



by Bossanostra

# MOVE International Seminar

## Mobile Constitutions of Society

Neuchâtel 6-8 June 2010

**MOVE**  
MOBILITY RESEARCH



University of Zurich



## Mobile constitutions of society

MOVE international seminar, 6-8 June 2010, University of Neuchâtel

### Background and objectives

This international seminar is organised by the Swiss Network for Mobility Studies (MOVE) and EUROQUAL. MOVE comprises of scholars from the Universities of Neuchâtel, Bern, Lausanne, Zürich and EPFL. This 3-days conference brings together an interdisciplinary panel of leading and junior scholars in the social sciences with a strong scientific interest in the diverse interlocking forms of mobilities associated with the global era, and their implications for the study of contemporary society. If the 'new mobilities paradigm' for the social sciences brings together and makes comprehensible social phenomena which were previously considered disparate or opaque, we must ask, how new are these mobilities or what is new about them? How is place and space reconstituted in the process? What do these mobilities imply for new gradients of power and geographies of social inequalities? How does the mobilities paradigm interact with ideas of circulation, exchange and entanglement that characterise current discussions of transnationalisation processes and multiple modernities in many social science disciplines?

Organised as part of the EUROQUAL programme, the workshop on June 6<sup>th</sup> on "Qualitative Research Methods for Mobilities Studies" will complement the sessions scheduled on June 7-8. The June 6<sup>th</sup> workshop focuses on methodological innovations in the emerging field of mobility studies. How do we study mobility as a social form and its centrality in shaping different arenas of social life in different societies? How can we account for immobile forces that enable or constrain different mobilities? How can we research the particularities of the co-constitution of mobility and society? International scholars, postdoctoral researchers, and doctoral students will reflect together on the emergence of a new approach to mobility studies in the social sciences within the framework of these questions.

The overall aims of the 3-days seminar are:

- ✿ to build bridges between the ways in which scholars from different social science disciplines are conceptualising, analysing and operationalising the various types of mobilities that populate their research themes
- ✿ to contribute to crafting an interdisciplinary analytical framework for the study of mobilities based on sound ontological, epistemological and methodological premises.

This endeavour is motivated by a conviction that the currently burgeoning literature on contemporary mobilities, while offering promising perspectives, does not yet provide a fully satisfying conceptualisation of mobilities and of their mutually-constitutive relationships with and within society. Through this seminar's proceedings and ensuing publications, we expect to make a substantial contribution by fostering debates and further research on these issues. Within this perspective, the seminar will conclude with a session dedicated to planning an edited volume and making suggestions for follow-up research activities.

The mobilities addressed in the seminar's scientific working sessions fall within MOVE's core research areas:

- 1) **Migration practices and regulatory responses:** Papers will explore the processes by which the transnational practices of migrants, their ties and forms of belonging (e.g. transnational mobilisation, flexible citizenship) challenge the regulatory mechanisms of their states of origin and settlement policies.
- 2) **Mobilities of norms and forms of medicine, medical technology, and health care practices:** Papers will consider transnational exchanges in the medical care of bodies across geographic and cultural borders. Panellists will explore how global movements of biomedicine/molecular science, population health policies, reproductive technologies, and body parts are reshaping public vs. private medical care and state/civil society relations.
- 3) **Mobile built forms:** Panellists will discuss the ways in which urban globalisation is related to, and shaped by, mobile ideas and practices of spatial and physical design and planning. Papers will analyse the production, global circulation and local reception of blueprints for the design of built forms claiming universal applicability.
- 4) **Mobile institutions of higher education:** This panel will examine the fast-rising transnationalisation of academic institutions and educational models and its effects on both home and host society subjects and policies. The aim is to shed light on the reconfiguration and reconstitution of systems of higher education under contemporary globalisation.
- 5) **Daily mobility in built environments:** Papers will consider the transforming effects of rapid globalisation on the relationship between built environments and people's daily mobility. Of particular interest is people's ability to craft creative mobility strategies in order to negotiate and adapt to particular social, political, and economic contexts.
- 6) **Mobilisation against mobilities:** While increased levels of globalisation are characterised by increased mobility, such mobility has led to all sort of tensions in receiving societies. Reactions and resistances to movements of people, goods, ideas and practices are thus being observed. This panel's proceedings will address various instances of opposition to, and mobilisation against, mobilities across time and space.

