GENDER, IDENTITY AND MIGRATION SEMINAR

PROGRAMME

KING’S COLLEGE LONDON, OCTOBER 14TH 2016
ABOUT THE GENDER, IDENTITY AND MIGRATION SEMINAR

The purpose of this seminar is to bring together scholars working in a variety of fields (anthropology, linguistics, sociology, etc.) in order to explore the role of gender in the migration process. During the seminar, graduate students and scholars working on gender issues will investigate how gender relations affect migration, settlement and relationship with the ‘home’ culture that has been left behind. During, the two presentation panels and two roundtable discussions, we will investigate how migration affects existing gender relations and cultural patterns and what role gender plays in the creation of new sociocultural formations in the global, mobile world.

The seminar will be recorded and a podcast consisting of selected fragments will be made available on our website. We hope we will trigger further debate on the construction of gender in the context of global mobility.

Anna Khlusova (King’s College London) and Kinga Kozminska (University of Oxford)
The organising committee

ORGANISERS

Kinga Kozminska has just completed her DPhil in sociolinguistics at the University of Oxford. Kinga studies identity formation and language ideologies among Polish migrants. Her DPhil project was a sociophonetic study of the Polish spoken by a group of young Polish adults who moved to the UK after the EU enlargement and later, stayed to work in the British Isles. Her research is interdisciplinary in nature. She has presented her work at multiple conferences in Europe and the USA. She also holds two MA degrees: one in Applied Linguistics from the University of Warsaw and one in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago.

Anna Khlusova is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Culture, Media & Creative Industries at King’s College London. With the background in Art History, Film Studies and Cultural Studies, her research interests involve: visual culture, gender, sexuality, identity politics, Russian popular culture, gender in Post-Soviet Russia, digital media, transnationalism and transnational communication. Her current research project focuses on Russian-speaking diaspora in the UK and explores the issues of gender, identity and migration in the context of the 21st century digital culture.
PROGRAMME

12:15 – 12:30pm
Registration

12:30 – 12:50pm
Introduction
KINGA KOZMINSKA
University of Oxford

PANEL ONE

Chair: KINGA KOZMINSKA
University of Oxford

12:50 – 1:10pm
Identity, belonging and solidarity among Russian-speaking queer migrants in Berlin
DR RICHARD MOLE
University College London

1:10 – 1:30pm
Gender on the move: international student mobility, identity and Russian-speaking women in the 21st century digital world
ANNA KHLUSOVA
King’s College London

1:30 – 1:50pm
Changing gender performances and femininity ideals among Polish female migrants in London and NZ/Aotearoa: An intersectional perspective
KINGA GOODWIN
University College London

1:50 – 2:30pm Lunch break

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION 1

2:30 – 3:30pm
Eastern Europe, migration and gender

Chair: DR NANCY HAWKER
University of Oxford

Discussants:
PROF ANNA READING
King’s College London

PROF ANNE WHITE
University College London

3:30 – 3:45pm Break

PANEL TWO

Chair: ANNA KHLUSOVA
King’s College London

3:45 – 4:10pm
Where is home? The significance of the homeland and the family in Turkish Cypriot women
AYTEN ALIBABA AND DR JO ANGOURI
University of Warwick

4:10 – 4:35pm
The neoliberal peace and the gender strife (from the point of view of a Palestinian cleaner of Israeli homes)
DR NANCY HAWKER
University of Oxford
4:35 – 4:50pm Coffee break

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION 2

4:50 – 6:00pm
Language, gender and migration

Chair: PROF DEBORAH CAMERON
University of Oxford

Discussants:
DR EREZ LEVON
Queen Mary, University of London

DR PIA PICHLER
Goldsmiths, University of London
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION 1: EASTERN EUROPE, MIGRATION AND GENDER

CHAIR:

