

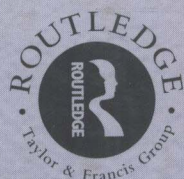
# Communities across Borders

New immigrants and transnational cultures

*Edited by*

Paul Kennedy and Victor Roudometof

Routledge Research in Transnationalism



# **Communities across Borders**

New immigrants and transnational  
cultures

**Edited by Paul Kennedy  
and Victor Roudometof**



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# Communities across Borders

*Communities across Borders* examines the many ways in which national, ethnic or religious groups, professions, businesses and cultures are becoming increasingly tangled together irrespective of national origins or identities. This is a result of the vast flows of people, meanings, goods and money that now migrate between countries and world regions. Now, the effectiveness and significance of electronic technologies for interpersonal communication (including cyber communities and the interconnectedness of the global world economy) simultaneously empowers even the poorest people to forge effective cultures stretching across national borders, and compels many to do so to escape injustice and deprivation.

The consequences of constructing new, or replenishing older, transnational communities of nationality, interest or symbolic power – either for those directly involved, or for the countries and cultures on which they have an impact – are varied, as the case studies in this book testify. Topical themes analysed include:

- symbolic forms of resistance against earlier eras of cultural imperialism
- the experience of host discrimination or unequal political systems
- the dilemmas for governments faced by multiple transnational communities whose members are engaged in loyalties outside their borders
- the expression of subtle personal or social relationships drawn together from several sites to form new hybrid cultural forms and identities

Students of sociology, politics, development and cultural studies, as well as scholars and the travelling public – interested in the issues raised by globalisation, cultural and economic interdependency, and the opportunities offered by new technologies and the implications of the rise of ever more vibrant communities straddling borders, peoples and lifestyles – will find this book both engrossing and revealing.

**Paul Kennedy** is Reader in the department of sociology at Manchester Metropolitan University and director of the Institute for Global Studies. He recently co-authored *Global Sociology* and co-edited *Globalisation and National Identities: Crisis or Opportunity*.

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## **Transnationalism**

Edited by Steven Vertovec

*University of Oxford*

'Transnationalism' broadly refers to multiple ties and interactions linking people or institutions across the borders of nation-states. Today myriad systems of relationship, exchange and mobility function intensively and in real time while being spread across the world. New technologies, especially telecommunications, serve to connect such networks. Despite great distances and notwithstanding the presence of international borders (and all the laws, regulations and national narratives they represent), many forms of association have been globally intensified and now take place paradoxically in a planet-spanning yet common arena of activity. In some instances transnational forms and processes serve to speed-up or exacerbate historical patterns of activity, in others they represent arguably new forms of human interaction. Transnational practices and their consequent configurations of power are shaping the world of the twenty-first century.

This book forms part of a series of volumes concerned with describing and analyzing a range of phenomena surrounding this field. Serving to ground theory and research on 'globalization', the Routledge book series on 'Transnationalism' offers the latest empirical studies and ground-breaking theoretical works on contemporary socioeconomic, political and cultural processes which span international boundaries. Contributions to the series are drawn from Sociology, Economics, Anthropology, Politics, Geography, International Relations, Business Studies and Cultural Studies. The series is associated with the Transnational Communities Research Programme of the Economic and Social research Council (see <http://www.transcomm.ox.ac.uk>).

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Transnationalism aims to address the needs of students and teachers and these titles will be published in hardback and paperback. Titles include:

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Reimagining the Umma

*Peter G. Mandaville*

**3 New Approaches to Migration?**

Transnational communities and the transformation of home

*Edited by Nade Al-Ali and Kalid Koser*

**4 Work and Migration:**

Life and livelihoods in a globalizing world

*Edited by Ninna Nyberg Sørensen and Karen Fog Olwig*

**5 Communities across Borders**

New immigrants and transnational cultures

*Edited by Paul Kennedy and Victor Roudometof*

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# Acknowledgement

Anne-Marie Fortier's chapter was originally published in the *International Journal of Canadian Studies*, no. 18, Fall, 1998, pp. 31–49, under the title 'Calling on Giovanni: Interrogating the Nation Diasporic Imaginations.'

## Abbreviations

EU	European Union
FYROM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
MNC	Multinational Corporation
OCL	Orthodox Christian Laity
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association

# Preface

This volume is based on the papers presented at the 1999 international conference on Globalisation and Identities, which was organised by the Department of Sociology and the Institute of Global Studies at Manchester Metropolitan University. During the course of the conference, we realised that many of the papers shared a concern with the broader issues of transnationalism, globalisation and identity. After the conference concluded, we contacted the participants and indicated our interest in publishing the presentations as an edited volume. We would like to thank the contributors for their patience while we were negotiating an agreement for the publication of the volume. Also, we feel we should thank the contributors for the timely submission of their final essays.

Paul Kennedy  
Victor Roudometof  
November 2001

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# 1 Transnationalism in a global age

*Paul Kennedy and Victor Roudometof*

Cultural diasporas ... are no longer confined to the rich. In dress, in religious or political orientation, in music, people in the poorest ghettos link themselves to transnational 'communities of taste' in an active way.

(Giddens 1994: 188)

This collection of readings endeavours to extend the frontiers of our understanding concerning the increasing significance of transnationalism in national and global life. Most of the literature on transnationalism to date has concentrated on the experience of new immigrants. These experiences suggest that their ethnic, religious or national diasporic relations and connections span national borders, thereby establishing the claim that such relations represent a qualitatively new phenomenon. As important and interesting as this rapidly expanding literature is, it cannot encompass – nor does it claim to do so – the actual range of transnational communities increasingly shaping the everyday lives of people across the world. While lip-service is often paid to the need to widen our explorations of transnational communities beyond migrants and diasporas, little research of this kind has so far been conducted (for an important exception, see Sklair 1995, 2001).

Our contribution to this on-going debate on the meaning, definition, nature and basic features of transnational communities rests on our claim that transnational communities and cultures need to be understood as constituting a much wider and more commonplace phenomenon than the existing research might lead us to suppose. We argue that transnational relationships have to be understood as manifestations of broader social trends that are not confined to the experience of immigrants; rather, they are extending into and shaping the lives of people engaged in many other kinds of associations, clubs and informal networks as well as into cultural life at large.

This selection of readings aims to furnish evidence in favour of a common conceptual framework that is capable of accommodating the growing diversity of vibrant transnational communities and cultures flourishing in global social space and to incorporate case studies as valid examples of this framework. Therefore, our discussion in this introductory essay will provide for a general theoretical and conceptual framework. We shall begin by discussing the