



Venice International University
VIU Summer School
Migration and Gender: a Legal and Literary Perspective
May 16-21, 2022

Faculty

Sara De Vido, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Tamio Nakamura, Waseda University
Laurie Shepard, Boston College

Preliminary Assignments:

Read three short novels: *Adua* by Igiaba Scego, *Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka, and *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong

Course outline

M1 – Introduction to the questions of the course
M2 – Migration and Gender
M3 – Migration and Human Rights
M4 – Living sexual exploitation
M5 – Gender and Law, Labor and Culture
M6 – Gender, Labor and Culture
M7 – The Courts, Intersectionality and Vulnerability
M8 – Vulnerable lives
M9 – Rewriting a Recent Immigration Case
M10 – Presenting the Recent Immigration Case

Monday, May 16

Morning

Module 1 - Introduction to the questions of the course

Sara De Vido, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Tamio Nakamura, Waseda University & Laurie Shepard, Boston College

1. Can the Humanities contribute to legal processes or decisions pertaining to immigration in any significant way? the challenges and potential of an interdisciplinary examination of immigration
2. The complexity of mass migration and the legal system
3. Immigration law and gender

Afternoon

Module 2 - Gender and Migration; Migration and Gender

Laurie Shepard, Boston College & Sara De Vido, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

1. In patterns of migration, immigration law as well as in literature, the inseparability of gender from the question of migration
2. The impact of migration on gender performance as exemplified in the three novels and across different geographical, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds

Tuesday, May 17

Morning

Module 3 - Migration and Human Rights

Sara De Vido, Ca' Foscari University of Venice & Tamio Nakamura, Waseda University

1. The impact of Human Rights Law on International Migration Law
2. The rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
3. Trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation with specific regard to women and girls

Afternoon

Module 4 - Living sexual exploitation

Laurie Shepard, Boston College

1. How the three novels explore the experience of sexual exploitation of women
2. Vuong's focus on LGBTQIAI

Wednesday, May 18

Morning

Module 5 - Gender and Law, Labor and Culture

Sara De Vido, Ca' Foscari University of Venice & Tamio Nakamura, Waseda University

1. Gender discrimination in the recognition of the rights of refugees and asylum seekers
2. Gender, Migration, Labor and Culture
3. A gender perspective in international migration law

Afternoon

Module 6 - Gender, Labor and Culture Wednesday

Laurie Shepard, Boston College

1. Cultural expectations and labor distribution redefined by migration patterns as exemplified in the three novels

Thursday, May 19

Morning

Module 7 - The Courts, Intersectionality and Vulnerability

Sara De Vido, Ca' Foscari University of Venice & Tamio Nakamura, Waseda University

1. The importance of intersectionality in law and jurisprudence
2. The concept of vulnerability in law
3. Vulnerability as institutional and structural, in the context of discrimination
4. Examples of case law in which intersectionality and vulnerability have been relevant

Afternoon

Module 8 - Vulnerable lives

Laurie Shepard, Boston College

1. Exploring vulnerability as the essential immigrant experience in the three novels
2. The perception of discrimination

Friday, May 20

All Day

Module 9 - Rewriting a Recent Immigration Case

Tamio Nakamura, Waseda University, Laurie Shepard, Boston College & Sara De Vido, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

1. Students will, in groups of two, rewrite a legal decision from the perspective of what they have learned and discussed

Saturday, May 21

Morning

Module 10 Presenting a Recent Immigration Case

Tamio Nakamura, Waseda University & Laurie Shepard, Boston College

1. Students will present and debate their rewritten legal decisions