Dr Nancy Hawker (DPhil, University of Oxford) has studied social and political theory, and Arab and Israeli histories and literatures, and has worked for human rights in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Her first academic research was on Palestinian labour migration, and some of it was published in the Bulletin of the CBRL as ‘The Palestinian Day-Migrant Workers in Israel: Introducing ‘Securitisation’’ (2007). Now interested in sociolinguistics, she is researching the languages and discourse of Arabic speakers who are in contact with Hebrew. Nancy Hawker’s thesis ‘Hebrew Borrowings in the Arabic Speech of Palestinians in Three Refugee Camps in the West Bank, Occupied Palestinian Territories’ (University of Oxford) was adapted for publication by Routledge as Palestinian-Israeli Contact and Linguistic Practices (2013). Her post-doc research, funded by the Leverhulme Trust at the Faculty of Oriental Studies (Oxford), is focused on the speeches of Palestinian politicians in Israel and how their constituencies receive them. She has been travelling to the Middle East since 1998 and lived in Israel/Palestine for several years.

DISCUSSANTS:

Prof Anna Reading is Professor of Culture and Creative Industries and former Head of the Department of Culture, Media & Creative Industries at King’s College London. She is an Honorary Visiting Professor in Communication at the Institute for Culture and Society, University of Western Sydney. Anna has played a leading role in the developing field of cultural and media memory studies especially in gender and cultural memory. She is the author of Polish Women, Solidarity and Feminism (1992); Communism, Capitalism and the Mass Media with Colin Sparks (1998) and The Social Inheritance of the Holocaust: Gender, Culture and Memory (2002). Anna’s work as a memory activist also includes writing plays and developing community and activist led storytelling projects with NGOs that tackle difficult pasts and taboo subjects.

Prof Anne White is the Head of Teaching Programmes and Professor of Polish Studies and Social and Political Science at UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies. Her current research interests are migration (in general) and social change in Poland, as well as Polish migration. She has
recently completed projects on return migration to Poland and the links between long-term unemployment and migration in Poland and is currently working on a project on the impact of migration on Poland, as a sending country.

She has published monographs on declining regime control over citizens’ leisure time in Poland, Hungary and the USSR (1953-87); social movements under Gorbachev; small-town Russia in the 1990s (with particular focus on livelihood strategies and identities); and post-2004 family migration from Poland to Western Europe. Her other research projects include studies of Memorial; Russian gender roles; internal migration in Russia; and Ismail Kadare. She runs the Polish Migration Website (https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/people/anne-white/ssees/research/polish-migration).

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION 2: LANGUAGE, GENDER AND MIGRATION

CHAIR:

Prof Deborah Cameron is Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at the University of Oxford and Fellow of Worcester College. Her research interests include language, gender and sexuality; language attitudes/ideologies and ‘verbal hygiene’; discourse analysis; language and globalization.

Prior to coming to Oxford, she worked at other universities in Britain and elsewhere, including Roehampton University in London, Strathclyde University in Glasgow, the Institute of Education in London and the College of William and Mary in Virginia, USA. She has held visiting professorships and fellowships at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, New York University and the University of Technology Sydney. She has published extensively, e.g. Verbal Hygiene (1995), Good To Talk: Living and Working in a Communication Culture (2000), Working with Spoken Discourse (2001), Language and Sexuality Reader (2006, co-authored with Don Kulick). In her latest publication, Gender, Power and Political Speech (co-authored with Sylvia Shaw), Prof Cameron explores the influence of gender on political speech in the 2015 UK General Election campaign.
Prof Cameron has been involved in non-academic projects promoting language and linguistic research to a wider audience. She published The Myth of Mars and Venus (2007), a general-interest book about language and gender differences, parts of which were serialized in The Guardian newspaper. She has also contributed to numerous BBC radio programmes, including Woman’s Hour, Word of Mouth, Thinking Allowed and Fry’s English Delight. She has participated in multiple outreach initiatives. She has a blog ‘Language: a feminist guide.’

DISCUSSANTS:

Dr Erez Levon is Senior Lecturer in Linguistics at Queen Mary University of London. His work uses quantitative, qualitative and experimental methods to examine patterns of socially meaningful variation in language, particularly as they relate to gender, sexuality and nation. He has conducted fieldwork in Israel, the US, the UK and South Africa, and is the author of Language and the Politics of Sexuality: Lesbians and Gays in Israel (2010) and the co-editor of Language, Sexuality and Power: Studies in Intersectional Sociolinguistics (2016).

