ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES
ON THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The sexual exchange of girls and women embodies deep cultural practices and is historically embedded in many family and kinship systems. Contemporary trafficking operations transform traditional bride wealth and marriage exchanges (prestations) by treating women’s sexuality and bodies as commodities to be bought and sold (and exchanged again) in various Western capitals and Internet spaces. Such operations are also global with respect to scale, range, speed, diversity, and
flexibility. Propelling many trafficking exchanges are political economic processes, which increase the trafficking of women in times of stress, such as famine, unemployment, economic transition, and so forth. However, the disparity between the global market operations, which organize trafficking, and the late nineteenth century social/public welfare system of counter-trafficking suggests why the latter do not effectively address women’s risks and may even expose them to increased levels of violence and stress. Drawing on historical accounts, anthropological theory, and ethnographic work in Viet Nam and Bosnia and Herzegovina, this essay examines how specific cultural practices embedded in family and kinship relations encourage and rationalize sexual trafficking of girls and young women in times of stress and dislocation. The essay also analyses how technologies of power inform both trafficking and counter-trafficking operations in terms of controlling women’s bodies, sexuality, health, labour, and migration. By analysing sexual trafficking as a cultural phenomenon in its own right, such an analysis seeks to inform and address the specific situations of girls and young women, who suffer greatly from the current migration regimes.

THE IRREGULAR MIGRANT AS HOMO SACER: MIGRATION AND DETENTION IN AUSTRALIA, MALAYSIA AND THAILAND

This paper looks at aspects of the detention of irregular migrants in Australia, Malaysia, and Thailand. The principle intention of the paper is to study detention of irregular migrants as a means of understanding politics and how notions of political participation and of sovereignty are affected by the detention of certain sorts of individual. What does the identification of certain “forms of life” to be detained say about the political norms of different societies? The conduit for this examination will be the Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben’s concept of homo sacer. Homo sacer is a term Agamben extrapolates from “ancient Roman law”. It denotes a naked or bare life that is depoliticized. Homo sacer is the excess of processes of political constitution that create a governable form of life. Homo sacer is thus exempt or excluded from the normal limits of the state. At the same time, however, homo sacer is not simply cast out but is held in particular relation to the norm: it is through the exclusion of the depoliticized form of life that the politicized norm exists. This essay seeks to contextualize aspects of Agamben’s argument by looking at detention as a form of exclusion in three different contexts.

THE CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF PRESCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES IN THE UNITED STATES

This study examined the child care arrangements of children in immigrant families. Using data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), the study found great diversity in the child care arrangements of children according to their nativity status. Children in immigrant families, especially those in low-income immigrant families, were found less likely to use centre-based child care. Mexican, Asian, and other Hispanic children are also less likely to use centre-based child care. Because quality centre-based child care has been shown to benefit preschool-age children and help prepare them for school, both scholastically and psychologically, less use of centre-based child care among children in immigrant families compared to children in non-immigrant families is a potentially troubling finding. Public policies promoting greater access to and more use of centre-based child care, especially for low-income immigrant families and two-parent immigrant families, may make a significant difference to their children’s long-term adaptation, and their children’s school readiness and achievement.
NATIONAL MINORITY, NATIONAL MENTALITY AND COMMUNAL ETHNICITY: CHANGES IN ETHNIC IDENTITY OF FORMER SOVIET UNION JEWISH EMIGRANTS ON THE ISRAELI KIBBUTZ

In this paper we examine and compare the ethnic identity of the Jews in the former Soviet Union (FSU) and the process of change in ethnic identity among the new immigrants from the FSU. This analysis considers the role of the kibbutz as the first experience of Jewish community in their lives, as well as the location of the first phase of their process of absorption and re-socialization into new and unfamiliar surroundings. The data are drawn through a longitudinal research design, with a pre- and post-analysis of changes in the ethnicity of migrants studied from their arrival on the Israeli kibbutz until the completion of the five-month kibbutz programme. We found that pre-migration Soviet Jews defined their ethnicity as a discriminated national minority with a weak symbolic ethnicity content. The ambivalent nature of the ethnicity of Jews while in the FSU was expressed in the fact that although a majority were deculturized from traditional dimensions of Jewish life, they nevertheless felt they belonged to a specific ethnic group. Post-migration ethnicity was found to be remarkably altered; the former ambivalence was dissolved. On the macro-level, membership in the economically and politically successful Russian-speaking group of Israeli society is a source of self esteem, rather than a sign of shameful otherness.

On the micro-level of ethnicity, the encounter in the initial phase of absorption in Israel, within the kibbutz Jewish community, often demands a reexamination of their private concept of Jewishness, serving as a first step in resolving their ambivalent ethnic identity. Consequently, their new ethnic identity may now well have weaker boundaries, but a more positive (non-alienating) content than that left behind.

