

# 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?