

**IMISCOE Standing Committee Application Form**

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3 Proposed name of the Standing Committee: **Superdiversity, Migration and Cultural Change**

4 Acronym: **DIVCULT**

5 Involved IMISCOE Member Institutes (including an indication of which institute will lead the Standing Committee in the first four years)

In the first four-year period, the Standing Committee will be led by CEDEM – Belgium (represented by Marco Martiniello) in close collaboration with ISR – Austria (represented by Wiebke Sievers).

The list of other involved member institutes includes:

- Member institutes from the "old" POPADIVCIT SC to be included in the "new" DIVCULT SC:  
COMPAS – England (Jacqui Broadhead)  
EUR – The Netherlands (Pauwke Berkers)  
GRITIM-UPF – Spain (Ricard Zapata-Barrero)  
IMIS – Germany (Jens Schneider)  
MIM – Sweden (Christina Johansson, Erica Righard)

- Member institutes joining the "new" DIVCULT SC  
BIRMM – Belgium (Elisabeth Beckers)  
CMR – Poland (Michał Nowosielski)  
FIERI – Turin (Pietro Cingolani)  
FLSHASE – Luxembourg (Elke Murdock)  
MIF – Finland (Tuomas Martikainen)  
MPI-MMG – Germany (Steven Vertovec)  
SFM – Switzerland (to be confirmed)  
UNIVE – Italia (Francesca Campomori, Francesco Della Puppa)

- Further member institutes contacted to join the "new" DIVCULT SC (decision pending)  
AMIS – Denmark  
REMESO – Sweden

Besides including institutional members, the new SC will also encourage individual participation from scholars from different non-IMISCOE institutions in Europe and beyond. A list of those scholars active in the "old" POPADIVCIT is available on the IMISCOE POPADIVCIT website ([Link](#)).

6 Objectives of the Standing Committee (this should include a clear definition and demarcation of the focus area, and a clear definition of objectives for how the Standing Committee will represent this focus area within IMISCOE as well as within migration studies at large)

The objectives of the new Standing Committee are **to pursue and expand the work of the** Standing Committee on Popular Art, Diversity and Cultural Policies in Post-Migration Urban Settings (POPADIVCIT) from which it is emerging. POPADIVCIT was founded in 2010 to better understand the relevance of the arts in the theoretical and policy debates about immigrant incorporation and diversity in immigration and post-migration cities. This was a relatively neglected field in migration studies at the time. POPADIVCIT focussed on four domains: local artistic actors, activities and institutions; local cultural and incorporation policies; social relations and interactions between all of the stakeholders in the field as well as with the respective audiences; and artistic activities as forms

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of political participation and mobilisation (including identity formation and negotiation). These domains constituted the general framework in which the researchers involved developed theoretically grounded empirical research, organised workshops and conferences and prepared joint publications.

Over the last years, artistic activities have found increasing interest among migration researchers because they prove to be a means of moving beyond ethnic differences towards narratives of identity and belonging that are more apt to capture the current post-migrant reality in many European cities and countries. The SC will therefore continue its work with a view to answering the following two questions: how are artistic and cultural activities and institutions changing in migration and post-migration superdiverse societies and how do these activities contribute to spreading narratives that more aptly describe these new realities. The four domains outlined above have proven to be a useful framework to answer these questions. However, we also plan **to expand and enlarge the focus of the SC in three ways**:

- Until now, we have mainly worked on arts and more specifically on music, literature, cinema and theatre. The scope will be enlarged **to include other artistic forms as well as culture defined in a broader sense such as sports, fashion, clothing, design, food, leisure**, etc.
- The multidisciplinary of the group covered sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, policy studies and political science. One of the objectives is **to include economists and lawyers** in the debates on superdiversity, migration, and cultural change.
- We aim **to engage more actively in methodological development** by continuing previous initiatives in visual studies and participatory arts-based research.

In order to represent our focus area in IMISCOE and beyond, we will continue and enhance our previous activities. We will:

- Organize specific sessions at the annual conferences
- Distribute information about our activities to all IMISCOE members, member institutes, other SCs and research groups
- Examine possibilities of collaboration with them on substantive, methodological and training issues
- Publish special issues in mainstream migration and ethnic studies, cultural studies and general social science journals
- Present our work at international conferences in migration studies, in cultural studies and general social science studies conferences (ASA, ECPR, etc.).

We plan to use the structural support to improve our communication and enhance our use of digital tools to represent our work more efficiently.

#### 7 Plan of activities (provide a clear outline of concrete activities to be developed by the Standing Committee) –

The SC aims to include its members in the decision-making processes on future activities as outlined in more detail below. We will therefore not provide a precise and complete outline of concrete activities for the upcoming four years now. We prefer to work on it together with all the members.

However, we can at this stage present five activities planned for the near future:

1) The first concrete activity of the new SC will be the conference **Immigration, Cultural Participation and New Forms of Political Solidarity: Global Perspectives** that will take place at the University of Liège from 25 to 26 September 2017.

