

Updated: September 17, 2021

ANTH 2402/ANTH5402 (Fall 2021)
Lecture: Tuesday 3.30 - 5.15 PM
UG Tutorial: Monday 1:30 – 2:15 PM
MA Tutorial: Tuesday 5:30 – 6:15 PM
Venue: NAH401

Instructor: Ju-chen Chen (陳如珍)
juchen@cuhk.edu.hk
Office Hours: By appointment
TA: ZHENG Xincheng
1155146826@link.cuhk.edu.hk

TOPICS IN ETHNOGRAPHY: DIASPORA, MIGRATION, AND IDENTITY



Shiota Chiharu, 2015, *The Key in the Hand* (Source: <https://www.designboom.com/art/chiharu-shiota-installation-interview-07-16-2017/>)

Why do people leave their homes? Is a reason always presented? How about a destination? What do they have in mind on the morning of their departure? When they return, will they have a different name and a different face? Have communication technologies transcended the time and space that divide the travelers and the left-behind?

This course explores anthropological reflections on diaspora, migration, and identity. Migration implies traveling in time from a place of belonging to a land of the others. Not all border-crossing is named migration. Not all lived experience in an alien land diasporic. Following anthropologist James Clifford (1994), we will keep in mind a question, “what is at stake, politically and intellectually, in contemporary invocations of diaspora.” A study of migration leads us to think about time, place, difference, and who we are. Examining diasporic experience ethnographically, we will contemplate the ideas of home, displacement, border, state, aspiration, technology, and destination. Towards the end of this course, we will consider what we learn about humanity through focusing on diaspora and migration.

Readings

This course uses various articles and book chapters. All materials are accessible via course Blackboard. Here are a few titles that are critical for this course. Read the e-book via CU libraries or acquire a copy for yourself!

1. Kenny, Kevin (2013) *Diaspora: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press.
2. Khosravi, Shahram (2010) *'Illegal' Traveller: An Auto-Ethnography of Borders*. Palgrave Macmillan.
3. Bacani, Xyza Cruz (2018) *We Are Like Air* 活著如風. We Press.
4. Chen, Ju-chen and Min Lee, eds. (2016) *Wishing Well: Voices from Foreign Domestic Workers in Hong Kong and Beyond*. 許願井的迴響：香港外籍家務傭工詩文集。HelperChoice.

Suggested Tutorial Readings for MAs

1. Ehrenreich, Barbara and Arlie Russell Hochschild, eds. (2002) *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. Henry Holt and Company.
2. Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar (2015 [2001]) *Servants of Globalization: Migration and Domestic Work*, 2nd edition. Stanford University Press.
3. Constable, Nicole (2017) *Maid to Order in Hong Kong: Stories of Migrant Workers*. 2nd ed. Cornell University Press.
4. El Akkad, Omar (2021) *What Strange Paradise: A Novel*. Knopf.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Students are expected to read **beforehand** and participate actively in lectures and tutorial discussions.

Participation and contribution	20%	
Midterm (short responses with prompt questions)	40%	Due: 24 October
Final (your migration project report)	40%	Due: 10 December

Participation marks are based on your participation and contribution in both lectures and tutorials. You will be evaluated by whether you have prepared for a topic (e.g., do the reading) and how much you help the class understand the issues and further our discussions.

Midterm will be a chance for you to reflect on what you have learned up to week 7. Prompts will be shared with students by **15 October**. You can answer them in various formats – short essays, posters, podcasts, videos, or presentations. Due: **24 October**

Final: The course encourages all participants to do small-scale research with a diaspora/migration-related topic of your choice, for example, climate refugees, education migrants, seasonal labor migration, etc. It could be a historical phenomenon or a contemporary issue. You are expected to define your topic, do some library research, comb through your choice of literature (just a bit), and write up the report

(same as the Midterm, you can also present it in non-textual formats). We will meet to brainstorm and clarify the idea on **26 October**. Due: **10 December**.

