



**DGS SEKTION  
MIGRATION UND  
ETHNISCHE  
MINDERHEITEN**

# Social Remittances in Social Theory and Practice

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**BERLIN / 12-13 SEPTEMBER 2014**

ORGANISED BY  
PROJECT TRANSFORMIG AT THE HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN  
&  
GERMAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION SECTION MIGRATION AND ETHNIC MINORITIES

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE  
ABSTRACTS  
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES OF PARTICIPANTS

LAST UPDATE: 21 AUGUST 2014

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## FRIDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2014

FROM 10.30	ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION, COFFEE
11:30	WELCOME
11:45 - 14:00	<b>SESSION 1: SOCIAL REMITTANCES – ADVANCING THE CONCEPT</b> <b>Paolo Boccagni (Trento):</b> Beyond all-that-is-not-money: Delving into the “social” to advance research on social remittances <b>Magdalena Nowicka (Berlin):</b> The power of talking? Mechanisms of social remitting. <b>Erlend Paasche (Oslo):</b> Return to Corruptistan? Narratives on rejected social remittances among Iraqi Kurdish returnees from Norway and the United Kingdom <b>Judith Schühle (Berlin):</b> Medical remittances of Nigerian health professionals in diaspora: Challenges of giving and receiving
14:00 - 15:00	LUNCH
15:00 - 16:30	<b>SESSION 2: SOCIAL REMITTANCES IN NARRATIVES</b> <b>Aleksandra Galasinska (Wolverhampton):</b> Private lives, public spaces: How do the post-enlargement migrants narrate their experiences ten years on? <b>Gwendolyn Sasse (Oxford):</b> Posting Social Remittances: German Migration to the US in the late 19th/early 20th Centuries <b>Maria Jose Oomen Liebers (London) &amp; Sarah Kunz (Amsterdam):</b> Gender roles in transnational Bolivian families: the dynamics of social remittances
16:30 - 17:00	COFFEE BREAK
17:00 - 18:30	<b>ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:</b> <b>Margit Fauser (Bielefeld), Deepak Lamba-Nieves (Cambridge, MA), Gilberto Rescher (Bochum)</b>
19:30	CONFERENCE DINNER

## SATURDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2014

9:30 - 11:00	<b>SESSION 3: CIRCULATING SOCIAL REMITTANCES IN TRANSNATIONAL SPACES</b> <b>Anne White (London):</b> Social remittances: an inside-out approach to the impact of migration on sending countries <b>Mercedes Equiguren (Louven):</b> Mobility, circulation and modernity in southern Ecuador (1960s-1990s) <b>Sarah Garding (Oxford):</b> Social remittances in times of crisis: Croatian migrant mobilization patterns in the 20th century
11:00 - 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 - 12:30	<b>KEYNOTE SPEECH: PEGGY LEVITT</b>
12:30 - 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 - 15:00	<b>SESSION 4: SOCIAL INDICATORS OF NON-MONETARY REMITTANCES</b> <b>Dumitru Sandu (Bucharest):</b> Identities as social remittances in the making of social transnationalism <b>Ingrid J. Ramsøy (Malmö):</b> Exchanging Affective and Social Capital through Local and Transnational Relations: Bolivian Feminized Migration to Spain and the Production of (Im)mobility <b>Lukasz Krzyzowski (Berlin):</b> Social networks and social remittances
15:00	FARAWELL AND DEPARTURE

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## ABSTRACTS:

(in order of presentations)

**Paolo Boccagni (Trento)**

### *Beyond all-that-is-not-money: Delving into the “social” to advance research on social remittances*

My presentation aims to advance the theoretical and research agenda of social remittances [SR], as connected with the literature on circulation, cultural diffusion and transnational relationships. Social remittances broadly stand for the non-monetary dimension of the resources transferred between migrants and left-behinds – ideas, values, life styles, social connections etc. In a more ambitious and inclusive optic, however, the label social applies to much of the transactions between migrants’ host and home societies, as long as they are embedded in significant relationships being reproduced over a distance.

Once revisited along these lines, the conceptual and empirical field of remittances may appear still more (and unnecessarily) extensive. However, this reframe enables a promising shift in the understanding of remittances themselves: from a prevalent focus on their contents (whether money, information, emotions etc.), to a more fine-grained appreciation of the relational infrastructures which contribute to determine their development, distribution and impact. While the structure of opportunities enabled by host and home societies is clearly pivotal to the working of remittances, their socio-relational foundations are analytically independent and need to be studied as such. In fact, the relational arrangements underpinning remittances crucially affect a number of issues: the kind of resources being transferred, their channels and tools of circulation, their expected purposes and functions, their potential to scale up/out and their societal consequences. Delving into the relational embeddedness of remittances, including the social ones, is necessary to address what is arguably the greatest research challenge ahead: sorting out the distinctive influences of migration, against a much broader and varied background of sources of cultural diffusion.

