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# BULLETIN #15

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**The IMISCOE Bulletin serves as a key communication platform connecting IMISCOE's 73 Member Institutes, individual members of our network, and the wider community interested in our research. It is built around contributions from the IMISCOE External Affairs Committee (EAC) and the Network Office based at the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM) of the University of Liège.**



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# Welcome word

We are pleased to share the 15th edition of the [IMISCOE Bulletin](#), released just ahead of the 23rd IMISCOE Annual Conference, hosted by the Migratory Movements Group (Grup de Recerca sobre Moviments Migratoris) at the University of Girona (UdG).

The IMISCOE Bulletin serves as a key communication platform connecting IMISCOE's 73 Member Institutes, individual members of our network, and the wider community interested in our research. It is built around contributions from the IMISCOE External Affairs Committee (EAC) and the Network Office based at the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM) of the University of Liège.

This edition offers a snapshot of the dynamism and diversity of research taking place across IMISCOE. It includes the release of the **2025 IMISCOE Annual Report**, which celebrates the many milestones and initiatives that marked the past year across our network. These achievements reflect our shared commitment and the dedication of IMISCOE's Board of Directors, Executive Board, Network Office, Standing and Executive Committees, PhD community, and the many individual members of IMISCOE whose contributions to collaborative research and knowledge exchange strengthen our network.

Among the highlights of this Bulletin is an insightful **editorial** by Gioconda Herrera (FLACSO Ecuador), who examines the evolving migration dynamics reshaping Latin America. We also look ahead to the **upcoming IMISCOE Annual Conference**, which will bring together approximately 1,400 participants from around the world under the theme *Strengthening Migration Studies through Community Engagement*. The conference will offer an inspiring space to reflect on how migration knowledge is produced, shared, and circulated across diverse communities and contexts.

We are also delighted to introduce the **three newest institutes** to join the IMISCOE community. Marina Lukšič Hacin and Jure Gombač present the Slovenian Migration Institute (SMI) at the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts; Mireille Paquet introduces the Institute for Research on Migration and Society (IRMS) at Concordia University, Canada; and Izabela Grabowska and Ivanna Kyliushyk showcase the CRASH Center for Research on Social Change and Human Mobility at Kozminski University, Poland. Moreover, this issue brings you updates from our **Standing Committees**, news from the **IMISCOE PhD Network** and **PhD Academy**, and the latest Open Access titles in the **IMISCOE book series**, highlighting cutting-edge scholarship from across the field. You will also find recent episodes of the IMISCOE Migration Podcast, where scholars discuss timely topics in migration studies. In our *"Voice outside Academia"* section, **filmmaker Mathijs Poppe** reflects on the use of fiction within a documentary framework.

On behalf of the IMISCOE Network Office and the External Affairs Committee, we extend our sincere thanks to all contributors to this edition—and to every member of the IMISCOE community whose work, expertise, and engagement continue to make our network a leading international platform for migration research.

**We hope you enjoy this edition and invite you to share it widely, helping us amplify the impact of IMISCOE's research, collaborations, and activities across the globe.**

**Daniela Vintila and Jean-Michel Lafleur (IMISCOE Coordinators)**  
**Ricard Zapata-Barrero (IMISCOE External Affairs Committee Chair)**  
**Carole Wenger and Valkyria Dantas Rattmann (IMISCOE Communication)**

# Editorial

**Gioconda Herrera**

**Director of the Latin American  
Faculty of Social Sciences in Quito  
(FLACSO-Ecuador)**



Over the past two decades, Latin America has undergone a profound transformation in its migratory dynamics. Transitioning from a region primarily characterised by emigration — particularly towards the United States and Europe — the territory has increasingly become a major destination and transit space for intraregional mobility. In 2020, more than 43 million people from Latin America and the Caribbean lived outside their countries of origin, reflecting a marked increase in mobility patterns and cross-border displacement across the region (Cecchini and Martínez Pizarro, 2023). Estimates of the number of international migrants in the region indicate that this cohort doubled over the last three decades, rising from 7.14 million in 1990 to 14.8 million in 2020, and reaching 16.3 million in 2022.

A determining factor has been Venezuelan migration, widely categorised as the largest in the region's recent history. Since 2015, over 8 million Venezuelans have left their country, with the vast majority (85%) settling in Latin American nations such as Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Mexico.

