

Seminar Group

Mobilities in the making: Figuring movement in the post-socialist world

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Location: Mond Seminar Room, New Museums Site, Free School Lane,
Cambridge CB2 3RF.

Time: Easter Term, every Tuesday at 14:30, commencing on 24
April 2018.

Seminar group summary:

The dissolution of Eurasian state socialist regimes toward the end of the 20th century led to social scientists interrogating the neoliberal transformation of national economies, religious revivals, and the formation of new subjectivities and forms of ethics that followed. This interdisciplinary seminar group approaches the study of post-socialism from a rather different angle: that of mobility. Bringing social scientific and philosophical perspectives on mobility and movement into dialogue with selected accounts focusing on Inner Asia and the wider post-socialist *oecumene*, the group offers scholars an opportunity to interrogate forms of national and transnational mobility emergent over the last two decades. We do so through analysing eight ‘figures’ of mobility: categories of people – including nomads, traders, and economic migrants – whose past, present or future movement typifies their social status in particular contexts. The advantage of such an approach is that it allows mobility to be analysed in terms of its ‘emplacement’ in relation to wider constellations of social relations. It also provides a particularly clear vantage point from which to scrutinise other forms of mobility emergent in the post-socialist period: including the circulation of goods and commodities, dissemination of ideas, and transfers of capital.

This Seminar Group, held during Easter Term 2018, will consist of the following nine sessions:

1. Introductory Session

Date: 24th April 2018

2. The Migrant

Date: 1st May 2018

Readings:

The Philosophical/Critical Theory Reading

[Simmel, G., 1908. The stranger. *Social theory: The multicultural and classic readings*, 4.](#)

The Social Science Readings

[Reeves, Madeleine. 2016. "Living From the Nerves: Deportability, Indeterminacy, and the 'Feel of Law' in Migrant Moscow." *Social Analysis* 59 \(4\): 1–18. doi:10.3167/sa.2015.590408.](#)

[Benwell, Ann Fenger. 2013. "Making Migration Meaningful: Achievements Through Separation in Mongolia." *Norsk Geografisk Tidsskrift - Norwegian Journal of Geography* 67 \(4\). Routledge: 239–48. doi:10.1080/00291951.2013.836722.](#)

3. The Expatriate

Date: 8th May 2018

Readings:

The Philosophical/Critical Theory Reading

[Benton, Adia. 2016. "African Expatriates and Race in the Anthropology of Humanitarianism." *Critical African Studies* 8 \(3\): 266–77. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21681392.2016.1244956>.](#)

The Social Science Readings

[Park, H. 2013. 'The Migration Regime among Koreans in the Russian Far East', *Inner Asia* 15\(1\): 77-99.](#)

[Lave, Jean. 2003. "Producing the Future: Getting to Be British." *Antipode* 35 \(3\). Blackwell Publishing Ltd: 492–511. doi:10.1111/1467-8330.00336.](#)

4. The Tramp

Date: 15th May 2018

Readings:

The Philosophical/Critical Theory Reading

[Marx, Karl. 2001. *The Class Struggles in France*. London: Electric Book Co.](#)

[Marx, Karl. 2015. *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon*. Arsalan Ahmed.](#)

The Social Science Readings

[Mostowska, M., 2013. Migration and homelessness: the social networks of homeless Poles in Oslo. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 39\(7\), pp.1125-1140.](#)

[Höjdestrand, T., 2011. Good Relations, Micro-Entrepreneurship, and Permissive Spaces: " Transitional" Homelessness in St. Petersburg. *Urban Geography*, 32\(7\), pp. 957-971.](#)

5. The Pilgrim and the Missionary

Date: 22nd May 2018

Readings:

The Philosophical/Critical Theory Reading

[Bauman, Z., 1996. From pilgrim to tourist—or a short history of identity. *Questions of cultural identity*, 1, pp.18-36.](#)