Dr Pia Pichler is Senior Lecturer in Linguistics and Programme Convenor of the MA Sociocultural Linguistics in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, at Goldsmiths, University of London. Since joining Goldsmiths in 2004 Pia has dedicated herself to promoting linguistics and, in particular, the study of language, society and culture at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Pia’s research focuses in particular on the everyday spontaneous talk of young people in their friendship groups. Much of Pia’s teaching is linked to her own work in which she investigates the interplay of gender with other sociocultural and situational practices and identities from a sociocultural linguistic/discourse analytic perspective. She has written extensively on the talk of young British women from a range of different backgrounds, including public school and British Bangladeshi girls. She is currently working on couples’ talk as well as on young London masculinities.
ABSTRACTS (in alphabetical order)

AYTEN ALIBABA AND DR JO ANGOURI
University of Warwick
Where is home? The significance of the homeland and the family in Turkish Cypriot women

This paper focuses on the concept of home and belonging in modern diasporas and reports on preliminary data from an ongoing project with the Turkish Cypriot community in the UK. The paper aims to problematize the multiple meanings associated with the notion of ‘home’ and the ‘fitting in’ process in relation to the home/host traditional dichotomy. It draws on the narratives of eight women of Turkish Cypriot origin who followed their husbands on a quest for a better life in London. The paper takes an ethnographic perspective and discusses the complexity of belonging and the multiple homes that emerge in the narratives. It also pays special attention at the importance of the gender order as enacted in the data.

While in traditional diaspora studies the home and homeland is time and space bound, recent research emphasises the fluidity of the concept. In line with recent research, we argue that diasporic communities maintain a symbolic relationship with a particular locus, nation and/or country, which is often conventionally labelled as the ‘homeland’. Those relations form part of the complex matrix of ‘belonging’ in diasporic communities which is negotiated in interaction. Home is material but is also constructed through and associated with feelings, practices, and values attached to a particular space and place as well as sharing with family and loved ones.

In this paper we draw on narratives and observation data and discuss the ways in which belonging is indexed through constructions of home. We discuss the gender order that emerges in the data and the powerful/powerless role of women in this context. The analysis of the data shows that most of these women construct their journey to London as a decision imposed to them while at the same time construct self as primary responsible for the family and the new ‘home’. In the first generation data, a gender order emerges with the women being mainly home-bound and without enough resources to access the language of their new ‘homeland’. This creates a divide between those who access the wider societal order and those who are excluded and remain confined within the diasporic context. Belonging in the data is in a state of
flux and fluid, indexed indirectly through the multiple and often contradictory positions the participants take in different contexts.

We close the paper with the implications of the findings for future research on new diasporas and issues in relation to the theoretical framing of the concept.

Ayten Alibaba is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Applied Linguistics at the University of Warwick. Her interests include mobility, migration, modern diasporas and identity construction. Her PhD project focuses on the Turkish Cypriot diaspora and investigates how the concept of home is constructed and the sense of belonging is negotiated by the members of diaspora across generations.

Jo Angouri is an Associate Professor at The University of Warwick, UK. Her research expertise is in sociolinguistics, pragmatics and discourse analysis. She has carried out projects in a range of corporate and institutional contexts and her work concerns both online and face to face interaction. She has published widely on language and identity as well as teamwork and leadership in professional settings. Her current research includes a project on teamwork in medical emergencies and multidisciplinary work on migration and the labour market. She has recently edited a volume on Boundaries at Work (with M. Marra and J. Holmes, EUP, 2016) and she is working on a monograph on Intercultural Communication at Work for Routledge. Jo is a series editor for DAPSAC (Benjamins) and Language at Work (Multilingual Matters).