TRANSATLANTIC ROUNDTABLE ON LOW-SKILLED MIGRATION IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: PROSPECTS AND POLICIES

Low-skilled migration has emerged as a major issue on the agenda of advanced industrial countries. The lack of information about its socio-economic impact on both host and sending states skew the public image of the migrants. Uncertain of whether to integrate or return migrants, governments often pursued ambivalent policies at the cost of immigrants, receiving countries, and sending countries. States should, therefore, prioritize lower-skilled migration and foster solutions on a unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral basis. On 16 and 17 June 2003, representatives from government, international organizations, business, non-governmental organizations, and academia from North America and Europe met in Brussels to discuss policies and practices on lower skilled migration in the twenty-first century. Georgetown University’s Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), and the Migration Policy Group (MGP) organized the Roundtable discussion. The meeting, which was hosted by the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States, divided into four discussion sessions, each of which addressed a particular area of concern. Topics included trends in the demand for and supply of lower-skilled migrants, the economic and social impact of lower-skilled migrants on their host countries, the practices in Europe and the United States to integrate immigrants, and the impact of lower-skilled migrants on their sending countries. The workshop concluded with an evaluation of prospective policy options.
SEEKING ASYLUM ALONE: TREATMENT OF SEPARATED AND TRAFFICKED CHILDREN IN NEED OF REFUGEE PROTECTION

Forced migration of refugees or trafficked persons has emerged as one of the critical human rights issues of our time. One aspect of this issue has generated increasing international political and legal concern but has not received adequate scholarly attention: how effective are the legal mechanisms that seek to protect child asylum seekers who are separated from their families because of persecution or trafficking? This question underpins a new, international research project being launched at Harvard University in conjunction with the University of Sydney in Australia and collaborators in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Preliminary research has already been started in Germany, Austria, Sweden, and Norway.

Children have always constituted a significant proportion of the international refugee population. The largest number of child refugees travel as members of families forced to flee persecution (they constitute at least 50% of the refugee population). A smaller number are unaccompanied refugee minors, abandoned or orphaned in refugee camps or war zones (they constitute 2% to 5% of camp populations). But, apart from the distinct episodes of the exodus of the 14,000 Pedro Pan Cuban children in the early 1960s and the Vietnamese boat children in the mid-1970s, separated children trafficked or travelling on their own to seek asylum in distant countries have received scant scholarly attention. Systematic research on the efficacy of asylum as a mechanism for protecting separated children simply does not exist.

POULTRY, APPLES AND NEW IMMIGRANTS IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES OF THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC CASE STUDY

The Shenandoah Valley in western Virginia is comprised of six counties that encompass the bulk of farm productivity in a state that ranks in the top ten nationally in both poultry and apple production. Despite a stagnant market, the apple industry remains vital to this region. The poultry industry in the Shenandoah Valley is representative of the rapid transformation in the American economy since the end of World War II in what it produces and how and where it produces (Stull et al., 1992). The purchase of local poultry processing plants in the Shenandoah Valley by industry giants such as Carghill, Pilgrim’s Pride, and Perdue over the last decade indicates that food processing is increasingly characterized by oligopoly resulting from corporate mergers.

The relocation and consolidation of the poultry industry has been paralleled – both nationwide and in the Shenandoah Valley – by a new settlement pattern of immigrants in the rural areas where the processing plants are located. Processing companies, having relocated in small, rural communities with little local labour force, often actively recruit immigrant workers from traditional gateway states, as well as directly from Mexico and Central America. However, the case of the Shenandoah Valley is different. The area has already had a long history of seasonal agricultural migration connected with the local apple industry. Initially, the seasonal agricultural workers were an all-Caucasian labour force from Florida but have since evolved to include Haitian and, most recently, Hispanic and to lesser extent Jamaican workers. Starting in the late 1990s, the emergence of year-round employment opportunities in the poultry processing industry has provided an incentive for many members of the migrant community to end their transient existence and settle permanently in the Shenandoah Valley. The foreign-born population in the Shenandoah Valley has grown considerably in the last decade. Harrisonburg, Winchester, and Galax all developed large Hispanic populations. According to the 2000 Census, the size of the Hispanic population in Winchester grew approximately 600 per
cent between 1990 and 2000, from 219 to 1,527. In Harrisonburg the growth neared 650 per cent, jumping from 481 in 1990 to 3,580 in 2000. Galax grew from 46 foreign-born residents to almost 600, representing one-tenth of its total population.

Under a current grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) at Georgetown University is studying the processes of industrial restructuring and rural industrialization in the Shenandoah Valley and the ways in which company policies, driven by market forces, can set in motion processes that go beyond the plant gates and orchards to recast the configuration of whole communities. The study began in September 2003 and will continue through August 2006. It builds upon a recently completed ISIM project funded by the Smith Richardson Foundation that has studied the long-homogeneous cities of Winchester and Harrisonburg in the Shenandoah Valley. It is part of a national project analysing “best practices” implemented by new settlement communities in response to the challenges facing host communities and infrastructures (schools, housing, law enforcement, and social services) as a result of rapid population changes. The study incorporated other rural communities, including Rogers, Arkansas and Faribault, Minnesota, and provided the research team with a comparative perspective on the impacts of immigrants on rural communities.