**Book Proposal: Women on the Move: European Women as Scientific Migrants**

**1. Description:**

This book is about women who decided to leave their country of origin in Europe and pursue their academic and scientific careers in the United States. Although most of them initially aim to return to their country of origin, many of them end up staying to pursue their careers in the United States, thus turning into “scientific migrants” with no intent to return. What made these highly educated women pack their suitcases and take up that path? What is their story? What are their struggles once they arrive in the United States? Why are they not returning to their country of origin? European women become scientific migrants, because it is difficult, if not impossible, for a woman to pursue a career in academia and the sciences in their country of origin. Rather than stories of self-fulfillment one encounters stories of societal pressures that made these women, often alone, leave their countries of origin. Once arrived in the United States, their struggles continue in their attempts to make it in academic and scientific contexts that are biased towards female scientists from abroad.

This book draws on critical as well as feminist political theory, in combination with an analysis of twenty qualitative interviews with female scientists and a quantitative study with one hundred male and female scientists from Austria who currently work in US academia and the sciences to shed light upon an often neglected aspect of global capitalism—the ways in which “scientific mobility”, particularly of women, is not so much a free choice but the result of societal forces. The term “scientist” is used here in a wide sense, referring to a person who works inside and outside academia in the life and natural sciences, as well as in the humanities and social sciences. Since not only gender, but also social class is of central interest in this book, the voices of female scientific migrants from both bourgeois as well as working-class backgrounds are staged.

Most works on scientific migration from Europe to the United States (mostly headed under the title “brain drain or brain gain”) are pursued from a gender blind perspective, which produces a dominant picture of the scientific migrant as male, affluent and white. In contrast, my book challenges such a picture by exploring the gender, as well, as the class and race dimensions on that subject. Feminist research has recently started to foreground the neglected gender dimension in migration studies. However, whereas such research mainly focuses on the migration of low-wage female labor from emerging countries to wealthy countries, my book explores the migration of highly skilled women with a potential for high-wage labor from a wealthy country to another one. Finally, whereas most works on scientific migration are based on just quantitative research, which erases the voices of scientific migrants, this book also explores the qualitative dimension on this subject, and combines such analysis with insights from political thought. As a result it brings the voices of female scientific migrants back on stage.

While this book is geared toward an audience in political theory, political science, as well as women’s and gender studies, it is also of interest in cross-disciplinary fields, such as migration studies. Moreover, it is also of interest for a wider audience, particularly for policy makers in the sciences and academia, both in Europe and the United States. For European policy makers, this book contributes to find out why they are losing particularly women with a high potential to the United States and what they can do to keep them or ease their return; for the United States, this book assists to find out what are the particular struggles of female international scholars and what it can do to support these women’s careers in academia and the sciences.

The book is composed of five chapters, excluding an introduction and conclusion, with a word count of maximum 80,000 words. It contains no photographs. The interviews have been carried out and transcribed. The quantitative analysis has also been carried out. Out of the five chapters three chapters have been drafted.

**2. Chapter Outline:**

***Introduction:***This chapter provides an introduction to the major themes discussed in the book, as well as a detailed chapter outline.

***Chapter One*: “Leaving”**

This chapter explores the reasons why European women, often alone, leave their country of origin to pursue their careers in the United States. Rather than free choice it is a combination of forces that make these women leave—such as the difficulty for women to obtain a career-advancing position in academia and the sciences in Europe, hierarchical and patriarchal societal and work structures, and the standard of having to go abroad for some time (particularly to the United States) to pursue an academic career in Europe. The chapter shows that most women have initially a clear intention to return to their country of origin. It also explores the structures that assisted or aimed to stop the departure of these women, as well as the reactions of family, friends and colleagues. It combines the voices of European female scientists with insights from critical and feminist thought that explain the capitalist and patriarchal forces that contribute to these women’s venturing abroad.

