

GWST 570
New Diasporas, Gender, and Transnationalism
Fall 2007

Class Schedule: Thursday 4:00 -6:25 p.m.

Place: Old Falaki Bld. Room 402

Instructor: Mulki Al-Sharmani

Office Hours: Tuesday 4:00 – 500 p.m. Social Research Center, 106 Kasr El Aini Street, New Cairo Bld. 11th Floor, Office # 27. Appointments for other days of the week may be made by phone.

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Course Description

This course will provide a forum for students and instructor to study, discuss, and reflect on the experiences and activities of women in new diasporic communities. We will examine some of the movements of populations from Africa, Middle East, South East Asia, and Europe in the last five decades. The multiple movements of these populations have often resulted in diasporic experiences that took place in different nation-states. The initial and subsequent movements have been motivated by complex and intertwined factors that include armed conflict, persecution, discrimination, and marginalization.

Gender is taken here as a mode of thought that shapes roles of women and men, their relations, and experiences. The aims of the course are twofold: (1) to examine how gender impacts and is impacted by diasporic life; (2) to examine different aspects of women's lives in new diasporic communities, such as their transnational strategies of care-giving and management of family affairs, their economic activities, their production and consumption of religious knowledge, and their community activism. These experiences and activities will be used as prisms through which we will seek a nuanced contextualized understanding of the gendered aspects of diasporic women's lives and the disruptions and transformations that they create in traditional gender roles and power relations within their families, communities, and larger societies.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all sessions, and three or more absences are grounds for failure. Students are also expected to prepare reading assignments before class and to participate in discussion. The following work is required:

Lead class discussions (10%).

Four reaction papers on assigned readings (40%). These 5-10 page assignments should not merely summarize the main issues raised in the readings, but include critical

commentary on the readings and/or discussion of the usefulness of the texts in relation to the student's research interests.

Due: Weeks 4, 7, 11, 14

Research proposal (10%). Students are expected to prepare a proposal on their final paper. The proposal should state and explain briefly the subject matter, the research questions that will be addressed, and the methodology that will be used. The proposal should also include a brief literature review of texts the student plans to use, and an annotated bibliography.

Due: Week 10

Final paper and presentation (40%): Minimum length of paper: 20 pages. Time limit for presentation: 15-20 minutes

Due: Week 15

Course Materials

Books on Reserve at AUC Library

Cohen, Robin. *Global Diasporas: An Introduction*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1997

Nuruddin, Farah. *Yesterday, Tomorrow: Voices from the Somali Diaspora*. London and New York: Cassell, 2000

Salih, Ruba. *Gender in Transnationalism: Home, Longing and Belonging among Moroccan Migrant Women*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003

Van Hear, Nicholas. *New Diasporas: the New Exodus, Dispersal, and Regrouping of Migrant Communities*. London, GBR: UCL Press, Limited, 1998

Materials at Wallace Annex, AUC Library

Abderahman, Amira. *Gender, Forced Migration and Paid Domestic Work: Case Studies on Refugee Women Domestic Workers in Cairo*. Masters Thesis, the American University in Cairo, Department of Anthropology-Sociology, 2003
Call # 2003/90

Note: Copies of all reading materials are available at **Copy Center** at 10 B Youssef El-Gendy St. Tel# 2-795-1008

Class Schedule and Readings

Week 1: 09/6/07

Introduction

Logistics

Discussion of expectations, requirements, and goals

Week 2: 09/13/07 Theorizing Diaspora

Lie, John. "Review: From International Migration to Transnational Diaspora?" In: *Contemporary Sociology*, 14, 4, 1995: 303-306

Clifford, James. "Diasporas." In: *Cultural Anthropology*, 9, 3, 1994: 302-338

Wahlbeck, Östen. "The Concept of Diaspora as an Analytical Tool in the Study of Refugee Communities." In: *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 28, 2, 2002: 221-238

Cohen, Robin. *Global Diasporas: An Introduction*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1997. pp. ix-xiii, 155-176, 177-196

Van Hear, Nicholas. *New Diasporas: The New Mass Exodus, Dispersal and Regrouping of Migrant Communities*." London, GBR: UCL Press, Limited. pp. 1-12, 195-231, 233-264

Week 3: 09/20/07 Glimpses of a Diaspora

Nuruddin Farah. *Yesterday, Tomorrow: Voices from the Somali Diaspora*. London and New York: Cassell.