In response to growing migratory flows, several Latin American countries initially adopted quite open migration policies, many of which were based on new legislation enacted between 2000 and 2017. Legislation on migration enacted in Argentina, Ecuador, Brazil, Uruguay, and Mexico marked a trend towards a human-rights-based approach to migration governance during this period. Furthermore, large-scale regularisation programmes were introduced alongside regional agreements — such as the right to mobility and employment under the Mercosur Residence Agreement or the Andean Community Residence Agreement —, and temporary residence permits to facilitate migrants' legal status and their access to social services and labour markets.

Nevertheless, in recent years, following global trends, migration governance in Latin America has shifted towards more restrictive policies, characterised by stricter border controls, new visa requirements, and more selective regularisation mechanisms. State responses in Latin America have not been homogeneous, and both regularisation and social protection policies have varied considerably from one country to another. This turn has occurred against a backdrop of increasing migratory flows, domestic political pressures, and public debates regarding the alleged correlation between migration and the security challenges confronting the region.

From 2025 onward, the anti-immigrant agenda led by President Donald Trump has radicalized border control, deterrence, deportation, and the criminalization of migrants. Through bilateral and regional cooperation mechanisms, the United States has expanded the externalization of border enforcement across the Americas, even outsourcing asylum policies through agreements with specific countries. These externalization strategies are echoed by the European Union's recent approval of the "return regulation," which allows member states to establish deportation centers outside the bloc through pacts with non-EU nations. This global paradigm of externalization deeply affects the Euro-Mediterranean region and Oceania, and is increasingly being deployed across Latin America.

This new context of radicalized anti-immigrant policies destabilizes a policymaking process that, despite implementation challenges, constitutes a significant framework for guaranteeing the rights of migrant and refugee populations. The consequences of this shift point in at least two directions. On the one hand, while many restrictive measures have been enacted through presidential decrees, the region may enter a phase of legislative reforms aimed at replacing this human rights approach with a more security-oriented framework, signaling a more definitive transformation. On the other hand, there is already a widespread legitimization of this anti-immigration narrative in both society and political discourse. While the use of xenophobic narratives by South American politicians is not unprecedented across the political spectrum, it has assumed greater centrality in several recent presidential elections, such as those in Chile in December 2025 and Peru in 2026. Interestingly, this trend does not strictly adhere to a right-left ideological division; rather, both political stances utilize xenophobic discourse with fewer institutional or social barriers.

In this context, migration studies must address several critical imperatives. First, researchers need to analyze these authoritarian shifts beyond the immediate post-2025 conjuncture, considering the broader spectrum of changes that have unfolded in the region over the past two decades to understand the particularities of institutional capacity building in different Latin American states. Second, it is crucial to examine how border closures in the Global North redirect migration flows toward new destinations within and outside Latin America, how these changing migration dynamics operate, and how concepts of settlement and movement are being transformed. Third, it is imperative to deepen our knowledge regarding the economic, social, familial, and subjective consequences of deportation and detention on migrants' lives. Finally, scholars must articulate reflections on this anti-migrant shift within a broader agenda focused on the state of democracy.

**Gioconda Herrera** is the Director of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Quito (FLACSO-Ecuador), and Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies. Her main publications address issues on international migration, gender, ethnicity and social inequalities in Ecuador and Latin America. She is currently working on two research projects: *Climate crises and mobilities in the Andean Region* and *States responses to immigration in South America*. Her most recent books include the book *Movilidades en tiempos hostiles. Migración Kanari de Ecuador a Estados Unidos*. (Quito: FLACSO, 2026) and two edited books: *Migration in South America*, with Carmen Gómez (Springer-IMISCOE, 2022) and *Movilidades, control migratorio y luchas migrantes*, with Eduardo Domenech and Liliana Rivera (Editorial Siglo XXI and CLACSO, 2022)

# Reflections of IMISCOE Coordinators Daniela Vintila and Jean-Michel Lafleur on the 2025 IMISCOE Annual Report

We are happy to inform you that the [2025 IMISCOE Annual Report](#) is now available. In this Report, you will find a full description of our governance and research infrastructure, as well as a detailed account of the incredibly rich and diverse activities conducted by our Research Network in 2025.

