



**Tübingen International & European Studies (T-IES) Winter School on
Culture and Diversity**

STUDY TRACK B

Representing the European Past in Cross-Cultural Communities

January 7 – February 4, 2025

Course title:	Lost in translation: Immigration, identity crises and the creation of cross-cultural communities in Tübingen
Date / Room:	January 27–30, 2025 / Room: Tba.
Language of instruction:	English
Lecturer:	Ana Clara Alves
Contact hours:	16 + fieldwork

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The process of migration challenges the notion of self and the social skills of individuals that search to find again a sense of community in a foreign country. The city of Tübingen receives every year people from more than 140 different countries, and most of them come to the city to develop their studies at different levels of their careers. This fact makes the city of Tübingen a pluriverse place in terms of culture and sociability. Thus, to have a deeper understanding of the process of immigration, we will examine how it takes place in the city of Tübingen, studying concepts, discussing experiences, and doing a small ethnological exercise around the city.

This third and final Track B course will present the students with different concepts of identity and how it is always being constructed concerning the social experience of the individual. Through the theme of immigration, we will see how identity can be questioned and reinvented in a new social context and how cross-cultural communities can be constructed. The city of Tübingen will be the place of our fieldwork, where we can observe how more diverse communities can be created and how we interact with different cultures in daily life. The workshop aims to equip the students with basic tools to exercise sociological imagination, allowing them to start dialogues around immigration, cultural changes, identity crisis experiences, and cultural differences.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic	Reading (required)
1 (= 90 minutes)	Monday, January 27 (I): 11:00 – 12:30	Introduction to the course Immigration and Identity	<i>Hall, Stuart. "Cultural Identity and Diaspora". In "Transatlantic Literary Studies", 1996.</i>
2	Monday, January 27 (II): 14:00 – 15:30	What connect us: Culture and cross-cultural flows.	<i>Appadurai, Arjun, "The Future as a Cultural Fact", Verso, 2013</i>
3	Monday, January 27 (III): 16:00 – 17:30	Ethnography and the fieldwork method: Learning the basics	<i>Lambek, Michael. Introduction. In: M. Lambek (ed), Ordinary ethics: anthropology, language, and action. New York: Fordham University Press. 2010.</i>
4	Tuesday, January 28 (I): 11:00 – 12:30	Doing anthropology Discussing the fieldwork assignment and how we will approach it	<i>No reading required</i>
5	Tuesday, January 28 (II): 14:00 – 15:30	Fieldwork and photographic project in Tübingen	
6	Wednesday, January 29 (I): 11:00 – 12:30	Organizing the material we collect	<i>Jani Vuolteenaho and Guy Ruby, Jay. Seeing Through Pictures: The Anthropology of Photography. Michigan. African Journals Project, 2009. Puzey: 2018</i>
7	Wednesday, January 29 (II): 14:00 – 15:30	Rethinking the „Future as a social fact“ Presenting and framing the fieldwork	<i>No reading required</i>
8	Wednesday, January 29 (III): 16:00 – 17:30	Summary and Discussion	-
	Thursday, January 30: All Day	Study trip / Field work	

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

The course concludes with a group presentation during the final session. The overall grade of the course will be calculated by the result of the presentation (70%) and active participation in class as well as by field work assignments (30%). Active participation in class as well as during field work includes: attendance, asking questions, taking part in discussions, showing interest, giving presentations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Basic understanding of sociological concepts around the theme of immigration.
- Equip the students to be able to exercise a sociological imagination, asking deeper questions about diverse cultural interactions and how to turn these questions into dialogues.
- Present them with sociological/ethnographical tools that can be used to connect better with people from different countries, cities, and diverse cultural communities.
- Attempts to prepare the students to reflect on their interactions in a foreign country through the lens of curiosity seeing cultural differences as a bridge and not a wall.

PREREQUISITES

- The course is designed for undergraduate students from different countries and with different academic backgrounds who are interested in studying abroad, especially studying in the city of Tübingen.
- A good understanding of English.
- Willing to actively participate in the discussions and work in groups.

READING

Appadurai, Arjun, *"The Future as a Cultural Fact"*, Verso, 2013.

Azoulay, Ariella Aisha. *Potential History: Unlearning Imperialism*. London/New York, Verso, 2019.

Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Culture*. New York, Basic Books, 1973.

Hall, Stuart. "Cultural Identity and Diaspora". In "Transatlantic Literary Studies", 1996.

Lambek, Michael. Introduction. In: M. Lambek (ed), *Ordinary ethics: anthropology, language, and action*. New York: Fordham University Press. 2010.

Ruby, Jay. *Seeing Through Pictures: The Anthropology of Photography*. Michigan. African Journals Project, 2009.

INFORMATION ON THE LECTURER

Ana Clara Alves is a Brazilian Ph.D. student in Anthropology (UT/UFF). She has a master's degree in Anthropology (UFJF), conducting field research about gender and agency in a Muslim community in Brazil. Currently, she is in the last stages of her Ph.D. working with photographic archives from Ottoman Empire and focusing on female representation in the

early days of photographic practice in Istanbul. Her main frames of work are photography, culture, and gender.

She has a teaching degree in Sociology (UFJF/2019) and was a tutor for master's Students in Social Sciences (UFF) from 2020-2022. In 2022 she taught the course "Gender and Orientalism" at the University of Tübingen and co-teach the course "Literary and Cultural Theories of the Global South" with Prof. Dr. Sebastian Thies. Ana Clara also has experience organizing events, such as the CIVIS Summer School "The pluriverse" in 2022, and still works organizing activities for the Centre of Global South Studies at the University of Tübingen.