The literature on transnational migration has so far mainly emerged in the context of labour migration to the United States. The question arises if, and in how far, existing theories and models revolving around transnationalism can be applied to different historical, cultural and political contexts, such as migration within or to Europe, for example. The attempt to apply, critically examine and challenge existing notions of the nation state, transnationalism, paying particular attention to the extent to which transformations in the country of origin, i.e. war, economic crises, peace, can impact upon the formation, maintenance and even decline of transnational communities; and

- Transnational communities and the meaning of “home”, which explored the way that the concept of home is reproduced or transformed within the context of emerging transnational practices;
- “The implications of transforming homes for transnational communities” examined the extent to which transformations in the country of origin, i.e. war, economic crises, peace, can impact upon the formation, maintenance and even decline of transnational communities; and
- Transnational communities and the transformation of home explored the capacity of migrant and refugee communities in influencing or effecting transformations in their countries of origin.

Overall, the conference provided new and interesting material derived from in-depth case studies and provided a timely contribution to debates on transnational migration by scholars working outside of North America. Many papers challenged the common perception that transnational practices are counter-hegemonic in nature and also took issue with an oversimplified political economic approach. Furthermore, the role of the state in shaping, creating and hindering transnational ties became apparent in different case studies.

New Approaches to Migration: Transnational Communities and the Transformation of Home

An edited collection of many of the papers presented is currently being prepared for publication.

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