



Master Class

Family Entanglements, Migration, and Media

Led By: *Jennifer Hirsch* Professor and Deputy Chair for Doctoral Studies, Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York

&

Heather Horst Vice-Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow, School of Media and Communication, RMIT University, Melbourne

Held at: The University of Victoria, Harry Hickman Building, Room 116

When: May 27, 1-4pm, May 28, 9-4pm, May 29, 9am-12pm

Organized by: The Research Team *Southeast Asian Women, Family and Migration in the Global Era*, co-investigators Leslie Butt and Lisa Mitchell

Themes: Migration, Ethnography, Family, Intimacy, Communication, Technologies

As migration grows in size and scope, social relations also grow and change. New flows and engagements in the global era require innovative forms of social science research. This Master Class asks how new forms of mobility, media and technologies are shaping relations within migrant families. How are those mobile families reshaping technologies and media in turn? How best can we explore those relationships as engaged social scientists?

We begin the Master Class with Jennifer Hirsch's queries on the nature of intimate relations in a global context. She is particularly interested in the complex issues involved in reproduction as families navigate through new social terrain, including questions about citizenship and subjectivity, the breadth of policies and institutions that shape daily life, the transnational circulation of scandal, solace and sexual identities, and the negotiation of intimacy in long distance and face-to-face family encounters. She asks: What are the processes and institutions through which intimacy is negotiated and transformed in the current global era? How do families negotiate complex webs of communication around sensitive topics, grapple with relationships, children, and spouses, and express autonomy and identity in increasingly



University
of Victoria

Centre for
Asia-Pacific Initiatives



Migration & Mobility

fractured global landscapes? Hirsch explores intellectual approaches to these questions, discusses what it means for social scientists to do research that engages with policy, and presents some of the key methodological benefits and challenges of multi-sited comparative ethnographic research.

The second driving theme, addressed by Heather Horst, asks: What are the potentially productive ways of bringing cutting-edge qualitative methodologies to carve open new veins of understanding about social practice? How can we bring media and technologies to the forefront, and conceptualize them integrally as both topic of study, and method for study? Horst will explore frameworks for understanding the different 'properties' of digital media and technology, with particular attention to changes in the ways in which we think about personal communication. She will lead discussion on the ways in which digital media and technology is and/or can be used to understand how people practice and imagine their everyday lives.

Registration is free, but capped at 25 persons. Lunch and coffee breaks are provided. If you are interested in attending the Master Class, contact Lisa Mitchell, imm@uvic.ca, or coordinator Natasha Fox, nfox@uvic.ca, to inquire about availability.

The event is sponsored by the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives' *Migration & Mobility Program*:
<http://www.capi.uvic.ca/migration>