KINGA GOODWIN
University College London
Changing gender performances and femininity ideals among Polish female migrants in London and NZ/Aotearoa: An intersectional perspective

This paper is based on data collected as part of my PhD research on the performance of gender, class and ethnicity of Polish woman in different cultural settings. This presentation is based on 62 in-depth interviews with Polish women living in London and New Zealand, and discusses the different gender roles, ideals and expectations they face when living abroad. I will discuss my respondents’ notions of what it means to be a typical Polish woman, and how she can be recognized by her looks and behaviour by other Poles and non-Poles. I also ask my respondents about gender relations in their families (discussing the traditional
roles of the Polish mother and grandmother), and their current relationships with their Polish and non-Polish partners. As my research is theorized within an intersectionality model, Butler’s theory of performativity and Goffman’s dramaturgical approach to self-presentation I will focus on performance change in my respondents brought on by different gender expectations, in a context of their different social locations as women, Poles and migrants in both the UK and NZ. Most importantly, my presentation is aimed at describing the contextual nature of performance of gender in changing geographical, cultural, and social settings, and the way these intersect with ethnic and class identities and migrant status.

Kinga Goodwin has a background in cross-cultural psychology, but her research is interdisciplinary. Her work is based on in-depth interviews and ethnographic observation/participation with Polish women living in the United Kingdom (UK) and New Zealand/Aotearoa (NZ). This research is comparative, and largely theorized within the intersectionality model, and discusses how class, gender and ethnicity intersect in Polish women’s behaviour in culturally and geographically different environments. Kinga’s research shows Polish women in the context of lifestyle migration, rather than in the labour migration context in which Polonia is often discussed.

Dr Nancy Hawker
University of Oxford
The neoliberal peace and the gender strife (from the point of view of a Palestinian cleaner of Israeli homes)?

Um Ahmad* interrupted the hanging of laundry in the yard of her house in Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem, Palestine, to motion wearily towards her husband. Using my presence as a proxy, she teased him: “Find him another wife,” she said, implying that she had had enough of fulfilling the marital role. She had been working as a cleaner in Israeli homes ever since his health condition prevented him from holding a job.

Analyses of labour migration makes many interrelated problems – of international relations, of social inequalities – poignantly salient. And yet, the assignment of different economic roles according to gender – the sexual contract (Pateman 1988) which has informed the makeup of labour migration – has been mostly ignored in the analyses. Neoliberal theory analyses labour
migration in terms of ‘rational choice’ of individual workers who seek better wages, sees remittances as the spreading of wealth that builds positive international relations – the neoliberal peace – and views cheap, abundant, and mobile workforce as a comparative economic advantage (Barbieri and Schneider 1999). This perspective is criticized as simplistic by the scholars of Dependency theory, who frame labour migration in structures of dependence and exploitation, but it still holds sway in many diplomatic corridors (Hout 1993).

The economistic debate seems to miss the point that migrant workers have not experienced their labour only as a comparative advantage or as economic exploitation but as a practice adapted to circumstances; circumstances which are being increasingly constrained by securitisation. Securitisation – at least in the Israeli-Palestinian context – is gendered, with particularly onerous constraints placed on younger Palestinian men, who in one version of the sexual contract would have been expected to be the main wage-earning agents in a wider communal economy that included unwaged labour (Jacobsen 2004). The resulting male unemployment and poverty in parts of the population such as Dheisheh refugee camp, means that the sexual contract has gained some fluidity (Farsakh 2005), which Um Ahmad perhaps captured in the repartee to her husband.

This paper will seek to incorporate gender in the core of the analysis of labour migration, with a particular interest in the effects of securitisation, using Um Ahmad’s case as an illustration. My ethnographic research comprised interviews with Palestinian workers in Israeli employment, and the proportion of men and women corresponded roughly to the official statistics on the distribution of the sexes in labour migration: out of 52 workers interviewed, four were women. The particular paradoxes of house cleaning – which in one context is a job and in another is unwaged labour – can only be unpacked with the help of feminist theory (Treas and Lui 2013). By highlighting sections of Um Ahmad’s interview which addressed mobility, inequality, choice, security, international and gender relations, we shall see how her perspective linked political and macro-economic theories to practices. And she still had the laundry to hang.

*‘Um Ahmad’ is a pseudonym.

