



MALMÖ UNIVERSITY

TRANSMIG - Transnational Practices in Migration research-group within IMISCOE Research Network

Call for Papers for the panel planned for  
IMISCOE 12<sup>th</sup> annual Conference, Geneva, June 25–27, 2015

**MATERIALIZED REMITTANCES AND OBJECTS OF AID:  
EXPLORING SENT AND RECEIVED THINGS IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND HARDSHIP**

Convenors: Maja Povrzanović Frykman ([maja.frykman@mah.se](mailto:maja.frykman@mah.se)) and  
Kathy Burrell ([kburrell@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:kburrell@liverpool.ac.uk))

This workshop is interested in the transnational movement of things sent and received in times of crisis and hardship, past and present. We know that the remittance practices of labour migrants and refugees often stretch beyond the electronic transfer of money to include the sending of different material goods to friends and families back 'home' - a complicated practice, but one which is shaped by both relative need and the ability to give. International humanitarian programmes during times of crisis, although operating in different contexts, highlight similar issues of the materiality of aid and the dynamics of the aid relationship. Focusing on practices like these in situations of hardship or crisis this workshop seeks to explore the phenomenon of transnational sent and received objects of aid from a range of different perspectives; the embedded materiality of everyday negotiations of crisis and hardship and what it feels like to receive such goods, the processes of selecting and sending these goods, and the actual journeys which are made by the goods themselves.

A range of themes are invited relating to objects of aid within the context of both migration and the transnational provision of aid, including but not limited to:

- the role of things in human negotiation of hardship and crisis
- reciprocity and asymmetry in the materialised 'aid' relationship
- the perceived and material qualities of given and received objects of aid and how these are mutable over time and space
- the journeys and infrastructures of given and received objects of aid
- the impacts of geo/political structures and boundaries on the materiality of aid giving
- theoretical reflections on the materiality of aid, charity or remittances

Our intention is to theorise the materiality of transnational remittances, aid and charity and the impacts that the material embodiment of these practices have on the receivers as well as the senders, broadening an existing focus on migrants' transnational practices to take in other transnational trajectories of aid and charity. This will allow us to consider in more depth the significance of materiality in the sending and receiving of aid, and to focus on what happens to things, rather than people, when they traverse national borders and become embedded in different social, economic and political contexts.

**ABSTRACTS** of 250 words, in English, including applicant's name, affiliation and contact details should be sent to Maja Povrzanović Frykman ([maja.frykman@mah.se](mailto:maja.frykman@mah.se)) and Kathy Burrell ([kburrell@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:kburrell@liverpool.ac.uk)) by January 10, 2015.

The workshop will be proposed to IMISCOE on 15 January, and the convenors will let you know about the preliminary acceptance of your paper by that date. The final acceptance of submissions by IMISCOE will be announced on February 15.

Please note that neither the conference organisers nor IMISCOE have funds available for workshop presenters. Panel organisers are not responsible for securing funding for their presenters. All conference delegates, including the panel presenters, must register for the conference. Please note that the conference fee is €200 (€150 for PhD students). Relevant details can be found at [www.imiscoe.org](http://www.imiscoe.org).