

Carleton University
Department of Political Science

Winter 2019

PSCI 4807
Migration, Mobility, and Politics: A Controversial Approach

Seminar: Tuesdays 11.35 - 14.25

Location:

Instructor: Professor William Walters
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COURSE THEME

Migration is for many people almost inherently a controversial subject. In contemporary societies many aspects of migration generate intense debate and disagreement. It therefore makes sense to study this topic from the angle of its controversies. But controversy is also increasingly recognized by social scientists as a valuable methodological tool or angle. There are at least three aspects that make controversy a fruitful entry point for researching migration. First, controversies involve disagreement, dispute and argumentation. In the discourse which controversies generate we get a chance to hear actors (including scholars) spell out their positions more fully. We get to see assumptions and presuppositions brought to the surface. That helps us understand the stakes in an issue. Second, controversies are often moments of uncertainty and instability. They involve challenges to the status quo. With controversies settled institutions, policies and ways of doing things are called into question. They are therefore critical moments where we see parts of our world disassembled and reassembled. Third, controversies often centre upon quite concrete matters: the introduction of a new citizenship test, changes to visa policy, a crisis of airport security technologies, a regulation that discourages foreigners from buying real estate, etc. As such controversies give us grounded, tangible, material issues to work with and a way to do theory from the ground upwards.

Building on these threads this course will study migration issues through the lens of controversies. A focus on controversies cannot confine itself narrowly to a single discipline or even specialist area like migration studies. Instead, our readings will be unapologetically multidisciplinary, including law, history, geography, political science, science and technology studies, and anthropology. A few caveats are in order at the outset. First, the course offers nothing like an exhaustive survey of *all* migration controversies. It does not even claim those selected are the most prominent. What it does offer is an introduction to the use of controversy as a mode of understanding migration, and some guidelines students might then apply to other controversies. Second, the course is not explicitly structured around the usual headings, units, or analytics that political scientists and other scholars bring to the study of migration. There is no single section dedicated to 'race', or 'gender', 'labour' or 'the state'. That does not mean these themes and issues will be ignored. On the contrary we will see that they

appear in rich, empirical context as soon as we enter the door of controversy. In fact, they do not just appear but are made and remade in the process. In other words, rather than begin our analysis with a fixed set of categories we will proceed to interrogate questions of race, class, gender, hierarchy, freedom, control, and citizenship which migration raises, and much else, by working up from very empirical situations. Rather than uphold a kind of theory versus empirics dichotomy we will engage in theorization through immersion in issues, cases and contexts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To explore the utility of controversy as an approach to migration research.
2. To equip students with concepts, methods, and cases so that they can conduct their own research projects on migration.
3. To provide students opportunities to hone presentation, group working, analytical and critical skills

COURSE TEXTS

All required readings will be available either through the regular journal links in the library catalogue, or as PDFs on ARES (in which case reading is marked with [*]).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In Class Presentation	10%
Participation	15%
Mini conference presentation	10%
Research Essay (due Feb 10)	30%
Final Exam (During exam period)	35%

1. One in-class presentation (10 mins, not less or more!) **(10%)**. Students will work on groups for this exercise. Each group will be responsible for presenting the readings for the week. You should keep any summary to a bare minimum (e.g., 3 mins) and concentrate instead on themes such as differences and contrasts between the readings, key themes or issues, problems and weaknesses in the texts, and, finally, their relationship to empirical issues and contexts.
2. Preparation for and active participation in weekly seminars. **(15%)**
3. Mini-conference presentation (12 mins). Students will present their work in progress towards the research essay (see below) on a series of panels grouped by themes. **(10%)**
4. Research essay (3000 words – The bibliography is additional to the word count.) Using concepts and themes from the course offer a critical analysis of one particular migration controversy. Use a mix of primary (eg, news reporting, blogs, public inquiries and hearings) and secondary (eg, scholarly work) to research your controversy. (Due on March 19 - submit via CuLearn). **(25%)**
5. Final Exam. The exam will test you on the entire course. It will combine short answer and essay type questions. The exam will be held during the university's official exam period (April 12 – 27th).

6. Late penalties: One half grade will be deducted for each day late. Hence, if your short essay were submitted on Feb 11 instead of Feb 10, you would drop from, say, A to A-.

THEMES AND READINGS

1. Introduction (Jan 8)

2. Using Controversies to Understand Migration and Mobility Politics (Jan 15)

- Venturini, T. 2010. 'Diving in magma: How to explore controversies with actor-network theory'. *Public Understanding of Science* 19(3): 258-273.
- Schouten, P. 2014. Security as controversy: Reassembling security at Amsterdam airport', *Security Dialogue* 45(1): 23-42.
- Jones, H et al. Go Home: Mapping the unfolding controversy of Home Office immigration campaigns.
<https://mappingimmigrationcontroversy.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/end-of-project-findings-leaflet-final.pdf>

3. Unfree migration: from 'coolies' to 'illegal aliens' (Jan 22)

- Jung, M-H. 2005. 'Outlawing Coolies: Race, Nation and Empire in the Age of Emancipation', *American Quarterly* 57(3): 677-701.
- McKeown, A. 2012. How the Box Became Black: Brokers and the Creation of the Free Migrant. *Pacific Affairs* 85(1): 21-45.
- Ngai, M. 2003. 'The strange career of the illegal alien: immigration restriction and deportation policy in the United States, 1921-1965. *Law and History Review* 21(1): 69-108.