Below you can find the reflections of IMISCOE Coordinators Daniela Vintila and Jean-Michel Lafleur (CEDEM-University of Liège) on this 2025 activity.

On behalf of IMISCOE and its Network Office based at the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM) of the University of Liège, we are delighted to present this 2025 Annual Report, celebrating what we have accomplished together as a community over the past year.

While this report can only capture a selection of the many activities that shaped 2025, it offers a glimpse into the many ways in which IMISCOE's institutional and individual members have come together to strengthen a more inclusive, open, and globally connected environment for scientific dialogue on migration. Through continued institutional development, impactful research, and vibrant scholarly exchange, our community has continued to further advance critical debates on the production, circulation, and accessibility of knowledge in migration studies.

These achievements belong to all of us. They are the result of the collaboration, commitment, and mutual support that make IMISCOE such a dynamic network. We are very grateful to the Board of Directors, the Executive Board, the Standing and Executive Committees, the IMISCOE community of PhD researchers, and all individual members whose contributions have helped make these accomplishments possible.

Throughout 2025, IMISCOE continued to broaden its **individual membership** and strengthen its position as the largest interdisciplinary network of scholars in the field of migration research. Our **institutional membership** also continued to diversify, with new members bringing valuable expertise, perspectives, and experiences that enrich the network as a whole. In particular, we were delighted to welcome our first institutional members from Brazil (Universidade Estadual de Campinas-UNICAMP) and Senegal (Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherches sur Genre, Environnement, Religion et Migrations-GERM at Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis), alongside the Center for Diversity, Democracy, and Inclusion in Education-ZBI at the University of Hildesheim (Germany).

Our scientific events continued to play a central role in fostering connections and collective reflections on recent developments, ongoing challenges, and future directions in migration studies.

A highlight of the year was the 2025 IMISCOE **Annual Conference**, hosted by *Institut Convergences Migrations* in Paris-Aubervilliers. Under the theme “*Decentering Migration Studies*”, over 1,000 participants on-site and nearly 450 online participants engaged in critical and reflexive discussions on how migration research is conceptualized, produced and circulated. Similarly, the 2025 IMISCOE **Spring Conference**, organized in a hybrid format by the Department for Migration and Globalisation (DEMIG) of the University for Continuing Education Krems (Austria), offered us an important space for stimulating exchanges on often-overlooked aspects of irregular migration across different world regions. Finally, the 2025 **PhD School**, hosted by the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning at the University of Lisbon and co-organized by the Critical Heritage Studies Hub at Jagiellonian University, brought together doctoral researchers from diverse disciplinary and institutional backgrounds who explored visual and sensory methodologies in migration research. Together, all these events demonstrate the importance of creating spaces where researchers can connect, exchange ideas, and learn from one another. They continue to be among the most valuable ways in which our network nurtures collaborations.

The IMISCOE **Standing Committees** continued to be at the heart of the Network’s scientific life throughout 2025, and the numerous panels, workshops, and seminars they organised during the year allowed us to continue the collective reflection on emerging debates in migration research. We were also pleased to see several recently established or reorganised Standing Committees—including SC Forced Migration and Refugees (FMR), SC Race, Racism and Discrimination (RACED), and SC Families, Welfare, Care and the Life Course (FamWeLC)—expand their membership, diversify their activities, and further shape these research areas within IMISCOE.

Our commitment to fostering an open, inclusive, and supportive research environment is equally reflected in our **training activities for doctoral researchers** and our continued **support for Open Access publications**. Throughout 2025, the IMISCOE PhD Academy and the PhD Network continued to grow, creating new opportunities for networking and professional development for doctoral researchers around the world. These initiatives not only support the next generation of migration scholars, but also strengthen the sense of community and connection that lies at the core of IMISCOE. We also remained committed to broadening access to migration research by supporting publication opportunities for scholars at all career stages. IMISCOE’s Research Series (in partnership with Springer) is now recognised as one of the leading OA book series in migration studies, while we also continued to sponsor Open Access articles published in the journal *Comparative Migration Studies*.

In sum, the highlights included in this Annual Report reflect parts of what we have been able to achieve together in 2025. We are deeply grateful to all IMISCOE members and friends for the energy, dedication, and generosity you bring to our network!

