



# The Transnational Turn

PhD course, 3-7 June 2013

European University Institute, Florence

Organised by Copenhagen University in collaboration with

King's College London and University College Dublin

Over the past decade, a new concept has acquired a prominent place in the humanities and social sciences, pervading academic journals, university curricula and research agendas all over the world: the concept of 'transnationalism'. On the face of it, the term implies that national paradigms have become inadequate as a means of comprehending complex social and cultural interactions that obey no laws of geography or statehood. It offers a new perspective for studying a vast array of contemporary and historical phenomena, ranging from migration to gender, politics, race, ethnicity, literature, religion, citizenship and identity. But the term is by no means self-explanatory, and deserves closer examination to understand its intellectual origins, impetus and relationship with other related concepts such as globalisation, cosmopolitanism, multiculturalism, postcolonialism and 'world' history. This seminar series is designed to introduce PhD students to some leading figures in the study of transnationalism, who will reflect on their own personal intellectual history in their use of the concept.

The course will consist of a series of workshops over four days, and will conclude with a day of student presentations. Students will have the opportunity to discuss their own projects, and receive advice and feedback about their methodological and conceptual framework. In short, the seminar is designed to furnish students with a more nuanced and contextualized understanding of one of the key conceptual tools of contemporary humanities scholarship.

**Course structure and thematic focus:** The course will be taught by a team of specialists from Copenhagen University, King's College London, University College Dublin and the European University Institute. The students attending the course will also be drawn from these four institutions. Some additional prominent guest speakers have also been included. The course will be structured around a series of workshops on the following themes:

Transnationalism: the emergence of a concept (Professor Stuart Ward, Copenhagen University)

The American origins of the transnational turn (Professor James Curran, UCD)

Studying transnational violence (Professor Dirk Moses, EUI)

Rediscovering American Studies in a transnational world (Professor Robert A. Gross, University of Connecticut)

The pre-histories of transnationalism (Professor Richard Drayton, KCL)

Transnationalism and international relations (Dr William Mulligan, UCD)

The transnational cultures of the British world (Professor Carl Bridge, KCL)

Transnationalism and postcolonialism (Dr Ian Henderson, KCL)

Global History: promises and challenges (Professor Sebastian Conrad, Free University of Berlin)

The course will conclude with a series of short student presentations on the theme: ‘What do I think I mean when I say “Transnational?”’

**Date and Venue:** The course will be held over five days from 3-7 June in the Sala Triaria, Villa Schifanoia, European University Institute, Florence.

**Stipend:** Enrolment in the course includes a travel and subsistence stipend of €800, to be paid to all student participants upon completion of the course. Attendance at all workshops is compulsory to secure payment of the stipend.

**Course credit:** Students who complete the course will be eligible for 6 ECTS points awarded by Copenhagen University towards their doctoral degree.

**Practical arrangements:** Students are asked to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements in Florence. It is not necessary to submit receipts to secure payment of the stipend. Students should be aware that the course commences at 10 am on Monday 3 June, and concludes at 6 pm on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup>. Travel arrangements should take account of these dates. The stipend is not payable to students who can only manage partial attendance of the course. Only limited spaces are available and students should therefore await confirmation of enrolment in the course before making their travel arrangements to Florence.

**Registration:** Students can register for the course by contacting Dr William Mulligan at [william.mulligan@ucd.ie](mailto:william.mulligan@ucd.ie)

For further information and enquiries please contact Astrid Rasch, Department of English, German and Romance Studies, Copenhagen University ([hws296@hum.ku.dk](mailto:hws296@hum.ku.dk))