Week 4: 09/27/07 Gendering Migration and Diaspora

Piper, Nicola. "Gendering the Politics of Migration." In: *International Migration Review*, 40, 1, 2006: 133-164

Pedraza, Silvia. "Women and Migration: The Social Consequences of Gender." In: *Annual Review of Sociology*, 17, 1991: 303-325

Pessar, Patricia. "Transnational Migration: Bringing Gender In." In: *International Migration Review*, 37, 3, 2003: 812-846

Kofman, Eleanore. "Female 'Birds of Passage' a Decade Later: Gender and Immigration in the European Union." In: *International Migration Review*, 33, 2, 1999:269-299

Salih, Ruba. "Ambivalent Frontiers: Moroccan Women, Transnational Migration and Nation-States." In: *Gender in Transnationalism: Home, Longing, and Belonging among Moroccan Migrant Women*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003. pp. 26-51

Moussa, Helene. "Memories of Flight." In: Moussa, Helene. *Storm and Sanctuary: The Journey of Ethiopian and Eritrean Women Refugees*. Ontario, Canada: Artemis Enterprises Publication, 1993. pp. 138-165

Reaction Paper 1: Due

Week 5: 10/4/07 Diasporic Experiences: Gendering Work and Economic Activities

Munscher, Alice. "The Workday Routines of Turkish Women in Federal Republic of Germany: Results of Pilot Study." *International Migration Review*, 18, 4, 1984: 1230-1246

Madeleine, Wong. "Ghanaian Women in Toronto's Labor Market: Negotiating Gendered Roles and Transnational Household Strategies." In: *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, 32, 2, 2000: 45-76

Dallalfar, Arelene. "Iranian Women as Immigrant Entrepreneurs." In: *Gender and Society*, 8, 4, 1994: 541-561

Abderahman, Amira. *Gender, Forced Migration and Paid Domestic Work: Case Studies on Refugee Women Domestic Workers in Cairo*. Masters Thesis, the American University in Cairo, Department of Anthropology-Sociology, 2003

Week 6: 10/11/07 Diasporic Experiences: Gendering Work and Economic Activities (Cont'd)

Andall, Jacqueline. *Gender, Migration, and Domestic Service: The Politics of Black Women in Italy*. Burlington, U.S.A: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2000. Chpts. 1-7

Week 7: 10/18/07 Family Lives and Gender Relations in Diaspora

Hoodfar, Homa. "Families on the Move: The Changing Roles of Afghan Refugee Women in Iran." In: *Hawwa*, 2, 2, 2004: 141-171

Shalinsky, Audrey C. "Gender Issues in the Afghanistan Diaspora: Nadia's Story." In: *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, 17, 3, 1996: 102-123

Matsouka, Atsuko and John Soreson. "Eritrean Canadian Refugee Households as Sites of Gender Renegotiation." In: Indra, Doreen (ed.). *Engendering Forced Migration: Theory and Practice*. Oxford: Berghahan Books, 1999. pp. 218-241

McSpadden, Lucia Ann. "Negotiating Masculinity in the Reconstruction of Social Place: Eritrean and Ethiopian Refugees in the United States and Sweden." In: Endra, Doreen (ed.). *Engendering Forced Migration: Theory and Practice*. Oxford: Berghahan Books, 1999. pp. 242-260

Decimo, Francesca. "Female Paths of Transnational Migration: Family Networks and the Relative Positions of Somali and Moroccan Women in Bologna (Italy)." In: *Mobilités au Féminin*- Tanger, 15-19 November, 2005: 1022

Reaction Paper 2: Due

Week 8: 10/25/07 Diasporic Cultures and Identities: Shifting Boundaries

Moussa, Helene. "Renegotiating Identity." In: Moussa, Helene. *Storm and Sanctuary: The Journey of Ethiopian and Eritrean Women Refugees*. Ontario, Canada: Artemis Enterprises Publication, 1993. pp.205-244

Ewing, Katherine Pratt. "Between Cinema and Social Work: Diasporic Turkish Women and the (Dis) pleasures of Hybridity." In: *Cultural Anthropology*: 265-294

Moghissi, Haidah. "Away from Home: Iranian Women, Displacement, Cultural Resistance, and Change." In: *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 30, 1999: 207-217

Salih, Ruba. "The Transnational Division of Ritual Space: Reformulating 'Tradition' and 'Modernity'" In: Salih, Ruba. *Gender in Transnationalism: Home, Longing and Belonging among Moroccan Migrant Women*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003. pp. 81-98

Salih, Ruba. "Narrating the Self, Narrating the Other: Shifting Boundaries of Culture and Identities." In: Salih, Ruba. *Gender in Transnationalism: Home, Longing and Belonging among Moroccan Migrant Women*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003. pp. 118-137

Week 9: 11/1/07 Religious Discourses and Identities

Jouili, Jeanette & Amir-Moazami, Schirin. "Knowledge, Empowerment, and Religious Authority among Pious Muslim Women in France and Germany." In: *The Muslim World*, 26, 2006: 617-642

Gibb, Camilla & Rothenberg, Celia. "Believing Women: Harari and Palestinian Women at Home and in the Canadian Diaspora" In: *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, 20, 2, 2000: 1-17

Tilikainen, Marja. "Somali Women and Daily Islam in Diaspora." In: *Social Compass*, 50, 1, 2003: 59-69

Salih, Ruba. "Migration, Islam, and Modernities." In: Salih, Ruba. *Gender in Transnationalism: Home, Longing and Belonging among Moroccan Migrant Women*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003. pp. 99-117

Afshar, Haleh, Aitken, Rob & Franks, Myfanwy. "Islamophobia and Women of Pakistani Descent in Bradford: The Crisis of Ascribed and Adopted Identities." In: Moghissi, Haideh. (ed.). *Muslim Diaspora: Gender, Culture, and Identity*. London and New York: Routledge, 2006. pp. 167-185.

