SEMINAR SERIES ON FORCED MIGRATION

FORCED IMMOBILITY AND FORCED MOBILITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: RETHINKING THE NOTION OF FORCED MIGRATION

In the global conjuncture of pandemic and war, borders and mobilities continue to play key roles in the mutations of politics and society, states and capitalism. Based on a project I am currently pursuing with Brett Neilson, I will focus in particular on the shifts characterizing the management of borders and movements of migration since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. I will describe the combination of forced immobility and mobility that shapes migrant experiences in different parts of the world, well beyond the terms of the debate on forced migration, which focuses on refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons. I will also pay attention to the multiplication and further heterogenization of borders during the pandemic, and I will analyze such trend in the framework of processes of renationalization, financialization, and platformization that were in train before the outbreak. While I will tackle the question of mobility even beyond migration, focusing logistical techniques on technologies that govern the global circulation of people and things, I will conclude harking back to movements and struggles of migration with an empirical attention to China, India, the Americas, and the Mediterranean.

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