### Guidelines for presenters:

The seminar venue is equipped with a computer and AV facilities. Please make sure to identify yourself to the panel chair and upload your presentation on the computer **no later than 10 minutes before the beginning** of your panel. There will be 10 to 15 minutes breaks between panels. Complimentary drinks and biscuits will be provided during the breaks.

For the panels taking place on 7 and 8 June, speaking time is **30 minutes** for guest speakers and **15 to 20 minutes** for panellists. For June 6<sup>th</sup> workshop, please review the attached program schedule.

**Coordinators of the Seminar** (please contact us if you have any questions)

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Miriam Wohlgemuth, University of Zürich

# Qualitative Research Methods for Mobilities Studies

## Programme

### Saturday June 5, 2010

#### Saturday 3:30 PM

Registration begins for 6, 7, 8 June

#### Saturday 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Meeting of doctoral students with workshop organizers Carlo Caduff, Shalini Randeria, and Fouzieyha Towghi

#### Saturday 7:30 PM

Welcome dinner

### Sunday June 6, 2010

#### Sunday 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Registration and coffee break

#### Sunday 9:30 AM – 9:45 AM

Introducing MOVE: Shalini Randeria, University of Zurich

#### Sunday 9:45 AM – 10:30 AM

Monika Buscher, Lancaster University: *Mobilities and Mobile Method*

#### Sunday 10:30 AM – 11:15 AM

Response and discussion: Gianni D'Amato, University of Neuchâtel; Ola Söderström  
University of Neuchâtel

#### Sunday 11:15 AM – 11:45 PM

John Comaroff, University of Chicago: *Ethnography on an awkward scale*

#### Sunday 11:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Response and discussion: Shalini Randeria, University of Zürich

#### Sunday 12:15 PM – 12:30 PM

Coffee break

**Sunday 12:30 PM– 1:00 PM**

Vinh-Kim Nguyen, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology: *An Epistemological Salad: New Approaches to "Mixed Methods" in Biomedical Research*

**Sunday 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

Response and discussion: Francesco Panese, University of Lausanne

**Sunday 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM**

Lunch break

**Sunday 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM**

Aditya Bharadwaj, Edinburgh University: *Ethnographic Mobility: Reflection on Studying Biogenetic and Biosocial Subjects in Motion*

**Sunday 3:30 PM – 3:45 PM**

Response: Lawrence Cohen, University of California, Berkeley

**Sunday 3:45 PM – 4:15 PM**

Discussion

**Sunday 4:15 PM – 4: 45 PM**

Break

**Sunday 4:45 PM – 6:45 PM**

Doctoral research proposals: Discussion with international scholars

Group 1: Discussion with Aditya Bharadwaj, Fouzieyha Towghi

Group 2: Discussion with Lawrence Cohen, Carlo Caduff

Group3: Discussion with John Comaroff, Shalini Randeria

**Sunday 7:30 PM**

Dinner

# Mobile constitutions of society

## Programme

### Monday June 7, 2010

#### Monday 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Registration and coffee

#### Monday 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Overview of the programme and objectives of the seminar: Gianni D'Amato, University of Neuchâtel

#### Monday 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

##### Panel 1: Migration practices and regulatory responses

**Chair:** Hans-Rudolf Wicker, University of Bern

**Guest speaker:** Jean-Baptiste Meyer, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement: *Movidity Process: Space and Time Mobility in the Constitution of Identity*

##### Panellists:

Olivia Killias, University of Bern: *The Mobility of People and its Impact on the Nation-State and its Regulatory Arrangements*

Mihaela Nedelcu, MOVE & University of Bern: *Emerging Forms of Migrant Netizenship: Voice of Minority and Migrant Mobilization in the Digital Era*

Linnet Taylor, Sussex University: *'Invisible' Mobilities: the Gap between States' Concepts of Migration and the Reality of International Transfers of Capital and Knowledge*

