

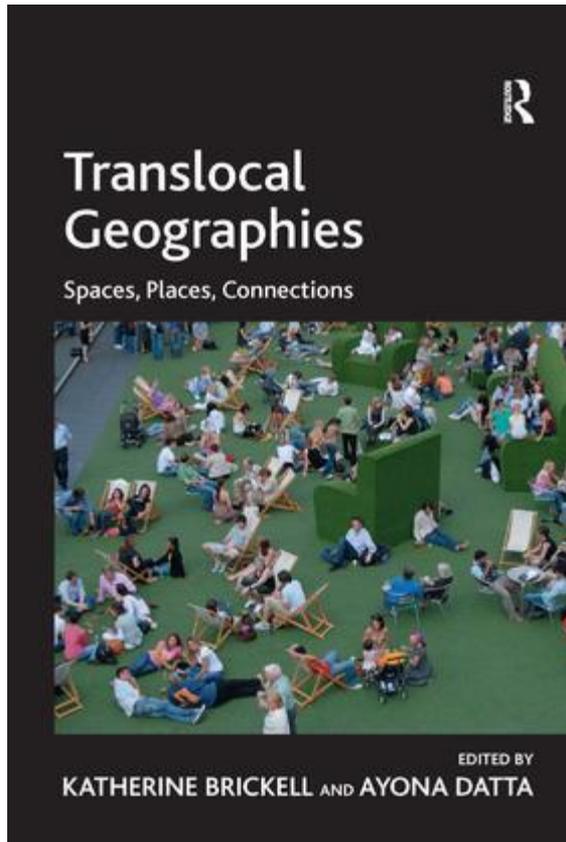
Moving mighty oaks: translocality and social acorns



Marc Welsh, Sam Saville, Laura Jones



Translocality?