A heartfelt thank you goes to our wonderful colleagues at the IMISCOE Network Office—Angeliki Konstantinidou (Senior Network Officer), Carole Wenger (Network and Communication Officer), Marine Marechal (Finance Officer), and Valkyria Dantas Rattmann (Network and Communication Assistant)—for their exceptional professionalism, commitment, and team spirit. We also warmly thank our colleagues at the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies, the Research Institute in Social Sciences, the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the wider University of Liège community for their ongoing support in coordinating the IMISCOE network.

**Thank you all for your engagement throughout the year —and we hope you enjoy reading this report. We look forward to seeing you very soon.**



**Daniela Vintila**  
IMISCOE Coordinator



**Jean-Michel Lafleur**  
IMISCOE Associate Coordinator

## A chat with

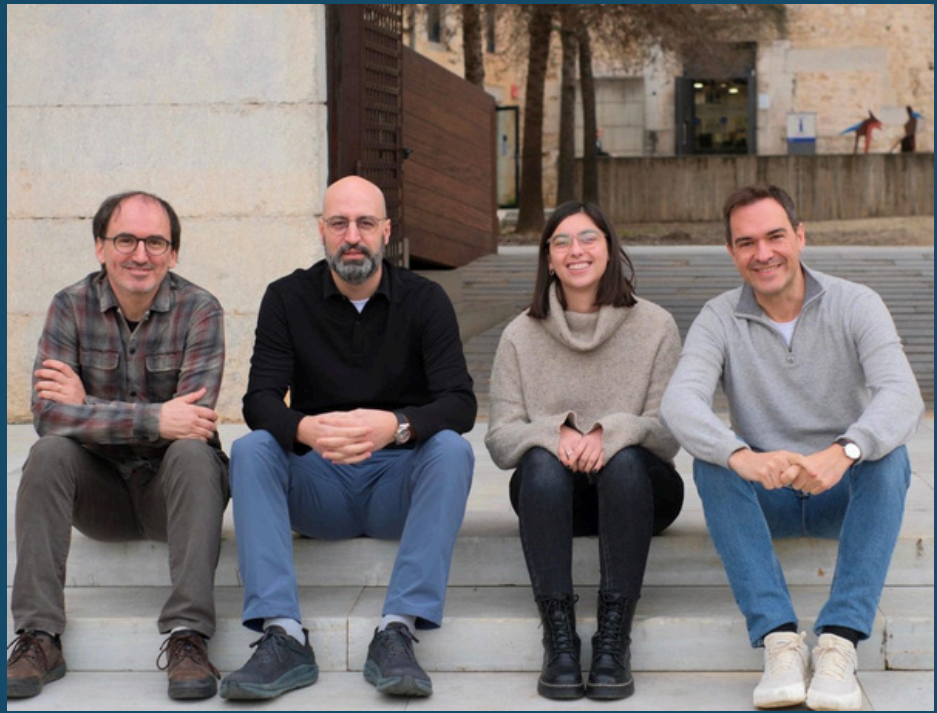
# The local organizing committee of the 2026 IMISCOE Annual Conference in Girona

Eila Prats-Brugat

Eduard Carrera

Òscar Prieto-Flores and

Xavier Casademont



The **23rd IMISCOE Annual Conference** is hosted by the Migratory Movements Group (Grup de Recerca sobre Moviments Migratoris) at the University of Girona (UdG). Our group is multidisciplinary — bringing together researchers from sociology, education, social pedagogy, anthropology and related social sciences — and has a long tradition of applied, socially engaged research on migration, mobility, diversity and social inclusion in Catalonia and beyond. We are closely linked to the Master's Programme in Migratory Movements at UdG, one of the few specialised postgraduate programmes on migration in Spain. A conference of this scale is, however, never the work of one person or one team. The local Organising Committee brings together four colleagues from the University of Girona — Eila Prats-Brugat, Eduard Carrera, Òscar Prieto-Flores and Xavier Casademont — working alongside the broader Migratory Movements Group, our PhD candidates and early-career researchers, and the administrative, technical and events staff at UdG who carry much of the logistical weight. We are also working hand in hand with the IMISCOE Network Office, whose experience has been invaluable.

