Sociology of Migration and the Stranger
Edda Mack
Mondays, 4.00-5.30 pm
Kap-010

Summary of the course:
From mass migration during the late antiquity to the refugee crisis of 2015: migration movement is obviously not an invention of modernity.
During the course of this seminar, we will ask not only who migrates, what the causes are that drive people away from their homes and how they choose (?) their destination but what motivates people to migrate and how can we – as sociologists - understand migration? What happens “before” the decision is made and what happens “after” one arrives at a certain destination? What are the resulting consequences for local communities that have been chosen as destinations of migration movements?
In this course, students will be introduced to a number of sociological concepts and theories of migration, in order to investigate how different perspectives offer different answers.
We will learn about different types of migration (labor migration, selective migration, migration of professionals, marriage migration, and forced migration) and learn how to compare and analyze different points of view, depending on the theoretical approach.
During the course of the semester, we will meet George Simmel’s Sociology of the Stranger, the Stranger of Alfred Schütz, Park’s Marginal Man, as well as a number of other theorists who provide different perspectives on (im-)migration as a phenomenon.