



# MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

THEORY, HISTORY, LITERATURE

OLLI SUMMER 2 - 2021 ©Preston Taylor Stone



# **A G E N D A**

# **Week 1 -**

## **Migration Studies: Discipline and Literature**



### **1) Defining a Discipline**

- international law & statistics
- history
- epistemology (theory)

### **2) Literature and the Arts**

- recognition
- expression
- activism

### **3) What to expect in this course**







***Hoping To Survive (2019),***  
**Razieh Gholami, Afghanistan**  
painted from Moria migrant camp on  
Lesbos, Greece, Gholami writes, "The  
journey to safety is hard. Europe doesn't  
want refugees. We thought we had arrived  
to safety but Europe is trying to make us  
struggle more and send us back to  
danger...Moria is known as the hell of  
Europe."

- "While knowledge production and the policies of states and international institutions in the area of Refugee Studies do not share a unique relationship, **the expansion of Refugee Studies in the eighties was arguably a function of finding ways to cope with the growing arrival of refugees from the south to the north.** The growth of Refugee Studies took place at a time when the end of the cold war had undermined the non-humanitarian rationale of the international refugee regime, testing the limits of western humanitarianism. In this period Refugee Studies saw the invention of the 'myth of difference' (between second and third world refugees), the turn from an exile bias to voluntary and later involuntary repatriation, a sharp focus on internal causes of refugee flows, and the inauguration of the debate whether UNHCR's mandate and resources should be extended to the protection of IDPs" ("The Birth of a 'Discipline': From Refugee to Forced Migration Studies").
- "The number of international migrants — persons living in a country other than where they were born — reached 244 million in 2015 for the world as a whole, an increase of 71 million, or 41 per cent, compared to 2000" (United Nations).



***The Scream, Alwy Fadhel***  
 painted with instant coffee on paper  
 (Refugee Art Project)

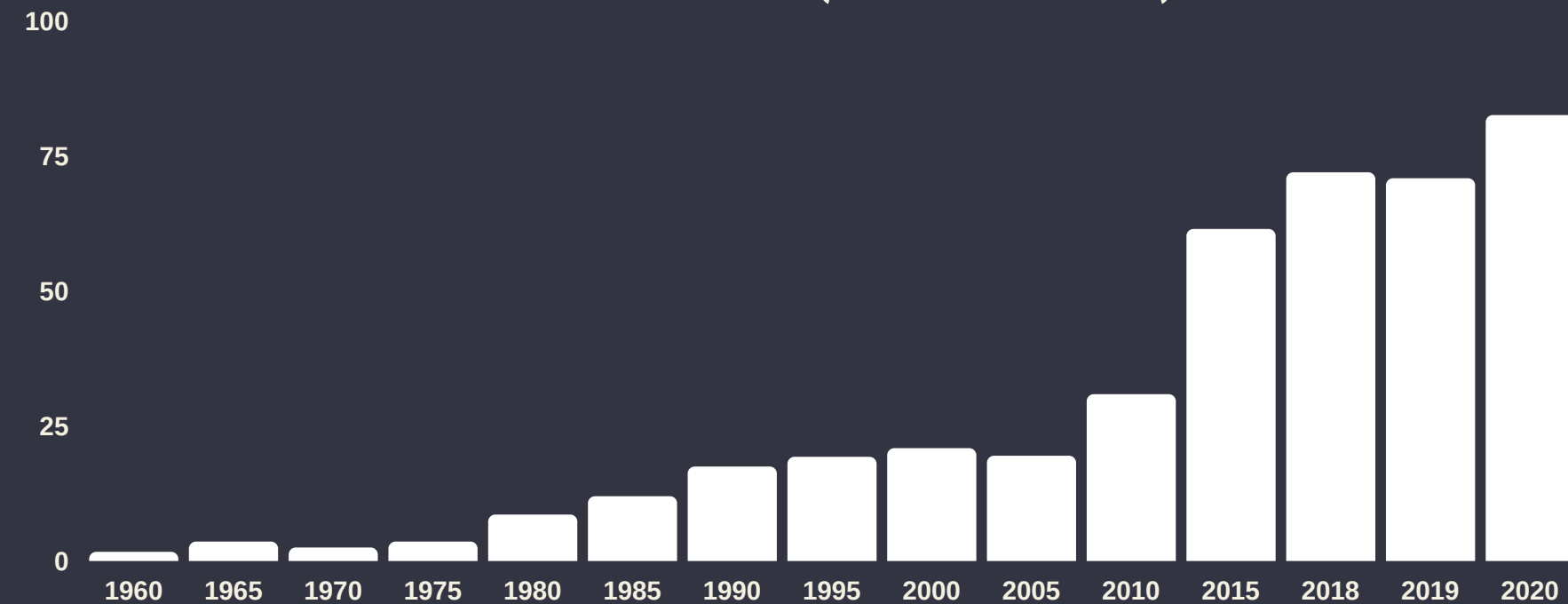
- **migrant** – any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is
- **asylee/asylum seeker** – individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for refugee status have not yet been determined, irrespective of when they may have been lodged.
- **refugee** – individuals recognized under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; its 1967 Protocol; the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa; those recognized in accordance with the UNHCR Statute; individuals granted complementary forms of protection; or those enjoying temporary protection. Since 2007, the refugee population also includes people in a refugee-like situation.