My presentation elaborates on this re-frame of SR – whereby transnational social relationships are a precondition for any social contents – and on its conceptual and methodological implications for two issues: i. the tension between individual and collective-based obligations and pressures, which shapes the development and circulation of social remittances; ii. the ways in which physical and social distance between senders and recipients affects the reception and impact of social remittances across home communities. I primarily build on empirical research about transnational care, support and protection between migrants’ home and host societies, with Europe as a main (receiving) background.

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**Magdalena Nowicka (Berlin)**

### *The power of talking? Mechanisms of social remitting.*

Communication is one of the primary means by which people affect one another, and yet we know relatively little about the exact mechanisms of communication. Social remittances of migrants include, next to practices of display and transfer of material objects, oral

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communication between migrants and their non-migrant peers “back home”. Literature on social remittances in migration displays more interest in content of communication, and less on its process. Content is yet socially and interpersonally situated, and if we want to know whether and how migration matters – in terms of triggering some kind of change – we need to understand how the mechanisms of communication impact on ideas, values and imaginaries migrants pass on to their non-migrant peers, and if (and how) their transfers are being received. Drawing on the analysis of migrants’ narratives generated in interviews collected by the TRANSFORMIG team, I attempt to sketch some patterns of symbolic behaviors (talk) when migrants recall on their own perceptions of situations, people, behaviors they encounter abroad and consider new, surprising, unfamiliar and on what they pass on about such situations to their family and friends “back home”. In my interpretations I draw on different models of interpersonal communication. In conclusion I consider how this kind of analytical approach can help us to conceptualize social remittances in migration.

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**Erlend Paasche (Peace Research Institute Oslo)**

### ***Return to Corruptistan? Narratives on rejected social remittances among Iraqi Kurdish returnees from Norway and the United Kingdom***

The term “social remittances” has been useful to wrestle attention away from the economics of migration, but may paradoxically also be viewed as economic imperialism as it unfortunately suggests that knowledge, norms and values can be “remitted” in the same vein as money can, conceptually masking the empirical reality of resistance. Much as migration researchers rarely study non-migrants, researchers of migration system formation rarely study imploding systems, and researchers of migrant transnationalism rarely study the non-transnational, so do scholars of social remittances likewise tend to sample on the dependent variable and focus on instances of transmission rather than instances of rejection. Concentrating here on instances when migrants actively desire to make a social transfer, I suggest that the distinction between aspiration and ability usefully draws attention to the opportunity structure of migrants who see themselves as potential but not necessarily actual agents of change. In this paper, based on 75 in-depth interviews and three focus group discussions, I study the narratives of Iraqi Kurdish returnees from Norway and the UK and their encounters with neopatrimonial practices upon return, analyzing (a) “returnees” stated post-return aspirations to transfer social remittances, and (b) their reported (in)ability to do so, and the factors they attribute it to.

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**Judith Schühle (Berlin)**

### ***Medical remittances of Nigerian health professionals in diaspora: Challenges of giving and receiving***

The migration of health professionals from Sub-Saharan Africa so far has only been looked at from the standpoint of brain drain. My anthropological research on the migration of Nigerian health professionals to the US shows that the health professionals themselves are creative in remitting medical and professional knowledge, skills, innovations and materials back to their home country. These remittances take place on different levels. On an

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individual level, many share medical knowledge and access to different healthcare systems with relatives and friends back in Nigeria via phone, e-mail or in person. Others engage in medical missions, thus trying to remit medical care to the needy in Nigeria. Many see emerging technologies such as telemedicine as new ways of skill transfer and brain gain. The setting up of state of the art facilities in Nigeria transfers latest biomedical skills in an effort to get a share of a growing medical economy. On a political level, many engage in advisory work for local governments to improve the healthcare system in Nigeria.

In the first part of my presentation, I would like to focus on the different ways in which medical professionals from Nigeria give back individually and collectively. Drawing from interviews conducted in 2013 and 2014 with over 70 Nigerian doctors and nurses in the US as well as from participant observation at conferences of the Nigerian physicians in diaspora and during a medical and educational mission to Nigeria, I would then like to highlight the difficulties perceived by the health professionals in their efforts of remitting medical knowledge and skills. What happens when seminars about patient satisfaction “a topic critical to the US healthcare system” are being held for nursing students in Nigeria, a country where nurses are underpaid and overworked? Which challenges does the collaboration between local doctors and Nigerian doctors from abroad bring about during medical missions? How do doctors critically evaluate their efforts of giving back? How has the focus of medical remittances on an individual, collective and political level changed over the last 10 years? These will be among the questions I would like to address.

