

# New Perspectives on Discourse and Governmentality

Workshop, C-DiT  
April 2012

# Transnational governmentality

- governmentality as the ways in which power relations that encompass how individual and groups engage in more or less rationally reflected, calculated attempts to shape one another's conduct interact with the power that is exercised by the state within and beyond its jurisdiction and national borders.
- Ferguson and Gupta 2008

# Theoretical concerns, questions, objectives

- Theory => Analysis
  - theorisation of transnational governance, causal explanations of transnational transformations and prediction of their future developments
  - analytics of transnational living and associations
  - to unsettle the idea that contemporary realities are made up by transnational structures and units
  - revealing how transnational living is being accomplished
  - making visible the politics embedded in the assumptions of transnationalism and the rationalities and techniques that shape it
- the area between the absolute dominance of the state of a migrant and strategic negotiations between the state and its citizen
- competing techniques :
  - of constructing transnational living as deviance, regulating migrants' conduct based on this rationale and teaching them the discourse through which this rationale is realised
  - resisting this governmental strategies.

# Theoretical concerns, questions, objectives

- Managing freedom and exercising the power of freedom (Rose 1999, Foucault 2008)
- reason d'état - doctrine that highlights the survival of state in the context of interstate competition
- liberal governmentality an art of governance, which assumes the necessity of freedom among others the freedom of mobility.
- International governmentality (Walters 2012, Dean 2010)
- Securitisation of migration (Ibrahim 2005, Moore 2012)
  - Discourse and Governmentality

# Theoretical concerns, questions, objectives

- transnational governmentality as mediated actions (Nexus analysis Scollon 2001)
- the study of transnational governance as situated analysis

# Theoretical concerns, questions, objectives

- 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.
- Breaking with the idea that rule comes from above and resistance comes from the margins
  - power is diffuse and pervasive (Latour 2005)
  - practice which is meaningful will become visible
  - essentially transnational context => nexus of transnational networking
  - examining how the conduct of actors engaged in this nexus is administrated and how this regulation is contested.


# Theoretical concerns, questions, objectives


- microphysics of governance (Walters 2012: 14)
  - how unexpected alliances of diverse regimes of transnational living become formed through discursive confrontations
  - computer-mediated transnational spaces such as Rusforum, diaspora communities in their face-to-face and computer-mediated, in more and less institutionalised formats, national institutions such as hospitals, transnational organisations and para-national governments such as European union, professional associations such as psychological networks, etc.)

# 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




 **SergDunaev**

 Jan 2 2011, 08:30 PM

Сообщение #1



Настроение: 

Новичок

Пользователь

Группа: [Пользователи](#)

Страна:

Регистрация: 31-December 10

Сообщений: 2

Спасибо сказали: [0 раз\(а\)](#)

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 взялись 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

- 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)

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- < [HTTP://RUSFORUM.DK/INDEX.PHP?SHOWTOPIC=21936](http://rusforum.dk/index.php?showtopic=21936)>, APPENDIX III.19

# Data

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

# Analysing transnational governmentality as conduct of conduct

- “to define government as the ‘conduct of conduct’ is to open up the examination of self-government or cases in which governor and governed are two aspects of the one actor “(Dean 2010:19)

# Analysing transnational governmentality as conduct of conduct

1. Am I really the first one who had courage to introduce himself to the Forum?!
3. Generally we, in Ireland, are communicating in our local forum, no –even three, which span-off in the course of life.
2. So – this is me, your neighbour in a Eurodormitory.
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.

# Analysing transnational governmentality as conduct of conduct

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.fhspereclaver.org/migra-salut-mental/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fhspereclaver.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



# Mentality of risk and security

- “Whereas *raison d'état* and disciplinary power operate by enclosing territories and people [...], liberal governmentality [...] opens up [...] the nation and its borders to the circulation and combinations of people, goods money and ideas” (Walters 2012:36).
- Transnational governmentality tolerates a certain level of risk in the society and seeks to balance it out with the rest of the society.

# Transnational governmentality as a moral activity

- Rational activity (clear, systematic, explicit)
- Morality – how people hold themselves accountable for their actions:
  - Governed
  - Governors
- Moral requirements and codes of conduct for new governing agencies
  - Humanitarian discourse

# Transnational governmentality as a moral activity



**Sappir-Gasir**

[Who we are](#)

[Objectives](#)

[what we do](#)

[Action Lines](#)

[Organisation](#)

[Postgraduate Course](#)

[Communication area](#)

[Contact](#)



**migra-salut-mental**  
**SAPPPIR-GASIR**

Idioma ▾

## 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)
- always present in sight final goal
  - *to survive, to integrate, to be successful in competing with the local population* (line 29)
  - *Just live happily* (line 30)
- its 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.* (line 28)
  - *Together it is easier to survive, to integrate, to be successful in competing with the local population.* (line 29)
- established techniques of governmentality become recontextualised within the framework of transnational living and politics and being linked to contemporary goals and subjects of governmental rationale

# Counter- conduct: refusal to be problematised

- Ethics – “form of action of the ‘self on self’” (Dean 2010: 20)
- Transnational living – deviant, hazardous
- Self-regulation, self-control of transnational conduct – *interesting* (lines 24, 25), way to self-improvement (*improving skills*, line 28; *it is easier to develop this way*, line 24) and success (*be successful in competing with the local population*, line 29) and happiness (*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)
- The substitution of ‘o’ with ‘a’ and of В 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
- response to the author’s attempt to position the other participants as deviant, mentally unstable others
- the participant orients to the post as an idle chat
- Delegitimizes this categorization


- 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.