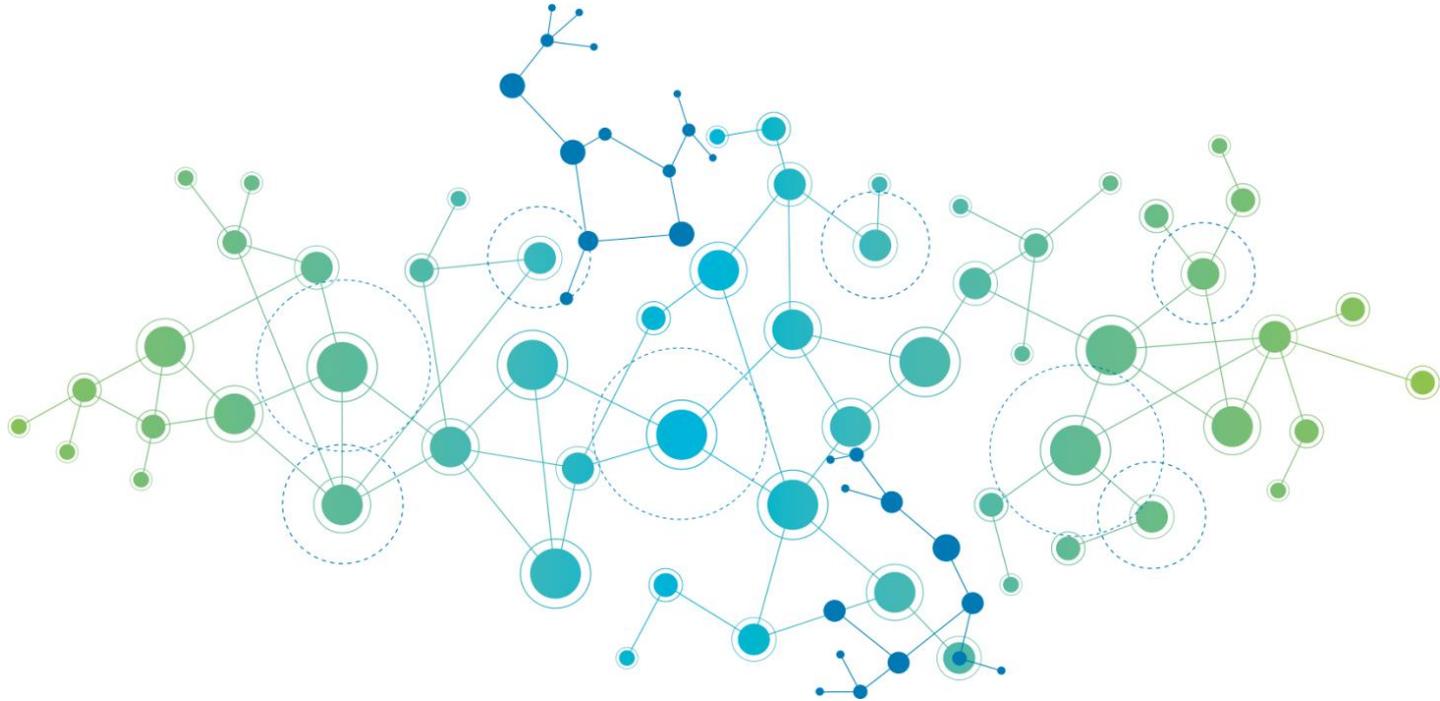


- Lineage of use within globalisation and migration literatures (Appadurai, Hannerz) – geography, anthropology, development studies, sociology...
- But still an emerging and developing concept

“Translocality refers to the emergence of multidirectional and overlapping networks that facilitate the circulation of people, resources, practices and ideas”.

Greiner and Sakdapolrak (2013 p375)

Translocal assemblages



“Assemblage names an uneven topography of trajectories that cross or engage each other to different extents over time, and which themselves exceed the assemblage”.

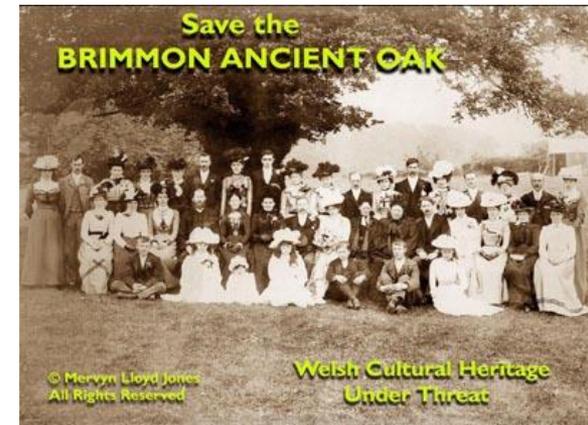
MacFarlane (2009, p562)

Magic Moments?