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**Aleksandra Galasinska (Wolverhampton)**

***Private lives, public spaces: How do the post-enlargement migrants narrate their experiences ten years on?***

My paper will investigate the concept of social remittances as evolved from entries in an internet forum on post-enlargement migration. Anchoring the study in narrative and discourse analyses, I shall point out the role of personal narratives in argumentative discussions on ‘normality’, debated by both migrants and also those who stayed ‘at home’ (Galasinska, 2010). By doing so, I shall try to demonstrate how the dialogue on ‘normality’ is translated into a dialogue on norms and values, and how an electronic newspaper forum became an example of transnational space where circulation of voices regarding norms and values takes place. The data comes from a nethnographic study examining a number of entries on an internet forum, triggered by newspaper reports and articles related to (re)-migration in the on-line issues of the ‘Gazeta Wyborcza’, which I have been gathering since 2004.

My point of departure is the less researched form of narratives told outside research interviews (Georgakopoulou’s 2006). First, I shall present how migrants narrate their experiences of both living abroad as well as their visits in the home country or indeed re-migration occurrences. I shall focus on collective complaints about their home country, coupled with praising of (former) host countries. Secondly, I shall demonstrate how those who didn’t migrate support or contest migrants’ opinions. Finally, I shall conclude by connecting the discourses of migration with those of the post-communist transformation in Poland.

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**Gwendolyn Sasse (Oxford)**

### *Posting Social Remittances: German Migration to the US in the late 19th/early 20th Centuries*

Based on a large collection of letters written by German migrants in the US and their family members in the homeland from the Forschungsbibliothek Gotha, this paper offers a first large-scale systematic insight into the perceptions, social contexts and networks of “ordinary” German migrants and the links they maintained with their families and homeland. Reflections on their new environment, comparisons with the one they left behind, references to political and economic events in the US and Germany are mixed in with personal details in these letters. Our corpus currently consists of over 1,000 letters. Text analysis and discourse network analysis allow us to map the use of particular words, phrases and ideas, their frequency, spatial links and temporal patterns. The objective of this research is twofold: to better understand both the ideas and norms transmitted by the letter writers and the conditions that facilitate their transfer. We demonstrate how the migrants define their own identities, shape the social and political image of the US and the homeland for the recipients of the letters and create incentives for family members and friends to follow them to the US. This paper forms part of the three-year project funded by the Leverhulme Trust on “Political Remittances: Understanding the Political Impact of Migrants” coordinated by Dr Gwendolyn Sasse at the University of Oxford. This project includes data collection and case studies on contemporary migration in Europe as well as a historical analysis of European migration to the US.

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**Maria Jose Oomen Liebers (London) & Sarah Kunz (Amsterdam)**

### *Gender roles in transnational Bolivian families: the dynamics of social remittances*

This research explores the exchange of social remittances in Bolivian transnational family networks spanning Bolivia and Spain. It conceptualizes the Bolivian transnational community as an imagined community for all Bolivians irrespective of their physical location, focusing on the role of women as key actors in social change and human development. Bolivian women demonstrate greater mobility than Bolivian men, and in recent years Bolivian migration has become one of the most feminized of all international migration flows with fundamental impacts on social and family life. Fieldwork was carried out between 2010 and 2013 amongst transnational Bolivian families, involving migrants residing in Spain, returnees and non-migrant family members in Bolivia.

When discussing the migration-development nexus we tend to focus on migration’s more visible effects such as monetary remittances and diaspora engagement, thereby we often disregard less tangible aspects such as social remittances and the reverse relationship between [economic] development and human mobility. While an increasing number of studies have shed light on the relevance social remittances have for family life and community development, there is still need for more research on how social remittances are negotiated, transferred and what factors determine their potential impact. In addition, the concept of social remittances has acquired a unidirectional connotation as transfers from migrants towards non-migrants, partly due to its modeling on economic remittances. Focusing both on the perspective and agency of migrants and non-migrants as transnational actors, this study sheds light on the multidirectional nature of social

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remittances. It urges to step away from dominant notions which tend to conceptualise social remittances as a “civilizing process” on behalf of migrants towards their relatives and friends in the place of origin. The main findings suggest that social remittances are dialogic, originate in and are intensely negotiated among migrants and non-migrants. It becomes evident that migration and social remittances lead to often ambivalent, unintended and even contradictory outcomes in the realms of dominant gender discourses and family practices. Thus, this research contests assumed unidirectionality and conceptualizations which view social remittances as a solely progressive tool for development.