#### Monday 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM

##### Panel 2: Mobilities of norms and forms of medicine, medical technology, and health care practices

**Chair:** Shalini Randeria, University of Zürich

**Guest speaker:** Lawrence Cohen, University of California, Berkeley: *Migrant Supplimentarity: Remaking Biological Relatedness in Chinese Military and Indian Five-star Hospital*

##### Panellists:

Carlo Caduff, University of Zürich: *The semiotics of security*

Fouzieyha Towghi, MOVE & University of Zürich: *The Public Health Laboratory: "Demonstrating" Therapeutic Norms for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer and Globalizing the Market for HPV*

**Monday 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM**

Lunch break

**Monday 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM**

**Panel 3: Mobile built forms**

**Chair:** Ola Söderström, University of Neuchâtel

**Guest speaker:** Eugene McCann, Simon Fraser University: *Conceptualizing the Global Circulation of Urban Built Forms: Policy Mobilities and the Spaces of Assemblage*

**Panellists:**

Hossam Adly, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne: *Towards a Globalized Heritage Urbanism ? The Example of the Requalification of the Historic Centre of Cairo*

Laurence Crot, MOVE & University of Neuchâtel: *Bounded Sustainability? Policy Performance and the Mutations of a Travelling Model of Sustainable Urban Development*

Miguel Kanai, University of Miami: *Globalizing Tangier, Embedding the Central Business District: How Transnational Developers and Moroccan Urban Managers Negotiate the Reshaping of City Space*

**Monday 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM**

**Keynote Lecture:** Kapil Raj, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales  
*Taking Circulation Seriously: Methodological Reflections from Histories of Science and Empire*

**Chair:** Fouzieyha Towghi, MOVE & University of Zürich

**Monday 7:30 PM**

Seminar dinner

## Tuesday June 8, 2010

### Tuesday 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

#### Panel 4: Mobile institutions of higher education

**Chair:** Francesco Panese, University of Lausanne and EPFL

**Guest speaker:** Kris Olds, University of Wisconsin-Madison: *Cities, Villages, Schoolhouses, Hubs, and Hotspots: Emerging Metaphors for Global Higher Ed*

#### Panellists:

Kate Geddie, MOVE & University of Lausanne: *'Policy Mobilities' in the Global Race for Talent: Competitive State Strategies in International Student Mobility*

Neha Vora, Texas A&M University: *"Howdy, Doha": (Re)producing the Aggie Spirit at Texas A&M Qatar*

### Tuesday 10:45 AM – 12:45 PM

#### Panel 5: Daily mobility in built environments

**Chair:** Vincent Kaufmann, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

**Guest speaker:** Sven Kesselring, Technische Universität München: *New Mobilities Regimes: Mobility, Power and Ambivalence in the Risk Society*

#### Panellists:

Thomas Buhler, Institut National des Sciences Appliquées - Lyon: *The Disconnection between Mobility-as-Plan and Mobility-as-Practice: a Case Study of Urban Parking Policies in Lyon*

Maik Hoemke, ETH Zürich: *Urban Transformation in Peripheral Regions with the Help of New Transport Infrastructure*

Dror Kochan, Tel-Aviv University: *Agito Ergo Sum? – Migrants' Negotiation of Mobility and Urban Space in Contemporary Chinese Cities*

### Tuesday 12:45 PM – 2:15 PM

Lunch break

**Tuesday 2:15 PM – 4:15 PM**

**Panel 6: Mobilisation against mobilities**

**Chair:** Gianni D'Amato, University of Neuchâtel

**Guest speaker:** Hans-Georg Betz, York University: *Mobilisations against Mobilities: Analytical Frames*

**Panellists:**

Theresa Kuhn, European University Institute: *Opposition to European Integration and Globalization: a Response to Low Levels of Individual Transnational Mobility*

Gallya Lahav, Stony Brook University (MOVE invited professor): *Securitizing Migration and Human Mobility: the Effects of Threat Frames on Public Opinion*

Noel Salazar, University of Leuven: *Old Imaginaries of Immobility in Times of New Global Mobilities: an Ethnographic Report from "the End of the World"*

**Tuesday 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Moving towards the future**

Conclusions, planning of publications, future meetings and activities