

Faculty of Sociology

Colloquium Series Sociology of Transnationalization "The Transnational Lens"

What Comes after Methodological Nationalism? Socio-Theoretical Sketches after the Transnational Turn _{Coretta Ehrenfeld*}

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The transnational perspective on migration is the beginning of a new perspective on societies and social formations in general. To look through the "transnational lens" implies to think about the socio-theoretical consequences of the "transnational turn". The philosophical meaning of this turn is a shift of subjectivity: So far in migration studies migrants have been the "object" of research and social analysis; but in a transnational perspective migrants occupy a socio-theoretical – and beyond that a general philosophical – subject position. This migrant subjectivity implies social and socio-theoretical configurations beyond nation state societies and methodological nationalism. How can these figurations be sketched socio-ontologically without falling back into the framework of "modern societies"? I suppose three socio-theoretical core features to overcome methodological nationalism: first, the meaning of bonds and networks; second, a theory of "place"; and third, the dissolving of the dichotomy between "sedentary" and "migrant".

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