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**Anne White (London)**

### *Social remittances: an inside-out approach to the impact of migration on sending countries*

Broadly speaking, existing scholarship on the impact of migration on sending countries studies (a) the gaps left by migrants in the sending country (e.g. depopulation, brain drain, care drain) and (b) ties established by migrants between receiving and sending countries (e.g. economic and social remittances). However, there is also an argument for focusing attention on a third area: changing attitudes among the general population in the sending country.

I suggest that although researchers should of course continue focusing on migrants’ behaviour and how it shapes their countries of origin, we also need research which takes a reverse approach. Such research would first establish the most important social trends in the sending country, then try to chart the contribution of migrants and migration to these trends, recognising that trends usually have multiple causes. “Charting” would imply multi-sited qualitative research to uncover how - if at all - people living in the sending country feel their lives are changing, and how migrants/migration might be influencing that change. It would also look at what might prevent migration from having impact, or only impact in the sense of intensifying pre-existing trends.

The paper presents some evidence of how social remittances contribute to attitudes and behaviour in three small Polish towns, Limanowa, Grajewo and Sanok. Based on my 2008-13 interviews with 131 local residents, it touches on: how contact with migrants perpetuates and perhaps extends the use of informal practices; material aspirations (particularly with regard to housing); changes in migration culture; and some complex and mixed evidence regarding gender roles. Finally, I outline the contours of a new project which will directly investigate migration’s contribution to social change across more diverse locations in Poland, and discuss the methodological challenges of identifying changes in non-migrants’ attitudes and behaviour which could be attributable to social remittances.

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**Mercedes Equiguren (Louvain)**

### *Mobility, circulation and modernity in southern Ecuador (1960s-1990s)*

During the second half of the XXth century, patterns of internal and international migration emerged and strengthened in southern Ecuador, involving increasingly large segments of the population. At the same time, crucial transformations took place in the country, brought

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by changes in political and economic regimes (e.g. the transition from an agro-export based economy to an oil-exporting one, or the constitution of a developmentalist State regime). My research focuses on how development projects have intervened in the emergence of migration circuits in the southern provinces of Cañar and Loja. Migration circuits are defined as a complex dynamic of connections and circulation encompassing people, objects, and symbols, and linking spaces, with enduring effects for social groups and territories involved (Rivera-Sanchez, 2012). This definition intends to go beyond a conceptualization of migration as unidirectional movements across places, and not exclusively focusing on migrants, but on the socio-spatial process that unfolds on the long-term, thus displacing the focus from migration to mobility. In this paper, my main goal is to examine the ways in which social remittances including material and symbolic goods- and their different forms of circulation, are crucial for understanding the link between development regimes and mobility in marginal/peripheral regions. My work evidences that large population movements that have taken place in this region are linked to a more ample social context in which mobility is central, as evidenced in the transit of goods and commodities, means of transport, and people from different social backgrounds such as merchants, workers, small and medium landowners, students; and linked to them, narratives, ideas, ideologies and symbols related to spatial hierarchies. I argue that these intense forms of movement arise in response to development projects and social, economic and political structures that construct hierarchical orders of spaces, society and the nation. I aim to show how the circulation of social remittances within those provinces is related to conflicting projects of modernity. I also aim to delve into the specific ways in which migration becomes a possible and desirable alternative for people in those localities, regardless of social background or socio-economic position. In other words, my goal is to understand how mobility has become a part of local subjectivities and how development regimes shape vital experiences of subjects.

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**Sarah Garding (Oxford)**

### ***Social remittances in times of crisis: Croatian migrant mobilization patterns in the 20th century***

In recent years, scholars have become increasingly attuned to migrants' social remittances. Research on migrants' political transnationalism highlights the substance of social remittances and their impact on the home country, but there is far less focus on the boomerang-like way in which events in the country of origin shape the very content and character of the ideas, attitudes, and practices that are then remitted back to the sending community. Indeed, there are often episodic spikes in migrants' political transnationalism in response to contentious and calamitous events in the homeland. War, political repression, elections, and natural disasters may prompt migrants to form new associations, organize protests, mobilize resources, circulate petitions, and share their views.

