Institute for the Study of International Development
McGill University
Fall 2013

INTD 497
Seminar: International Labor Migration and Development
Friday 14:35-17:25pm

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Office Hours: Thursday 12:00-2:00pm

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of international labor migration and development. The main focus of the course will be on low-end temporary labor migration and its socio-economic impact on developing countries. The study of international labor migration matters to development for the following reasons. First, due to the unequal economic process of globalization, growing numbers of workers from developing countries – of whom more than half are female – are incorporated into global labor markets as cheap and disposable laborers. Second, international labor migration is considered a core economic strategy to reduce poverty and improve incomes in developing countries. Third, the current pattern of labor migration affects macro socio-economic structures in developing countries as well as the everyday lives of the poor. Therefore, the study of low-end labor migration provides a useful lens to analyze the macro and micro socio-economic changes occurring in developing countries.

In order to analyze patterns of low-end labor migration from macro and micro lenses, the course will pay attention to the four main actors in labor migration: states, markets,
communities, and families. We will identify distinct roles of these four actors in shaping low-end labor migration and development. The course will focus in particular on ethnographic studies in Asia and Latin America.

The following issues will be discussed in this course: patterns of labor flows, the role of states, recruitment channels, low-end temporary labor migration to North America and within Asia, gender, remittances, transnational households, and rights of migrant workers. During the course, we will explore rich case studies, including temporary migrant workers in Canada, undocumented Mexican workers and Caribbean migrant workers in the United States, Sri Lankan domestic workers in the Middle East, Filipina domestic workers in Hong Kong, Burmese migrant workers in Thailand, and Filipina entertainers in Japan. Throughout the course, I will show three documentaries related to international labor migration and development. The seminar will also invite a guest speaker from a community organization.

At the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of the macro-micro processes in the making of the low-end labor migration system. We will also gain an analytical grasp of the global division of labor that crucially shapes the socio-economic system of labor-sending countries as well as the lives of low-end migrant workers and their families.

Course Requirements:

1. Participation
Students are expected to come to class having done the required readings beforehand in order to contribute to class discussion. Readings will average 100 pages per week. In order for this seminar to be successful, all students are expected to make thoughtful contributions to the discussion.

2. Short paper and class presentation based on the readings
-Students must write one short analytical paper (5 pages, double-spaced) based on the assigned readings. They must then present this paper in the seminar. The goal of this exercise is to analyze the readings in depth and then to discuss them effectively in class.
- The paper is intended to be an analysis or critique of the readings of a specific week. The paper should develop one overarching central argument based on the readings. You should develop some theme that links the readings and that allows you to develop an insightful analysis.

- Although some minimal summary of the readings is necessary, the paper should avoid spending significant space summarizing the readings. This is an exercise in analysis and critique.

- Students must give an oral presentation based on their short paper. Each presenter will be given approximately 15 minutes to present their paper. Student presenters must circulate their paper to the whole class the day before the seminar. Students must read the papers and be ready to discuss the papers in the seminar. Since there are about 30 students in the seminar, each week will have at least 3 presenters.

- You are strongly encouraged to meet with me to discuss the paper.

3. Research paper and mini-conference presentation

- Students must write one research paper and give an oral presentation of the research paper.

- The research paper should be a minimum of 10 pages and a maximum 15 pages double-spaced. Students can choose any topic related to international labor migration but the argument should be framed in terms of international development.

- The goal of the research paper is to employ key theoretical points discussed in the seminar and to develop one's own research ideas. The paper should focus on one central argument and examine it through empirical cases. You will demonstrate this both in writing and orally.

- Research papers are due by email by 5 P.M. on December 13th, 2013. You will receive an email confirmation from me that I have received your paper.

- Before submitting the research paper, students must give a 10 minute oral presentation at the mini-conference. Each presentation will be followed by a 5 minute Q & A session.

- The mini-conference will take place in the last three weeks of the seminar. We will make a schedule for the mini-conference by September 27th. Students must provide a title and an abstract of the presentation by November 1st. Each week we will have about 10 presenters.

