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"The boundaries of belonging are changing. Some individuals continue to be active in their home communities at the same time that they put down roots in the countries that receive them. These dynamics call into question our assumptions about citizenship and membership and about what the rights and responsibilities of global membership are."

Peggy Levitt

Areas of expertise

- Religious transnationalism
- The immigrant experience
- Economic, political and cultural globalization

Topics in the News

- Xenophobia
- Religious pluralism
- Immigrant Incorporation



Biography

Peggy Levitt is an expert on immigration and how the religious practices of both new and established immigrant groups are changing America and the homelands from which they come. In her new book, *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape*, Peggy contends that policymakers—and many Americans—are basing their judgments on outdated views of immigration. The belief that immigrants come here hoping to trade in one national identity card for another is goes back to the reality of the 1930s, not today. Peggy argues that many keep one foot in their countries of origin, by participating in religious institutions—made possible by technology and the ease of travel—that are a powerful but little-known force in today's world. Immigrants are changing the face of religious diversity in the U.S., helping to make American religion just as global as U.S. corporations and subtly challenging the very definition of what it means to be an American.

Resources by this expert

- *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape* (The New Press, 2007)
- *The Transnational Villagers* (University of California Press, 2001)
- *The Changing Face of Home* (Russell Sage Publications, 2002)

Recent Interviews & Articles

- *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, May 15, 2007 "["Us vs. them' mentality holds us back"](#) (op-ed) 
- *The New York Times Magazine*, May 6, 2007, "["A Good Provider Is One Who Leaves"](#) (letter to the editor) 

Organizational links for this expert

- [Wellesley College](#)
- [The Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations](#)
- [The Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University](#)
- www.peggylevitt.org

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