# TRANSNATIONALISM IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY



SYLLABUS

VU Amsterdam Summer School

MARCH 2024

Any general questions for the Summer School
support team? Contact amsterdamsummerschool@vu.nl.

# Course Details

| Title | Transnationalism in Contemporary Society |
|---|---|
| Coordinator(s) | Wenhui DING |
| Other lecturers | TBA |
| Study credits | *3 ECTS* |
| Form(s) of tuition | On campus |
| Approximate contact hours | 45 |
| Approximate self-study hours | 39 |

*Through a comparative lens, this course examines transnationalism while differentiating it from the broader concept of globalisation and internationalisation. Students will explore transnational mobility and labour market, transnational care, transnational governance network, and transnational organisational governance, aiming to equip themselves with the tools to identify, analyse, and address contemporary transnational challenges. The course will also introduce analytical frameworks such as Policy Network Analysis (PNA), the Governance Analytical Framework (GAF), and Coleman's Boat for social mechanism exploration, enabling students to dissect complex social problems and unveil underlying mechanisms.*

*Through completing the module, students may gain theoretical, methodological, analytical, empirical, and operational references for problem-solving in your studies and research, collaborate with students from different backgrounds to jointly comprehend and tackle real-world problems, and develop transferable skills beneficial for future social science studies and research endeavours.*

## Teaching Staff

Wenhui Ding is an international scholar specialising in multilevel governance research in the European Union and China. She has a multidisciplinary background in journalism, psychology, global migration, and public administration studies, having received her education from esteemed institutions such as Peking University, University College London, and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Her expertise in research methods includes both qualitative and quantitative approaches, such as discourse analysis, interviews, questionnaires, framework analysis, secondary data analysis, and more.

Contact Information: Wenhui Ding: w.d.ding@vu.nl

## Course Description

Throughout this course, students will engage in an in-depth analysis of transnational mobility, transnational care, and transnational organisational governance. The focus extends beyond observation, highlighting potential complexities and challenges inherent in transnational practices, particularly within multilevel governance structures, such as those evident within the European Union.

Conceptual Framework & Analytical Tools: Drawing upon seminal works by scholars like Basch et al. (1994) and Vertovec (1999), the course unveils the multifaceted nature of transnationalism. It explores transnationalism as a social morphology, a mode of cultural reproduction, and a site of political engagement. Furthermore, it examines the interplay between transnationalism and various disciplines, illustrating its relevance not only in academic discourse but also in policymaking, international media, and corporate spheres.

In addition to theoretical exploration, students will be introduced to analytical frameworks such as the Governance Analytical Framework (GAF) and Coleman's Boat for social mechanism exploration. These frameworks serve as invaluable tools, enabling students to dissect complex social problems and unveil underlying mechanisms. The application of these analytical approaches aims to demystify intricate social phenomena, providing students with transferable skills beneficial for future social science studies and research endeavours.

## Learning Objectives

1) Grasp Multidisciplinary Perspectives: Develop an extensive understanding of transnationalism theories within Sociology, Organisation Sciences, Political Science and Public Administration, Anthropology, Communication Science, and Human Geography, fostering a comprehensive grasp of diverse disciplinary viewpoints.

2) Discern Transnational Dynamics: Distinguish between globalisation, internationalisation, and transnationalism, critically examining their differences and implications across various social science disciplines.

3) Analyse Transnational Problems: Identify and analyse social phenomena or issues linked to transnational practices using the Governance Analytical Framework (GAF), dissecting problems through problem definition, actors, norms, nodal points, and processes.

4) Utilise Analytical Frameworks: Apply the Governance Analytical Framework (GAF) and Social Mechanism (Coleman's Boat) to dissect complex transnational problems like elderly care for transnational labourers in the EU, uncovering the intricate mechanisms behind identified challenges.

5) Develop Innovative Interventions: Evaluate prior problem-solving approaches, fostering critical thinking, and devise innovative multidisciplinary interventions collaboratively with peers to effectively address challenges associated with transnationalism.

6) Cultivate Interdisciplinary Thinking: Foster interdisciplinary thinking and scientific reasoning, encouraging problem analysis and intervention in cooperation with peers from various disciplines, promoting an integrated approach to tackling transnational issues.

7) Integrate Levels of Analysis: Explore the interaction between individual, organisational, and institutional levels, examining how media and policies facilitate social interventions within transnational contexts, highlighting interconnectedness across multiple societal levels.

## Assignments and Assessment

Within the workgroups, students will collaboratively undertake a comprehensive multidisciplinary paper and present the group work at the last session of meeting, delving into diverse facets and potential solutions of transnational problem governance. The prescribed word limit for the paper ranges between 2,400 to a maximum of 3,000 words, excluding references and the cover sheet. The final paper structure encompasses:

- Cover Sheet: A succinct page featuring the title, names of contributors, and corresponding student numbers.
- Introduction: A comprehensive overview introducing the concept of transnational social problems alongside a well-defined research question, encapsulated within a concise one-page framework.
- Disciplinary Perspectives: Comprising a minimum of three sections, each scrutinising the research question from the vantage point of distinct disciplines. Emphasis lies in exploring varied disciplinary perspectives, elucidating their distinct emphases and explanatory approaches. It's noteworthy that these disciplinary representations need not directly mirror the composition of the group, encompassing approximately three pages.
- Conclusion: A reflective conclusion spanning approximately two pages, centred on a thoughtful analysis of disparities and convergences amidst diverse disciplines in terms of theories and methodologies. This section aims to contemplate the feasibility of integrating or reconciling these theories and methods or discerning potential conflicts among them.
- References: A meticulously compiled reference section encompassing a minimum of 10 credible sources, ensuring comprehensive academic grounding.

