Much social science still sees rootedness and boundedness as the norm while mobility and connection are the exception. But because more and more people live transnational lives, we need new concepts and methods for understanding the relationship between migrating people and migrating culture and how they effect poverty alleviation and development. The first part of this lecture will suggest ways to understand culture in motion. The second half will showcase findings from three studies on different aspects of the relationship between migrating people and culture—the first is research about how return migrants and social remittances are influencing the health sector in India, the second is about if and how cultural institutions create national and global identities, and the third is on the new forms of global social protection and provision that arise in response to a world on the move.

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