

# Diagnosing Transnational Living.

Discursive Technologies of Transnational Subjectivation:  
Therapy Discourse and Psy Practices in Problematizing  
Transnational Conduct

Living in Transition

June 2013

Aalborg University

# Transnational Networking

- Transnational dynamics
  - not as a collection of essentially transnational units, structures and spaces
  - but as a type of social and discursive connecting through which places, practices, aspects of identities and societal arrangements (that are not transnational in themselves and not necessarily associated with national belongingness) become performed transnationally - represented, categorized and enacted across and beyond symbolic and geo-political national terrains.

# Towards Transnational Governmentality

- Deviant, chaotic and difficult state to be (Stavrakakis, 2005; Burrell, 2008)
  - Metaphors of exile
  - Perpetual wondering between here and there, home and host, local and global (Ahmed, 1999)
- Overlooked
  - The complexity of transnational belonging
  - The interplay between how the states administrate transnational mobility and belonging beyond and across national and cultural borders, and how the people engaged in transnational living manage and rationalize their conduct and resist this administration.

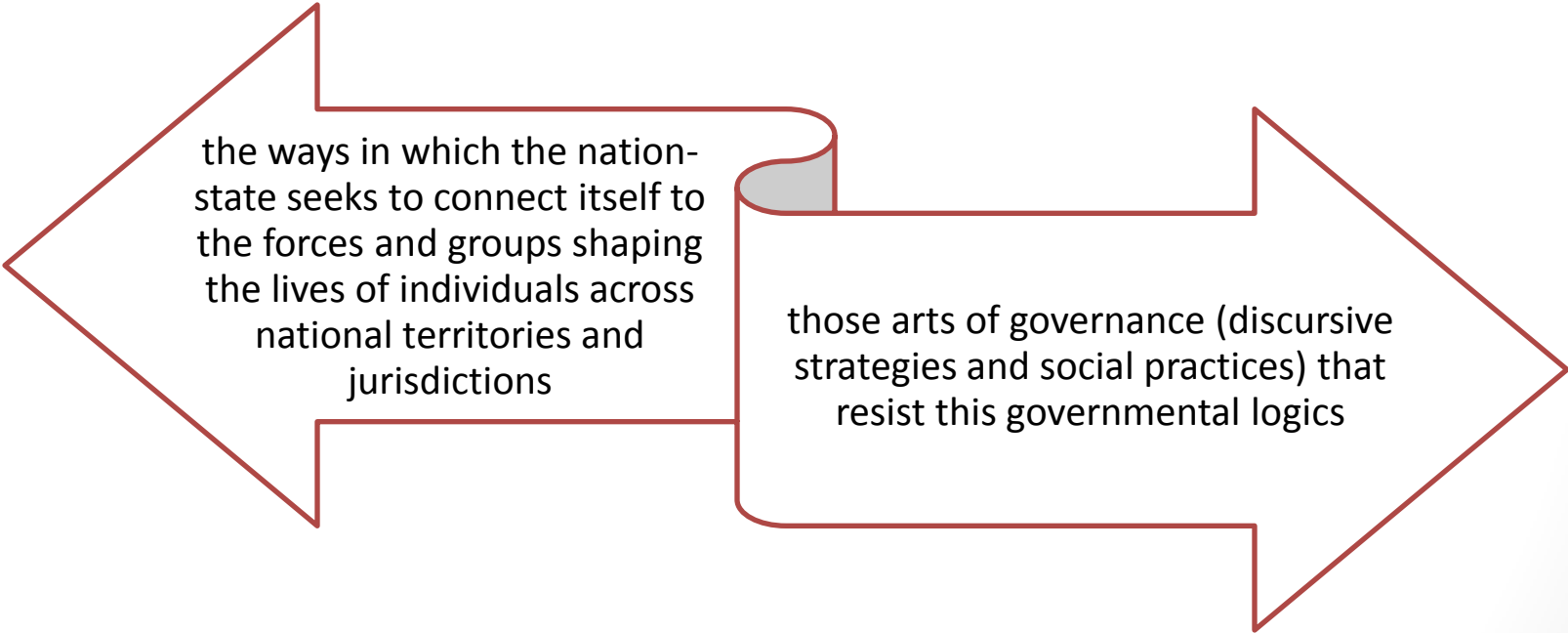
# Transnational Governmentality

De-problematizing  
transnational living



- Contesting the set of problems with which it is being associated
- Examining how people become diagnosed with these problems

