**South Asian diaspora in transition**

**(Diaspora południowoazjatycka w okresie zmian)**

**No. of ECTS: 6  
Language: English**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This elective course discusses the complex relationship between diasporas, cultures and nations with emphasis on the South Asian diaspora. From the anthropology of global flows, displacement and migration to the cultural contexts of these movements, the course will attempt to understand ‘nation’ and ‘nationalism’ in times of physical and cultural fluidity in the context of the South Asian diaspora. It will interrogate themes such as cultural articulation of the South Asian diasporic communities, issues of belonging and integration, transnational cultural flows, long-distance nationalism, and the impact of emerging global cultural artefacts like Bollywood on diasporic as well as ‘crossover audiences’. While focusing on current issues and themes in the field, students will be exposed to theoretical and methodological debates, including current and recurring points of reference in cultural studies, anthropology and politics.

**Core Texts**

Robin Cohen, *Global Diasporas: An Introduction* (Second Edition). London and New York: Routledge. 2008.

Judith M. Brown. *Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2006.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Introduction: Diaspora, Culture and Nation (2 lectures)**

A “prototypical” diaspora: four phases of diaspora studies

**Discourses of displacement (6 lectures)**

Notions of “homeland” and “self”  
History of post-colonial South Asian diaspora: from “indenture” to “highly skilled migrants” Migration, homes and communities

**Issues of belonging and integration (6 lectures)**

Transnational cultural flows  
Bollywood as global cultural artefact

**READINGS**

1. Introduction: Diaspora, Culture and Nation

* Clifford, James. 1994. “Diasporas”. *Current Anthropology* 9.3: 302–338.
* Werbner, Pnina. 2004. “Theorising Complex Diasporas: Purity and Hybridity in the South Asian Public Sphere in Britain”. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 30.5: 895-911.
* Ali, Nasreen. 2003. ‘Diaspora and nation: displacement and the politics of Kashmiri identity in Britain’. *Contemporary South Asia* 12 (4): 471-480.

1. A “prototypical” diaspora: four phases of diaspora studies

* Cohen: Chapter 1 – Four phases of diaspora studies
* Vertovec, Steven. 1997. Three meanings of “diaspora,” exemplified among South Asian religions. *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* 6.3: 277–299.

Further reading

* Sökefeld, Martin. 2006. Mobilizing in transnational space: a social movement approach to the formation of diaspora. Global Networks 6 (3): 265-284.

1. Discourses of displacement: Historical, Cultural Studies and Anthropological Perspectives

* Scott Wong, K. 2005. Diasporas, Displacements and the Construction of Transnational Identities. In Displacements and Diasporas: Asians in the Americas, edited by Wanni W. Anderson and Robert G. Lee (available online <http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmxlYmtfXzE0NzI1MF9fQU41?sid=03208539-92ec-45db-aba3-e340225c0a9d@sessionmgr4008&vid=0&format=EB&lpid=lp_39&rid=0>)
* Schiller, Nina Glick. 2005. Lived Simultaneity and Discourse of Diasporic Difference. In Displacements and Diasporas: Asians in the Americas, edited by Wanni W. Anderson and Robert G. Lee (available online <http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmxlYmtfXzE0NzI1MF9fQU41?sid=03208539-92ec-45db-aba3-e340225c0a9d@sessionmgr4008&vid=0&format=EB&lpid=lp_39&rid=0>)
* Samson, Jim. 2010. Little Stories from the Balkans. In Music and Displacement : Diasporas, Mobilities, and Dislocations in Europe and Beyond, edited by Erik Levi and Florian Scheding (available online <http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmxlYmtfXzQ4Mzc5MV9fQU41?sid=af7b00c2-4576-4eb9-90c3-a2925c2a68a8@sessionmgr101&vid=0&format=EK&lpid=i7&rid=0>)

1. Notions of “Homeland” and “Self”

* Cohen: Chapter 6 – Diasporas and their homelands
* Brown: Chapter 5 – Relating to the old homeland
* Anderson, Benedict. 1992. Long-distance nationalism: world capitalism and the rise of identity politics. The Wertham Lecture 1992. Centre for Asian Studies Amsterdam.
* Jaffrelot, C and I. Therwath. 2007. The Sangh Parivar and the Hindu Diaspora in the West: What kind of “Long-Distance Nationalism”? International Political Sociology 1 (3): 278-295.

Further reading

* Conversi, Daniele. 2012. Irresponsible Radicalisation: Diasporas, Globalisation and Long-Distance Nationalism in the Digital Age. Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies 38(9), 1357-1379.
* Murthy, D. (2010). Nationalism remixed? The politics of cultural flows between the South Asian diaspora and ‘homeland’. Ethnic and Racial Studies, 33(8), 1412-1430.
* Mathew, B., & Prashad, V. (2000). The protean forms of Yankee Hindutva. Ethnic and Racial Studies, 23(3), 516-534.

