Thinking Transnationally about Migration

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THINKING OUTSIDE THE NATION-STATE CONTAINER

- Many things including capitalism, social movements, imperialism, and religion have always crossed borders.

- The contemporary nation-state system is relatively new.

- Taking the nation-state container as given blinds us to many social processes.

- Trading in our national lens for a transnational lens.
USING A TRANSNATIONAL LENS TO UNDERSTAND MIGRATION

• Migration is as much about people who stay behind as it is about people who move.

• The “landscapes” migrants inhabit are multi-sited and multi-layered.

• Incorporation and transnational ties are not incompatible.

• Simultaneity rather than assimilation vs. enduring homeland involvements is increasingly common.
SOCIAL REMITTANCES REVISITED

- Movement is circular, not just one way
- Cultural and social. Not all positive
- Collective social remittances
- Scaling up and scaling out
CONCLUSION

• Social remittances need to be taken into account

• Religion needs to be taken into account

• Sending-country development and immigrant poverty and social exclusion are often two sides of the same coin.

• Transnational problems need transnational solutions. How can we put in place social contracts that are fulfilled beyond the boundaries of the nation-state?