Geographies of Mobility, Travel and Tourism

Lecturer: Dr. Laura Prazeres, Royal Holloway, University of London

Academic coordinator: Prof.ssa Caterina Martinelli, Dipartimento TeSIS, Univr

Seminar 1 theory – Introduction to Geographies of Mobility, Travel and Tourism (March 10th)
Seminar 2 methodology – Doing Mobility Research: Visual and Virtual Mobile Methodologies (March 24th)
Seminar 3 empirical – Case Studies: Traveller Identity and Meaning of ‘Home’ (April 14th)
Seminar 4 research project presentation – Student Symposium (April 28th)

“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.”
– Henry Miller

Email: Laura.Prazeres.2011@live.rhul.ac.uk
Ciclo di seminari

Geographies of Mobility, Travel and Tourism

(Accreditato con 2 CFU tipologia D, per la LM in Lingue per la Comunicazione Turistica e Commerciale)

Docente:
Dott.ssa Laura Prazeres, Royal Holloway, University of London
Responsabilità scientifica: Prof.ssa Caterina Martinelli, Dipartimento TeSIS, Università di Verona

Il ciclo di seminari introdurrà i concetti chiave della geografia sociale e culturale nell’ambito degli studi sulla mobilità, il viaggio e il turismo. I seminari affronteranno il modo in cui il viaggio e la mobilità variano a seconda dei gruppi di viaggiatori coinvolti così come a seconda degli spazi, dei luoghi e delle culture interessate e si focalizzerà poi, in particolare, sulla mobilità giovanile. Il percorso prevede l’impiego di diverse modalità di lavoro e favorirà la partecipazione attiva e critica dei/lle partecipanti. Favorirà inoltre lo sviluppo di competenze utili per la stesura e la discussione della tesi di Laurea.

Programma:

Seminario teorico – Introduction to Geographies of Mobility, Travel and Tourism
Martedì 10 marzo, 16:00-17:30 (Palazzo di Lingue, aula S.11)

Seminario metodologico – Doing Mobility Research: Visual and Virtual Mobile Methodologies
Martedì 24 marzo, 16:00-17:30 (Palazzo di Lingue, aula S.11)

Seminario empirico – Case Studies: Traveller Identity and Meaning of ‘Home’
Martedì 14 aprile, 16:00-17:30 (Palazzo di Lingue, aula S.11)

Evento conclusivo – Student Symposium
Martedì 28 aprile, 14:30-17:30 (Aula Seminari Dipartimento TeSIS, 3° Piano Palazzo di Lettere)¹

Per il programma dettagliato si veda la sezione Avvisi nella pagina Web della Prof.ssa Caterina Martinelli.

L’iscrizione è obbligatoria per gli studenti/esse che richiedono l’accreditamento. Per iscriversi inviare una e-mail a Laura.Prazeres.2011@live.rhul.ac.uk entro l’8 marzo, specificando nome, cognome, matricola, corso di laurea e e-mail.
Per motivi organizzativi è gradita una comunicazione e-mail anche da parte di eventuali altri/e partecipanti non iscritti/e.

Per informazioni: Dr Laura Prazeres
E-mail Laura.Prazeres.2011@live.rhul.ac.uk

Gli incontri si terranno in lingua inglese. Tutti gli incontri sono aperti al pubblico.

¹ Data, ora e luogo di questo incontro potrebbero variare. Eventuali variazioni saranno opportunamente segnalate.
Accreditation

The seminars confer 2 CFU of type D for students enrolled in the post-graduate degree course in Languages for Tourism and Commerce (LM-38). The requirements for obtaining the accreditation are:

- Compulsory attendance at the seminars (minimum 3 of 4, including the symposium).
- Presentation and submission of a written research project proposal (which will be agreed with the lecturer. Deadline for submission: May 15th, 2015.
- Participation in the activities throughout the seminar (see ‘workload’).

Registration

Registration is compulsory for students seeking accreditation. To register, please send an email to Laura.Prazeres.2011@live.rhul.ac.uk by March 8, with your name, student number, degree course attended and email address. All other enquiries are also welcome by email.

(The seminars are open to the public)

Reading material

For those interested, some of the suggested readings (below) are available with Dr. Prazeres.

For information:

Dott.ssa Laura Prazeres
Palazzo di Lettere, Piano 1, stanza 1.12
Orari: mercoledì 14.00-16.00.
E-mail: Laura.Prazeres.2011@live.rhul.ac.uk
Introduction and context

Travel, tourism and mobility have become central to social research. In an increasingly globalised and mobile world, there is a need for research to examine the experience of mobile groups and individuals. People’s movement across space is imbued with meaning, challenges and aspirations. Moreover, young people make up the world’s most mobile group (UNDESA, 2011). Youth mobility has recently emerged at the fore of international attention. The forthcoming UN World Youth Report focuses on the theme of the 2013 International Youth Day (IYD) on ‘Youth Migration’. Young people can embody different positions as they move through space; that is, as students, migrants, travellers, expatriates, global nomads and others.

The seminar will build on Dr. Laura Prazeres’ doctoral research and an organized session at the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) in London, August 2014. The importance of geography within the social sciences comes from its multidisciplinary nature. Geographical concepts not only extend across disciplines but are at the foundation of much sociological and anthropological thought. Geographical thought considers the multi-dimensional, multi-conceptual and multi-spatial conditions of mobility. This seminar will address the themes of self-discovery, identity and home within youth mobility, travel and tourism.

