



Transnational Social Spaces – Syllabus

Department	Department of Sociology						Year	2025/ 2026
Course	Transnational Social Spaces						ECTS	5
Study programme	Graduate programme in Sociology							
Level of study programme	☐ Undergraduate		☒ Graduate		☐ Integrated		☐ Postgraduate	
Type of study programme	☐ Single major ☐ Double major		☒ University		☐ Professional		☐ Specialized	
Year of study	☐ 1		☐ 2		☐ 3		☒ 4	
Semester	☐ Winter		☐ I		☐ II		☐ III	
	☒ Summer		☐ VI		☐ VII		☒ VIII	
Status of the course	☐ Compulsory		☒ Elective		☐ Elective course offered to students from other departments		Teaching Competencies	☐ YES ☒ NO
Workload	30	L	15	S		E	Internet sources for e-learning	☐ YES ☒ NO
Location and time of instruction	Room 002 Wednesdays 12:00-15:00					Language(s) in which the course is taught	English	
Course start date	8 October 2025					Course end date	21 January 2026	
Enrolment requirements								
Course coordinator	Prof. Saša Božić							
E-mail	sbozic@unizd.hr					Consultation hours	Wednesdays 18:00-19:30 (by appointment) Room 110	
Course instructor								
E-mail						Consultation hours		
Assistant/ Associate								
E-mail						Consultation hours		
Assistant/ Associate								
E-mail						Consultation hours		
Mode of teaching	☒ Lectures		☒ Seminars and workshops		☐ Exercises		☐ E-learning	
	☐ Individual assignments		☐ Multimedia and network		☐ Laboratory		☒ Field work	
						☐ Mentoring		☐ Other



Learning outcomes		After successful completion of the course the students will be able to: • Recognise and to become aware of the bias of 'methodological nationalism' in contemporary social sciences. • Understand the foundation of new social ties across the boundaries of nation-states. • Identify and apply appropriate theories and concepts of transnational social space on specific empirical cases. • Use the concept of transnational social space as an alternative concept to contemporary sociological theories in personal work and research. • Write an essay in form of a scientific article.			
Learning outcomes at the Programme level		- Identify and describe complex social phenomena. - Evaluate suitability of theoretical and methodological approaches to researching social phenomena. - Apply suitable theoretical and methodological approach to researching social phenomena. - Prepare a research article. - Connect new knowledge with previously acquired knowledge and experience.			
Assessment criteria	☒ Class attendance	☒ Preparation for class	☐ Homework	☐ Continuous evaluation	☒ Research
	☒ Practical work	☐ Experimental work	☐ Presentation	☒ Project	☐ Seminar
	☐ Test(s)	☐ Written exam	☐ Oral exam	☒ Other: essay	
Conditions for permission to take the exam	Regular attendance of lectures and seminars. Students are obliged to prepare an essay in the form of a scientific article based on their research during the semester.				
Exam periods	☐ Winter		☒ Summer		☒ Autumn
Exam dates			28 January 2026 11 February 2026		2 September 2026 11 September 2026
Course description	Sociologists used to conceptualise society as a limited 'container' within which separate social relations and a specific national culture developed. Definition of space as a separate entity, independent of social actors, led towards the concept of national societies as isolated containers and produced a widely accepted framework for sociological analysis of social relations. Due to the processes of transnationalisation, a new perspective of the relations between social, cultural and spatial, between the social space and geographical space is sought. New approaches to the research of social space focus on space as a set of relations between positions of socially significant elements. These positions structure human activities and at the same time, they are structured by human practices. Within new theoretical perspectives, social relations are not limited within space conceived as a container but constitute social space. Without elements such as social practices and symbols there are no socially and sociologically relevant spaces. Further on, culture becomes increasingly detached from standardised cultural frames of national societies and cultural pluralism and transnational syncretism develop together with the new transnational social spaces. The course will consequently deal with widely spread types of transnational social spaces, such as transnational families, transnational entrepreneurial networks, transnational movements, transnational communities, with special reference on				



	cultural changes which enable refocusing of actors from local and national to plurilocal and transnational frameworks, as well as constructing new forms of decentred group identities.
Course content	1. Introductory Lecture Geographical and Social Space – Variation in thinking about space 2. Social Space – From ‘Container’ Space towards Social Space 3. Social Space – Terminology and Concepts 4. Methodological Nationalism and Territory in the Social Sciences 5. Transnational Processes and New Configurations of Social Spaces 6. Transnational Social Space and ‘Transnationalism’ 7. Society as Transnational Social Fields; Transnational Social Spaces and Migration 8. Transnational Social Space, Businessmen and the Capitalist Class 9. Transnational Space and Media 10. Transnational Households and Families 11. Political ‘Transnationalism’ and Transnational Citizenship 12. Transnational Social Movements 13. Geography of Transnational Social Spaces 14. Researching Transnational Social Space 15. The Future of Transnational Spaces
Required reading	Acedera, K. A. and Yeoh, B. S.A. (2019) ‘Making time’: Long-distance marriages and the temporalities of the transnational family. <i>Current Sociology Monograph</i> 67(2):250–272. Amelina, A. and Faist, T. (2012) ‘De-naturalizing the national in research methodologies: key concepts of transnational studies in migration. <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 35(10):1725–1740. Bauböck, R. (2003) ‘Towards a Political Theory of Migrant Transnationalism’, <i>International Migration Review</i> 37(3):700–723. Božić, S. and Kuti, S (2019) ‘Social Space and Transnational Social Space: How to Explore a Missing Link?’. <i>Sociologija i prostor</i> 57(1):5–22. Burris, V and Staples, C. L. (2012). In search of a transnational capitalist class: Alternative methods for comparing director interlocks within and between nations and regions. <i>International Journal of Comparative Sociology</i> 53(4):323–342. Carling, J. (2003) ‘Cartographies of Cape Verdean Transnationalism’. <i>Global Networks</i> 3(4):335–341. Faist, T. (2000) ‘Transnationalization in International Migration: Implication for the Study of Citizenship and Culture’. <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 23(2):189–222. Faist, T. (2010) ‘Towards Transnational Studies: World Theories, Transnationalisation and Changing Institutions’. <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> 36(10):1665–1687. Gilson, J. (2011) ‘Transnational Advocacy: New Spaces, New Voices’, <i>Alternatives: Global, Local, Political</i> 36(4):288–306. Georgiou, M. (2012) ‘Seeking Ontological Security beyond the Nation: The Role of Transnational Television’. <i>Television and New Media</i> 14(4): 304–321. Harvey, D. (2005). <i>Spaces of neoliberalization: towards a theory of uneven geographical development</i>. Wiesbaden, Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, pp. 93–115. Levitt P. and Glick Schiller N. (2004) ‘Conceptualizing Simultaneity: A Transnational Social Field Perspective on Society’. <i>International Migration Review</i> 38(3):1002–1039.