# *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*, Immanuel Wallerstein (2004)

"The French Revolution, as we have noted, was a turning-point in the cultural history of the modern world-system, having brought about two fundamental changes that may be said to constitute the basis of what became the geoculture of the modern world-system: the normality of political change and the refashioning of the concept of sovereignty, now vested in the people who were 'citizens.' And this concept, as we have said, although meant to include, in practice excluded very many."

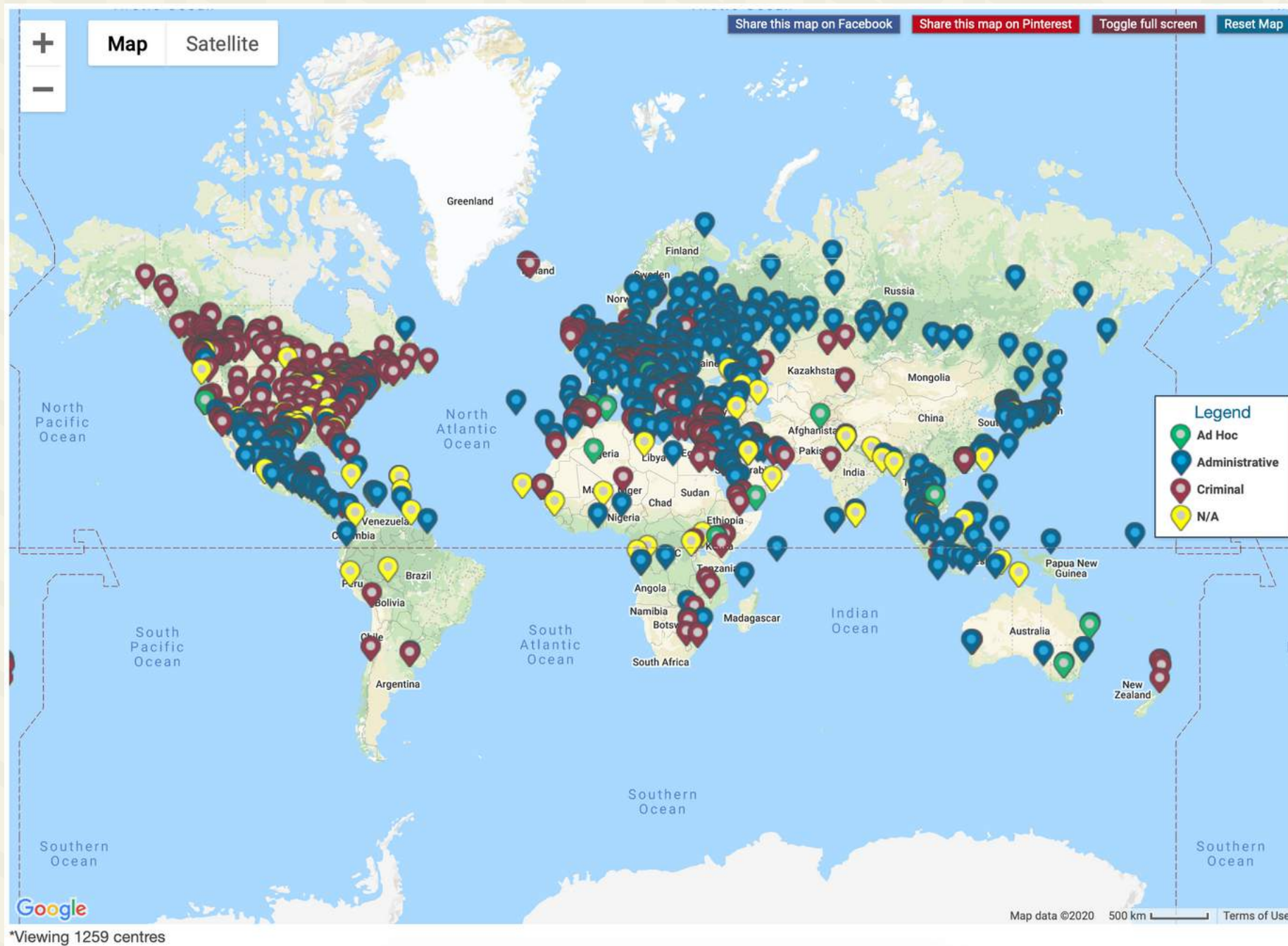
## EXPONENTIAL INCREASE IN PERSONS OF CONCERN (UN DATA)