The main objective of this conference is to focus on the cultural and artistic participation of migrants and descendants of migrants in a transatlantic perspective and also on the spaces and the moments

when this participation intersects with and binds to public forms of intercultural collective engagement, whether artistic, political, or both.

We are interested in both empirical and theoretical papers dealing with some of the following issues, either in a comparative way or through local case studies: what role do culture and the arts play in the lives of newcomers and descendants of migrants? Which cultural and artistic practices and forms of participation do newcomers and descendants of immigrants develop? How do cultural institutions take into account those publics often considered to be disengaged at the cultural and artistic level? Do these cultural practices contribute to creating bonds of solidarity between migrants and natives? And if so, what forms of political representation and collective engagement do they inspire?

The conference will include keynotes by Phil Kasinitz and Angéline Escafré-Dublet, twelve research papers and two round table discussions on artistic activities of migrants and possible links with other initiatives of young people in Liège.

2) The SC will finalise the special issue entitled **Scale Shifting: New Insights into Global Literary Circulation** that is based on a conference organized within the POPADIVCIT SC. The special issue is edited by Wiebke Sievers and Peggy Levitt and will be published in the *Journal of World Literature*.

The special issue views the literary production of immigrants and their descendants in the wider context of global literary circulation. It introduces the idea of scale shifting to bring into sharper focus the complexity of global literary circulation, especially when viewed from the perspective of global literary peripheries. Our more nuanced understanding of how and where global literary circulation actually works not only complicates our understanding of a literary work's context of origin. It also makes it more difficult to differentiate between literary centres and literary peripheries.

The main aim of this special issue is to understand the conditions that allow authors from what have been peripheral countries to scale up and gain global literary attention since the 1960s and the extent to which these processes of scale shifting have transformed literary fields. This interest is rooted in our firm belief that intellectual and cultural inequality must be addressed, in the same way that socioeconomic inequalities must be remediated. We also believe strongly in literature's power to liberate or, as Pheng Cheah writes, in its 'power or efficacy to change the world according to a normative ethicopolitical horizon' (6). Cheah argues that writers working from the periphery have a particularly important role to play in righting cultural wrongs because they feel globalization's affects more powerfully than writers working from economic or cultural centres. Because the hierarchies of multi-scalar literary fields favour those writing from more advantaged positions, however, it is far more difficult for peripheral authors to gain global literary recognition. They are, therefore, left out of the conversation about the literary representation of the world. What socioeconomic and cultural conditions and relations of power allow things to work differently? The answer requires taking into consideration the perspective of authors writing from literary peripheries but also understanding the extent to which Western literary fields have been transformed by their encounters with these writers. Our contributors speak to both sides of these important questions—Markus Arnold, Tristan Leperlier, Alvaro Santana-Acuña and Jessica Siu-yin Yeung discuss scale-shifting from the perspective of peripheralized authors while Gisèle Sapiro, Wiebke Sievers and Marcella Rutherford and Peggy Levitt analyse changes in Western literary fields.

3) We will organise a meeting of the general assembly of the SC in early 2020 in order to elect the executive board and discuss specific research priorities for the coming years.

4) We will launch an SC newsletter that will be distributed through our mailing list to all members of the SC, to all IMISCOE members and other researchers and institutions who may be interested in our work. The newsletter will highlight relevant information about research, publications and events related to the work of our members and more broadly to our field of research. They will be asked to contribute to the newsletter and suggest content of interest to them.

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5) We will organize SC sessions at the 2020 annual conference in Luxembourg. We will decide on the concrete topic of this event in our general assembly in early 2020.

8 Embedding in IMISCOE and in the broader field of migration studies (provide a clear argumentation of how the Standing Committee will be embedded in and contribute to IMISCOE as well as to the broader field of migration studies)

Our work has always been fully embedded in IMISCOE. We have organized special SC sessions for all IMISCOE annual conferences since we began our joint activities in 2010 and we will continue to do so in the future. We have already begun to expand the involvement of IMISCOE member institutes and members in our work while preparing this proposal as we explained above. Several institutes have immediately responded to our call for participation. We hope that this will lead to wider participation from more IMISCOE members in our work in the future. This will also be facilitated by the new organizational structure of the SC (see below) that guarantees the involvement of all interested members in decision making processes on our activities. In addition, we will install new tools of communicating our activities to IMISCOE members and beyond. We will also make sure to communicate with related SCs in IMISCOE in order to examine possibilities of collaboration with them on substantive, methodological and training issues.

IMISCOE has become one of the most important networks for migration researchers in Europe and beyond. Our SC can contribute to widen participation in IMISCOE further by attracting the many scholars in Europe and beyond who have begun to work on arts and culture over the last years. We have already been very active in spreading the SC activities beyond IMISCOE in previous years and have involved many researchers in our SC who were not involved in IMISCOE before. We will increase our efforts to attract such researchers to join our SC and thus also the network in the future.

At the same time, we believe that our work is of major importance for the changing European societies split by populist right-wing narratives that exclude immigrants and their descendants. There is an urgent need for making visible narratives that supply us with new understandings of who we are.