	Ley, D. (2004) 'Transnational Spaces and Everyday Lives', Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers 29(2):151-164. Maiba, H. (2005) 'Grassroots Transnational Social Movement Activism: The Case of People's Global Action'. Sociological Focus 38(1):41-63. Pries, L. (2005) Configuration of geographic and societal spaces: a sociological proposal between 'methodological nationalism' and the 'spaces of flows'. Global Networks 5(2):167-190. Richter, M. (2012) Researching Transnational Social Spaces: A Qualitative Study of the Spanish Second Generation in Switzerland. Forum: Qualitative Social Research 13(3) Art. 8. Roudometof, V. (2005) 'Transnationalism, Cosmopolitanism and Glocalization', Current Sociology 53(1):113-135. Sandoval, G. F. (2013) 'Shadow Transnationalism: Cross-Border Networks and Planning Challenges of Transnational Unauthorized Immigrant Communities'. Journal of Planning Education and Research 33(2):176-193. Scheibelhofer, E. (2011) Raumsensible Migrationsforschung: Methodische Überlegungen und ihre empirische Relevanz für die Migrationssoziologie. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, pp. 27-82. Sheller, M. (2019). 'Afterword: Time is of the essence'. Current Sociology Monograph 67(2):334-344. Voigt-Graf, C. (2004) 'Towards a Geography of Transnational Spaces: Indian Transnational Communities in Australia', Global Networks 4(1):25-49. Waldinger, R. (2013) 'Immigrant Transnationalism'. Current Sociology Review 61(5-6):756-777. Wimmer A. and Glick Schiller, N. (2003) 'Methodological Nationalism, the Social Sciences and the Study of Migration: An Essay in Historical Epistemology'. International Migration Review 37(3):576-610.					
Additional reading	Additional literature will be given to all students after the subject of their research is determined following the introductory lecture and the first seminar.					
Internet sources						
Assessment criteria of learning outcomes	Final exam only					
	☐ Final written exam		☐ Final oral exam		☐ Final written and oral exam	☒ Practical work and final exam
	☐ Only test/homework	☐ Test/homework and final exam	☐ Seminar paper	☐ Seminar paper and final exam	☐ Practical work	☐ other forms
Calculation of final grade	Students are obliged to prepare an essay in the form of a scientific article based on their research during the semester. The following elements are evaluated: consistency of the thesis, content and data; originality of interpretations of the researched phenomenon, integration of contemporary theory into the main arguments of the essay.					



	Essay must meet the following formal criteria: min. 10 pages of text, and separately: the cover page, list of references, attachments, images, etc., font 12, Times New Roman, 1.5 line spacing
Course evaluation procedures	☒ Student evaluations conducted by the University ☐ Student evaluations conducted by the Department ☒ Internal evaluation of teaching ☒ Department meetings discussing quality of teaching and results of student evaluations ☐ Other
Note /Other	In accordance with Art. 6 of the <i>Code of Ethics</i> of the Committee for Ethics in Science and Higher Education, "the student is expected to fulfil his/her obligations honestly and ethically, to pursue academic excellence, to be civilized, respectful and free from prejudice." According to Art. 14 of the University of Zadar's <i>Code of Ethics</i>, students are expected to "fulfil their responsibilities responsibly and conscientiously. [...] Students are obligated to safeguard the reputation and dignity of all members of the university community and the University of Zadar as a whole, to promote moral and academic values and principles. [...]" Any act constituting a violation of academic honesty is ethically prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: - various forms of fraud such as the use or possession of books, notes, data, electronic gadgets or other aids during examinations, except when permitted; - various forms of forgery such as the use or possession of unauthorised materials during the exam; impersonation and attendance at exams on behalf of other students; fraudulent study documents; forgery of signatures and grades; falsifying exam results." All forms of unethical behaviour will result in a negative grade in the course without the possibility of compensation or repair. In case of serious violations the <i>Rulebook on Disciplinary Responsibility of Students at the University of Zadar</i> will be applied. In electronic communications only messages coming from known addresses with a first and a last name, and which are written in the Croatian standard and appropriate academic style, will be responded to.