# Transnational Governmentality



The diagram consists of two large, hollow arrows pointing in opposite directions, one to the left and one to the right. They are connected at their inner ends by a central bridge-like structure. The bridge has a grey, rounded top edge on the left side, suggesting a connection or a point of interaction between the two opposing forces. The entire diagram is outlined in a dark red color.

the ways in which the nation-state seeks to connect itself to the forces and groups shaping the lives of individuals across national territories and jurisdictions

those arts of governance (discursive strategies and social practices) that resist this governmental logics

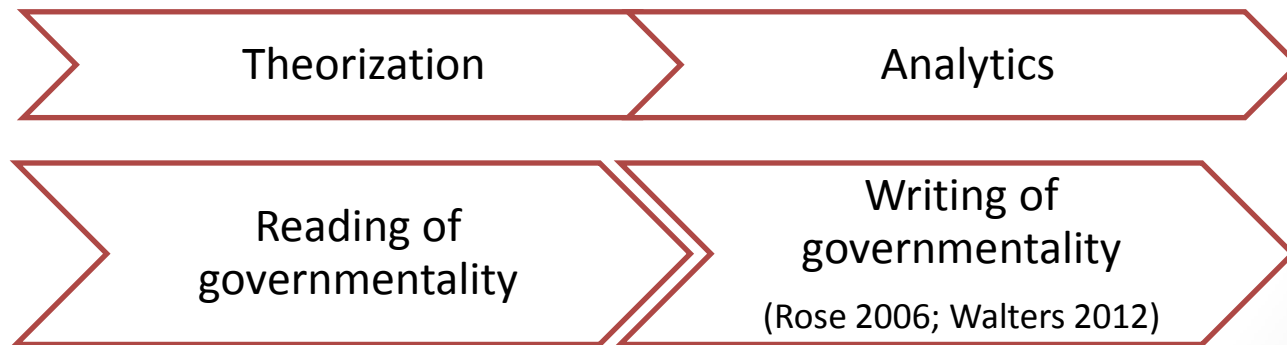
# Transnational Governmentality

- “a new line of inquiry into the study of governmentality in contemporary world” – the studies of transnational governmentality (Ferguson & Gupta, 2002, p. 996).

- International governmentality (Walters 2012, Dean 2010)
- Securitization of migration (Ibrahim 2005, Moore 2012)
  - Discourse and Governmentality

# From theorization to analytics of today's governmentality

- what forms of transnational rule are out-there?
- how do they become exercised and contested through discourse in the actors' everyday interaction?
- Connecting the studies of governmentality with methodologies that are “sensitive to informal or covert practices” (Walters 2012:74) and that allow to grasp and unpack the assemblages with which they operate.





# Transnational Governmentality

- Avoiding the micro-macro, national-transnational distinction which is seen by some authors (Selby 2007) as the factor that makes international relations (and by extension and even more so – transnational associations) ontologically incompatible for governmental analytics (Walters 2012: 98).
- Breaking with the assumption that transnational relations are organised by and with ‘big’ powers and actors, shifting instead the focus towards the realm of everyday practices.

# Data

- one of the discussion topics in the computer-mediated Russian-speaking social space, Rusforum
- the website of Sappir-Gasir, a *Psychopathologic and Psychosocial Care Service* and *Group of Health Assistance* for immigrants and refugees in Spain
- the website of Iguana Journal, an electronic publication for Russian-speaking immigrants in Spain.

# Data

- RUSFORUM:
- DISCUSSION TOPIC “HELLO, I AM [NAME OF THE PARTICIPANT], DOCTOR-PSYCHOTHERAPIST FROM IRELAND.”
- < [HTTP://RUSFORUM.DK/INDEX.PHP?SHOWTOPIC=21936](http://rusforum.dk/index.php?showtopic=21936) >
- OPENED: JANUARY 2, 2011
- ACCESSED: [JANUARY 2, 2011]
- TOPIC IS CLOSED
- WEBSITE IS CLOSED

» Здравствуйте, я Сергей Дунаев, врач-психотерапевт из Ирландии.


