

Working Title of Thesis

The impact of local geographies on migrant women's activism: the case of Manchester and Sheffield

Supervisors

Dr Bridget Byrne and Dr Jonathan Darling
Dr Nina Glick Schiller (currently on leave)

PhD Research

Much of the academic research on migration has been guilty of "methodological nationalism", assuming that the migration policy and the experiences of migrants are uniform throughout a particular nation-state. Additionally, migrants are frequently constructed, in both government policy and popular discourse, as male. This project seeks to challenge these tendencies by researching the impact of local geographies on the activism of migrant women in Manchester and Sheffield. In doing so, this project draws on several bodies of knowledge across various disciplines, including social movements theories, research on the construction of space, urban studies, the study of nations and nationalisms, migration studies, and postcolonial and transnational feminist theory.

Research Interests

- Gender, race, nationalism and citizenship in the UK, and the construction of these in discourses and policies around migration
- The relationship between the spatial construction of the local, migration flows, and neo-liberalism
- Social movements, particularly those centered on migration, and urban social movements
- Reproductive Justice and the relationship between state policies on reproduction and immigration controls

Background

Originally from Canada, I was awarded an Honours BA (with Distinction) from the University of Toronto in June 2004 (Specialist Degree in Political Science and Philosophy and a Minor in Women's Studies), and an MA (with Merit) in Gender, Sexuality and Culture from the University of Manchester in December 2005. My research is influenced by my involvement in feminist politics and social movements around migration, both in Canada and in the UK. I am fluent in French and can also speak some Spanish and Italian.

Financial Awards

- PhD Bursary, Research Institute for Cosmopolitan Cultures, University of Manchester (valid for 3 years)

Academic Publications

“Reproductive Justice and Migrant Women in Great Britain” (2012) *Women: A Cultural Review*
Forthcoming

Academic Conferences

“Xenophobia, Migration & Reproductive Justice” *Transnational Feminisms Conference*, University of Manchester, 3 – 5 December 2009

“National Borders and Women as Boundaries” *Gender, Borders & Boundaries Conference*, University of Manchester, 27 June 2008

Other Academic Activities

Coordinator, Research Institute for Cosmopolitan Cultures Reading Group, 2011-2012

Peer Reviewer, *Graduate Journal of Social Sciences*, 2010 – Present

Peer Reviewer, *Political Perspectives*, 2010 – Present

Panel chair, “Governments & NGOs”, *Transnational Feminisms Conference*, University of Manchester, 3 – 5 December 2009

Non-Academic Publications

“Untitled (Reflections on white privilege and immigration controls)” *Race Revolt*, Issue #4, April 2009

Non-Academic Conferences and Workshops

Organiser “Reproductive Justice” workshop, *DIY Feminist Festival*, Manchester, 3 September 2011

Speaker, Reproductive Freedoms Panel, *Gender, Race & Class Activist Conference*, 14 February 2009

Organiser, “Imperialism and Motherhood” workshop, *Feminist Fightback Teach-in for Reproductive Freedoms*, London School of Economics, 12 April 2008

Speaker, Gender, Race & Class Panel, *Feminist Fightback Conference 2007*, University of East London, 20 October 2007

Contact

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