This paper argues that the nature of the events themselves as well as previous patterns of response shape migrants' transnational political practices. It does so through a cross-temporal analysis of the social and political remittances of Croatian migrants to their home community in response to several critical "triggering" events related to Yugoslavia: World War I, the political crisis in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in the late 1920s, and the escalating Yugoslav crisis in the late 1980s. The first event created an opening for a

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Yugoslav state, the second led to dramatic closure in the political regime, and the third ended with Croatia's independence. All three events elicited a strong, organized response from migrant activists and migrant associations, but with important differences in the international environment, the constellation of actors, the character of migrants' response, and the level of ideological cohesion among migrants themselves. The paper highlights the linkages between migrants and homeland political elites and parties, as well as the immigrant press as mechanisms of transfer. The data come from migrant organizations' and activists' archival records, immigrant press, and interviews with former activists.

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**Dumitru Sandu (Bucharest)**

### *Identities as social remittances in the making of social transnationalism*

The paper is framing social remittances (Peggy Levitt, 2001) in the context of social transnationalism (Steffen Mau, 2010) and social worlds (Glazer and Strauss 1967). Transnational and European identities as particular forms of social remittances are put in relations with migration experiences and other forms of cross-cultural interactions. How different forms of space identities circulate at the level of countries and regions of European Union? This is the basic questions of the analysis.

The paper integrates specific forms of cross-cultural interactions in a typology of social transnationalism (by direct or indirect migration experience, external consumption through regular mobility abroad, external consumption without trips abroad, migration projects and a cumulative form of all these types). Space identity is taken as dependent variable to see how it is influenced by different forms of social transnationalism keeping under control status variables, country development and development profiles of NUTS 2 regions. Eurobarometer and other survey data are used to contextualize the above mentioned relations. Paper explores how space identity, in their nominal and ratios measurements, is under the influence of migration abroad experiences in different multilevel models. All these variations in measurement models and indicators are meant to test the idea of relativity to context of the relation between migration experience as a form of social transnationalism and space identities as remittances. The relevance of the concept of transnational social worlds versus transnational migration fields or life-worlds is also discussed.

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**Ingrid J. Ramsøy (Malmö)**

### *Exchanging Affective and Social Capital through Local and Transnational Relations: Bolivian Feminized Migration to Spain and the Production of (Im)mobility*

This paper will be based on my ongoing PhD project and on data collected during my pilot fieldwork in Bilbao, Spain in October 2013. The theme of my project is Bolivian feminized migration to Spain (and back again) in times of economic crisis. It seeks to understand which agents are involved in this migration scheme, the power relations at play between them, and the possible changes occurring in these relations. The agents involved in the Bolivian migration project (e.g. the migrants themselves; their partner and kin present in Spain; their partner and kin "left behind" and often recipients of remittances; and

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“autochthonous” agents in Spain, such as the migrants’ employers) all hold socially constructed subjectivities resulting from the global connections (Tsing 2005) centuries of colonialism, imperialism, globalization, and development schemes have produced.

More specifically, the paper at hand will focus on two essential typologies of social relationships involved in the Bolivian migration project, typologies that, for the sake of argument, are divided according to the type of capital that is crucial for their construction and maintenance. The first type is comprised of relationships where affective capital is the most prominent, while the second encompasses those relationships where social capital seems to be more critical for its formation and survival. Of course it is often difficult, if not impossible, to tell these two types of capitals apart, which is why I in my paper will focus on examples from my ethnographic data where these capitals are visible in order to address these blurred conceptual boundaries. As will be made clear in the paper, my data indicates that affective capital is an integral part of the transnational relationship between the emigrant mother and her “left behind” child(ren), while the exchange of social capital is more present in another important relationship within the Bolivian migration project, namely the one between (autochthonous) employer and (migrant) employee. The blurred boundaries between these type of capital, and between “formal” and “informal” relationships will be problematized in order to shed light on the migrational (im)mobility that affective and social capital might contribute to.

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**Lukasz Krzyzowski (Berlin)**

### *Social networks and social remittances*

This papers considers how social networks influence social remittances. I use the social network approach to investigate the contents of migrants’ communication with members of their transnational network. A social network is defined in the paper as “a specific set of linkages among a defined set of persons, with the additional property that the characteristics of these linkages as a whole may be used to interpret the social behaviour of the persons involved” (Mitchell 1969: 2). For people who have migrated from more homogeneous settings (such as Poland), it might be surprising that social practices (such as child care or eldercare) are different than in the country of origin. The ‘surprise effect’ may have an influence on migrants’ practices, ideas, and norms identities (Levitt 1998, 2001, 2013), all of which might be transferred transnationally via social networks. Based on qualitative and quantitative empirical data gathered in Germany, the UK and Poland I focus on the contents of network communication. Thematic analysis of the data shows that Polish migrants in these countries maintain relationships primarily with significant others in Poland and their co-ethnics in the receiving countries. In this paper I ask how structural characteristics of transnational networks influence contents of social remittances.