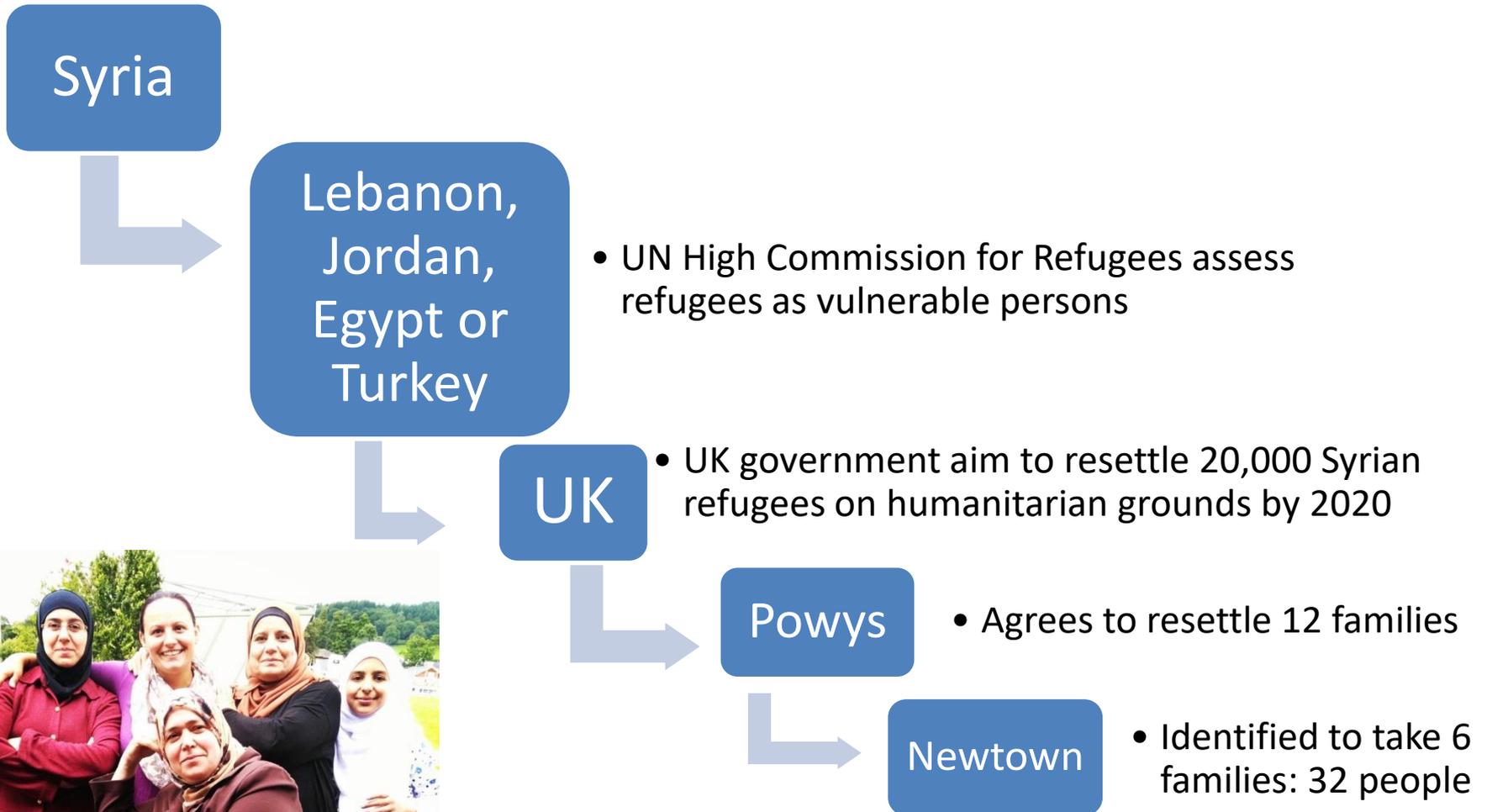


Case studies from Newtown, Powys

- The arrival of 32 vulnerable persons from Syria
- Campaign to 'save the Brimmon Oak tree'



Syrian Resettlers Translocal Networks



Bad press/ Good press

W News ▶ Politics

'I hope your consciences can cope with Cologne-style attacks': Councillor rebuked for email about asylum seekers

Ahead of the arrival of asylum seekers, Tory Peter Harris wrote to senior Powys councillors pointing to the alleged sex assaults by immigrants in the German city of Cologne



A protest over asylum seekers in Germany in the wake of the sex attacks in Cologne and (right) the Vale of Eywas in Powys

“There were a lot of nasty letters in the press about refugees coming in, which was awful you know... ignorant. Newtown’s been fluid through the years ... a lot of people who’ve come in they’ve been sort of foreigners here, so for them to write letters in the paper, I think its dreadful. Saying that they’re not enough doctors and not enough schools. It’s 6 families.”

Good intentions

“I think as lovely as people are everybody has that want, to help and support, and it was just a bit too much... It kind of just bombarded the families. Some people got addresses”.