Aims

This series of seminars will introduce participants to key concepts in social and cultural geography within studies of mobility, travel and tourism. From exchange students to world travellers, the seminar will discuss how travel and mobility vary between groups of travellers and across space, place and cultures. With a focus on youth mobility, the seminar will discuss the themes of self-discovery, identity and ‘home’. It will demonstrate the use of photography and ‘online’ virtual ethnography as rich and dynamic methods for doing mobility and travel research.

Participation in this course includes the use of different modes of work. One of the objectives of the course is to offer students the opportunity to learn how to develop and design an independent research project proposal based on the theoretical and methodological frameworks discussed in the seminars. The other aim of this course is to help students develop their presentation skills and critically discuss their work in front of an audience.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the seminar, participants will be able to:

- Apply geographical concepts to research on travel and tourism.
- Understand and master qualitative methodologies for conducting mobility research.
- Critically evaluate different forms of mobility, travel and tourism.
- Develop and design an independent research project proposal.
- Present and critically discuss their work in front of an audience.
Content

The content of the seminar will cover different perspectives and themes within mobility, travel and tourism and will be structured into four parts. The first part will present the key concepts of mobility, place, sense of place and ‘home’ within social and cultural geography. The second part will discuss research methods used in social and cultural geography as they pertain to tourism and mobility research. The third will focus on different case studies in order to illustrate empirical examples of concepts and methodologies in practice. These three parts will culminate in a presentation from participants on their individual research project proposals on mobility, travel or tourism.

The seminars will take a participative approach. It will draw on a mix of Power Point presentations, recommended readings and interactive group discussions. Mobility, travel and tourism will be examined using key social and geographical concepts. Participants will be able to share and critically evaluate their personal mobility and travel experiences, both on an international and on a local scale. The concepts of identity, ‘home’, sense of place, belonging, self-discovery, personal growth, comfort and everyday life will be explored through different contexts of mobility. Multi-sensory approaches and dynamic methodologies will also be used to explore these themes, such as visual ethnography using photography and virtual ethnography using ‘online’/internet social media.

Structure

Seminar 1 – Introduction to Geographies of Mobility, Travel and Tourism

Tuesday, March 10th, 16:00-17:30 (Palazzo di Lingue, aula S.11)

This introductory seminar will present the key concepts within social and cultural geography in relation to mobility (Cresswell, 2006; Sheller and Urry, 2006), place (Cresswell, 2004, Tuan, 1977), sense of place (Rose, 1995), and home (Blunt and Varley, 2004; Blunt, 2005). These concepts will then be presented in the context of the conceptual framework of Dr Prazeres’ doctoral research project. This session will illustrate how these concepts are applied and used within a specific case study. It will also discuss the methods used in the presented project as a lead to the following seminar on methodologies.

Key readings:

Seminar 2 – **Doing Mobility Research: Visual and Virtual Mobile Methodologies**

Tuesday, March 24th, 16:00-17:30 (Palazzo di Lingue, aula S.11)

The session will demonstrate research methodologies used in social and cultural geography as they pertain to mobility and tourism research. Qualitative interviews, mobile (virtual) ethnography, participant observation and visual ethnography using photography will be discussed as dynamic and novel techniques used within mobility research. These will be accompanied by case studies as examples of how these methods are applied in practice.

**Key readings:**


Seminar 3 – **Case Studies: Traveller Identity and Meaning of ‘Home’**

Tuesday, April 14th, 16:00-17:30 (Palazzo di Lingue, aula S.11) OR Monday April 13th, 14:30-16:00 (Palazzo di Lingue, aula T.7) *(date to be confirmed)*

This third session will focus on two case studies in order to provide an empirical example of research methodologies and concepts. The first case study will explore the impact of mobility on the sense of identity of young migrants in Italy (Bagnoli, 2007, 2009). The study explores young people’s changing biographies using visual methodologies. The second case study will examine the influence of mobility on the sense of ‘home’ of travellers around the world. The study will discuss how travellers experience and (re)create ‘home’ while abroad.

**Key readings:**

Seminar 4 – Student Symposium

Tuesday, April 28th, 14:30-17:30 (location and times to be confirmed)

The fourth and final session will be a culmination of the work undertaken during the two months and an occasion for a final synthesis and reflection on the entire course. Within the symposium, participants will share and present their individual project proposals which will include some of the concepts and methods discussed in the seminars. These projects will have been conducted alongside the taught seminars and discussed with the lecturer in the tutorials. Participants will demonstrate their acquired knowledge and ability to make use of key concepts and methodologies within social and cultural geography and tourism research with their individual research project and will set a dialogue with the attendees.

Final assessment

The final assessment will consist of a presentation of the project proposal at the symposium and the submission of the written proposal. The oral and written project proposal will be assessed by Dr. Prazeres in collaboration with Prof.ssa Martinelli. Deadlines for submission: May 15th, 2015.

Workload

Students are expected to satisfy the following obligations/requirements for the course:

- Attend the seminars (75%).
- Study the course material in English and complete small assignments required for each seminar.
- Participate in group discussions that will facilitate the preparation of the research project proposal.
- Participate in individual or small group tutorials with lecturer to discuss the projects and possible theoretical or methodological issues.
- Present and discuss the research project proposal at the symposium.
- Submit a written research project proposal (deadline: May 15th, 2015).

References:


**Suggested readings:**

**Home**


**Mobility**


**Self, identity, mobility, travel, and tourism**


