

Transnational Migration and the City: Infrastructure, Everyday Life and Affect

Convener:

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Session Abstract:

Transnationalism researchers have a long-standing interest on the city. Transnational migrants move not only between countries, but also between cities. The city does not simply send and receive transnational migrants, but actively engages into transnational migration and everyday lived experiences. Transnational social actors are materially embedded in urban spaces and the examination of translocalised urban practices could help researchers to gain a better knowledge of transnational mobilities (Conradson & Latham, 2005; Schiller, 2005; Smith, 2001, 2005). This session hopes to contribute existing scholarship through highlighting the latest theoretical/practical trend of transnational migration and urban studies.

This session particularly focuses on infrastructure, everyday life and affect. Migration infrastructures, including documentary systems, migration agencies, transport systems and other physical and organisational architectures, can steer mobilities and generate migrant categories (Lin, et al., 2017). But most discussion about migration infrastructures mainly focuses on the state level. In some countries of great size, like China, the municipal migration infrastructure has significantly supplemented national infrastructure and powerfully influences people's mobilities and other related issues. Once settling down in a city, migrants' everyday life is embodied in various urban spaces and they inevitably interact with different social groups in the city. The wider material, economic and socio-cultural environments in city constitute an affective atmosphere to shape migrants' everyday lived experiences as well as their feelings, emotions and other subjectivities.

This session invites any papers reflecting on transnational migration and the city, including but not limited within following themes:

- The embodiment of (un)skilled migrants' everyday life and mobilities in cities
- Emplacement and displacement of mobile subjects
- Municipal migration regimes and its interplay with state regimes
- The politics of identity related to migrants in urban spaces
- Affective urban space
- Sense of place, emotions, feelings and other subjectivities of migrants
- New research approaches and methodologies about transnational migration

Please send your paper title, abstract (250 words max.), email address and affiliation to Yunting Qi (Yunting.Qi.2017@live.rhul.ac.uk) by 7 Feb 2019.

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