From 1.6 million in 1960 to 70.8 million in 2019, "persons of concern" includes refugees, internally displaced persons, asylum-seekers, and stateless peoples

- **Persons of concern** – includes refugees, asylum-seekers, returned refugees, IDPs and returned IDPs, stateless persons, and over 6 million without categorization (2020-2021).
- **IDPs** – Internally displaced people have not crossed a border to find safety. Unlike refugees, they are on the run at home. Unfortunately, UNHCR's original mandate does not specifically cover IDPs. However, UNHCR has tried to step-in and assist where and when possible.
- **Migrant detention** – specially dedicated facilities for incarcerating migrants have been around for centuries. In recent decades, their establishment has skyrocketed. Migrant detention facilities exist worldwide including in the following countries: The Bahamas, United States, Hong Kong, China, Greece, Libya, Israel, South Africa, Ecuador, Australia, Mexico, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Denmark, Russia, Finland, Iceland, India, New Zealand, Japan, and many more.





Maps of Detention Centers (Global Detention Project, 2020), categorized by:

- Green - Ad hoc
- Blue - Administrative
- Red - Criminal
- Yellow - unknown

- **citizen** – a citizen is a legally recognized individual inhabitant of a state or commonwealth, achieved either by being native (born) or naturalized (granted)
- **citizenship law** – in the U.S., citizenship has been legally defined and redefined since 1790, most recently in 2015 (Morales-Santana v. Lynch).
- **connection to migration history** – often in countries that legally define citizenship through processes of naturalization, when migration increases, the legal definition of citizenship becomes stricter and smaller



# World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction, Immanuel Wallerstein (2004)



***Broken Heart, Mata Ruda***

- "An ideology is more than a set of ideas or theories. It is more than a moral commitment or a worldview. It is a coherent strategy in the social arena from which one can draw quite specific political conclusions. In this sense, one did not need ideologies in previous world-systems, or indeed even in the modern world-system before the concept of normality of change, and that of the citizen who was ultimately responsible for such change, were adopted as basic structural principles of political institutions. For ideologies presume that there exist competing groups with competing long-term strategies of how to deal with change and who best should take the lead in dealing with it...The first to be born was the ideology of **conservatism**."
- "Conservatives were therefore counter-revolutionaries. They were 'reactionaries' in the sense that they were reacting to the drastic changes of the revolution and wished to 'restore' what now began to be called the *ancien régime*. Conservatives were not necessarily totally opposed to any evolution of customs and rules. They simply preached acute caution, and insisted that the only ones to decide on any such changes had to be the responsible people in the traditional social institutions. **They were especially suspicious of the idea that everyone could be a citizen—with equal rights and duties—since most people, in their view, did not have, would never have, the judgment necessary to make important sociopolitical decisions...**Faith in hierarchy (as both inevitable and desirable) is the hallmark of conservatism."



