ANTH 483
MIGRATION AND THE FAMILY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Leslie Butt

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

As people move about the world in increasing numbers, changing patterns of mobility are having a powerful impact on families, family goals, and family experiences. On the one hand, economic pressures force family fragmentation and instability for some; for others, affluence and opportunity can set in motion different pressures and demands on family. This course looks at family and mobility from a global perspective, addressing contemporary economic and political policies shaping who can move, where, and why, and the impact of these new forms of movement on long-standing ideas about kin, home, and belonging. Course topics will include: labour migration and stay-at-home children; undocumented migration, refugees, and family fissures; transnational adoption and local child fostering; reproductive medical tourism; mobility and the affluent family; and more. The focus will be on global mobility trends, and we will address the policy implications of shifting mobilities at an analytic level.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify shifts in family migration patterns over the past half-century and understand global trends shaping those shifts
- Understand the assumptions and values embedded in migration policy
- Assess the place of labour migration within a global landscape
- Explore experiences and emotions of “left-behind children”
- Critically assess the impact of global and local expectations about family and parenting on family practices
- Assess the impact of global values of education and health on global mobility patterns
- Complete a major assignment which addresses policy issues related to mobility and the family