Al-Ali, Nadjie. "Gender Relations, Transnational Ties and Rituals among Bosnian Refugees." In: *Global Networks*, 2, 3, 2002: 249-262

Week 10: 11/8/07 The Politics of Belonging: Citizenship and Cultural Difference

Salih, Ruba. "Deconstructing Citizenship: Cultural Difference and Migrants' Rights in Italy." In: Salih, Ruba. *Gender in Transnationalism: Home, Longing and Belonging among Moroccan Migrant Women*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003. pp. 138-154

Fábos, Anita. "Marriage, Sudanese-Style: Transnational Practices of Citizenship and Gender-Making for Sudanese Nationals in Egypt." In: *Northeastern African Studies*, 8, 3, 2001: 47-68

Parreás, Rhacel Salazar. "Transgressing the Nation-State: the Partial-Citizenship and 'Imagined (Global) Community' of Migrant Filipina Domestic Workers." In: *Signs*, 26, 4, 2001: 1129-1154

Rygiel, Kim. "Globalizing Inequality: Citizenship Politics of Diasporic Women in Globalized Cities: The Case of Homeworkers in Toronto's Garment Industry: 1-17 (HYPERLINK "http://csml.calumetyorku.ca:591/symposium/5pdf" <http://csml.calumetyorku.ca:591/symposium/5pdf>)

Vertovec, Steven. *Transnational Challenges to the 'New' Multiculturalism*. Paper presented at the ASA Conference, University of Sussex, 30 March-2 April 2001. pp. 1-19

Research Proposals: Due

Week 11: 11/15/07 The Politics of Belonging: Constructions of 'Home(s)'

Moussa, Helene. "The Search to Belong." In: Moussa, Helene. *Storm and Sanctuary: The Journey of Ethiopian and Eritrean Women Refugees*. Ontario, Canada: Artemis Enterprises Publication, 1993. pp. 245-259

Manuh, Takyiwaa. "'Efie' or the Meanings of 'Home' among Female and Male Ghanaian Migrants in Toronto, Canada and Returned Migrants to Ghana." In: Koser, Khaled (ed.).

New African Diasporas. London and New York: Routledge, 2003. pp. 140-159

Tetreault, Mary Ann. "Divided Communities of Memory: Diasporas Come Home." In: Mogissi, Haideh. (ed.). *Muslim Diaspora: Gender, Culture, and Identity*. London and New York: Routledge, 2006. pp. 81-98.

Salih, Ruba. "Constructing Self and Home between Italy and Morocco." In: Salih, Ruba. *Gender in Transnationalism: Home, Longing and Belonging among Moroccan Migrant Women*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003. pp. 53-80

Finx-Nielsen, Mette, Hansen, Peter & Kleist, Nauja. "Roots, Rights, and Responsibilities: Place-making and Repatriation among Somalis in Denmark and Somaliland." In: *Stichproben. Wiener Zeitschrift für Kritische Afrikanistik*, 7, 4, 2004: 1-23

Reaction Paper 3: Due

Week 12: 11/22/07 Thanksgiving Holiday

No class

Week 13: 11/29/07 Glimpses of Diasporas

Zangana, Haifa. *Women on a Journey: Between Baghdad and London*. Austin, TX: University of Texas, 2007

Guest Speaker: Sara Sadek, MA Candidate, University of East London

Week 14: 12/6/07 Transnationalism, Diaspora, and Gender Revisited

Smith, Robert. C. "How Durable and New Is Transnational Life? Historical Retrieval through Local Comparison." In: *Diaspora*, 9, 2, 2000: 203-233

Imre, Rob. *Transnationalism and Migrations: Re-ascribing Meanings*. Paper presented at 2nd Global Conference on Interculturalism: Exploring Critical Issues, Vienna, Austria, 2-4 December, 2004. pp 1-11

Shuval, Judith. "Diaspora Migration: Definitional Ambiguities and a Theoretical Paradigm." In: *International Migration*, 38, 5, 2000: 41-56

Anthias, Floya. "Evaluating 'Diaspora': Beyond Ethnicity?" In: *Sociology*, 32, 3, 1998: 557-580

Salih, Ruba. "Conclusion." In: *Gender in Transnationalism: Home, Longing and Belonging among Moroccan Migrant Women*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003. pp. 153-166

Reaction Paper 4: Due

Week 15: 12/13/07

Students' Presentations

Final Paper: Due

PAGE

PAGE 1