## About the organisers

The Migratory Movements Group is based at the University of Girona and brings together researchers from sociology, education, social pedagogy, anthropology and related social sciences. Their work sits at the intersection of migration, education, citizenship and community-based action in Catalonia, with strong ties to European and international debates. The group's main lines of research include migration and education, youth transitions, social mentoring, inequalities and discrimination, citizenship and political participation, well-being and mental health, and the role of institutions and policies in shaping migratory experiences. Methodologically, we combine qualitative, quantitative and participatory approaches, with a strong emphasis on co-production of knowledge and ethically grounded research practices. Our members are active in European and international research networks and projects — including Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ — and play leading roles in knowledge-transfer initiatives with public administrations, civil-society organisations and local communities.

As early as 2004, colleagues from UdG — among them Carles Serra and Josep Miquel Palaudàrias — hosted the Spanish Conference of Migration in the city, an early signal of Girona's place in the field. Our engagement with the IMISCOE network itself began in 2014, when members of the group started taking part in its Annual Conferences — from Madrid 2014 onwards — and progressively in Standing Committees, panels and the PhD Network. In 2020, the University of Girona formally joined IMISCOE as a member institution, consolidating a relationship that had been growing for almost a decade. Hosting the 2026 conference in Girona is, for us, a way of returning some of that hospitality, and of contributing to migration research from a medium-sized Catalan city with a strong commitment to social cohesion, civic participation and academic-community collaboration.

## **About the conference theme "*Strengthening Migration Studies through Community Engagement*"**

This year's conference theme grew out of a concern we share with many colleagues in the network: how knowledge about migration is produced, and for whom. Migration studies have expanded enormously, yet the field is still shaped by Eurocentric and Western-centric assumptions, by the boundaries academia has historically drawn, and by the pressures of a neoliberal model of academic production. At a moment of intense polarisation, when migration is one of the most problematized issues in public debate, we believe scholars cannot limit themselves to explaining how borders, control technologies and criminalisation work. We also have a responsibility to ask how our research can produce narratives, interventions and policies that strengthen solidarity, human dignity, inclusive pathways and hope for a fairer society. Community engagement is our entry point into that question.

Under the heading "*Strengthening Migration Studies through Community Engagement*", the conference invites participants to reflect critically on how migration research can be more deeply connected to the communities, places and social actors with whom we engage as scholars, and to foster dialogue between research, lived experience and public debate. It foregrounds participatory, collaborative and reflexive approaches to the production of knowledge — co-production with social movements, artists, NGOs, schools, trade unions and policy-makers — as well as the ethical dilemmas these collaborations raise. It also calls for epistemic justice: recognising absences in the field, valuing voices that have been marginalised, and examining how race, class, gender, nationalism and coloniality have shaped migration and 'integration' studies — and how we, as researchers, are affected by or reproduce these inequalities. Ultimately, we hope the theme opens a conversation about how migration studies can contribute to social justice, democratic participation and inclusive public discourse, and about building reparative relationships within and beyond the academy.

## About the conference program

The conference runs over four days, from 29 June to 2 July 2026, in Girona and online. It keeps the structure the IMISCOE community knows well — plenary sessions, thematic panels and workshops clustered around the Standing Committees and the Open Section, alongside the Standing Committee and Board meetings. In keeping with the theme, we are giving particular space to formats that put community engagement into practice: roundtables and workshops co-designed with civil-society organisations, activists, artists, practitioners and policy-makers, as well as moments that connect the academic programme with the city of Girona and its associative fabric. As in previous editions, panels and workshops will run either fully on-site or fully online, with a very small number of hybrid sessions reserved for justified exceptional cases. The conference venue is the Barri Vell Campus of the University of Girona, in the heart of the medieval old town — a setting that we hope will encourage exchanges between scholars, civil-society actors, artists, practitioners and policy-makers, both inside and outside the sessions.

## Expectations for the Annual Conference

More than anything, we hope colleagues leave Girona feeling that the conference did justice to its theme — that community engagement was not only discussed but practised. We would love participants to take home new collaborations and ideas for research that is rigorous and socially useful at the same time, especially at a moment when migration is so often distorted in public discourse and only careful, verified scholarship can support fair decision-making. We also hope the event offers something the field needs: a generous, welcoming space for early-career researchers, for colleagues from the Global South, and for voices that are too rarely at the centre of our conversations. On a more human level, Girona is a small, walkable, Mediterranean city, and we hope that scale allows for the kind of unhurried encounters — long lunches, evening strolls along the Onyar, conversations that spill out of the sessions — where real intellectual community is built. If colleagues leave with a sense of solidarity and renewed purpose, alongside a few good memories of the city, we will consider the conference a success.



