Gender issues in transnational migration studies: recent developments and future prospects

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Transnational migration studies in the past

- male bias
- ‘reductionist’ perspective
- invisibility of women
- heterosexual bias
- gender blindness

Birds of Passage are also Women . . .

Mirjana Morskevatic
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris

The incorporation of migrant women into the labor force in Western industrialized countries has to be seen within the context of post crisis economy, progressive deindustrialization and dislocation of vertically concentrated, unionized factories and an increase of small production units which locate their labor through informal networks—immigrant ethnic enclaves—where the “unpaid work of women both as homemakers and as household workers sub-
isters the modern sector” (Pessar, this issue).

Women from the peripheral zones, to whom local production and dissolv-
ing economic sectors did not offer any more opportunities, represent a ready
made labor supply which is, at once, the most vulnerable, the most flexible
and, at least in the beginning, the least demanding work force. They have
been incorporated into sexually segregated labor markets at the lowest stratum
in high technology industries or at the “cheapest” sectors in those industries
which are labor intensive and employ the cheapest labor to remain competi-
tive.

In developing countries, the rapid growth in export manufacturing and in
expert agriculture, based largely on foreign investments, provided poorly paid
and insecure jobs for a new category of wage workers—very young women.
Only U.S. off shore processing in electronics employs one-half million female
workers (Sassen-Koo, this volume). Industrial employment is for them some-
times their first employment (Hancock, 1983), or, they first enter domestic
service (the most “natural” employment opportunity for young women [Sa-
Evolution of gender in migration studies: US context

stage 3:
‘gender as a constitutive element of immigration’ (late 90s–…)

stage 2:
‘gender and migration’ (late 80s–early 90s)

stage 1:
‘women and migration’ (70s–early 80s)

Evolution of gender in migration studies: European context

stage 3:
gender on the move: thematic and analytic diversification (2010s-…)

stage 2:
gender and the family (90s-2000s)

stage 1:
gender and the labour market (70s-80s)
The missing link: sexualities in migration studies

Sexual migration, cross-cultural sexual encounters, and sexual health

Héctor Carrillo

Sexuality Research & Social Policy 1, 68-70 (2004) | Cite this article
972 Accesses | 64 Citations

Quer Intersections: Sexuality and Gender in Migration Studies

Martin F. Manalansan IV
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Sources of data

**primary sources:**
- online search engines,
- journal websites

**secondary sources:**
- journal articles, book chapters,
- e-reports, books, PhD theses...
Web of Science Core Collection: Citation Indexes

- Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-EXPANDED) --1900-present
- Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) --1900-present
- Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI) --1975-present
- Conference Proceedings Citation Index- Science (CPCI-S) --1990-present
- Conference Proceedings Citation Index- Social Science & Humanities (CPCI-SSH) --1990-present
- Book Citation Index– Science (BKCI-S) --2005-present
- Book Citation Index– Social Sciences & Humanities (BKCI-SSH) --2005-present
- Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) --2015-present

Web of Science Core Collection: Chemical Indexes

- Current Chemical Reactions (CCR-EXPANDED) --1993-present
  (Includes Institut National de la Propriete Industrielle structure data back to 1840)

- Index Chemicus (IC) --1993-present

Data last updated: 2020-02-12
Is there a gender gap in transnational migration?

MIGRANT POPULATION (STOCKS)

272 MILLION PEOPLE were estimated to be international migrants – people that were born abroad and/or held foreign citizenship – in mid-2019.

Source: UN DESA, 2019.

WOMEN

An estimated 47.9 PER CENT of the international migrant stock in mid-2019 were women.

Source: UN DESA, 2019.

"Female migrants as a share of all international migrants, 2000, 2010 and 2019"

Where are LGBTQ migrants?

In Mexico caravan, LGBTQ migrants stick together for safety

State of transnational migration studies from 2000s:
continued feminization
Men in studies of gender and migration
Disciplines in which women, gender and migration have been studied

- Women's Studies: 518
- Sociology: 436
- Public Environmental Occupational Health: 262
- Ethnic Studies: 196
- Economics: 174
- Demography: 497
- Geography: 367
- Anthropology: 153
- Social Sciences Interdisciplinary: 150
- Area Studies: 116
Disciplines in which men, gender and migration have been studied
Countries in which women, gender and migration have been studied

- USA: 1,015
- Canada: 228
- Spain: 160
- Sweden: 120
- Australia: 213
- Netherlands: 118
- England: 460
- Germany: 173
- People's Republic of China: 111
- Italy: 102
Countries in which men, gender and migration have been studied

- USA: 509
- Germany: 92
- Spain: 66
- Netherlands: 62
- Italy: 39
- England: 188
- Canada: 89
- Sweden: 64
- Australia: 71
- Peoples Republic of China: 63
Journals publishing studies on women, gender and migration
• 1,498 women > 1,291 men > 95 LGBT
• 699 gender, migration > 675 gender, mobility