# "The Birth of a 'Discipline': From Refugee to Forced Migration Studies" (2009)

- "Life and epistemology do not imitate legal categories. Instead, legal categories most often seek to 'discipline' life and knowledge to realize dominant interests in society...The question of identity is in my view ***only relevant from the perspective of institutions*** (both academic and inter-governmental) that have been established to further Refugee Studies or mandated to protect refugees. In that instance it is certainly a valid question to ask whether the limited mandate and scarce resources of these institutions should be devoted to a broader range of issues and persons."
- "It is interesting to note here that the move from Refugee Studies to Forced Migration Studies does not proceed, as it should, to claim unity with Migration Studies. This should be a logical move if, as is argued, **sociological phenomenon and not legal categories is the determining factor in knowledge production. If the boundaries between refugees and IDPs are blurred at the existential level so are the borders between forced and voluntary migration. The difference between the two is only between types of movements and degrees of coercion involving the varied exercise of agency. But in this case the interests of powerful states militate against the conjunction of voluntary and forced migration.** On the other hand, the move from Refugee Studies to Forced Migration Studies is part of the new humanitarian agenda that furthers the goals of hegemonic states. In short, I would like to distance myself from both the critics and defenders of the turn to Forced Migration Studies in as much as my argument differs from both."
- "The move from Refugee Studies to Forced Migration Studies takes place within an imperial global order in which hegemonic states seek to use the ideas and practices of humanitarianism to advance parochial goals. The critique here is not of Forced Migration Studies per se but the shape it has assumed and the manner in which the ideology and practices of 'humanitarianism' are being deployed."
- "On the other hand, there is no alternative to recognizing the existential realities of displacement, for legal categories cannot be the ultimate arbiters of social realities: **the translation of knowledge into legal categories is always implicated in power.** But if it is not to be left to states and international organizations to shape Forced Migration Studies, there is a need to be self-conscious about the intimate relationship between knowledge and power."



# "The Birth of a 'Discipline': From Refugee to Forced Migration Studies" (2009)

- "The birth of a discipline is not an ahistorical process; disciplines begin and evolve, suffer ebbs and flows, in response to external developments. These developments most often reflect the interests and worldview of dominant social forces and a new discipline carries their marks on its body. But once a discipline germinates it cannot be subordinated to dominant interests alone; it is also amenable to the production of knowledge of concern to subaltern classes. However, on the whole, the modern social sciences have historically evolved in crucial ways to produce knowledge about the dominated Other in order to legitimize subordination."
- "As for Refugee Studies, it must be remembered that even when restrictive measures of Western states are criticized, what are validated are often particular philosophical and political ideas about what kind of boundaries western states may legislate"
- **history** – a narrative of the past with relation to perspective, the present, and power
- **epistemology** – the theory of disciplines; that which has to do with the scope and methodology of knowledge production
- **the Other** – the social pariah, the subjugated individual or culture in proximity to the dominant culture; the subject of many post-1945 disciplines
- **orientalism** – developed by Edward Said (1978), a critique of Western social constructions of non-Western ('oriental') locations, cultures, and people
- **cultural studies** – the discipline concerned with the relationship between power structures/hierarchies in society and how these are promoted, recreated, or undermined via cultural production (art, film, music, literature, social performances or phenomena)
- **interdisciplinarity** – the quality of having to do with multiple disciplines; for our course, the use of different epistemologies from a variety of disciplines, including sociology, literary studies, legal studies, critical race theory, post-colonial studies, global studies, international relations, and subaltern studies





