

IMISCOE

Spring Conference

THE REGULARITY OF IRREGULARITY RETHINKING MIGRATION PARADIGMS



MARCH 17-19, 2025
Krems, Austria and Online

University for
Continuing
Education Krems



Call for Papers

Deadline for submissions (extended): September 16, 2024

Migration is a complex and dynamic phenomenon that shapes societies and economies worldwide. While many migration movements take place under regular pathways established for work, family or other reasons, a considerable number of migrants embark on migration journeys outside of the regular legal framework. Migrant irregularity is not static. Migrants may have different legal statuses during their journeys, often becoming irregular only at a later stage of their journey, and they may also experience complex legal status trajectories over time during their stay in any single country.

Laws and policies are not the only factors that matter. For instance, public support for the employment of 'essential workers' may lead to policy changes in their favour and often involves widespread tolerance of the presence of irregular migrants working in sectors such as care or agriculture, rendering them largely invisible and relatively safe from law enforcement. Conversely, other migrant groups may be problematised by negative public discourses and targeted by law enforcement for raids or controls. In such 'hostile environments', even legally staying migrants may become stigmatised as 'illegal migrants'. Gender, race, ethnicity, and religion play an important role here in shaping attitudes and societal practices towards irregular migrants, as well as in state practices. Lived experiences of irregularity may thus differ considerably according to these and other individual characteristics, such as age, education, family situation, or social capital.

The 2025 IMISCOE Spring Conference on "The Regularity of Irregularity: Rethinking Migration Paradigms" aims to explore and deepen our understanding of various facets of migrant irregularity. Focusing on four overarching themes – irregular migration processes, integration and settlement processes, the governance of irregular migration, and knowledge production on irregular migration – the conference will examine the political production of migrant irregularity and its social, economic and political drivers, public and media discourse, inclusionary and exclusionary policy responses, and the lived experiences of migrants navigating hostile regulatory governance frameworks and finding themselves in a precarious legal situation at different points of their trajectories.

Against this background, we invite individual paper and panel submissions addressing any of the four overarching themes of the conference (see next page). We encourage submissions from different disciplines, career stages, and methodological approaches.

Further details can be found on the conference website at

www.donau-uni.ac.at/en/mig/imiscoe-spring-conf-25

IMISCOE

University for
Continuing
Education Krems



Organizer

Department for Migration and Globalisation/ University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria

The four Conference Themes

- Irregular Migration Processes and Journeys: Aspirations, Capabilities and Decision Making in the Context of Irregularised Movements
- Integration and Settlement Processes: Rethinking Societal and Systemic Inclusion and Exclusion
- Governance of Irregular Migration: Rethinking Policy Implications
- Knowledge Production on Irregular Migration

Individual Paper Proposals

Paper proposals should consist of a 250-word abstract, along with the name(s), affiliation(s), and contact details of the author(s). Paper proposals should also include a short (max. 50 words) bio, detailing career stage (e.g. PhD researcher, post-doc) and disciplinary background. Individual papers will be grouped thematically into panels who will be assigned a discussant and a chair.

Panel Proposals

Panel proposals should comprise of a 250-word abstract outlining the theme of the panel, accompanied by four thematically consistent and interconnected 250-word paper abstracts. Panel proposers should nominate a chair and a discussant (the role of chair and discussant may co-incide). Submissions should include the names, affiliations, contact details and short (50 words) bios of the chair(s), discussant(s) and author(s) of each paper. Panels should not be composed of papers coming from a single project. Instead, we encourage panel proposers to build panels drawing on a diverse set of researchers. Open calls for contributions for panels should also be considered. Panel organizers launching an open call for paper proposals should forward calls to the IMISCOE communications officer (imiscoe.communication@uliege.be) for further circulation via IMISCOE.

Conditions/ Requirements

The deadline for submitting proposals is September 16, 2024 (23:59 CET).

All submissions should be made online via www.conftool.net/imiscoespring2025.

When submitting proposals, applicants must choose their intended mode of participation: ON-SITE in Krems or ONLINE. The conference is free for presenters and open to the public. There are no fees for participation in the conference. Travel and accommodation costs must be covered by the participants. All participants and attendees are required to register.