4. Temporary Foreign Worker Programmes (Jan 29)

- Mark Thomas. 2016. "Producing and Contesting "Unfree Labour Through the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program." In *Unfree Labour? Struggles of Migrant and Immigrant Workers in Canada*. Editors Aziz Choudry and Adrian Smith. USA: PM Press.
- Walsh, J. 2014. 'From Nations of Immigrants to States of Transcience: Temporary migration in Canada and Australia'. *International Sociology* 29(6): 584-606.
- Anderson, B., Sharma, N. and Wright, C. 2009. Editorial: Why no borders? *Refuge* 26(2): 5-18.

5. Skilled Migrants: Selecting, Recruiting, Attracting (Feb 5)

- Ayelet Shachar. 2016. "Selecting By Merit: The Brave New World of Stratified Mobility". In *Migration in Political Theory. The Ethics of Movement and Membership*. Editors Sarah Fine and Lea Ypi. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp.175-201.
- Geddie, K. 2015. Policy mobilities in the race for talent: Competitive state strategies in international student mobility. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 40(2): 235-248.
- TBA

6. Denationalisation, Deportation, and Antideportation (Feb 12)

- Macklin, A. and Bauböck, R. (eds) 2015. *The return of banishment: Do the new denationalisation policies weaken citizenship?* EUI Working Paper Series: read the essays by Macklin (1-7), Schuck (9-11), Joppke (11-15), and others that catch your eye.
http://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/34617/RSCAS_2015_14.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
- Stasiulis, D. 2017. The extraordinary statelessness of Deepan Budlakoti: The erosion of Canadian citizenship through citizenship deprivation. *Studies in Social Justice* 11(1): 1-26.
- Nyers, P. 2003. Abject Cosmopolitanism: The Politics of Protection in the Anti-Deportation Movement, *Third World Quarterly* 24 (6): 1069–1093 .

7. Reading Week (No Class) (Feb 19)

8. Technologies of the border (Feb 26)

- Dijstelbloem, H. 2017. Migration tracking is a mess. *Nature* vol. 543, March 2, 32-34.
https://www.nature.com/polopoly_fs/1.21542!/menu/main/topColumns/topLeftColumn/pdf/543032a.pdf
- Rosière, S and Jones, R. 2012. Teichopolitics: Re-considering globalization through the role of walls and fences. *Geopolitics* 17(1): 217-234.
- Neyland, D. 2008. Mundane terror and the threat of everyday objects. In Aas, K. et al (eds) *Technologies of InSecurity: The surveillance of everyday life*, Routledge, 21-41.
- Guest speaker: TBA

9. Mini conference I (Mar 5)

10. Mini conference II (Mar 12)

11. Europe, refugees, 'crisis' (Mar 19)

- Readings to be determined
- Guest speaker: Dr Emma Carmel, University of Bath, UK.

12. Hostility and hospitality (Mar 26)

- Institute for Race Relations (eds) 2016. *Humanitarianism: The Unacceptable Face of Solidarity*.
- Jones, H. et al. 2017. Immigration and the statistical limits of government. In Jones et al (eds) *Go Home: The politics of immigration controversies*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.
<https://www.manchesteropenhive.com/downloadpdf/9781526117946/9781526117946.00012.xml>
- Anderson, B, Gibney, M and Paoletti, E. 2014. Citizenship, deportation, and the boundaries of belonging. *Citizenship Studies* 15(5): 547-563.

13. Migration routes and journeys (Apr 2) -

- Heller, C. and Pezzani, L. 2014. *Forensic Oceanography: Report on the "left-to-die boat"*. <http://www.forensic-architecture.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/FO->

[report.pdf](#) and <https://www.forensic-architecture.org/case/left-die-boat/#toggle-id-2>

- Zhang, SX, Sanchez, G. and Achili, L. 2018. Rumors, Encounters, Collaborations, and Survival: The Migrant Smuggling–Drug Trafficking Nexus in the U.S. Southwest, *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 676(1): 135-151.
- Mainwaring, C. and Brigden, N. 2016. Beyond the border: Clandestine migration journeys. *Geopolitics* 21(2): 243-262.

14. Review week (April 7)

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by (*November 9th, 2012 for December examinations and March 8th, 2013 for April examinations*).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Grades: Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.