Опции ▾

 [SerqDunaev](#)


 Jan 2 2011, 08:30 PM

Сообщение #1



Настроение: 

Новичок

 Пользователь

Группа: [Пользователи](#)

Страна:

Регистрация: 31-December 10


Сообщений: 2

Спасибо сказали: [0 раз\(a\)](#)

Неужели я первый, кто решился представиться Форуму?!  
Ну так вот - это я, ваш сосед по Еврокоммуналке.

Вообще-то мы у себя, в Ирландии, общаемся в своём местном форуме, нет - даже в трёх, которые отпочковались в процессе жизни.

В Ирландии основная масса русскоязычных сформировалась 10 лет назад, в основном программисты.  
Теперь у всех дети (правительство очень поощряло, давало гражданство родителям за этот подвиг).

Приехало слишком много беременных программистов  и правительство испугалось, правила игры поменяли.  
А люди остались. Теперь мы "англо-россияне", айрусичи" и проч. афро-украинцы...

Хотя большинство ощущают себя просто европейцами. Или программистами. Или врачами, как я, например.

Это было, теперь больше волнуют простые ежедневные, бытовые дела, чем антропологические или политические темы. Надоело уже.

Вот, например: были заморозки и водопроводные трубы полопались.  
Морозов в Ирландии не бывало раньше, вот и "катастрофа".  
Это актуально.

Актуальны кредиты, взятые для покупки домов в момент, когда "Кельтский тигр" раздул цены на дома в 2,5-3 раза.  
Актуально образование детей. Создали много русскоязычных школ выходного дня. Есть чем гордиться!

Актуально здоровье, скорее нездоровье. Заболеваемость у иммигрантов, по данным местной статистики, в 5 раз больше по сравнению с местной публикой. Особенно плохо по психосоматике и депрессиям.  
Тем более, что иммигрантов увольняют первыми в это кризисное время...

+ "иммигрантский синдром"  
=> Трудно семьям сохраниться.  
Рушатся семьи массово.  
Опять же детям слезы, взрослым несчастье.

Поэтому, после организации сети "наших" школ взяли мы за организацию сети "нашей" психологической помощи.  
Создаются телефоны психологической помощи, появились практикующие детские психологи и взрослые психотерапевты, психоаналитики.

Сидеть по своим национальным ирландским и датским, пр. деревушкам скучно, интереснее общаться на наши общие актуальные темы по-русски в рамках Евросоюза - так легче развиваться, искать гранты, лоббировать свои интересы в правительствах.  
Так интереснее жить!

Поэтому я и появился на Вашем, близком для меня, Форуме:  
задумали мы провести конференцию психотерапевтов и психологов, соц. работников, думающих по-русски.

Познакомиться, пообщаться, наладить взаимоподдержку, повышение квалификации, социальную рекламу для "наших" семей, мам и пап, людей с психологическими перегрузками и дискомфортом.  
Вместе легче выживать, интегрироваться, быть успешными в конкуренции с местным населением.  
Просто жить счастливо.

# Data

- <file:///\\id.aau.dk\\users\\juliazk\\Documents\\PAPERS\\New%20perspectives%20on%20discourse%20%26%20governmentality\\Transnational%20Governmentality-data,%20translated.docx>

# Data

- Sappir-Gasir
- Gasir: Group of health assistance for immigrants and refugees
- Sappir: Psychopathologic and psychosocial care service for immigrants and refugees
- [http://www.fhsperclaver.org/migra-salut-mental/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fhsperclaver.org/migra-salut-mental/index_en.htm)
- **ACCESSED: [FEBRUARY, 2013]**

# DATA

- Iguana Journal
- [HTTP://WWW.IGUANA.WS/INDEX.PHP?OPTION=COM\\_CONTENT&VIEW=ARTICLE&ID=295:SINDROMIMM&CATID=14:2009-12-09-14-26-11&ITEMID=173](http://www.iguana.ws/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=295:sindromimm&catid=14:2009-12-09-14-26-11&Itemid=173)
- ACCESSED: [JANUARY 2, 2011]
- HYPERLINKED FROM: DISCUSSION TOPIC “HELLO, I AM [NAME OF THE PARTICIPANT], DOCTOR-PSYCHOTHERAPIST FROM IRELAND.”
- < HTTP://RUSFORUM.DK/INDEX.PHP?SHOWTOPIC=21936>, APPENDIX III.19