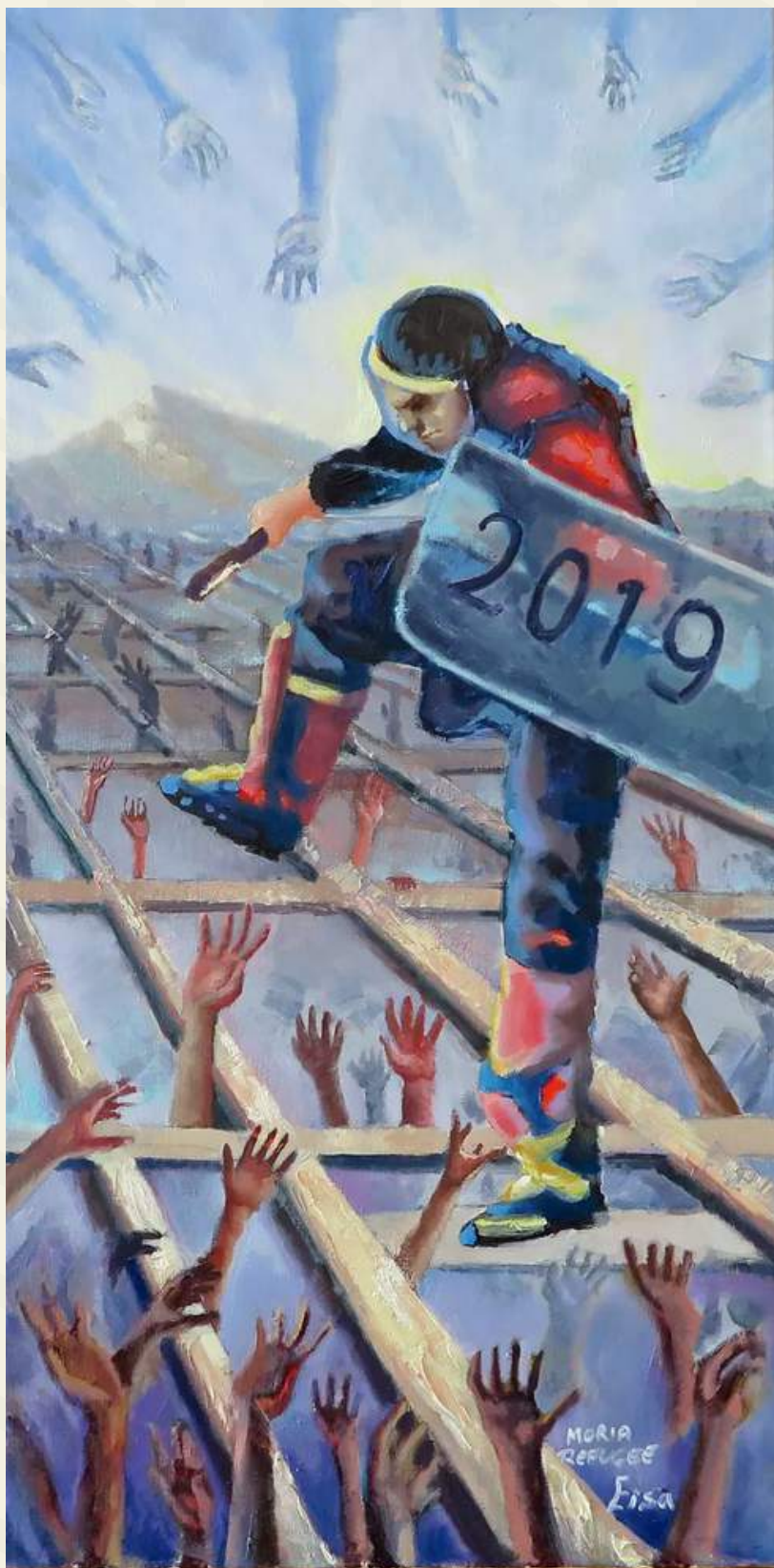
***The Refugees' Scream* (2019),**  
**Eduardo Kobra, São Paulo**  
painted after the famous Munch painting, *The Scream*  
(1893, pictured below)





