UCL Global Migration Symposia

‘Globalisation & Cosmopolitan Citizenship: Migrating bodies, practices and ideas’

Professor Peggy Levitt
(Wellesley College, USA)
Cosmopolitanism today is no longer the exclusive province of elites. Labour migrants, sojourners, religious believers and refugees are also open to the world, although they interact with it differently than their professional counterparts. In fact, in today’s world, cosmopolitanism is a necessity not a choice. What are the rights and responsibilities of global citizenship? How can we begin to imagine a community that extends beyond national borders? From where do the elements come with which to create it?

Speaker:
Peggy Levitt is Professor of Sociology at Wellesley College, and a Research Fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and the Hauser Center for Non-profit Organizations at Harvard University, where she co-directs the Transnational Studies Initiative. Her books include ‘God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the changing American religious landscape’, ‘The Transnational Studies Reader’, ‘The Changing Face of Home: The transnational lives of the second generation’ and ‘The Transnational Villagers’.

Chair:
Dr Claire Dwyer
(UCL Geography)

Discussant:
Professor John Eade
Director of CRONEM
University of Roehampton and Visiting Professor in the UCL Migration Research Unit
Migration and its consequences are perhaps the key defining characteristics of contemporary global society. It is both a source of tremendous innovation and cultural cross-fertilisation, as well as frequently being a source of conflict and political debates. UCL is particularly well placed to make a significant contribution to such debates.

The UCL Global Migration Symposia are organised by a network of UCL academics, comprising experts from the social, medical and physical sciences, along with the arts and humanities, to explore the many-sided dynamics of global migration. They aim to bring together stakeholders from across the wider academic, public policy and NGO communities to debate key issues of global migration.

The UCL Global Migration Symposia are supported by the UCL Research Challenges Fund and by UCL’s Grand Challenge of Intercultural Interaction, an institution-wide programme which examines the causes and features of social and cultural diversity, assesses their implications, and devises novel strategies to address them.