

Thoughts on the analytical usefulness of the term „transnationalism“

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lettres / philosophi

Types of Transnationalism

Bifocality:

daily life of people, migrants as actors

Identities, orders, borders:

the transnational nation state

Economic development:

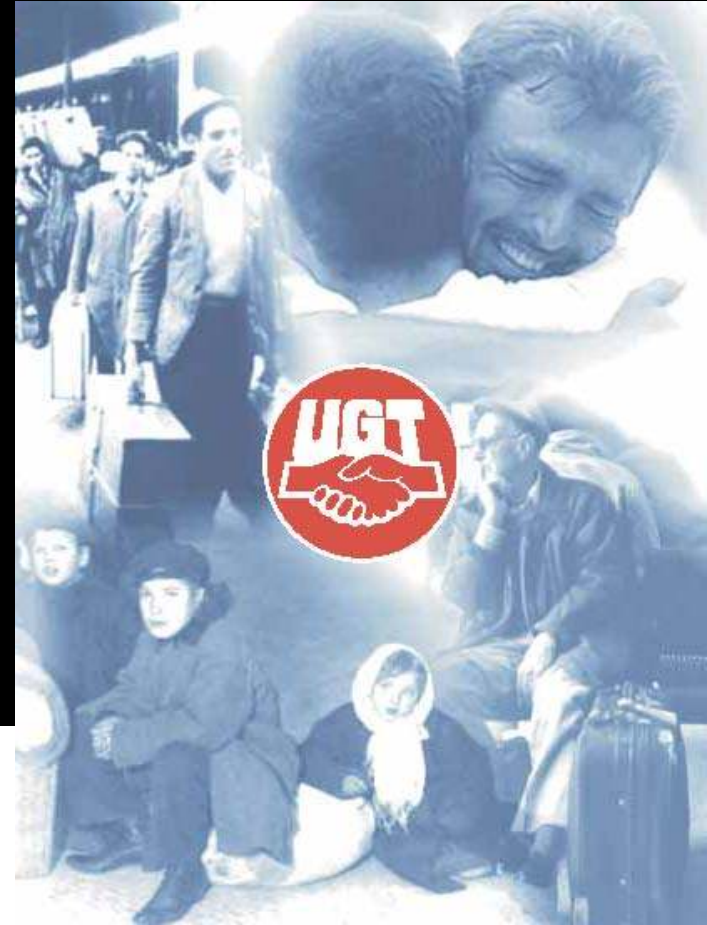
remittances for the country's economic development

Transnational bodies

„ Can transmigrants be ‚bifocal‘ if they, themselves, do not move between ‚home‘ and ‚host‘ countries?“

Sarah Mahler (1998: 77)

UGT: Unión General de Trabajadores



Unión General de Trabajadores

Is UGT transnational?

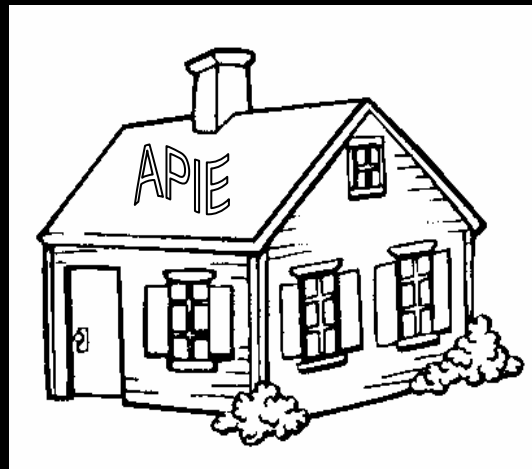
Founded before transnationalism was a topic

General aim of the organisation was directed towards Spain

Bodily movements accross national borders. Bodily activities in Switzerland and Spain

Esperanza

ASOCIACIÓN DE PENSIONISTAS
E INVÁLIDOS ESPAÑOLES



"ESPERANZA"

Is Esperanza transnational?

Founded at a time when transnationalism was lived
by its members

Activities aimed at live in Switzerland

Activities are physically confined to Switzerland

Is the elderly association of the 21st century more transnational than the exiled political opposition in the 20th century?

Transnationality as an issue is older than the analytical concept

We have to be careful, when applying transnationalism (only) to recent developments

Importance of narrowing the definition: issues of the body

Transnationalism should not be conflated with multiculturalism

Migration is in its essence bifocal: old and new home / country of origin and country of residence