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### Participants:

**Paolo Boccagni (Trento)** is a lecturer in sociology at the University of Trento. He does research in the following areas: international migration; globalization and transnational studies; social policy and care; third sector and civic participation; migration and transnational social protection; social theory; social welfare; ethnographic and qualitative research. He teaches courses on Sociology for social workers (BA in Social Work) and on Migration and social work (MA in Methods, organization and evaluation of social services) at the University of Trento. He has published articles in many of the main Italian academic journals in sociology and in several peer-reviewed international journals. His publications include the monographs *Tracce transnazionali: proiezioni verso casa e vite in Italia tra i migranti ecuadoriani* (Transnational traces. Homebound projects and Italy-based life trajectories among Ecuadorian migrants - 2009); *L'integrazione nello studio delle migrazioni* (Integration in Migration Studies - 2012) (with G. Pollini); *Cercando il benessere nelle migrazioni* (Searching for wellbeing in migration - 2012) (with M. Ambrosini). He is a member of the International (ISA), European (ESA), Italian (AIS) sociological association(s). He also belongs to the editorial boards of "Mondi Migranti" and "Migration Letters" - both in migration studies. Over the last few years he has presented peer-reviewed papers in a variety of international conferences in Europe (many of them in the under the aegis of the IMISCOE research network). Likewise, he has convened international workshops and conferences on such topics as migrants' political transnationalism, immigrant domestic work and social policy, the migration-development nexus and third sector-related prospects for civic participation.

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**Magdalena Nowicka (Berlin)** is Professor of Migration and Transnationalism at the Humboldt University in Berlin and Leader of the ERC founded project TRANSFORMIG. She holds a summa cum laude doctoral degree in Sociology from the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich (2005), a Master of Arts degree in Cultural Studies from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland (2001) and a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from the University of Warsaw, Poland (1999). She worked previously at the Institute of Sociology at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen. She was a scholarship holder of the German Sociological Association (DFG), the Bavarian Ministry of Sciences, Research and the Arts, the University of Vienna and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Nowicka's interests include transnational migration to Germany and the UK, mobility of professionals and educational migrants, entrepreneurship of migrants, sociology of space, sociology of modernization and globalization, issues of ethnicity and identity, European Union and qualitative methodology in social sciences. She is elected member of the Junge Akademie 2009-2014 (member of the board 2013-2014), and German Sociological Association Section Migration and Ethnic Minorities (elected member of the board since 2013).

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**Erlend Paasche (Peace Research Institute Oslo)** has continuously worked on Iraqi migration since 2008. Currently completing his PhD in the sociology of return migration from Europe to Iraqi Kurdistan, he has conducted a total of more than 100 qualitative interviews with emigrants in Norway and the United Kingdom, and returnees in Iraqi Kurdistan. He has published on asylum and return policies, labour market experiences of immigrants, migrant transnationalism, and war and migration. While his PhD is in Sociology, his BA and MA is in Middle East Studies, and he has lived and studied Arabic in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. Finally, he has taken part in two governmentally commissioned evaluation projects on refugee return for the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, one to Iraq and the other a cross-country comparative evaluation.

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**Judith Schühle (Berlin)** received her M.A. in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Freie Universität Berlin in 2010. For her Magister thesis "Medicine Murder in Tanzania. An Inquiry into the Beliefs of the Wealth-Bringing Potency of the Bones of People with Albinism" she received the Rudolf-Virchow-Award of the Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Ethnologie und Urgeschichte. Between 2011 and 2013 she worked as research assistant for the National Museums in Berlin. Since April 2013, she is a PhD Candidate and research fellow at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Freie Universität Berlin, working on the DFG-funded project "African Medical Migration: Nigerian Doctors in the US between Conflicting Priorities of Moral, Economic and Professional Commitment". For this research, she has conducted fieldwork in the US and Nigeria in 2013 and 2014.

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**Aleksandra Galasinska (Wolverhampton)** graduated from the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland (MA in Polish Philology and MA in Social Anthropology); afterwards, she was involved in a major government-funded linguistic project into Polish place names. In her doctoral dissertation she approached names as cultural texts mapping out cultural realities of their users. While working on a large study of discursive construction of identities in European border communities funded by the European Commission (FP5) she became interested in the analysis of naturally occurring discourses. Her current research interests, publications as well as editorial work focus upon issues of the relationship between language/discourse/ and society and social identities, and in particular: sources of national identity and the discursive resources for its articulation; the relationship between the narrated biography and the narrated experience of post communism and of the social, political and economic system transition and particularly the changing discourses of the nation and gender; the extent to which communism as well as the economic, political and social transformations in the Central and Eastern Europe have contributed to 'post-communist' identity; changing meta-narratives of Polish migration to the UK; the relationship between cultural consumption, leisure activities and linguistic abilities of post-enlargement Polish migrants in the UK.