# "Migration Theory: Talking Across Disciplines"

- "Whether and where there might be a migration crisis remain open questions. But clearly we are living in an age of migration. Scholars in all of the social sciences have turned their attention to the study of this extraordinarily complex phenomenon. Yet, despite the volume of research interest in a host of academic fields, only rarely are there conversations across the disciplines about shared theoretical perspectives and analytical concepts or about core assumptions that might differentiate one disciplinary approach from another."
- "Social scientists do not approach the study of immigration from a shared paradigm, but from a variety of competing theoretical viewpoints fragmented across disciplines, regions, and ideologies."
- "One broad division separates those social scientists who take a top-down "macro" approach, focusing on immigration policy or market forces, from those whose approach is bottom-up, emphasizing the experiences of the individual migrant or the immigrant family."
- "Europeans are also concerned about the macroeconomic impact of immigration, but most European states and governments are preoccupied with perceived crises of integration and with the effects of immigration on the welfare state. A country that emphasizes skills as the primary criterion upon which to issue visas will experience a different pattern in the growth and composition of its immigrant population from that of a country that constructs a policy based on family reunification or refugee status."



***Died (2019),***

**Eisa Hashemi, Afghanistan**

Painted from Moria migrant camp on Lesbos, Greece, Hashemi writes, "These are the silent voices of people who died and who did not see the truth. I am the silence of a nation. I am the pain of a nation. I am Eisa."



**TABLE 1.1: MIGRATION THEORIES ACROSS DISCIPLINES**

Discipline	Research Question(s)	Levels/Units of Analysis	Dominant Theories	Sample Hypothesis
Anthropology	How does migration effect cultural change and affect cultural identity?	Micro/individuals, households, groups	Relational or structuralist and transnational	Social networks help maintain cultural difference.
Demography	To what extent do immigrant and native populations become more similar over time?	Individuals, immigrant groups, ethnoracial groups, national foreign-born populations	Theories of migration (cost/benefit and structural; theories in integration (assimilation and pluralist-based); theories of migration effects (economic, social structural, and cultural)	Immigrants will not become successfully integrated when they experience significant membership exclusion.
Economics	What explains the propensity to migrate and its effects?	Micro/individuals	Rationalist: cost-benefit and utility maximizing behavior	Incorporation varies with the level of human capital of immigrants.
Geography	What explains the socio-spatial patterns of migration?	Macro, meso and micro/individuals, households and groups	Relational, structural, and transnational	Incorporation depends on ethnic networks and residential patterns.
History	How has a phenomenon (e.g. causes, structures, processes, consequences of migration) or a relationship (e.g. gender and migration) changed or persisted over time?	Varies temporally (from short-to medium and long-term) as well as spatially	Periodization	Usually not applicable.
Law	How does the law influence migration?	Macro and micro/the political and legal system	Institutionalist and rationalist (borrows from all the social sciences)	Rights create incentive structures for migration and incorporation.
Political science	Why do states have difficulty controlling migration?	More macro/political and international systems	Institutionalist and rationalist	States are often captured by pro-immigrant interests.
Sociology	What explains incorporation and exclusion?	Macro/ethnic groups and social class	Structuralist or institutionalist	Incorporation varies with social and human capital.



"AMERICA does not repel the past or what it has produced under its forms or amid other politics or the idea of castes or the old religions ... accepts the lesson with calmness ... is not so impatient as has been supposed that the slough still sticks to opinions and manners and literature while the life which served its requirements has passed into the new life of the new forms ... perceives that the corpse is slowly borne from the eating and sleeping rooms of the house ... perceives that it waits a little while in the door ... that it was fittest for its days ... that its action has descended to the stalwart and well shaped heir who approaches ... and that he shall be fittest for his days.

The Americans of all nations at any time upon the earth, have probably the fullest poetical nature. The United States themselves are essentially the greatest poem. In the history of the earth hitherto the largest and most stirring appear tame and orderly to their ampler largeness and stir. Here at last is something in the doings of man that corresponds with the broadcast doings of the day and night. Here is not merely a nation but a teeming nation of nations."