1. History of South Asian diaspora: from “indenture” to “highly skilled migrants”

* Cohen: Chapter 4 – Labour and imperial diasporas: indentured Indians and the British
* Brown: Chapter 2 – Making a modern diaspora
* Pirbhai, Mariam. 2009. The Multiple Voices of Indenture History: an introduction. In Mythologies of Migration, Vocabularies of Indenture : Novels of the South Asian Diaspora in Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia-Pacific (available online <http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmxlYmtfXzY4MjczMV9fQU41?sid=02548d79-dcba-48f7-80e6-4a5749d5afe1@pdc-v-sessmgr01&vid=0&format=EB&lpid=lp_1&rid=0>)

Further reading

* Jayawardane, M. (2012). "Everyone's Got Their Indian": The South Asian diaspora in South Africa. Transition, 107(1), 50-65.

1. Migration, homes and communities

* Brown: Chapter 3 – Creating new homes and communities
* Ravi Arvind Palat (2015) Empire, Food and the Diaspora: Indian Restaurants in Britain, South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies, 38:2, 171-186

Further reading

* Raman, P. (2015). It's because we're Indian, innit?' Cricket and the South Asian diaspora in post-war Britain. Identities, 22(2), 215-229.
* Redclift, V. (2017). The demobilization of diaspora: History, memory and ‘latent identity’. Global Networks, 17(4), 500-517.

1. Issues of belonging and integration

* Cohen: Chapter 8 – Mobilizing diasporas in a global age
* Brown: Chapter 4 – Relating to the new homeland
* Bhalla, Tamara. 2012. ‘Being (and Feeling) Gogol: Reading and Recognition in Jhumpa Lahiri’s *The Namesake*’. *MELUS* 37 (1): 105-129.

Further reading

* Narayan, Kirin. 2010. ‘Placing Life Through Stories’. In Everyday Life in South Asia, edited by Diane P. Mines and Sarah E. Lamb (Second Edition). Indiana University Press.
* Alexander, C, Chatterji, J, and A Jalais. 2016. ‘Making home : claiming and contesting diasporic space in Britain’, in The Bengal diaspora : Rethinking Muslim Migration (Routledge Contemporary South Asia series). London: Routledge.
* Rajiva, Mythili and Andrea D’Sylva. 2014. ‘I am Goan [not] Indian’: Postcolonial Ruptures in the South Asian Diaspora’. Canadian Ethnic Studies 46 (1): 145-167.

1. Transnational cultural flows

* Appadurai, Arjun. 1996. Here and now. In: Arjun Appadurai, Modernity at large: Cultural dimensions of globalization, pp. 1-23. Minneapolis & London: University of Minnesota Press.
* Eide, Elisabeth, E., Krøvel, Roy, K., & Knudsen, Anders Marius, K. (2014). Transnational orientations in a global media landscape: Youth, media, war and conflict. Conflict & Communication;13(1).

Further reading

* Reddy, V. (2011). Jhumpa Lahiri's Feminist Cosmopolitics and the Transnational Beauty Assemblage. Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism, 11(2), 29-59.
* Erdal, M., & Borchgrevink, K. (2017). Transnational Islamic charity as everyday rituals. Global Networks-A Journal Of Transnational Affairs, 17(1), 130-146.

1. Bollywood as global cultural artefact

* Uberoi, Patricia (1998) ‘The Diaspora Comes Home: Disciplining Desire in DDLJ’, Contributions to Indian Sociology, 32 (2), pp.305-36. DOI : 10.1177/006996679803200208
* Hariharan, K. 2002. ‘Bilkul Nahin Khushi, Itna Sara Gham: Why So Much Dislike of the NRI?’. Little India. February, URL: <http://www.littleindia.com/India/Feb02/bilkul.htm>
* Ingrid Therwath, « ‘Shining Indians’: Diaspora and Exemplarity in Bollywood », South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal [Online], 4 | 2010, Online since 17 December 2010, connection on 30 September 2016. URL : http://samaj.revues.org/3000 ; DOI : 10.4000/samaj.3000

Further reading

* Desai, Jigna. 2004. Homo on the Range: queering postcoloniality and globalization in Deepa Mehta’s Fire. In Beyond Bollywood : The Cultural Politics of South Asian Diasporic Film (available online <http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmxlYmtfXzExNTIxOF9fQU41?sid=dbd052fb-35e6-4847-8d51-38884c19a772@sessionmgr4009&vid=0&format=EK&lpid=a40&rid=0>)
* Vandevelde, I. (2013). Revisiting the NRI ‘genre’: Indian diasporic engagements with NRI and multiplex films. South Asian Popular Culture, 11(1), 47-60.
* Stadtler, F. (2005). Cultural Connections: Lagaan and its audience responses. Third World Quarterly, 26(3), 517-524.