Transnationalism and Identity

Transnational migration is a central process in globalization and a key experience of our contemporary world. This course explores the complex and multiple effects of transnational migration on everyday geographies of home, identification and belonging. The focus will be on the diverse ways in which social and cultural identities are performed in a mobile context. Particular attention will be given to the spatialisation of such identities at a variety of scales (e.g. body, home, community) and the relations between them. Theoretical and empirical research drawn upon in the course will reflect the heterogeneity within and across diasporic groups in terms of class, gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity. In addition, teaching will emphasise that migrant identities are contingent on historical and geographical context and will also situate discussions of the negotiation of belonging within debates on postcolonialism, multiculturalism and cosmopolitanism. The approach taken will recognise that migrant identities are both collective and individual, private and public, material and imagined.