References
Barbieri, Katherine and Gerald Schneider. 1999. ‘Globalization and Peace: Assessing New Direction in the Study of Trade and
Conflict’ in *Journal of Peace Research* Vol.36 No.4, Special Issue on Trade and Conflict (July 1999), pp.387-404.


**Nancy Hawker (University of Oxford) – See page 4.**

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**ANNA KHLUSOVA**

King’s College London

*Gender on the move: international student mobility, identity and Russian-speaking women in the 21st century digital world*

This paper discusses the previously unidentified matter of diaspora among young Russian and Kazakh women, who live and study in the UK. Positioned at the nexus of gender, mobility and new media, it introduces the micro-level analysis of the mundane realities of their new transnational lives as intertwined with the use of digital media technologies, and questions what it actually means for these mobile women’s shifting subjectivities and multiple identity (re)constructions. The objective here is to bring the strands of scholarship previously held apart into a conversation to scrutinise international student mobility as a contested space that re-mediate women’s performances of gender and their consciousness of “self” in evolving familial and social networks. In this emerging frame, ICTs need to be approached as restructuring interconnections between experiences and practices of transnational mobility, gender, identity reimagining and remembering. To create new understandings of international women students’ identity reconstructions and negotiations, this work aims to avoid any romanticising discourses of transnational and educational mobility, and to foreground, instead, the tensions, struggles and competing pressures that lie at the heart of women’s experiences abroad. The paper deals as well with a double critical discussion involving both the methodological strategy adopted and the
theoretical opportunities of the proposed approach. Finally, the text introduces the forthcoming developments of this extensive research program.

Anna Khlusova (King’s College London) – See page 1.

DR RICHARD MOLE
University College London
Identity, belonging and solidarity among Russian-speaking queer migrants in Berlin

The paper provides an empirically grounded analysis of migration by LGBQ individuals from Russia and other post-Soviet states to Berlin. It seeks to further our understanding of queer migration by analysing the motivations and integration strategies of LGBQ migrants as well as their attempts to maintain and perform their identities, and seek out communities of belonging in the post-migration context. A further contribution of the paper is the examination of the potential benefit of ‘queer diaspora’ as a heuristic device to think about identity, belonging and solidarity among sexual minorities in the context of dispersal and transnational networks.

Dr Richard Mole (University College London) is Senior Lecturer in Political Sociology and Politics and Sociology Programmes Coordinator at UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies. He teaches and contributes towards a range of courses relating to identity, politics and society. His research focuses the relationship between identity and power, with particular reference to nationalism, sexualities, migration, diasporas and asylum. He has a strong theoretical interest in discourse – particularly, the post-structuralist discourse theories of Laclau and Mouffe – and a regional interest in Russia, Poland, Germany and the Baltic States and increasingly on Brazil and other Latin American societies.

and Sexually Transmitted Infections.

His current research examines the intersections between migration and sexuality. He first explored this relationship as part of a large-scale collaborative project on the Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles of London’s East Europeans between SSEES and the UCL Centre for Sexual Health and HIV Research. The project, which received funding of £400,000 from the UK Medical Research Council, comprised a survey of over 3,500 East European migrants and 50 in-depth interviews and provided invaluable insights into the sexual behaviours and attitudes of these new communities.
CONTACT DETAILS

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Anna Khlusova  
anna.khlusova@kcl.ac.uk

Kinga Kozminska  
kinga.kozminska@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk

DISCUSSANTS

Dr Erez Levon  
e.levon@qmul.ac.uk

Dr Pia Pichler  
P.Pichler@gold.ac.uk

Prof Anna Reading  
anna.reading@kcl.ac.uk

Prof Anne White  
anne.white@ucl.ac.uk

PRESENTERS

Dr Richard Mole  
r.mole@ucl.ac.uk

Kinga Goodwin  
kinga.goodwin.14@ucl.ac.uk

Ayten Alibaba  
A.Alibaba@warwick.ac.uk

Dr Jo Angouri  
J.Angouri@warwick.ac.uk

Dr Nancy Hawker  
nancy.hawker@orinst.ox.ac.uk

Programme: Kinga Kozminska