***Formats and other requirements:** 1) Please use double-spaced, font size 12 or larger, and standard margins. 2) All texts of your assignments must be submitted to VeriGuide (https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jspx) first. An assignment without a signed declaration from VeriGuide will not be graded.

Course Schedule:

WK1 Introduction (7 September)

Syllabus and course overview

No reading this week

WK2 Diaspora (14 September)

Kenny, Kevin (2013) "What is Diaspora?" In *Diaspora: A Very Short Introduction*, Pp.1-15.

Kenny, Kevin (2013) "Migration." In *Diaspora: A Very Short Introduction*, Pp.16-39.

Recommended:

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

WK3 Border (21 September 中秋節快樂)

Barth, Fredrik (1969) "Introduction." In *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Culture Difference*. Pp. 9-38.

Khosravi, Shahram (2007) "The 'illegal' traveller: an auto-ethnography of borders." *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale*, 15(3): 321-334.

➤ *MA Tutorial reading: Constable (2017) Ch1 Foreign and Domestic in Hong Kong*

Recommended:

Video/ We are All Neighbours, Debbie Christie, 1993, 1'05".

WK4 Homeland (28 September)

Anderson, Benedict (1994) "Exodus." *Critical Inquiry* 20: 314-327.

Anderson, Benedict (2006 [1991]) "Introduction." In *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Pp. 12-15.

Kenny, Kevin (2013) "Return." In *Diaspora: A Very Short Introduction*, Pp.61-86.

➤ *MA Tutorial reading: Constable (2017) Ch2 Global Themes and Local Patterns*

WK5 Poverty (5 October)

Robbins, Richard (2014) "Population Growth, Migration, and Urbanization" (excerpt) & "Peasant Protest, Rebellion, and Resistance." In *Global Problems and the*

Culture of Capitalism (6th edition). Read: Pp. 133-167, Pp. 282-289, & 299-305.

Bacani, Xyza Cruz (2018) *We Are Like Air* 活著如風 (a Photo book), Read: Pp.8-61. We Press.

Recommended:

Video/ Becky's Journey, Sine Plambech, 2015, 24".

➤ *MA Tutorial reading: Constable (2017) Ch3 Superior Servants*

WK6 War (12 October)

Cabot, Heath (2019) "The Business of Anthropology and the European Refugee Regime." *American Ethnologist* 46(3): 261-275.

Khosravi, Shahram (2010) "Accustomed Soil." In *'Illegal' Traveller: An Auto-Ethnography of Borders*, Pp. 8-15.

Recommended:

Malkki, Liisa H. (1995) "Refugees and Exile: From "Refugee Studies to the National Order of Things." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24: 495-523.

➤ *MA Tutorial reading: Constable (2017) Ch4 The Trade in Workers*

WK7 Professional (19 October)

Farrer, James (2019) "Migrant Shanghai: Studying Expatriate Communities." In *International Migrants in China's Global City: The New Shanghailanders*, Pp. 1-20.

Xiang, Biao (2007) "Introduction." In *Global 'Body Shopping': An Indian Labor System in the Information Technology Industry*. Pp. 1-12.

Recommended:

Sassen, Saskia (2011 [1988]) "The Rise of Global Cities and the New Labor Demand." In *The Mobility of Labor and Capital: A Study in International Investment and Labor Flow*. Pp. 126-170.

➤ *MA Tutorial reading: Constable (2017) Ch5 Household Rules and Relations*

WK8 Class Meeting for Final Projects (26 October)

No required reading

➤ **Midterm due on 24 October via Blackboard**

WK9 Boat (2 November)

Koenig, Anne M. (2020) “Shipping Fools: Foucault’s Wandering Madman and Civic Responsibility in Late Medieval Germany.” *Journal of Social History* 54(1): 125-160.

Lan, Pei-chia (2006) “Cinderella with a mobile phone.” In *Global Cinderellas: Migrant Domesticity and Newly Rich Employers in Taiwan*. Pp. 160-198.

Recommended:

Music album/ Wen, Misa (2019) “Things that Cannot Be Seen Step into the Water.” Preface of the album *The Ship of Fools 意仔船*.