9 Membership policy (specify the membership policy for the Standing Committee, and how to promote a mix of participation from various career stages)

The new SC will offer all the researchers interested in or working on issues related to superdiversity, migration and cultural change in IMISCOE member institutions and beyond the possibility to become involved in our joint work. This may range from becoming a member of our executive board, via coming to our general assembly meetings and making suggestions of what activities to organize in the future to participating in events we organize or reading the results of our work.

All researchers interested can join our mailing list and will receive our newsletter that will regularly inform them on our current and future activities as well as other events in the wider field and particularly at institutions of researchers involved in our SC.

We will also encourage all members of the new SC to act as its ambassadors both within and outside IMISCOE by promoting the SC in conferences, seminars, on social networks and in interpersonal contacts.

In order to promote a mix of participation from various career stages, which has been the rule in the "old" POPADIVCIT, we will:

- invite established scholars to join us for specific activities;
- include a training dimension in all the activities of the SC;

- strongly encourage researchers at different career stages to organize events together within the SC.

10 Governance of the Standing Committee (elaborate how the leadership of the Standing Committee is organized, and how members of the PhD Network are involved in the governance of the Standing Committee)

The governance structure of the SC is composed of three bodies: the coordinator and assistant coordinator, the executive board, the general assembly

*Coordinator and the assistant coordinator*

The coordinator and the assistant coordinator will take care of the practical and financial aspects of the SC. They will communicate relevant information to the members of the SC through different channels (a newsletter, a website, a mailing list, etc.) They will also coordinate the sessions organized by the SC at the annual conferences as well as other activities in the SC where administrative support is needed.

The coordinator should be a senior researcher and the assistant coordinator should preferably be a PhD student or an early-career researcher. They cannot be of the same gender. They should preferably be diverse culturally.

The first coordinator is one of the leaders of the previous POPADIVCIT SC. But the next coordinator will be elected in the fourth year of activities of the new SC by the general assembly. The SC will implement a gender rotation every four years as far as the coordinator and the assistant coordinator are concerned.

*Executive Board*

The Executive Board supervises and advises the work of the coordinator and the assistant coordinator. It prepares the annual meetings and the strategic decisions of the general assembly. It will meet regularly every 3 months by video conference. It will also meet physically during the IMISCOE annual conferences.

Composition:

- Six members including the coordinator + the assistant coordinator who will act as administrative support without a right to vote.
- Full gender balance: 3 women and 3 men
- Geographical balance: No country can have more than one member. The Board will reflect the European diversity as much as possible.
- The executive board comprises a maximum of 2 PhD students who liaise with the PhD Network.
- The 6 members come from IMISCOE member institutes.
- The 5 members besides the coordinator are elected by the general assembly for a 4 year term except for the PhD students who are elected for a 2 year term renewable once.

*General assembly*

The general assembly is the core of the SC. It is composed of all the researchers who have joined the SC and work on topics covered by the SC.

All the members of the SC are part of the general assembly. They all have the right to vote.

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11 Diversity management (provide a clear rationale for how the Standing Committee will promote diversity within the Standing Committee and how it accounts for diversity in the work of the Standing Committee; this should include gender, migration-related, age/career-stage and national diversity).

Diversity management is implemented in the three bodies of the SC

*Coordinator and the assistant coordinator*

The coordinator should be a senior researcher and the the assistant coordinator should preferably be a PhD student or an early stage-career researcher. They cannot be of the same gender. They preferably hold different ethnic backgrounds.

*Executive Board*

- There is a full gender balance in the executive board: 3 women and 3 men.
- Measures are also taken to ensure a geographical balance: No country can have more than one member. The Board will reflect the European diversity as much as possible.
- The SC will also proactively try to reach out to migrant origin researchers to run for a position in the Executive board.
- In terms of career stage, at least one member of the executive board is a senior researcher, 2 are PhD students, the other members should be early-stage and mid-career researchers.

*General assembly*

So far, POPADIVCIT has always been very diverse according to the four relevant criteria considered. We will continue this policy in the future using the rules laid down in this document. These will ensure that diversity will remain a main goal of the SC even if the coordinator and the members of the executive board change.

The diversity of the SC will be monitored yearly in order to act accordingly through proactive recruitment policies should imbalances be observed according to the four criteria considered.

12 Funding plan (specify how to spend the annual budget of €4000, as well as how to spend the start-up premium of €4000).

Annual budget:

- Assistant coordinator on a 1 hour per week basis = 50 hours per year X 15 Euros per hour 750 Euros
- Specific support for PhD and post-doc students without institutional travel funding: 1.000 Euros
- Invitation of keynote speaker to our workshop at the annual conference = 1.000 Euros
- Design of the newsletter and other digital tools for communication = 1250 Euros

Start-up Premium:

The amount will be allocated to the organisation of a first meeting of the general assembly of the new SC in early 2020.

13 Coordinator (please specify who can be the main contact for the IMISCOE Network office in terms of contents for the website, annual reporting, communication, etc.)

Marco Martiniello