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**Gwendolyn Sasse (Oxford)** is a Professorial Fellow at Nuffield College and University Reader in Comparative Politics in the Department of Politics and International Relations and the School for Interdisciplinary Area Studies, University of Oxford. Prior to her 2007 arrival in Oxford she was Lecturer (since 1999) and Senior Lecturer (from 2005) at the London School of Economics. Among her research interests are post-communist transitions, comparative democratisation, ethnic conflict, minority issues, and migration. Her recent publications include: *The Crimea Question: Identity, Transition, and Conflict*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007, paperback 2014; *Europeanization and Regionalization in the EU's Enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe. The Myth of Conditionality*, London: Palgrave, 2004 (co-authored with J. Hughes and C. Gordon). She currently holds a three-year project funded by the Leverhulme Trust on the political remittances sent by European migrants across different time periods. Dr Sasse's co-author on this paper is her PhD student Felix Krawatzek. His research is on the role of youth mobilisation and the discourse about youth in political crises in Germany, France and Russia. He works as a research assistant on the Leverhulme Trust project.

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### **Maria Jose Oomen Liebers (London) & Sarah Kunz (Amsterdam)**

**Maria Jose** is a researcher for the UNDP Human Development Report in Bolivia mainly working on topics of job quality and gender. She received her MSc in Public Policy and Human Development from Maastricht University/United Nations University in 2012. Previously she worked as junior researcher at IOM focusing on south-south return migration.

**Sarah Kunz** is a Researcher at the National Centre for Social Research in London, working amongst others on topics of refugee integration and multiculturalism. She received her MSc in Sociology from the LSE in 2012 and will commence an ESRC funded PhD at UCL in October 2014. Her doctoral research will focus on Expat migration in Cairo and London. Sarah and Maria Jose received the 2012 Prince Bernhard Research Grant from the University of Amsterdam in order to carry out their research project focused on the exchange of social remittances among the Bolivian transnational community.

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**Margit Fauser (Bielefeld)** holds a summa cum laude doctoral degree in Sociology from Bielefeld University (2009). Before she studied Political Science, Sociology and Spanish Philology at the universities of Heidelberg, UA Barcelona and Hamburg. Since 2005 she is a researcher and lecturer at the Department of Sociology at Bielefeld University. She is currently a member and coordinator of the C1 project within the Collaborative Research Centre 882. She has worked on migrant organizations in new Southern European immigrant cities and compared these to established places of immigration. Her publications include scholarly books, articles and book chapters on migration, transnationalization, the evolution of migrant organizations, as well as local development, and urban issues. Her current projects deal with social inequalities in transnational perspective, global mobility, sociology of citizenship and the transformations of locality.

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**Deepak Lamba-Nieves (Cambridge, MA)** is doctoral student at MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) affiliated to the department's International Development

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Group (IDG). His current research interests focus on: the migration-development nexus, transnational migrant organizations, hometown associations (HTAs) and state-society dynamics. Throughout his doctoral studies, he has been conducting fieldwork in Boston, New York City and in the southern region of the Dominican Republic, examining the links between migration, development practices and transnational transformations.

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**Gilberto Rescher (Bochum)** holds a doctoral degree in Sociology from the International Graduate School in Sociology (IGSS), University of Bielefeld. Currently he works as a lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB). His research interests include (local) political processes, development, transnationality, gender and ethnicity.

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**Anne White (London)** is professor at the UCL School of Slavonic & East European Studies. She is the author of *Polish Families and Migration since EU Accession* (Bristol: The Policy Press 2011). Her articles on Polish migration include "Polish Return and Double Return Migration", *Europe-Asia Studies*, 66, 1 (2014); "Double Return Migration: Failed Returns to Poland Leading to Settlement Abroad and New Transnational Strategies", *International Migration* (2013 early view); "The Mobility of Polish families in the West of England: Translocalism and Attitudes to Return", *Studia Migracyjne Przegląd Polonijny*, 1 (2011); and (with Louise Ryan) "Polish 'Temporary' Migration: the Formation and Significance of Social Networks", *Europe-Asia Studies*, 60, 7 (2008). As of September 2014 she is Professor of Polish Studies and Social and Political Science at University College London School of Slavonic and East European Studies.

