

Migration in a Global Age

Diaspora and Transnationalism

Globalization

- **Universalism, Imperialism and Capitalism...**
- **The global trend towards modern economic organization and developed market economies has been accompanied by a process of cultural transformation**

Changing Material Conditions

- A **key change** is towards a transformation of economic organization:
- The **great majority** of individuals migrate to generate income through employment or running businesses,
- Rather than from **economic bonds** with family and community

Modern world-post industrial

- In the **modern world**, there is great ease of international communication and **interaction between cultures.**
- Sociologists have generally focused attention on the **global impact** of the capitalist western world on other societies

Global Transformations **and Identity**

- Each society may experiences a unique process of cultural and economic transformation.
- There are some **common trends** that appear to be linked to the development of a **complex sense of identity**

Influencers of Identity

- **Social roles and socialization** are shaped by norms and values that are largely foreign influences media.
- **Educational and occupational** experiences are the primary agents of the individual's acculturation process.

Learning and absorbing

- Sociologists use the term to refer simply to the process of learning and absorbing a culture, making it synonymous with socialization, but ‘enculturation’ is a more appropriate word for that meaning

See A. Richmond

- His discussion is about how the first world works to control migration patterns to protect the interests of the rich.
- He calls this “Global Apartheid”
 - Global Apartheid: Refugees, Racism, and the New World Order
 - by Anthony H. Richmond (1994)

DIASPORA AND **TRANSNATIONALISM**

See R. Cohen (2011)

NEW CONCEPTS

- RARELY FOUND IN THE LITERATURE BEFORE 1980.
- **THE REASON..**Early migration theories were unidirectional..
- Cohen argues immigrants are hyper-mobile.

- The terms **ethnicity and race**...have focused upon processes of assimilation, integration, and accommodation.. See R. Park's **Race Relations Cycle**.
- Rather than on the ways ethnic groups are shaped by **forces outside** particular borders.

Cohen Argues that historically studies

- “turned analytical gaze to processes of inter-group relations within a particular territorial boundary...
- ..rather than on the ways that **inter-group relations are shaped by forces and conditions outside particular national borders**”

Today

- Immigrants develop:
- networks,
- activities,
patterns of living,
- ideologies
- that span both their home and their
host society.

For example,

- The structure and dynamics of groups such as the Croations, Sikhs, or Muslims in Canada must be understood **in terms of 3 factors:**

- 1. Where the groups come from
- 2. How they maintain contact with their ancestral homelands
- 3. How they relate to their respective communities in other countries

- Earlier theories of ethnicity and race are static...thus **diaspora** and **transnationalism** are valid and useful...
- They point to the **new dynamics** of immigration patterns.

Question

- Q. What has caused the **new dynamic**?
- A. Media, technology, global interdependency,

Definitions

- **Diaspora** –a Greek word meaning dispersion.
- Refers to members of ethnic groups who have left their homeland in large numbers or have been **forced out**

- **Transnationalism**- a process by which immigrants build multiple social, economic and cultural relations **across** geographic and or political boundaries.

- **DIASPORA**-the forcible and traumatic dispersal from the ancestral home...
- Mass movements for both economic and political reasons.
- **TRANSNATIONALISM**-multiple identities now possessed by immigrants through global connectedness.

The Two Concepts

- Diaspora-has had popularity, it is elastic,
- Eg, gay and lesbian diaspora, pro-biker diaspora.
- Immigrant groups such as Ukrainians **wrap themselves in a diaspora flag.**

- **ETHNIC GROUPS** such as Sikh's use diaspora because they do not feel they are full and equal members of their countries of settlement.

- **Diaspora serves a role...**in boundaries, speaks of traumatic dispersal, potential victimization of earlier generations.
- **Diaspora** helps community leaders to mobilize groups in their sense of alienation.
- **See R. Cohen, Global Diasporas: An Introduction**

Cohen Types of Diaspora p.262

- **Types of Diaspora** include:
 1. Victim diaspora
 2. Imperial diaspora
 3. Labour diaspora
 4. Trade diaspora
 5. Cultural diaspora

In contrast to Diaspora

- The concept of **transnationalism** is not saturated with the same deep historical narrative about trauma, victimization, and survival.

Transnationalism

- The processes by which immigrants forge and sustain multi-stranded social relations that link their societies of origin and settlement.

Transnationalism

- The ways immigrants build social fields that cross geographic, cultural and political borders...
- These are “**trans-immigrants**” who develop subjectivities and identities that connect them to **two or more nation-states**.

i.e Harney examines Italians in Canada

- He finds Italian Canadians are transnational
- Their **connections include:**
- tour groups,
- sports teams,
- student exchange
- and ethnic voluntary programs.

- Italians who have been in Canada for thirty years working in construction, for example....**Invest in land and build new homes back in Italy.**
- Some living abroad can participate in national elections.

Transnationalism

- Is a **type of consciousness** that refers to the multiple and overlapping identities that individuals in this global society now possess

Transnationalism

- Is defined as a way of describing certain practices in which immigrants appear to be increasingly engaged...
- By which immigrants forge and sustain multistranded social relations

Transnationalism

- **Transnationalism** refers to social relations that link together societies of origin and settlement.
- Immigrants build social fields that cross geographic, cultural and political borders.
- Immigrants maintain multiple relationships-familial, economic, and political.

Transnationalism is

- 1. A new kind of community
- 2. A type of consciousness
- 3. A mode of cultural reproduction
- 4. An avenue of capital
- 5. A site of political engagement

Communities

- Similar to Cohen's idea of diaspora
- However,

Transnationals

- **Hybrid identities**, multiple and overlapping,
- Co-ethnic transnational identities, code switching, contemporary fluidity of cultural styles, social institutions and cultural practices..

Diaspora and Transnationalism

- Each point social scientists in useful directions
- Earlier research on immigrants emphasized the up-rootedness and permanent rupture of homeland,

New dialogues

- Points to the new communications, new technologies, have made transnational practices more intense, more immediate, more systematic than in the past.
- **Old** =telex, trains, and ships
- **New** =faxes, emails, Skype etc...

Summary

- Both concepts share critiques of the existing literature that emphasizes internal struggle.
- They point to the changing nature of ethnic groups, activities, practices and community life.

- **Diaspora** should be thought of as one kind of transnational
- **Transnationalism** is defined as a set of practices in which diasporas, immigrants and other engage.