



Towards the queer intersectional study of transnational social spaces: British South Asians in London

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Much conceptual and empirical literature into transnational social spaces remains grounded in methodological nationalism (Wimmer and Glick Schiller 2002), focusing on typologising transnationalism, on the economic and political implications of transnational migration for states, and the impact of transnational bifocality (Vertovec 2004) on migrants' identities. Instead, this paper suggests that much can be gained in understanding post-migration generations' hybrid social practices by adopting a trans-disciplinary lens on the ways in which participants in transnational social spaces produce, negotiate and perform complex and fluid embodied subjectivities. Shifting the focus to the spaces in which transnationality takes place rather than normatively defined ethnic and national communities (Jackson et al. 2004) allows for exploring heterogeneity in terms of multiple experiences and practices within such spaces. Such an approach allows for taking the complex interplay of spatiality, historicity and shifting identifications based on embodied practices and discourses around gender, sexuality, race, national belonging, ethnicity or age into account.

Taking British South Asians in London as exemplary for the decoupling of life in the transnational social space from migratory processes as such, I put the transnational social space into productive dialogue with poststructuralist theories of subject formation and feminist, postcolonial and queer interventions into transnational migration research. I examine how these conceptual and empirical literatures complement one another in fruitful ways and productively illustrate one another's limitations. In doing so, I illustrate how the study of transnational social spaces can benefit from drawing on intersectional theories in gender studies and the queering of methodologies beyond the study of queer subjects subjects (e.g. Luibhéid 2008; Valocchi, 2005).