***Chapter Two*: “Challenging Dislocations”**

This chapter explores the initial struggles European female scientists’ face in the United States. It discusses the dislocations these women face in their new living and work environment, such as the struggle to work in a foreign language, biases towards their accent that marks them as foreigners, the feelings of non-belonging, the loss of the support of colleagues from their country of origin, the pain of separation from friends and family, and the insecurity of their legal status. This chapter also explores the ways these women aim to counter such dislocations by simultaneously establishing new personal and professional contacts in the host country, and by fostering their transnational ties to their country of origin, through their family and friends, as well as their scientific contacts. This chapter combines the insights from the qualitative interviews with literature from feminist migration studies on female migrant labor, which it expands upon by illuminating the specific situation of female scientific migrants.

***Chapter Three:*  “Living in-Between Worlds”**

This chapter explores the struggles European female scientists face in the middle-stages of their attempts to establish themselves as academics and/or scientists in their host country. As highly educated, mostly white women from Europe working in scientific and academic context, they have a racial and class privilege vis-à-vis their female labor migrants from poor countries in the United States, who face exploitation and racial discrimination. However, they face marginalization at the intersection of being international and female scholars in US academia. Moreover, they face as foreign scholars, particularly since September 11, more policing under the Homeland Security Department. At the same time they experience some of the personal advantages of “living-in-between worlds,” such escaping societal standards for women in their home country and at the same time, as foreigners, escaping such standards in their host country —e.g. the expectation to marry and have children at a certain age. It draws on and expands intersectionality theory by adding an international dimension, as well as feminist studies that explore the living in between worlds.

***Chapter Five:*  “Becoming a Scientific Migrant”**

 This chapter explores the later stages of European female scientists’ stay abroad. It analyzes why many of them, who initially have the clear intention to return to their country of origin, do not end up returning after all. Again, rather than “free choice”, societal forces contribute to such decision, including the lack of acknowledgement of expertise gained in the United States in Europe, the weakening of ties to scientific contacts in Europe, which are necessary to obtain a position, the absence of years of subjecting themselves under hierarchical structures, which remains a central ingredient of European scientific careers, and the absence of an attractive scientific “job market,” with scientific and academic jobs becoming more and more rare, based on limited contracts and being underpaid. Although some of these women would like to return, because of the higher quality of life and their social networks in Europe, they perceive more attractive avenues for establishing themselves in the United States, have stronger professional ties in their host country, which all contributes that European female scientists turn into female scientific migrants.

***Conclusion*: “What Needs to Change”**

This chapter, based on the elaborations of my previous chapters, discusses what needs to change in both the European academic and scientific context and the US American context for female scholars to succeed in academia and the sciences, in both their home country and abroad.

**3. Market Analysis:**

1) Rachel Parreñas, *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration and Domestic Work*. (2001, Standford University Press)

In this classic book on female migration Parreñas analyzes the three levels of the migration flow of Filipina domestic workers to Rome and Los Angeles. On a subject level, these women share dislocations, such as the feelings of non-belonging, the pain of family separation, and a deskilling in their host countries. On an intermediate level, these women, via transnational ties form a global (often imagined) community, central to counter their dislocations. On a macro-level global capital contributes to female migration flows. Whereas Parreñas focuses on migrant female workers from a poor to wealthy countries, my book focuses on the experiences of women working in the sciences and academia, who move from a wealth country to another. Whereas Parreñas’ core theoretical framework draws on Foucault and feminist thought, my book introduces critical and political theory to shed further light on that subject.

2) Saskia Sassen, *Globalization and its Discontents* (1998, New York: The New Press).

Sassen explains the darker side of global capital—the growing number of low-wage, part-time and unprotected employees, mostly women and immigrants that serve global cities and the homes of its professionals. The exploited (feminized) proletariat in off shore factories turns into the exploited (feminized) urban proletariat and both are central to sustain global capital. Whereas Sassen explores the role of global capital in female migration flows of low-wage workers, my book explores the role of global capital in migration flows of (potentially) high-wage female workers in the sciences. Furthermore, Sassen’s focuses on female migration from “developing” nations to the United States, my book focuses on the migration of European women to the United States. Also, Sassen mainly explains the subjection of female migrants, I also explore the possibilities of challenging such subjection.