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**Mercedes Equiguren (Louvain)** started the PhD program in Political and Social Sciences at UCL in 2011. Her main research interests include emigration, regional and local history, State policies and governmentality, and broader interactions between these subjects leading to questions on the relationships between territory, population and government within changing regimes of power. For the last 4 years, she has been affiliated to the Center of Development Studies at UCL as a PhD student and has collaborated with the Sociology Program at FLACSO Ecuador as a researcher and instructor of courses in migration, development and the State. Currently she is completing the last part of my fieldwork and beginning the dissertation writing phase.

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**Sarah Garding (Oxford)** is a postdoctoral researcher in migration politics at Oxford's School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies and a research fellow at Nuffield College. Her research focuses on migrant political incorporation and political transnationalism, and she has conducted field research in Armenia, Croatia, and Serbia. She received her PhD in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley in 2013.

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**Peggy Levitt (Wellesley)** is a Professor of Sociology at Wellesley College and a Research Fellow at The Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and The Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Harvard University, where she co-directs The Transnational

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Studies Initiative. She was the Willie Brandt Guest Professor at the University of Malmö in Spring 2009, a visiting lecturer at the University of Limerick in Fall 2008, and a visiting professor at the University of Bologna during the summer of 2008. She is currently the Visiting International Fellow in the Dept. of Cultural Anthropology at the Vrije University in Amsterdam. Her books include *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape* (New Press 2007), *The Transnational Studies Reader* (Routledge 2007), *The Changing Face of Home: The Transnational Lives of the Second Generation* (Russell Sage 2002), and *The Transnational Villagers* (UC Press, 2001). She has also edited special volumes of *International Migration Review*, *Global Networks*, *Mobilities*, and the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. A film based on her work, *Art Across Borders*, came out in 2009.

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**Dumitru Sandu (Bucharest)** is professor of sociology at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work. His main areas of current research and teaching are in transnational migration, spatial development at community and regional level and state of mind sociology (life satisfaction, optimism, trust). His most recent publications are on social worlds of Romanian migrants abroad (2010), home orientation of immigrants (2010), comparison of Romanian and Morocco immigrants in Spain from the point of labour market segmentation (2012) and the role of migration experience in modernising Romanian society (2010). His work in public opinion area goes from designing large national surveys – as coordinator of Public Opinion Barometer of the Soros Foundation (1995–2007), survey on migration experience abroad (2006), survey of Romanian immigrants in Spain (2008) – to analysing Eurobarometer data as national rapporteur for Romania (2004–2008) or comparing subjective Romania to other countries of EU from the point of Eurobarometer data 2006–2011. Professor Sandu initiated and coordinated a community census of migration: the emergent temporary emigration abroad was mapped for all the about 12500 villages of the country by using key informants from local communities (2001, results published in *Current Sociology* 2005).

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**Ingrid J. Ramsøy (Malmö)** holds a BA in social anthropology and an M.Phil. in Anthropology of Development, both from the University of Bergen, Norway. Her M.Phil. project focused on migration from Senegal to Spain, and explored how the “Senegalese migration project” is constructed in the meeting between sociocultural practices and global structures. In March 2013 Ramsøy started as a Willy Brandt PhD candidate at MIM (Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare), and the working title of her PhD project is “Mobile ‘Development’? The Empowerment of Bolivian Women through Transnational Migration”. She will focus on the experiences of migrant women and asks how the migration project, as a strategy for accumulation of economic capital, might also supply them with other forms of capital (social, cultural, symbolic) and in effect alter gendered power relations on family and/or community level. Ramsøy will also consider the catalytic impact the current economic crisis might have in producing these alterations.

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**Lukasz Krzyzowski (Berlin)** holds a doctoral degree in Sociology from the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw (2012) and an MA in Sociology from the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow (2007). He is a member of the Research Training Group of the

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“From Heterogeneities to Social Inequalities” Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) at Bielefeld University. Krzyżowski was team leader of the “Transnational Caregiving and Intergenerational Relations in Migrant Cultures” project financed by the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the Ministry of Science as well as Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Poland. Since 2013 he has held the position of Assistant Professor at AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow. He is a member of the editorial team of the “Contributions to Humanities” journal. Krzyżowski's expertise is in qualitative methods of research, in particular multi-sited ethnography and mixed methods research and he lectures qualitative and quantitative methods of research at AGH. Krzyżowski's interests are in transmigration and old age and elderly care and care provision and intergenerational solidarity under Polish systemic culture-bound conditions. He is the author of ‘Polscy migranci zarobkowi i ich starzy rodzice. Transnarodowy system opieki międzygeneracyjnej’ [Polish Labour Migrants and Their Elderly Parents. A Transnational System of Intergenerational Care] as well as articles and book chapters on transmigration and aging. He is a member of the Polish Sociological Association (since 2007), European Sociological Association (since 2009) and International Sociological Association (since 2010).

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