“The one thing that they’re desperate for is Wi-Fi because they just want to link home just to say we are here and we are alright. So getting the bank account and everything set up is really important so that they can have that Wi-Fi”

Support worker interview



Ceilidh *with* **ffonic**
caller **Kat Bond**

for
Newtown Refugee Support Group
at
The Elephant & Castle
Broad St Newtown
on
Saturday March 11th from 7.30 to 11.00pm
Tickets £5.00 after March 6th from the Town Council offices
(£1.00 till 3.00) or on the door

Bar available Supported by Newtown Town Council

Local connections via Birmingham



“The event that has been breath-taking was the food festival...Lisa and Irene **went with the women by train to Birmingham to shop. I think they loved it because of lots of people and shops with familiar products. They are city people, you know.** So there was a display kitchen, a demonstration kitchen set up and they cooked and the tent was full of people watching and trying things, and they loved it”.

NEWS

Syrian refugee families to be housed in Llandrindod Wells

7 November 2017



These Syrian refugees in Aberystwyth thanked the town's residents after their welcome earlier this year

Six families of Syrian refugees will join the 12 already resettled in Powys, under a new council proposal.

They would be the first to be placed in Llandrindod Wells, which was recently named **the happiest place to live in Wales**.

Uneven and continuing connections - stories are unfinished

“There’s all those issues that everybody has, but are just a bit heightened because they have the language barrier. So just the usual issues of living in Newtown”

Support worker

The Brimmon Oak



Mervyn: everybody said it to us, 'why the tree?' But when you see my Auntie and you see my Uncle...

Andrea: And she still loves it now.

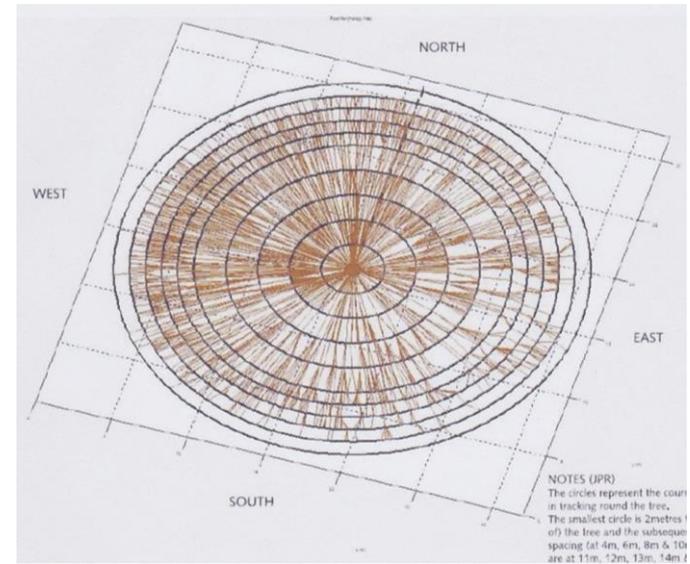
Mervyn: ... still loves it and she used to play shop round it and she'd been on films and telling us the stories of it and she still goes up regular now and she's 89

Connecting to one...

Mervyn: 'Four or five years and then all of a sudden, this bloke comes with me and then he's on the phone to BBC. He was on the phone to the Woodland Trust and I was like a rabbit startled with the lights, you know what I mean. *And he said you've got to get it on social media*'



A screenshot of the 'TREE HUNTER' website. The header includes the site name and navigation links: NEWS, SERVICES, PROJECTS, TREE WORLD, SHOP, CONTACT. Below the header is a section titled 'THE BRIMMON OAK EARLY ON' with a timeline from 2014 to 2018. The year 2016 is highlighted. Below the timeline are several thumbnail images of news articles and social media posts related to the oak tree. The thumbnails include: 'Brimmon Oak on Facebook', 'Sunday Express', 'The Oak on Ancient Tree Hunt', 'Photos of Brimmon Oaks', 'BBC News Online', 'Shropshire Star', and 'Wales Online'. Each thumbnail shows a different aspect of the tree's history and the efforts to save it.



Connecting to many...

One Brimmon Oak, 238 ancient oaks remaining in whole of Wales, thousands combined their voice to take action to protect it

Aug 6th, 2015:

- 22 initial members in local area
- One member adds over 200 people – including from London, Exeter, Bristol, Cardiff, Hereford, Isle of Wight
- Rob McBride (Tree Hunter) adds members in Belgium, Spain, and France.