## Provisional Reading List

- Bauböck, R. (2003). Towards a political theory of migrant transnationalism. *International Migration Review*, *37*(3), 700-723.
- Bauman, Z. (1999). *Liquid modernity*. Oxford: Polity Press.
- Engbersen, G. (2012). Migration transitions in an era of liquid migration. In M. Okolski (Ed.), *European immigrations: Trends, Structures and Policy Implications*, *IMISCOE Research* (pp. 91–105). Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
- Faist, T. (1998). International migration and transnational social spaces: Their evolution, significance and future prospects.
- Ferrera, M. (2019). EU citizenship needs a stronger social dimension and soft duties. In *Debating European Citizenship*(pp. 181-198). Springer, Cham.
- HEMERIJCK, A. (2013). Changing Welfare States. Oxford University Press.

- Hufty, M. (2011). Investigating policy processes: the governance analytical framework (GAF). *Research for sustainable development: Foundations, experiences, and perspectives*, 403-424.

- *To be further updated*

## Course Schedule

| Date | | Room | Topic |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mon 22-07 | 9:00-10:00 | **VU Campus Tour** | |
| | 10:15-12:30 13:00-14:45 | *TBA* | **Lecture 1:** Introduction to the Course: Interdisciplinary Connection of Transnationalism Study |
| Tue 23-07 | 10:00-12:15 13:00-14:45 | *TBA* | **Lecture 2:** Transnational Labour Market & Transnational Mobility ——New Social Citizenship |
| Wed 24-07 | 10:00-12:15 | *TBA* | **Workgroup 1:** From methodological nationalism to methodological individualism |
| | 12:30 | VU Social Program | |
| Thu 25-07 | 10:00-12:15 13:00-14:45 | *TBA* | **Lecture 3:** Transnational Families, Care, and Solidarity |
| Fri 26-07 | 10:00-12:15 13:00-14:45 | *TBA* | **Lecture 4:** Demarcation of Transnational Social and Cultural Space |
| Mon 29-07 | 10:00-12:15 13:00-14:45 | *TBA* | **Workgroup 2:** Understanding Governance Analytical Framework |
| Tue 30-07 | 10:00-12:15 13:00-14:45 | *TBA* | **Lecture 5:** Transforming Governance beyond Borders |

| Wed 31-07 | 10:00-12:15 | *TBA* | **Lecture 6:**<br>Media and Governance |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 12:30 | VU Social Program | |
| Thu 01-08 | 10:00-12:15<br>13:00-14:45 | *TBA* | **Workgroup 3:**<br>Developing Multidisciplinary Intervention Plan |
| Fri 02-08 | 10:00-12:15<br>13:00-14:45 | *TBA* | **Workgroup 4:**<br>Feedback on group papers and final presentation |

# Appendix: Rubric for Final Paper

| Categories | 4-5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. Structure, reasoning, contribution** 40 % *Grade:* | Lacks clear structure. Argumentation is not clear. Errors affect comprehensibility. | Clear structure. Argumentation not always clear. Errors occasionally affect comprehensibility. | Clear structure. Argumentation only shows minor mistakes. Errors but they don't affect comprehensibility. Fairly sound academic text. | Clear & academic structure. Argumentation is clear. Main & minor points are clear. Hardly any errors. Sound academic text | Clear & academic structure. Argumentation is clear. Main & minor points are clear. No errors. Excellent academic text. Original and create contribution with sharp analyses |
| **2. Contribution of different disciplines; differences between disciplines; integration of disciplines** 40 % *Grade:* | Theoretical arguments or methodologies typical for certain disciplines are not described. | Characteristics of different disciplines regarding concepts, theories, methods become somewhat clear. Discussion of differences and similarities is poor. Discussion on integration is poor. | Characteristics of different disciplines regarding concepts, theories, methods become clear. Discussion of differences and similarities is acceptable. Discussion on integration is acceptable. | Characteristics of different disciplines regarding concepts, theories, methods become clear. Discussion of differences and similarities is well done. Discussion on integration is very well done. | Characteristics of different disciplines regarding concepts, theories, methods are crystal clear. Discussion of differences and similarities is excellent. Discussion on integration is creative and sharp. |
| **3. Layout, references, grammar** 20 % *Grade:* | Many typos and errors in grammar and style. Poor referencing. Poor layout. | More than a few typos and errors in grammar and style. References are according to academic standards but with mistakes. Layout can be improved. | Only a few typos and errors in grammar and style. References according to academic standards but with minor mistakes. Layout looks good. | Only a few typos and errors in grammar and style. References according to academic standards. Layout looks very good. | No typos and errors in grammar and style. References according to academic standards. Layout looks excellent. |

Grade (1 + 2 + 3) / 3 = …….