

**Announcement: Collaborative Masters and Doctoral Program in Diaspora and  
Transnational Studies,  
Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies  
University of Toronto**

Description

Though subject to varied emphases and disciplinary investments, Diaspora in contemporary thought involves an understanding of the shifting relations between homelands and host nations from the perspective of those who have moved, whether voluntarily or not. Diaspora emphasizes the inescapable lived experience of many migrant communities of negotiating forms of existence and self-understanding that are often translocal and exceed the boundaries of the nation-state. Questions of nostalgia, of the dynamics of co-ethnic identification, of the politics of homeland and host nation, and of the inter-generational shifts in responses to all these are central to studies of diaspora. Transnationalism, on the other hand, focuses on flows and counterflows and the multistriated connections they give rise to. It encompasses in its ambit not just the movement of people but also concepts of citizenship and multinational governance, the resources of information technology, and the realities of the global marketplace, among others. These multiple phenomena are then taken to exemplify the nature and intensities of the flows that shape the modern world. Taken together, the concepts of Diaspora and Transnationalism promise a broad understanding of the full spectrum of implications that derive from the reality of the vast movements of populations, goods, ideas, images, technologies, and finance in the world today.

The Collaborative Master's and Doctoral Program in Diaspora and Transnational Studies is designed to bring together both social science and humanities perspectives to augment our already existing tri-campus undergraduate program and to contribute to increased research collaboration among participants in the program. The program will be focused on the relations between homelands and host-nations as these relations impact upon migrants, while also extending beyond the subject of migration to include other phenomena that go beyond the field of ethnic relations or sub-national interests and rather expand into a transnational arena of significance. In other words the focus is not solely on the dynamics of settlement of immigrant communities within various host countries but on the processes by which these communities become translocal even whilst being settled in one specific geographical location. The interaction between the social sciences and the humanities will be a defining aspect of the common experience to be gained from the core Research Methods seminar and will also provide the fulcrum for organizing other aspects of the program, such as student conferences and symposia, reading groups, etc. There will additionally be an in-built critical ethnographic/archival/cultural studies component to the program. This will require that at the end of the Research methods course students undertake a project that involves delving into a diasporic community in Toronto or elsewhere in terms of direct fieldwork, archival historical analysis, or a film or other documentary project. Students will be guided to make critical use of their material to augment their understanding of how various types of research are carried out in the field. Whilst raising questions about

diasporic communities in Canada, this will not be the primary focus of the Program. Rather, the Canadian example will be a means towards understanding the nature of diaspora and transnationalism elsewhere in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Global South. The intellectual emphasis of the Program will ultimately be on understanding the multiple dimensions of diasporization and diasporic existence and will include interests in art history, film, literature, language, the histories of immigrant settlement and the dynamics of race relations in Canada and elsewhere as well as questions of citizenship and globalization, and the implications of new technologies for ethnic identification, among others.

### Admission Requirements

Each student in the Collaborative Program will first be enrolled in a participating Master's or Doctoral degree graduate unit program in which the research is conducted, which is known as the home graduate unit. The student will meet the admission requirements of both the home graduate unit and the Collaborative Program. In addition the collaborative program will require the submission of an abstract and statement of scholarly interest on either an issue in diaspora and transnational studies or on a specific thesis proposal. These will be evaluated along with the prospective candidate's file. There are no preferred backgrounds for prospective candidates except for a preparedness to engage with both social science and humanities paradigms irrespective of their home department background. On admission to the Program the student will be required to take the Comparative Research Methods in Diaspora and Transnationalism course (0.5 FCE) and one other thematic course to be decided upon every year (0.5 FCE). For the 2009/10 academic year the thematic course will be on "Religion, Transnationalism, and Space". For degrees which require a Master's or Doctoral thesis or research project, the topic must be within the field of Diaspora and Transnational Studies, as approved by the home department and the Collaborative Program Committee. A copy of the final thesis or project must be submitted to the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies.

These requirements will not be in addition to home program course requirements` but will be intermeshed with them. In other words, they will not represent an extra workload for students registering for either a Master's or Doctoral program in any collaborating unit. Collaborative Master's students who go on to do the PhD will not be eligible to repeat the Collaborative Program at the doctoral level.

If students satisfy the requirements for both programs, they receive their degree with a notation on the transcript stating "Collaborative Program in Diaspora and Transnational Studies"

### Collaborating Programs

- Department of Anthropology , Anthropology program, MA, MSc., PhD
- Cinema Studies Institute, Cinema Studies program, MA
- Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama, Drama program, MA, PhD
- Department of English, English program, MA, PhD
- Department of Geography, Geography program, MA, MSc., PhD

- Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, German Literature, Culture and Theory program, MA, PhD
- Department of History, History program, MA, PhD
- Department of Political Science, Political Science program, MA., PhD
- Centre for the Study of Religion, Religion program, MA, PhD
- Department of Sociology, Sociology program, MA, PhD
- Department of Sociology and Equity Studies in Education , Sociology in Education Program, MA, MEd, EdD, PhD
- Department of Spanish , Spanish program, MA, PhD.,
- Women and Gender Studies program, MA, PhD., Women and Gender Studies Institute

Supporting Program:

- Centre for Jewish Studies

Applications should contain the following:

- cv
- Academic transcript
- Statement of scholarly interest (2 pages maximum)
- Proof of admission to home department

Applications should be received by June 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 either via email to [cdts@utoronto.ca](mailto:cdts@utoronto.ca) or posted to:

Antonela Arhin, Executive Officer  
 Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies  
 Rm 230, Jackman Humanities Building  
 170 St George St.  
 Toronto, ON M5R 2M8  
 Canada

Please consult the Graduate Program website for additional information at <http://www.utoronto.ca/cdts/graduate.html>.