

Professor Mehdi Bozorgmehr, City University of New York
Friday 13 February - 16:00, Metropolitan Building Z-531

Panethnicity Revisited: Contested Group Formation in the Post-9/11 Era

Existing theories of panethnicity in the United States concentrate on Asian Americans and Latinos, two umbrella groups that originally coalesced during the 1960s Civil Rights era. Although the role played by the state is recognized as a central factor in panethnic development, this paper argues that the influence of this pivotal variable is contingent on historical context. Through a case study of emerging minority groups (Middle Eastern and South Asian Americans in the post-9/11 era), I reexamine the existing conceptualization of panethnicity at a time when the state plays a more punitive than compensatory role. Using a methodology which draws on a range of novel sources, this paper documents the way that pre-existing ethnic (e.g., Arab American), religious (e.g., Muslim American), and national-origin labels (e.g., Iranian American) have been reinforced instead of panethnic labels for the populations under study. Accordingly, this paper develops an updated conceptualization of group formation that incorporates historical context and the role of the state in the post-9/11 era.

This event is free. If you wish to partake in this event, sign up for this event by sending an email to mdc@vu.nl.

Also feel free to spread the invitation to anyone who might be interested in your personal network.

The presentation will be in English and will include ground for discussion.

At the end of the event, various drinks will be served and there will be time for an informal discussion.