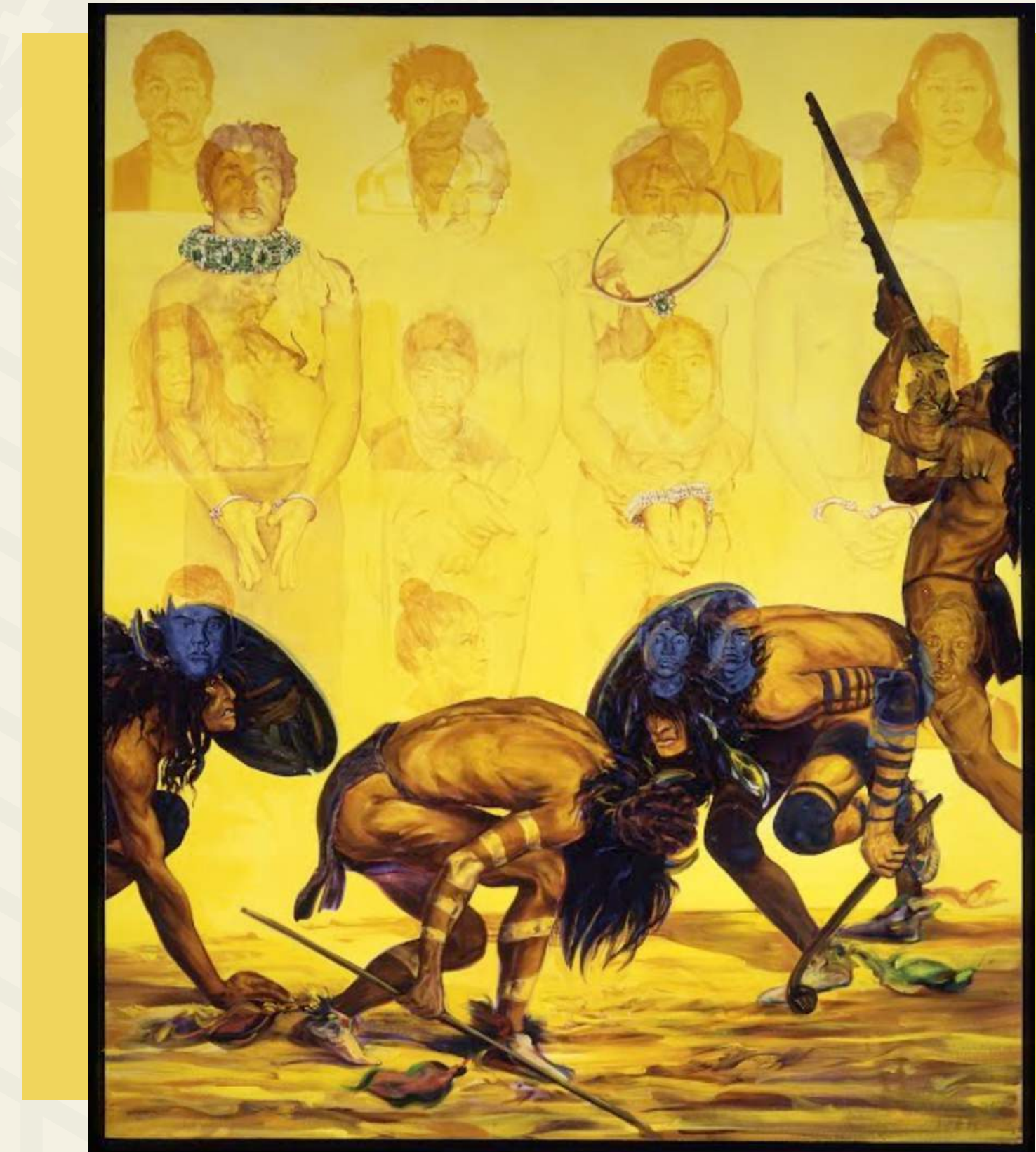
## **Preface**

**to *Leaves of Grass* (1855),  
Walt Whitman**



# Migration and Citizenship: History, Theory, Literature

- "One of the great contemporary debates in refugee and forced migration studies is the extent to which research should be framed by urgent policy questions to respond to these and other crises. Policymakers frequently decry what they perceive to be a shift towards more abstract, intellectual concerns, while academics argue that more theoretical approaches contribute to important disciplinary debates and that completing policy relevant research is no substitute for rigorous intellectual analysis" (*The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*).
- "The modern refugee regime, created in the aftermath of World War II, provides protection mainly to people who flee individualized persecution or generalized violence. Subsequent to its creation, a range of new drivers of external displacement—particularly related to the interaction of environmental change, livelihood collapse, and state fragility—have emerged that fall outside the framework of the regime...**Survival migration** ...describes people who have left their country of origin because of an existential threat for which they have no domestic remedy... Based on a conceptual model of regime stretching, the [term] offers an explanation for variation in the extent to which the existing global regime has adapted to address survival migration in different national contexts" ("Survival Migration: A New Protection Framework" by Alexander Betts, 2010).



*Savages and Glitter, John M Valadez*



# "Introduction" from *The Penguin Book of Migration Literature* (2019), Dohra Ahmad

- "Over the past several decades, sociologists, demographers, political scientists, and economists have given their academic views on the causes and effects of migration. For an equally valid and possibly more nuanced perspective, we can turn to literary sources: poems, short stories, novels, memoirs, and graphic novels."
  - "'Migration' denotes any long-term movement; 'emigration' is the active leaving a place; and 'immigration' refers to arrival. So all migrants may be classified as emigrants or immigrants, depending on perspective, but more realistically all migrants feel themselves to be both emigrants and immigrants at once. Yet even the most welcoming and sympathetic commentators in destination