TRANSNATIONALISM WORKSHOP
Organized by
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance/ UNU-Merit &
Erasmus University Rotterdam Sociology Department
December 14, 2011
Maastricht, the Netherlands

The transnationalism approach has been developed to account for the complex and multidimensional character of the migration phenomenon. On the one side, this perspective criticizes methodological nationalism; on the other side it puts forward the significance of circularity and dynamism of international migration across contexts. Both the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance/ UNU-Merit and Erasmus University Rotterdam Sociology Department implement a transnationalism perspective in their migration research that covers a wide range of topics from impact and determinants of economic remittances, to return migration and the relationship between integration processes and engagement in transnational activities. Moreover, researchers have acknowledged that bringing in different perspectives together, having an interdisciplinary approach and using mixed methods can only contribute to a better understanding of migration. Based on this common ground of the two institutes, we have decided to organize a Transnationalism Workshop on December 14, 2011 in Maastricht Graduate School of Governance/ UNU-Merit.

The main aim of Transnationalism Workshop is to bring together the researchers of both institutes together to share their knowledge and expertise and discuss future collaboration opportunities. The workshop consists of two main parts: (1) conceptualizing transnationalism (and integration) and (2) methodological tools to analyze transnationalism (and integration). During the two sessions, PhD researchers applying a transnationalism perspective will have the opportunity to present their work and get feedback from migration experts. The session will be followed up by a more general discussion on the conceptualization of transnationalism and the methodological tools to use in order to study migration through a transnationalism perspective. Consequently, organizers are hoping this initiative to lead to a more permanent dialogue and cooperation between the two institutes.
Practical information:

Location: Conference Room UNU-Merit Building, Keizer Karel Plein 19, Maastricht

Date: 1100 – 1730, 14 December 2011

Planning:

1100-1130: Introduction by Dr. Melissa Siegel and Prof. Godfried Engbersen

11.30-1215: Masja van Meeteren (EUR, Post doc), Irregular migration and transnationalism

1230-1330: Migration Seminar by Prof. Godfried Engbersen, Fourfold Labour Migration. On the Differential Attachments of Migrants from Central and Eastern Europe
(Sandwich lunch is provided during the seminar)

1345-1430: Marianne van Bochove (EUR, PhD Researcher), Spheres of transnationalism. Activities and identifications of socioeconomically successful migrants

1430-1515: Linda Bakker (EUR, PhD Researcher) Integration of refugee groups from a transnational perspective

1515-1530: Coffee Break

1530-1615: Ozge Bilgili (MGSoG, PhD Researcher) Compatibility between integration processes and engagement in transnational activities

1615-1700: Discussion on methodological tools to analyze transnationalism

1700-1730: Concluding remarks and evaluation of the workshop

1730-1900: Drinks in Maastricht (Optional)

Important Note: PhD researchers will present their work for 15 minutes, and there will be time for 30 minutes discussion. Presenters are expected to send their discussion note/paper to Ozge Bilgili (ozge.bilgili@maastrichtuniversity.nl) the latest on December 7. The papers will be disseminated among all participants for a more profitable discussion. It is also appreciated if the presenters send their PPT presentation in advance for installation, not to lose time during the workshop.

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