## Recommendations for conference participants to make the most of their time in Girona

For colleagues working on migration, Girona and its surroundings offer an itinerary with particular relevance to the field. Within walking distance of the venue, the Museum of Jewish History (Museu d'Història dels Jueus), in one of the best-preserved medieval Jewish Quarters in Europe, tells the long story of expulsion and forced displacement that culminated in 1492. About forty minutes north of Girona, in La Jonquera, the Museu Memorial de l'Exili (MUME) is dedicated to La Retirada of 1939 — the exodus of around half a million Spanish Republicans across the Pyrenees — and is an almost mandatory stop for anyone working on forced migration, borders and memory. A little further along the coast, in Portbou, Dani Karavan's memorial "Passatges" marks the place where Walter Benjamin died in 1940 trying to escape the Nazis: one of the most moving contemporary monuments to border-crossing and refuge in Europe, reachable from Girona by train in just over an hour. For those with an extra day, a "borderscape" route linking Girona, Portbou, Cap de Creus, and Cadaqués offers an opportunity to explore the Mediterranean Pyrenees as a landscape shaped by multiple histories of mobility and displacement. It bears traces of multiple histories: as a site of Republican exile, a route of escape from Nazi persecution, and today as a landscape shaped both by mass tourism and by ongoing migration dynamics.





## **Voices outside Academia**

### ***Speaking Nearby: Using fiction within a documentary framework in Shatila refugee camp***

**By Mathijs Poppe**



In 2009, when I first visited Shatila, a Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of Beirut, I was nineteen years old. I went there to volunteer in a Palestinian youth centre. In preparation for my trip, I had read extensively about the camp and its history: how it was founded after the Nakba in 1948, its entanglement in the Lebanese Civil War, and the massacre of Sabra and Shatila in 1982. I was prepared to encounter a “broken” place, marked by intergenerational trauma, dispossession and discrimination. Instead, I was confronted with my own ignorance.

At the time, I had studied filmmaking for one year and had decided to bring my camera with me to Lebanon. Out of a sincere belief that documentary cinema could reveal injustice, I wanted to investigate the living conditions in the camp, the history of Palestinian exile, and the political situation of Palestinians in Lebanon. But very quickly, when I started filming, I became uncomfortable with the images I was making. The camera did not simply record what was in front of me; it also reproduced an unbalanced relationship between me, a young filmmaker from Belgium, and the people I was filming. With every question I asked, with every image I framed, I felt I was pushing people who had welcomed me wholeheartedly into their homes into a role they already knew too well: the refugee, the victim, the witness of suffering. I decided never to use the images I made during that first visit.

In the years that followed, I kept returning to Shatila to visit the friends I had made, and one question kept returning: could cinema also be used to undo the roles it so easily produces? If the camera, and my initial approach, had pushed people into the fixed position of the victim, could filmmaking become a way of opening up other roles instead?

This question slowly led me towards using fiction within a documentary framework. Not fiction as an escape from reality, but as a method to approach reality differently. By creating fictional situations together with the people I filmed, they were no longer only asked to explain their lives to the camera: they could act, imagine, refuse, and shape the narrative from within. Working with them as actors, rather than documentary subjects, allowed us to share the production process as collaborators.

# Voices outside Academia



This method developed throughout the two films I have made in Shatila since. In *Ours is a Country of Words* (2017), we imagined a near future in which the long-awaited return to Palestine had become possible. The people in the film became actors preparing for a return they had grown up hearing about, dreaming of, doubting, and inheriting. In *The Jacket* (2024), this method shifted through the main character's own practice as a theatre-maker. By following Jamal Hindawi during the production of a theatre play, he could appear not only as a Palestinian refugee, but as an artist, a father, a performer, and someone actively negotiating the history he has inherited. Fiction opened up a space in which fixed roles could be loosened and played with.

