

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
PH.D. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN IMMIGRATION, ETHNICITY AND RACE
February 1-8, 2021

You are required to answer THREE (3) QUESTIONS (ONE QUESTION FROM EACH OF PARTS A, B & C). Each answer should be 10-12 pages (12-point font, double-spaced and standard margins) in length. The complete exam should not total more than 36 pages in length (12-point font, double-spaced and standard margins) not including references. THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT READ PAST THE 36TH PAGE.

PART A

1. With the rise of social media and 24/7 telecommunication, one could argue that the world is increasingly globalized as interconnections between diverse peoples and places are faster, cheaper, and easier to maintain. Yet, territorialization imposed by borders continues to narrow migration opportunities from the developing to the developed world, and access to citizenship and other resources. How does migration scholarship, especially on transnationalism, hold up for examining today's globalized world? Using evidence from the readings, first provide a critical synthesis of transnationalism scholarship. Then, discuss, with evidence from the readings and contemporary, real-world examples, if and how scholarship on transnationalism falls short conceptually and/or methodologically. Finally, in your conclusion, discuss how scholars of migration might address these shortcomings.
2. How do scholars understand the relationship between colonization, immigration, and indigenous nationhood in the context of North America? In your discussion, make sure to highlight the role of the state in shaping group relations between "Native peoples," "white settlers," "racialized immigrants," and "enslaved peoples"? Critically synthesize relevant readings about North America and then describe how they might be applied elsewhere in the world for understanding other group relations.

PART B

1. Scholarship on indigeneity calls for attention to the particularity of local lived experience, which can create challenges for developing transportable, generalizable concepts and theories. Summarize and synthesize readings from the exam reading list that substantiate the above statement; then offer a broader discussion of the limitations and promises of developing transportable claims in the discipline of Sociology. You are encouraged to use relevant case studies and real-world examples to make your argument.
2. Since the 1980s, Black feminist scholars have been at the forefront of developing a theoretical framework for intersectional analysis of systems of oppression. Using the

reading list, first describe how and to what extent sociologists of race and racism and sociologists of im/migration have taken up their call. Then, identify how scholars have incorporated intersectional analysis and to what effect—in other words, what has been the intellectual pay-off? Finish with discussion of sub-areas represented on the exam reading list that would benefit from greater attention to intersectionality, and why.

PART C

1. A long-held assumption in sociology is that perceived differences between groups breeds contempt and, conversely, perceived similarities smooth out group interactions. Discuss this assumption using supportive or contradictory empirical findings from the literature on the comprehensive exam list.
2. Using readings from the comprehensive exam list, describe how scholars have theorized white racial identities in North American contexts. What are the main streams in this literature? Are they complimented, complicated, or challenged by literature addressing postcolonial/global contexts, and if so, how? In your answer, cite specific empirical cases where appropriate, and discuss their significance.