Multimedia/ Shiota Chiharu solo exhibition: *The Soul Trembles 顫動的靈魂* at Taipei Fine Art Museum.

News report/ 江婉琪 (2020) “外勞怎麼都在直播？-- 在直播的世界裡，還有聲音。” 聯合報系，願景工程。

➤ *MA Tutorial reading: Constable (2017) Ch6 Disciplined Migrants, Docile Workers*

WK10 Luggage (9 November)

Gamburd, Michele Ruth (2000) “Migrant Mothering: On Love and Money.” In *The Kitchen Spoon’s Handle: Transnationalism and Sri Lanka’s Migrant Housemaids*. Pp. 193-208.

Cheung, Sidney (2021) “Hybridity and Authenticity in East Asian Foodway.” In *Global East Asia into the Twenty-First Century*. Pp. 81-90.

Recommended:

Chen, Ju-chen and Min Lee, eds. (2016) *Wishing Well: Voices from Foreign Domestic Workers in Hong Kong and Beyond*. (Chinese version: *許願井的迴響：香港外籍家務傭工詩文集*。)

Calsas, Cecil (2020) *Luggage*.

➤ *MA Tutorial reading: Constable (2017) Ch7 Resistance and Protest*

WK11 Waiting (16 November)

Constable, Nicole (2015) “Temporary Shelter in the Shadows: Migrant Mothers and Torture Claims in Hong Kong.” In *Migrant Encounters*. Sara L. Friedman and Pardis Mahdavi. Pp. 92-112.

Khosravi, Shahram (2018) “Stolen Time.” *Radical Philosophy*, 203: 38-41.

Recommended:

Film/ *Heartbound*. Directed by Sine Plambech & Janus Metz, 2018.

➤ *MA Tutorial reading: Constable (2017) Ch8 Docility and Self-Discipline*

WK12 Roosting (23 November)

Pido, Eric J. (2017) “Introduction: An Ethnography of Return.” In *Migrant Returns: Manila, Development, and Transnational Connectivity*. Pp. 1-25.

Cheng, Sealing (2010) “At Home in Exile.” In *On the Move for Love: Migrant Entertainers and the U.S. Military in South Korea*. Pp. 166-191.

Recommended:

Film/ *Sunday Beauty Queen*. Directed by Baby Ruth Villarama, 2016.

➤ *MA Tutorial reading: Constable (2017) Ch9 Pleasure and Power*

WK13 (Dis)banding (30 November)

Khosravi, Shahram (2019) “What do we see if we look at the border from the other side?” *Social Anthropology/ Anthropologie Sociale* 209:3. 27(3): 409-424.

Recommended:

Video/ *EASA 2018, Keynote Lecture by Shahram Khosravi: Walling, unsettling, stealing.*

Hall, Stuart (1990) “Cultural Identity and Diaspora.” In *Identity*. Jonathan Rutherford, ed. Pp. 222-237.

Xiang, Biao and Johan Lindquist (2014) “Migrant Infrastructure.” *International Migration Review*, 48 (S1): S122-S148.

胡晴舫 (2017) “引子：我這一代人”。選自《我這一代人》。頁7-23。

➤ *MA Tutorial: Review of Maid to Order in Hong Kong*

➤ ***Final due on 10 December via Blackboard***

Grade Descriptors

- A Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
- A- Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
- B Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
- C Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
- D Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes
- F Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Policies

Late Submission: Late submission will suffer a fraction of a grade per day. For example, an A will become an A-.

Academic Honesty: You must cite adequately and avoid plagiarism. Please refer to the CU Honesty in Academic Work page for more details.

Laptop Policy: Please do not use mobile phones, laptops, or tablets in class. Browsing websites, checking social media, texting, and answering phone calls distract not only you but your classmates and me. Research has also shown that taking notes by hand is much better than on your laptop. See: <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/17/08/note-taking-low-tech-often-best>

Recording: To respect each participant and ensure a space for free and open exchange of ideas, we will not record the lectures or the tutorials. Please do not video or audio record this class without permission, too. If you have any needs for recording, please consult me first.