• 2,367 women > 1,842 men > 20 LGBT
• 958 gender, mobility > 744 gender, transnationalism > 287 gender, intersectionality
Journals publishing studies on men, gender and migration

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<th>Journal Name</th>
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<td>Gender Place and Culture</td>
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<td>Men and Masculinities</td>
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<td>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</td>
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<td>International Migration</td>
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<td>Population Space and Place</td>
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<td>Demographic Research</td>
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State of transnational migration studies from 2000s: sexualities considered
Men in studies of gender, sexuality, migration
State of transnational migration studies from 2000s:
inclusion of LGBT(Q) migrants
Towards a convergence: ‘LGBT’ and ‘LGBTQ’ in migration studies
State of transnational migration studies from 2000s:
important impact of transnationalism perspective
State of transnational migration studies from 2000s: increasing influence of intersectionality approach
State of transnational migration studies from 2000s: the mobility turn in the field
Mobility perspective on the rise

- **1981-1990**: Low numbers across categories.
- **1991-2000**: A slight increase for gender, transnationalism, migration.
- **2001-2010**: Significant increase for gender, mobility, migration.
- **2011-2019**: Further increase for gender, mobility, migration, with notable numbers for gender, transnationalism, migration, and gender, intersectionality, migration.
Some examples...

Regimes of Mobility Across the Globe
Nina Glick Schiller and Noel B. Salazar

feminist review 77 2004 7

77 ‘settled in mobility’: engendering post-wall migration in Europe

Mirjana Morokvasic†
Berghahn’s Mobility Studies series

- **WOMEN MIGRANTS FROM EAST TO WEST:** Gender, mobility and belonging in contemporary Europe
  - Edited by Nicola Frost & Tom Selwyn

- **TRAVELLING TOWARDS HOME:** Mobilities and Homemaking
  - Edited by Nicola Frost & Tom Selwyn

- **Moving Subjects Moving Objects:** Transnationalism, Cultural Production and Emotions
  - Edited by Marudka Svašek

- **MIGRATION WITHOUT BORDERS:** An investigation into the free movement of people
  - Edited by Antoine Pécoud and Paul de Guchteneire

- **Migrations in the German Lands 1500-2000**
  - Edited by Jason Coy, Jared Poley and Alexander Schunka

- **FINDING WAYS THROUGH EUROSPACE:** West African Movers Re-viewing Europe from the Inside
  - Joris Schapendonk

- **Border encounters:** Asymmetry and proximity at Europe’s frontiers
  - Jutta Lauth Bacas and William Kavasagh

- **INTIMATE MOBILITIES:** Sexual Economies, Marriage and Migration in a Disparate World
  - Edited by Christian Groes & Nadine T. Fernandez
State of transnational migration studies from 2000s: importance of qualitative approach

Total Publications

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Citing articles

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523 > 229

4653 > 3174
Other tendencies in transnational migration studies

• **combining analytical/disciplinary lenses**
  => transnationalism and intersectionality
  => theology, anthropology, genetics, history…

• **emerging influence of ‘super-diversity’ concept** (Vertovec 2007)
  => the demise of ‘multiculturalism’

• **increasing attention on asylum seekers/refugees**
  => socio-legal incorporation
  => climate change and migration

• **rising interests in cross-border intimacies**
  => ‘mixed’ marriages, couples and families
A PROMISED LAND, A PERILOUS JOURNEY

Theological Perspectives on Migration

EDITED BY Daniel G. Groody and Gioacchino Campese

2008
Ancient DNA analysis: a new approach to understand human migration?

https://www.yourgenome.org/facts/what-is-dna
• "sex bias" and inequality in migration

• the dominance of the Y chromosome among the millions of descendants of G. Khan

Genghis Khan and the Mongol empire
Other tendencies in transnational migration studies

- **combining analytical/disciplinary lenses**
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  => genetics, anthropology, history…

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  => socio-legal incorporation
  => climate change and migration

- **rising interests in cross-border intimacies**
  => ‘mixed’ marriages, couples and families
Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
Special Issue: Contesting categories: Cross-border marriages from the perspectives of the state, spouses and researchers
Joëlle Moret, Apostolos Andrikopoulos & Janine Dahinden
Published online: 17 Jul 2019

Identities
Global Studies in Culture and Power

Migration, amour et état : un ménage à trois
Revue de l’Institut de sociologie 2015
Laura Odasso (s.l.d.)
144 pages, 15 x 23,5 cm, broché
ISBN 978-2-87317-482-8
25 €, 2017
Gender gaps to fill

- over-visibilisation of women
- less heterosexual singles/couples in sexuality-focused studies
- slow inclusion of LGBTQ migrants
Remaining issues to address

- geographical diversity of scholars
- interdisciplinarity in the field
- prevailing ‘methodological nationalism’ (Wimmer & Schiller 2002)
Some key references


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