3) Tito Boeri et al., *Brain Drain and Brain Gain: The Global Competition to Attract High-Skilled Migrants* (2012, Oxford University Press)

This books shows that although the US has been leading the race to attract skilled workers from emerging countries, as well as the European Union, a growing number of countries have adopted immigration policies aimed at attracting skilled workers. It also explains that most emerging countries experience a “net gain” from skilled emigration (for example via remittances and return migration). Whereas this book treats scientific migration from a gender-neutral perspective, which dominates such literature, my book introduces a gender perspective with its focus on female scientific migrants. Moreover, this book, like most literature on this subject, draws on quantitative research, which delivers a one-sided picture of scientific migration. In contrast my book introduces a more diverse perspective by combining political theory with qualitative and quantitative research. Whereas this book is steeped in traditional economic theory, which eradicates a critical view on capitalism and patriarchy, my book brings such view back via critical and feminist thought.

4) Gillian Brock and Michael Blake, *Debating Brain Drain: May Governments Restrict Emigration?* (2015, Oxford University Press)

This book draws on ethical thought to illuminate the topic of the migration of the “best and brightest” from emerging to wealthier societies. It addresses the ethical rights and responsibilities of such professionals, and of the societies in which they live in— such as if developing societies can demand that their citizens do not leave and use their skills to improve life for their fellow citizens. Whereas this book focuses on ethical questions pertaining to the migration of highly skilled labor from poor to wealthier societies, my book focuses on the migration of such labor from equivalently wealthy societies. This book treats the emigration of the “best and brightest” from a gender-neutral perspective, thereby reinforcing the view of such migrants as male. In contrast, my book challenges such view with its focus upon women and feminist thought. Whereas this book draws on ethical theory, which tends to eradicate a critical view upon capitalism, my book foregrounds such critique.

5) [Birgit Riegraf](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref%3Ddp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&text=Birgit+Riegraf&search-alias=books&field-author=Birgit+Riegraf&sort=relevancerank) & al (eds.), *Gender Change in Academia: Re-Mapping the Fields of Work, Knowledge, and Politics from a Gender Perspective* (2010, Springer Verlag)

This books engages with the status of gender research in Europe in the face of rationalization and reorganization of its universities to implement the goals of the Bologna declaration that aims to “harmonize” the European Scientific Area. It shows that the restructuring process, which aims to increase economic efficiency of universities, impacts on gender relations and de-genders academic teaching and research. Whereas the articles in this book focus on the barriers women face in the European sciences and academia, they do not address how such barriers contribute to a scenario where highly qualified European female scientists venture beyond European borders to other countries, particularly the United States, which I do in my book. Furthermore, whereas this book addresses mainly the problems of European academia and the sciences, my book also explores such problems in the US American context.

6) Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhset al (eds.) *Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race and Class for Women in Academia* (2012, University Press of Colorado)

This book discusses the ways in which women faculty of color are subjected to stereotypes, fears and fantasies based on the intersection of race, gender, and class in US American academia. Through personal narratives and qualitative empirical studies, the authors discuss the challenges faced by academic women of color as they navigate the often hostile terrain of higher education, including hiring, promotion, tenure, and relations with students, colleagues, and administrators. Whereas this book explores the challenges mostly American women of color face in US academia, my book explains the ways in which nationality impacts on the dimensions of race, class, gender in academia and the sciences. Furthermore, whereas this book mostly discusses first-hand accounts of the struggles of women of color in academia, my book engages a multi-methodological approach combining political theory, qualitative and quantitative research to explore the struggles of women from abroad who are trying to make it in US academia.