The Social Science Readings

[Bernstein, A. 2013. *Religious Bodies Politic. Rituals of Sovereignty in Buryat Buddhism*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 2](#)

[Charleux, I. 2015. *Nomads on Pilgrimage: Mongols on Wutaishan \(China\), 1800-1940*. Leiden: Brill. Chapter 1](#)

6. The Refugee

Date: 29th May 2018

Readings:

The Philosophical/Critical Theory Reading

[Braidotti, Rosi. 1992. "The Exile, the Nomad, and the Migrant: Reflections on International Feminism." *Women's Studies International Forum* 15 \(1\). Pergamon: 7–10. doi:10.1016/0277-5395\(92\)90027-S.](#)

The Social Science Readings

[Malkki, Liisa. 1992. "National Geographic: the Rooting of Peoples and the Territorialization of National Identity Among Scholars and Refugees." *Cultural Anthropology* 7 \(1\). Blackwell Publishing Ltd: 24–44. doi:10.1525/can.1992.7.1.02a00030.](#)

[Ong, Aihwa, Virginia R Dominguez, Jonathan Friedman, Nina Glick Schiller, Verena Stolcke, and Hu Ying. 1996. "Cultural Citizenship as Subject-Making: Immigrants Negotiate Racial and Cultural Boundaries in the United States \[and Comments and Reply\]." *Current Anthropology* 37 \(5\): 737–62. doi:10.1086/204560.](#)

7. The Tourist and the Traveller

Date: 5th June 2018

Readings:

The Philosophical/Critical Theory Reading

[1998. Hospitality, justice and responsibility: a dialogue with Jacques Derrida. In Questioning ethics: contemporary debates in philosophy \(eds\) R. Kearney & M. Dooley, 65-83. London: Routledge.](#)

The Social Science Readings

[Dening, Greg. 2007. "Sea People of the West." *Geographical Review* 97 \(2\). Blackwell Publishing Ltd: 288–301.](#)

[Salazar, Noel B, and Yang Zhang. 2013. "Seasonal Lifestyle Tourism: The Case Of Chinese Elites." *Annals of Tourism Research* 43 \(October\). Pergamon: 81–99. doi: 10.1016/j.annals.2013.04.002.](#)

8. The Trader

Date: 12th June 2018

Readings:

The Philosophical/Critical Theory Reading

[Tonnies, F., 1955. *Community and Society \(Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft\)*. London: Routledge.](#)

The Social Science Readings

[Lacaze, Gaelle. 2010. "'Run After Time': the Roads of Suitcase Traders." *Asian Ethnicity* 11 \(2\): 191–208. doi:10.1080/14631361003779430.](#)

[Malinowski, Bronislaw. 1920. "51. Kula; the Circulating Exchange of Valuables in the Archipelagoes of Eastern New Guinea.." *Man* 20 \(July\): 97–105.](#)

[Maurer, B., Nelms, T.C. and Swartz, L., 2013. "When perhaps the real problem is money itself!": the practical materiality of Bitcoin. *Social Semiotics*, 23\(2\), pp. 261-277.](#)

9. The Nomad

Date: 19th June 2018

Readings:

The Philosophical/Critical Theory Reading

[Deleuze, Gilles, and Felix Guattari. 1987. *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*. Translated by Brian Massumi. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.](#)

The Social Science Readings

[Myadar, Orhon. 2011. "Imaginary Nomads: Deconstructing the Representation of Mongolia as a Land of Nomads." *Inner Asia* 13 \(2\). BRILL: 335–62.](#)

[Pedersen, Morten Axel. 2009. "At Home Away From Homes: Navigating the Taiga in Northern Mongolia ." In *Boundless Worlds: an Anthropological Approach to Movement*, edited by Peter Wynn Kirby, 135–51. Oxford: Beghahn Books.](#)

Contact details:

For more information, please contact [Chima](#) or [Joseph](#)