Aug 7th, 2015

- Group reaches 1000 members
- 5 members added in Thailand

Today – three years later :

- 5,764 members incl. large number in USA and Australia

Mervyn: ‘With the grandson, we put it down on Facebook; ‘save the Brimmon ancient oak tree’ and within 24 hours, we had over 1000 members!’



+ Join group

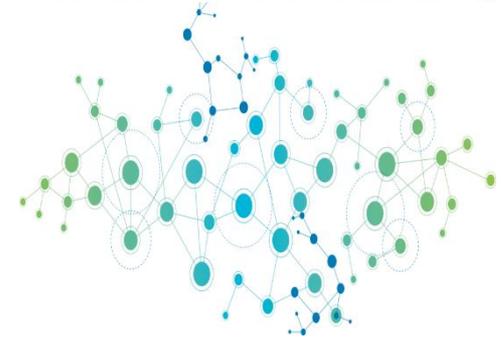
... More

Join this group to see the discus

About this group

Description

Currently the markers for the bypass are within 3 to 4 metres of Brimmon Oak No.1. We are discussing with project contractors for the Welsh Govt. to ensure that the British Standard BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction is adhered to here and the tree is given at least



Campaign Moments:

- Expertise and celebrity endorsements
 - Professional arboriculturalist from Scotland
 - Countryfile host Matt Baker, Iolo Williams
- Support from campaigning groups
 - Newbury bypass, Sheffield Tree Action Groups
- Mainstream media breakthrough
 - Mervyn gives interviews to S4C and Radio Wales
- Local group release 'The Brimmon Tree' song
 - YouTube, played on Dutch radio



Sam Gomm
18 January
The Brimmon Tree Song on Dutch Radio 😊
In the last 10 mins , On After Abba 😊
Thanks Herman smeets for playing the Song 😊



HermanSmeetsShow 16-01-2016



Call to save ancient oak from bypass

Report by Andrew Morris
andrew.morris@shropshirestar.co.uk

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to save an oak tree which is thought to be 500 years old and could be felled to make way for a new bypass. Mervyn Lloyd Jones, from Newtown, said The Brimmon Oak is well-loved in the area and could be lost if the town's bypass is given the go-ahead.



Bending the Bypass

Mervyn: 'All of a sudden, I've got an army behind me and it's people power really has saved the tree'

February 2016: Final Bypass route announced, incl. 15 metre protected zone around Brimmon Oak
March 2016: Construction work begins

Welsh Tree of the Year 2016
UK Tree of the Year 2016
European Tree of the Year
Runner-up 2017

Tree of the Year with Ardal O'Hanlon

A large green poster for the Brimmon Oak tree competition. The text on the poster includes:

The
Brimmon
Oak

the tree that bent a bypass

Make the Brimmon Oak European tree of the year

Voting starts 1st February - 28th February
Vote at: treeoftheyear.org
for more information about the Brimmon Oak
visit: <http://www.treehunter.co.uk/>

Save The Brimmon Ancient Oak Tree

WOODLAND TRUST
Sponsored by players of PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY
european tree of the year



A newspaper clipping with the headline "Vote for the mighty oak". The clipping features a photograph of the Brimmon Oak tree. A red circle on the left says "See Page 3". A text box on the right says: "NEWTON'S famous Brimmon Oak needs your vote in the countdown to the European Tree of the Year competition. See page 3".

Conclusions

“Instead then, of thinking of places as areas with boundaries around, they can be imagined as **articulated moments in networks of social relations**, experiences and understandings are constructed on a far larger scale than what we happen to define for that moment as the place itself ... This in turn allows a sense of place which is extroverted, which includes a consciousness of its links with the wider world, which integrates in a positive way the global and the local”

Massey 1994 p154 (cited in Stenbeka 2012, p56-57)