

Global Workers, Professionals and Entrepreneurs: The New Economic Order Across Borders

We live in a world where economic activities increasingly span national borders. Corporations base their operations in multiple countries; workers and professionals migrate to follow job opportunities; and global entrepreneurs take advantage of regional differentials. How do individuals navigate the economic and social relations across borders? This tutorial will guide students through the preparation of an empirical research paper on this broad question.

We will begin by identifying the main globalizing trends in recent decades such as the rising mobility of capital and labor. We will then learn about the impact of these trends on individual lives. How do migrant workers, professionals or entrepreneurs form transnational communities? How do these communities operate? What determines the success of global entrepreneurs? What challenges do migrant workers or professionals face?

Following the review of the relevant literature in the first four weeks, students will design and complete their own research projects. To aid in this process, we will have workshops throughout the course on the various steps of the research process, from formulating the question to collecting and analyzing data. We will provide brief overviews of both qualitative methods (interviews and ethnographic observations) and quantitative approaches (analysis of archival or survey data).