



Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Sonderforschungsbereich 640  
„Repräsentationen sozialer Ordnungen im  
Wandel. Interkulturelle und  
intertemporäre Vergleiche“



## **Representing Transnationalism beyond the Ethnic Lens? Anthropological Perspectives**

### **Workshop**

Monday, on April 28, 2008, 10-4 pm  
Institut für Europäische Ethnologie, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin  
Mohrenstrasse 40/41, room 311

Key discussant: Nina Glick Schiller (Center for Cosmopolitan Studies, University of Manchester, UK and Max-Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/ Saale)

The transnational approach has become a central feature of much recent discussion about migration, diaspora, transfer and globalization. For the study of human migration and its global perspective Nina Glick Schiller suggests the need for new analytical tools that allow up to examine transnational approaches by looking beyond the ethnic lens with its focus on 'ethnic groups', transnational 'ethnic communities' or 'ethnic politics'. The ethnic lens obscures the diversity of migrants' pathways of local and transnational incorporation and disregards the significance of specific and varying urban structures and restructuring processes that shape migrant incorporative relationships. In the studies of transborder identities, transnational social and cultural exchange as well as in assessing the impact of transnationalism on reconfigurations of global social and cultural landscapes we can make multiple religious, social, civic, economic and cosmopolitan networks central to our analysis rather than solely focusing on ethno-national ties. This approach provides the basis for the workshop which aims to discuss different representations of transnational modes of life in anthropological perspectives. The questions are: How do migrants develop their non-ethnic networks in the process of incorporation in a place and how do these connections and processes change through generations? To what extent are such activities and practices visible in public or private spheres? What kinds of images are transmitted or conveyed through transnational practices? To what extent does the visibility or invisibility of hybrid and transnational identities change the perspective of belonging into a more cosmopolitan one, or only emphasize a new ethnic diversity? How are transnational modes of life and emerging social fields presented by the actors themselves and by authorities beyond the ethnic gaze? To what extent are migrants and diasporic members represented as actors in movements for progressive social transformation?

## Programme

- 9: 30            Welcome
- 9: 45            Tsypylma Darieva  
Diasporic Homecomings beyond the Ethnic Lens? US American Aid  
Programmes in Armenia
- 10: 30           Riina Isotalo  
Politicizing the Transnational: On Implications for Anthropology and  
Development
- 11: 15           Sandra Gruner-Domic  
Gender and Cosmopolitan Life Styles
- 12: 00           *Lunch Break*
- 13: 00           Kristine Krause  
Transnational Religious Networks. African Migrants in Berlin and  
London
- 13: 45           Gertrud Hüwelmeier  
Mingling with Communists and other Transgressions in  
Vietnamese Pentecostal Networks
- 14: 30           Agnieszka Halemba  
Transnational Virgin Mary in Eastern Europe
- 15: 15           Final Discussion