countries tend to speak of 'immigrant literature.' An anthology or university course titled 'Immigrant Literature' elides migrants' prior histories, suggesting lives that begin anew in a host country. I wanted to include that sometimes neglected history, which is why I begin this anthology not with arrivals but with departures – and sometimes the decision not to depart at all. Similarly, we end not with assimilation but with the possibility of returns, for homelands always linger even if only on an emotional level."
  - "Understanding migration within a global scope helps us observe fundamental differences – legal, political, and cultural – as well as shared elements around the world."
1. Each of these pieces rebuts existing discourses and stereotypes about migrants and migration; in other words, they each have a strong counter discursive function.
  2. Many of these pieces contest the idea of immigration policy in destination countries as moral or absolute, as opposed to being determined entirely by shifting global power relations.
  3. These pieces dispute the idea that migration is an individual or even a family-based phenomenon, eloquently asserting the collective nature of the endeavor.
  4. When taken as a group, the writings included here counter the primacy of the United States in the rhetorical landscape of global migration. Whereas many in the United States think of ourselves as holding a global monopoly on immigration, other countries host a far greater number of migrants relative to total population.



# Next class...

## The Migrant Crises in America before 1950

### READING

- "An Immigrant's Tale: The Mexican American Southwest 1850 to 1950" by Brian Gratton and Emily Klancher Merchant
- "Citizenship and Belonging/Inclusion and Exclusion" and "The State, The City, and Multiculturalism" by Caroline B. Brettell
- "The Creation of a Geoculture: Ideologies, Social Movements, Social Science" by Immanuel Wallerstein
- Omar F. Miranda's 5-page review of *Migration and Modernities: The State of Being Stateless, 1750–1850* (ed. JoEllen DeLucia and Juliet Shields)

### VIEWING

- Watch Chapter 1 of *The Chinese Exclusion Act* from *American Experience* (PBS)
- Watch Ep. 1 of *Asian Americans* (PBS), "Breaking Ground"
- Watch "Concentration Camps Are Older Than World War II" on YouTube (PBS)
- Watch "U.S. Immigration | Let's Talk | NPR" on YouTube (NPR)







***Broken Heart, Mata Ruda***