# Metodology

- multimodal, social semiotic, discourse analysis of these computer-mediated spaces
- transnational regimes of subjectivation
  - the individuals' relationship to their constitution as transnational subjects)
- transnational regimes of subjectification
  - the government of these transnational subjectivities)
- appropriation of the vocabulary, grammar of conduct and styles of judgment of therapy discourse and of the regulatory nature of psychotherapeutic practice (Rose 1989, p. 264; Hodges 2002, p. 455; Foucault 2005).



# Metodology

mapping out how meanings are constructed with different semiotic resources and by crossing diverse modalities, genres and institutions

discursive technologies

therapeutic practice and genres and institutions implicated in it

exercise and rationalise *epimeleia heautou* (Foucault 2005), the practice of taking care of the transnational self.

# Analytics of transnational governmentality

- the genealogy of transnational ethics:
  - How transnational living is constructed as an ethical subject
  - What are the modes through which the actors become invited to problematize their transnational conduct
  - What are the ways in which they resist these subjectivations
  - the telos to which they are incited to aspire (Foucault 1983, 2005; Hodges 2002).

# Analytics of transnational governmentality

1. Am I really the first one who had courage to introduce himself to the Forum?!
2. So – this is me, your neighbour in a Eurodormitory.
3. Generally we, in Ireland, are communicating in our local forum, no –even three, which span-off in the course of life.
4. In Ireland, the largest bulk of Russian-speaking community formed 10 years ago, mainly programmers.
7. But people stayed. Now we are “Anglo –Russians, Ilerusich” and misc. Afro-Ukrainians...
8. Though the majority just perceive themselves as Europeans. Or programmers. Or doctors, as I am, for instance.
9. This is how it was, now we are more concerned with banal everyday issues, mundane things, than with the anthropological or political topics. Sick and tired of them already.

# Analytics of transnational governmentality

15. Important is health, rather unhealthiness. Sickness rate among immigrants, according to the local statistics,
16. is 5 times more than among the local population. Especially bad is with psychosomatics and depressions.
17. Particularly because immigrants get fired first in the times of crisis.
  
19. + “immigrant syndrome”
20. => Difficult for the families to stay together.
21. Families are falling apart massively.
22. Again – tears for children, unhappiness for adults

# Mentality of risk and security

- Transnational living as a statistical object
- the centre of the nexus of societal, social and personal problems (failing marriages, unhappy children, financial crisis)
- opening it up for diverse forms of management with which these problems are conventionally managed (illnesses are treated by the hospitals, studied, etc.)
- New agents and authorities for rationalising and realising deliberate control of transnational conduct (hospitals, academic and research institutions)

[http://www.fhsperclaver.org/migra-salut-mental/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fhsperclaver.org/migra-salut-mental/index_en.htm)

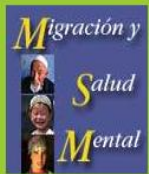
- Transnational living as a life style associated with risk:
  - Health risk (bodies)
  - National risk (states)
- Questions of government and politics become connected with administration of bodies and lives of individuals

# Transnational governmentality as a moral activity

- Morality – how people hold themselves accountable for their actions:
  - Governed
  - Governors
- Moral requirements and codes of conduct for new governing agencies
  - Humanitarian discourse

 **Action Lines**

1. The line of action is essentially humanitarian
2. The centre is designed to develop clinical research into the field of migration and mental health.
3. The centre is designed to offer treatment as well as carry out research.
4. The mental health centre is linked to the Catalan health network.
5. The centre is aimed at providing psychopathological and psychosocial care to immigrants and refugees, with a special emphasis on treating chronic patients who do not have access to other assistance.



