

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
PH.D. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN GLOBAL MIGRATION  
FEBRUARY 6-10, 2023**

---

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 and double-spaced) in length. The complete exam should not total more than 36 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point font), not including references. THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT READ PAST THE 36TH PAGE.

**Part A.**

1. How and why do state institutions attempt to control migration? And, what consequences do these efforts have on reinforcing oppressive systems and creating opportunities for resistance?

There are many ways to answer this question. However, we encourage you to primarily draw on the section “global & transnationalism perspectives.” You may incorporate select pieces from other parts of the list. Make sure that your essay is not just a list of empirical examples, but instead attempts to conceptually categorize the different ways that states use their power to shape migration flows as well as migrant opportunities and subjectivities. (For the purposes of this question, “migrants” can refer to immigrants, emigrants, and refugees.)

2. Sociologists have finally conceded the importance of racialization and racism in the study of migration. Pretend that you’re preparing an undergraduate lecture to explain, using well-selected examples, the insights that sociologists have gained by being sensitive to the role of race in the study of migration. In your lecture, explain what might happen if scholars do not incorporate an analysis of racialization and racism in the study of migration, particularly in U.S. and Canadian contexts.

Make sure your answer begins with a clear definition of racialization and racism.

**Part B.**

1. Compare and contrast the material in the sections entitled “The Trouble with Integration” and “Boundaries & Belonging”. How is the literature that critiques the concept and practices of immigrant integration in conversation with the literature on boundaries and belonging and vice versa? What are overlapping concepts and arguments and what are distinctions between the two subfields?

2. How do practices of categorization enable and impede gendered and queer migrations? Identify the multiple actors in categorization processes and discuss how categorization impacts the post-migration lives of migrants.

In your answer, draw from the sections “Gendered navigations of legal migration categories” and “Queer migrations”.

### **Part C.**

1. How do gender inequalities shape migration decisions and practices? How does migration shape gender inequalities?

In your answer, pay attention to the various domains of gender relations under study within or across studies, including the household, the workplace, political organizations, or others. What does the study of one domain, as opposed to another, teach us?

2. How do scholars theorize dimensions of unfreedom under capitalism for migrant workers? What have been the main areas of debate between these scholars? How have scholars sought to move beyond the binary of free and unfree labour in the migration context?

In your answer, you might also consider the analytic consequences of different methodological approaches.