

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
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Technologies of Migranticization (2SC2154)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal M ScS - anthropologie	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M ScS - géographie humaine	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M ScS - migration et citoyenneté	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M ScS - migration et citoyenneté (EuMIGS)	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M ScS - psychologie et éducation	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M ScS - sociologie	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - anthropologie	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - géographie humaine	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - migration et citoyenneté	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - psychologie et éducation	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - sociologie	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Prof. Janine Dahinden and Gesa Teigelkötter

Contenu

Migration is at the top of the political and public agenda in most European and North American countries. Students, journalists, politicians, scholars, and others all use the figure of the 'migrant' to make various claims: as a (naturalized) object of study; to draw attention to state violence; to ask for their 'integration', to point to 'cultural others'; or simply to instrumentalize the figure of the 'migrant' for nationalist purposes, among other things. This migration obsession means also that simultaneously, migranticized people experience high degrees of violence, discrimination and exclusion.

But who and what is a migrant, and what is this discourse on migration really about? It is clear that people are not (im)migrants by nature or by default. Nor are they born migrants; rather, they become migrants through particular social processes—namely, and this is what we will explore in this seminar, through technologies of migranticization. These technologies of power can be understood as a set of performative practices and techniques that ascribe migratory status—categorically, symbolically, administratively, and discursively—to certain people and bodies (but not to all), thereby (re)establishing an a priori distinction between them and non-migrant citizens. In doing so, they place people within distinct hierarchies (both within and between nation-states), accompanied by an unequal distribution of symbolic and material societal resources. This course is anchored in a growing body of critical and reflexive scholarship that seeks to understand the production, invention, enactment, and construction of the 'migrant' and the consequences of these processes. We will critically examine these technologies, discourses, and practices on several levels. First, we will investigate how the figure of the migrant is produced and constructed, by whom, through which mechanisms, and with what consequences. Second, we will scrutinize migration studies by asking: How does this field through its at times migranticized epistemology contribute to migranticized worldviews that result in violence and specific forms of exclusion? And, importantly, how can the social sciences and migration studies contribute to challenging and contesting migranticized worldviews and how can they advance alternative narratives beyond the idea of the 'migrant as a problem'?

Forme de l'évaluation

Evaluation interne: Requirements

1. Presence on all dates (compulsory)
2. Response papers for compulsory readings to be put on Moodle the evening before the respective sessions (i.e. September 24 and October 05) in one document per student. (20%)
3. Abstract on Call for Papers (CfP; it will be discussed on Oct 6, 2026) to be submitted latest on October 18, 2026
4. Conference proceedings (2000-3000 words) to be submitted latest 2 weeks ahead of the presentations/student conference (due latest on November 22, 2026), so that participants can read all papers and discussants can get prepared for their comments. (50%)

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5. At the students' conference: Presentation (15-20 minutes) of your conference proceeding and a brief (5-7 minutes) discussion of a colleague's paper (the so-called discussant). (30%)

Use of AI: Follow the MAPS guidelines, https://www.unine.ch/maps/wp-content/uploads/sites/96/251202_Directives_IA_LAPS.pdf i.e. do not forget to add a paragraph at the end of any document you submit for this seminar (response papers, abstract, conference paper and presentation) clarifying your use of AI in accordance with these rules.

Grades will be communicated latest during the exam session of January 2027.

Modalités de rattrapage

Submission of revised conference paper -2nd attempt: January 5, 2027. Publication of result during exam period of January 2027.

Documentation

Syllabus on moodle: Moodle: Technologies of Migranticization : The Invention of the Migrant, Technologies of Power and Everyday Categorizations

Compulsory readings can also be found on moodle as much as detailed indications about the functioning of the seminar.

Forme de l'enseignement

Timetable and structure of the seminar

15.09.2026 (Tuesday) Introduction: 16:15-17:45

25.09.2026 (Friday) Session 1: Working on texts 09:15-17:00

06.10.2026 (Tuesday) Session 2: Working on texts 09:15-17:00

03.12.2026 (Thursday) Student Conference 09:15-17:00

04.12.2026 (Friday) Student Conference 09:15-17:00

04.12.2026: The conference will be followed by a keynote talk (17-18h) and a Conference Dinner (restaurant tba)

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Discuss critical and reflexive migration studies as complex and contested.
- Apply concepts relevant for interventions from reflexive and critical perspectives in migration studies
- Develop research questions for a conference paper.
- Illustrate different concepts in their analysis of selected ethnographic/media/digital representations of 'the migrant'.
- Present a research paper in a conference setting