2013.pdf)

### **Week 8: Citizenship and Statelessness. Diaspora.**

This lecture will let us explore the connections between two closely related fields of policy: migration and citizenship, the obligations of the states to reduce the cases of statelessness, we will also speak on the multifaceted and contradictory role of diasporas in migration.

Subtopic: Being Illegal (by Emil Nasritdinov)

- 1) UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. 1961. (please, be referred to the file with reading materials)
- 2) Marlène Laruelle. Central Asian Labor Migrants in Russia: The "Diasporization" of the Central Asian States? Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program. China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly, Volume 5, No. 3 (2007) p. 101-119. (please, be referred to the file with reading materials)

### **Week 9: Asylum policies**

The topic will invite you to acquaintance with the international standards of RSD (refugee status determination procedures), at the problems of reflection of the Refugee Convention 1951 and Protocol 1967 provisions in the national legislations of the CA.

Subtopic: Transnational Belonging (by Emil Nasritdinov)

- 1) Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status under the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, HCR/IP/4/Eng/REV.1 Reedited, Geneva, January 1992, UNHCR 1979. Available at (and also in the reading materials file):  
[https://www.unhcr.org/hk/files/useful\\_resources/Important\\_documents/Handbook\\_on\\_Procedures\\_and\\_Criteria\\_for\\_RSD.pdf](https://www.unhcr.org/hk/files/useful_resources/Important_documents/Handbook_on_Procedures_and_Criteria_for_RSD.pdf)
- 2) Convention 1951 and Protocol 1967 Related to Status of Refugees. ((please, be referred to the file with reading materials)

### **Week 10: Developing Labor Migration Policies: Origin and Destination Countries**

Speaking of importance to have the progressively developed migration policies both in origin and hosting countries, we will cover the pre-departure training of potential migrant workers, the state approach towards the recruitment of migrant

workers, minimum employment standards that should be used in employment contracts. Certain attention will be paid to the problem of access to information on living standards, culture and legislation of the destination country, consular and diplomatic protection of migrant workers, the role of diasporas in protection of migrant workers. For destination countries, the main points covered will be: employment based immigration policies, protection in employment, social inclusion, integration, developing best practice policies to address irregular labor migration. We will also pay attention to peculiarities of developing of labor migration policies in the context of EAEU.

#### Subtopic Multiculturalism and Integration of Migrant (by Emil Nasritdinov)

- 1) Aynura Elebaeva. 2013. Migration Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic Today. (please, be referred to the file with reading materials)
- 2) Nalin Kumar Mohapatra. 2013. Migration and Its Impact on Security of Central Asia. *India Quarterly* 69(2) 133–157. (please, be referred to the file with reading materials)

### **Week 11: International Migration Today: the Global and Regional Picture**

Globalization and migration; facts, trends, statistics in international migration; skill and gender composition of migration flows; migration trends in the region: Central Asian countries and in Kyrgyzstan.

- 1) Caglar E. Ozden, Christopher R. Parsons, Maurice Schiff, and Terrie L. Walmsley. Where on Earth is Everybody? The Evolution of Global Bilateral Migration 1960-2000. *World Bank Economic Review*, pages 12–56, March 2011. ISSN 0258-6770.
- 2) R. Abazov. Current trends in migration in the commonwealth of independent states. Human Development Research Paper 36, United Nations Development Programme, 2009

### **Week 12: Determinants of International Migration**

A simple model of migrants' self-selection, push and pull factors in international migration; the role of income maximization, networks, and policies, New Economics of Labor Migration.

#### Subtopic: Cultural Drivers of Migration (by Emil Nasritdinov)

- 1) Stark, Oded. and Bloom, David., 1985. The new economics of labor migration. *The American Economic Review*, 75 (2), 173–178,
- 2) Atamanov Aziz and van den Berg Merit (2012a) International labor migration and local rural activities in the Kyrgyz Republic: determinants and trade-offs, *Central Asian Survey*

### **Week 13: Brain-Drain, Brain-Gain and Brain-Circulation**

A stylized model and survey of brain drain literature, brain drain and endogenous human capital formation, brain gain, brain circulation

#### Subtopic: Return Migration

- 1) Frederic Docquier and Hillel Rapoport. Skilled migration: the perspective of developing countries. *Policy Research Working Paper Series* 3382, World Bank, August 2004.
- 2) Michel Beine, Frederic Docquier, and Hillel Rapoport. Brain drain and economic growth: theory and evidence. *Journal of Development Economics*, 64(1):275–289, February 2001

### **Week 14: Migrant Remittances: Microeconomic Effects**

Motivation to remit: from altruism to implicit contracts; human and physical capital investments, and inequality.

Subtopic: Cultural and Social Remittances (by Emil Nasritdinov)

- 1) Richard Adams. Evaluating the economic impact of international remittances on developing countries using household surveys: A literature review. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 47(6): 809–828, 2011
- 2) Anderson, Kathryn and Kroeger, Antje (2014). Remittances and the Human Capital of Children: New Evidence from Kyrgyzstan During Revolution and Financial Crisis, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, v.42, no. 3: 770-785

**Week 15: Migrant Remittances: Macroeconomic Effects**

Long-term and short-term effects of migration and remittances, effects on economic growth, exchange rates and international trade

- 1) Dilip Ratha. Workers' remittances: an important and stable source of external development finance.
- 2) Ralph Chami, Samir Jahjah, and Connel Fullenkamp. Are immigrant remittance flows a source of capital for development. IMF Working Papers 03/189, International Monetary Fund, October 2003.

**Week 16**

Final paper presentation.

**Additional (Not Obligatory) Readings for the Course:**

- 1) Nicole J. Jackson. The trafficking of narcotics, arms and humans in post-Soviet Central Asia: (mis)perceptions, policies and realities. Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK. *Central Asian Survey* (March 2005) 24(1), 39–52.
- 2) Marlene Laruelle. Kazakhstan, The New Country of Immigration for Central Asian Workers. *Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst*, 16 April 2008.
- 3) Mary Elizabeth Malinkin. A Wary Welcome: Varying Reception of Migrants in Russian Cities. 2013 Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C.
- 4) Vladimir Mukomel. Labour Migration And The Host Country: Russian case, CARIM-East RR 2012/31, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, San Domenico di Fiesole (FI): European University Institute, 2012.
- 5) Mary Elaine Hegland. 2010. Tajik Male Labour Migration and Women Left Behind. *Anthropology of the Middle East*, Vol. 5, No. 2.
- 6) Matthias Schmidt, Lira Sagynbekova. Migration Past and Present: Changing Patterns in Kyrgyzstan. *Central Asian Survey*, Vol. 27, No. 2, June 2008, 111–127.
- 7) Scott Radnitz. Weighing the Political and Economic Motivations for Migration in Post-Soviet Space: The Case of Uzbekistan. *Europe-Asia Studies*, Vol. 58, No. 5 (Jul., 2006), pp. 653-677.
- 8) Madeleine Reeves. Black Work, Green Money: Remittances, Ritual, and Domestic Economies in Southern Kyrgyzstan. *Slavic Review*, Vol. 71, No. 1 (SPRING 2012), pp. 108-134. Published by: Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.
- 9) Vladimir Iontsev, Irina Ivakhnyuk, Migrant Integration Models in Modern Russia, CARIM-East RR 2013/13, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, San Domenico di Fiesole (FI): European University Institute, 2013.