# Transnational governmentality and pastoral power

Attempt to govern “multiplicity in movement” (Foucault 2007:125) through managing individuals

- Focus on the conscious of the subject (practice of psychotherapy)
- Telos
  - *to survive, to integrate, to be successful in competing with the local population* (line 29)
  - *Just live happily* (line 30)
- Figure of a ‘Sheppard’ leading the flock
  - *practising child psychologists and psychotherapists for adults, psychoanalysts* (line 23)
  - *social workers* (line 27)
  - *the best coaches* (line 32)
  - *Get to know each other, get talking, get support for one another, improving skills, social advertising for “our” families, moms and dads, people under psychological pressure and discomfort.* (line28)
  - *Together it is easier to survive, to integrate, to be successful in competing with the local population.* (line 29)



# Counter- conduct: refusal to be problematised

- Transnational living – deviant, hazardous
- Telos:
  - *interesting* (lines 24, 25)
  - *improving skills* (line 28)
  - *it is easier to develop this way* (line 24)
  - *be successful in competing with the local population* (line 29)
  - *just live happily* (line 30)

# Counter- conduct: refusal to be problematised

## Post 3, Line 1:

*Liked the first part of the message. Autthhor, rite moo!*

“**Autthhor, rite moo**” - an English representation of *Аффтар, пиши исчо* (Russian) - the misspelling of *Автор, пиши еще* (Russian) - “Author, write more” (English)

## **Author- Аффтар**

- The substitution of ‘o’ with ‘a’ and of **B** with ‘ф’ - a recognized strategy of computer-mediated interaction on Russian-speaking forums
- commonly used to convey a phonetic deviation that serves as a marker of emphasised ‘girl talk’
  - **Devochki => Deffachki**
  - **Девочки => деффачки**
- Conventional gender discourse
- the participant orients to the post as an idle chat
- Delegitimizes the author’s categorization of the participants as deviant, mentally unstable others

## ***rite moo***

- пиши еще => пеши исчо
  - Defies basic rules of Russian orthography
  - Sarcasm
- counters the discourse of deviance mobilised by the author and conventionally used in relation to migrants

# Counter- conduct: refusal to be problematised

## Post 5

1. Liked the first part of the message. Autthhor, rite moo<sup>2</sup>!
2. Do you need a psychotherapist? 😊))))))

## Post 6

1. Do you need a psychotherapist? 😊))))))
2. Like reading
  - ‘Thank you’ given from another participants marks alignment.

# Counter- conduct: refusal to be problematised

## Post 8, Line 1

***Rather far-fetched problems. We have problems that are both more simple and more complex; a psychologist will no longer help us.***

- Sets of problems suggested by the author VS “our” problems
- Scientification of transnational living (“epidemiology of migration” “cross-cultural psychology”)
- Attempt to dismiss it as an illness as a condition treatable through medication and therapy.

# Analytics of transnational governmentality

- how discursive practices dispersed across multiple modalities and practices participate in the formation of “unexpected alliances” (Walters 2012, p. 14) - diverse regimes of transnational living:
  - computer-mediated transnational spaces (Rusforum)
  - diaspora communities in their more and less institutionalised formats (Iguana community)
  - national institutions (hospitals)
  - transnational organisations and para-national (European union)
  - professional associations (psychologists’ networks)
- how new agents and authorities (Dean 2010) become recruited for administrating transnational conduct (e.g. hospitals, academic and research institutions).

# Analytics of transnational governmentality

- ‘the democratization of pastoralism’ (Valverde 1998)
  - the ways in which the individuals employ ethical repertoires of diverse practices and institutional genres to “care for one another’s ‘souls’” (Rose 1989, p. 265), to support and guide each other in the work on the transnational conduct.
- Subverting the idea that rule comes from above and resistance comes from the margins (Walters 2012, p. 145)
- Approaching transnational governmentality as governing techniques and rationale in which governor and governed figure as “two aspects of the one actor” (Dean 2010:19).

# Theoretical concerns

## **A stabilized, independent academic field**

- Produces transnational theory
- Strives to grasp all the essence of the transnational reality

## **Temporary arrangement brought purposefully together to deal with a particular problem in focus (Walters 2012, p. 84,88)**

- Commits to careful empirical investigation of the contexts and features of which these realities are made
- Theorizes the results of the encounter between governmental analytics and transnational living