

Anonymous Black and Brown Bodies: The Productive Power of Europe's Deadly Border

Nicholas De Genova

The escalation in migrant and refugee deaths at the borders of Europe, particularly in the Mediterranean Sea, is no mere coincidence or accident of geography, but rather a predictable result of European immigration law-making, as well as a systemic feature of the routine functioning of the increasing physical fortification of the maritime border and the increasing militarization of border enforcement tactics and technologies. In light of the evident systematicity of this (infra-)structural violence, which converts the sea into a border that kills, we are challenged to critically comprehend the spectacle of border policing in relation to its brute material effects, above all, a ghastly accumulation of dead Black and Brown bodies. Notably, this means that the sheer magnitude and momentum of migrant and refugee movements has meant that the sociopolitical space of “Europe” has been convulsed by a postcolonial *racial* crisis arising from the contradictions of the subjective projects of migrant/refugee non-Europeans and states’ efforts to “manage” their subordinate inclusion.

A multiscalar perspective on Migrants and City-making: solidarities for social and historical justice

Ayşe Çağlar

This talk focuses on the multiscalar emplacement of migrants in city making processes and argues that in order to explicate the multiple and simultaneous relations between migrants and cities we need to move beyond the established categories of methodological nationalism and bring migrants and those defined as non-migrants into a common analytical lens. In this way, we can approach all city inhabitants (migrants, minorities and non-migrants) as actors being subject to broader but common social forces of wealth generation though with unequal access to resources and power. Finally, it concentrates on how devalorization and revalorization processes are not only essential in the current context of capital accumulation, but they could also pave the ground for unexpected solidarities between different groups for social and particularly historical justice claims.

Reclaiming Radical Cosmopolitanism through Border Studies and the Mobility Turn

Alex Sager

Cosmopolitanism reemerged as a potentially radical political theory in the 1990s, only to be stripped of much of its radical potential. Many political theorists reduced cosmopolitanism to “moral cosmopolitanism” and sought to reconcile it with the present state system. To reclaim cosmopolitanism’s radical potential, I turn to the research from the social sciences on mobility and borders rooted in the critique of methodological nationalism. First, social scientific research

on mobility and borders casts doubt on the empirical adequacy of the models of community and belonging underlying “cosmopolitan nationalism” or “cosmopolitan statism”. Second, this research offers potentially radical cosmopolitan forms of community and political engagement for political cosmopolitanism to move beyond the nation-state.

Intersecting Gendered and Bordered Structural Vulnerabilities: (Exclusionary) Equality Policies and Global Justice

MariaCaterina La Barbera

Equality between women and men is one of the millennium goals. Yet, many strategies adopted to pursue such a goal rely on an essentialized “Woman” subject. This paper discusses the detrimental practical implications of such a conceptualization as a source of global inequality within the current bordered configuration of the planet in an era of massive migratory movements. The argument is articulated along four parts. The first recalls the relevance of gender as essential category for theories of justice. The second one discusses the concept of group-based vulnerability and its limits. The third part engages with the contributions of counterhegemonic feminists and proposes intersectionality as a key concept to reveal the various interconnected dimensions involved in the production of social injustices at the global level. The fourth confronts the discussed theoretical issues with a study case. Aiming at bridging theory and praxis, it analyzes Spanish gender equality policy as a study case that illustrates practical implications of the contested conceptualizations discussed in the previous sections. The paper shows how exclusionary equality models reproduce vulnerability inside and outside the borders of Spain.

“This Is Our Land”: Cultural Contradictions of Transnationalism

Csaba Szaló

While increasing number of Central Europeans live their lives across the borders and their big cities are becoming more cosmopolitan, recent Central European experiences of transnationalism are marked by re-nationalisation processes. What is the relation between the incorporation of this region into the global topography of capital, technology and media in the last decades and the new cultural politics of difference articulating “our own otherness” through reinvented forms of ethnocentrism and racial hatred? Beside the question in whose interest these new discourses of difference are produced, we shall be also sensitive to cultural contradictions transnational experiences generate in these discourses and subjectivities belonging to them. The fusion of lifestyles with imagination is still not fully governable with political control and techno-media design. Thus, to deal with cultural contradictions between (i) universalist forms of pragmatized rationality which recognises only the difference between the rich and the poor, and (ii) anachronistic collective projects founded on myths and apocalyptic moods manifesting worries about human beings' sphere of intimacy, represent both an epistemological as well as ethical challenge for the transnational perspective.