- It is highly recommended that students use power point for the presentation. You are strongly encouraged to meet with me to discuss the presentation and the research paper.

- Further details on the research paper and the mini-conference will be given in class.
Grade Distribution:
1. Participation: 20%
2. Short paper and class presentation: 30%
3. Research paper: 30%
4. Mini-conference presentation: 20%

Books to Purchase
All of the required books have been ordered at the Paragraphe Bookstore on 2220 McGill College Avenue. They are also available on online shops (for example, amazon.ca) often at lower prices for used copies. In addition to the textbooks, one coursepack will be available for purchase at the McGill Bookstore. Articles and book chapters not included in the books will be placed in the coursepack. A copy of the coursepack and the books will be placed on reserve in the Humanities and Social Sciences library as well.


PLAGIARISM
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information)

POLICY ON LANGUAGES
In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.
Course Schedule
Week 1 Introduction: Migration and development (Sept 6)
Week 2 Global patterns of labor flow: Pull and push factors (Sept 13)
Week 3 Role of states: Policies in receiving and sending countries (Sept 20)
Week 4 Recruitment channels and networks (Sept 27)
Week 5 Low-end temporary labor migration to North America (Oct 4)
Week 6 Low-end temporary labor migration within Asia (Oct 11)
Week 7 Gender and low-end labor migration (Oct 18)
Week 8 Remittances: Economic impact in developing countries (Oct 25)
Week 9 Transnational households and left-behind children (Nov 1)
Week 10 Rights and legal status of migrant workers (Nov 8)
Week 11 Mini-conference 1 (Nov 15)
Week 12 Mini-conference 2 (Nov 22)
Week 13 Mini-conference 3 (Nov 29)

WEEK 1 (Sept 6) Introduction: Migration and development

http://www.prb.org/pdf08/63.1migration.pdf

WEEK 2 (Sept 13) Global patterns of labor flow: Push and pull factors

Massey, Douglas S. “Why Does Immigration Occur? A Theoretical Synthesis.” In
The Handbook of International Migration: The American Experience, edited by C.
34-52.
Martin, Philip. Migrants in the Global Labor Market. Global Commission on
International Migration (2005), 1-59.
http://www.migrationdevelopment.org/fileadmin/data/resources/general/research_papers/T
P1_01.pdf


**Recommended:**


**WEEK 3 (Sep 20) Role of states: Policies in receiving and sending countries**


**Recommended:**


**WEEK 4 (Sep 27) Recruitment channels and networks**


**Recommended:**


**WEEK 5 (Oct 4) Low-end temporary labor migration to North America**


http://www.newyorker.com/archive/2006/04/24/060424fa_fact6

Film 1: End of Immigration (by Marie Bottie)
Recommended:

**WEEK 6 (Oct 11) Low-end temporary labor migration within Asia**


Recommended:

**WEEK 7 (Oct 18) Gender and low-end labor migration**
Stasiulis, Daiva and Abigail Bakan. *Negotiating Citizenship: Migrant Women in*


Film 2: “When Strangers Reunite” (family reunification of domestic workers in Canada)

Recommended:


WEEK 8 (Oct 25) Remittances: Economic impact in developing countries


Recommended:
http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/8B7D005E37FFC77EC12573A600439846/$file/deHaaspaper.pdf
http://www.ifad.org/pub/remittances/migration.pdf

WEEK 9 (Nov 1) Transnational households and left-behind children


Film 3: “Anak” (domestic workers from the Philippines to Hong Kong)

Recommended:

WEEK 10 (Nov 8) Rights and legal status of migrant workers

Stasiulis, Daiva and Abigail Bakan.. Negotiating Citizenship: Migrant Women in Canada and the Global System (2005), 140-156.

Guest Speaker: Association des aides familiales du Quebec

Recommended:

Week 11: (Nov 15) Mini-conference 1

WEEK 12: (Nov 22) Mini-conference 2

WEEK 13: (Nov 29) Mini-conference 3