Looking back, I understand the introduction of fiction into the documentary framework as my way of approaching what filmmaker and theorist Trinh T. Minh-ha calls "speaking nearby" rather than "speaking about." To speak nearby is not to disappear as a filmmaker, nor to pretend that the relationship is equal from the beginning. It is to create a form in which the people filmed or researched are not reduced to the knowledge we seek from them, but can help decide how they appear, from which role they speak, and what remains unresolved.

**Mathijs Poppe** (Belgium, 1990) is a filmmaker who developed close ties with the Palestinian community in Lebanon since his first visit to the Shatila refugee camp in 2008. In 2017, he graduated from the KASK School of Arts with his graduation film, *Ours is a Country of Words*. For his first feature film, *The Jacket* (2024), Poppe continued to deepen his collaboration with the Palestinian actor Jamal Hindawi and his family.

*The Jacket* is a portrait of Jamal Hindawi, a Palestinian man who lives in exile with his family in the Shatila refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon. Together with his friends, he makes political theatre about their profound connection to their homeland, Palestine, and their situation as refugees in their country of residence, Lebanon. When Jamal embarks on a journey to search for an important lost theatre prop, he witnesses how the successive political and economic crises have disrupted an entire region and its people.



# In the spotlight

# Meet the latest institutional members of IMISCOE!

## The Slovenian Migration Institute (SMI) at ZRC SAZU

Written by: Marina Lukšič Hacin and Jure Gombač



The Slovenian Migration Institute (SMI) is part of the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU) and is the only academic institute in Slovenia dedicated exclusively to migration research. Since its establishment in 1986, the Institute has developed into a leading national and internationally recognised centre for interdisciplinary migration studies. Bringing together researchers from history, sociology, anthropology, geography, ethnology, cultural studies, political science, and related disciplines, SMI examines migration as a complex social, cultural, political, and historical phenomenon.

The Institute's research covers a broad spectrum of migration-related topics, including emigration from and immigration to Slovenia, diaspora and transnational communities, return migration, labour mobility, migration governance, integration processes, citizenship, border regimes, and refugee movements. Researchers also investigate the cultural and artistic dimensions of migration, including migrant heritage, literature, visual culture, identity formation, and memory practices. Particular attention is given to the experiences of migrants and their descendants, as well as to the social, economic, and political contexts that shape mobility and belonging.

SMI combines historical and contemporary perspectives on migration. Its work ranges from studies of Slovenian emigration and diaspora communities to research on current migration challenges such as labour migration, migrant integration, refugee reception, social inclusion, and the consequences of forced displacement. The Institute has developed strong expertise in qualitative and participatory methodologies, narrative research, oral history, ethnography, and policy-oriented studies, enabling it to bridge theoretical innovation with practical societal relevance.

Research activities are conducted through numerous national and international projects funded by European and Slovenian research programmes. Recent projects have addressed topics such as migrant integration, refugee housing, labour mobility and the posting of workers, migrant entrepreneurship, diaspora policies, migrant heritage, and social protection.

## In the spotlight

# Meet the latest institutional members of IMISCOE!

The Institute has also collaborated extensively with public authorities, municipalities, international organisations, and civil society actors, providing evidence-based research to support policymaking and public debate.

A distinctive feature of SMI is its integration within the broader research environment of ZRC SAZU, where collaboration with scholars in history, anthropology, geography, linguistics, cultural studies, and other disciplines allows migration to be studied from multiple perspectives. The Institute also contributes to education and capacity building through its involvement in the European Master's Programme in Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR), international training activities, and mentorship of doctoral researchers. Furthermore, it publishes the international scientific journal [Dve domovini / Two Homelands](#), one of the key migration studies journals in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

Within IMISCOE, SMI sees its role as contributing a strong interdisciplinary perspective and extensive expertise on migration processes in Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe. Slovenia occupies a unique position at the intersection of Alpine, Mediterranean, Balkan, and Central European migration routes, providing valuable insights into historical and contemporary mobility patterns, border dynamics, labour migration, integration processes, and refugee movements.

The Institute aims to contribute actively to IMISCOE's research network through comparative research, participation in Standing Committees, collaborative projects, publications, and doctoral training. SMI researchers bring expertise that aligns closely with several IMISCOE thematic areas, including migration governance and citizenship, labour migration, forced migration and refugees, education and social inclusion, gender and migration, migration methodologies, and arts, culture, and migration. Through these contributions, SMI seeks not only to share knowledge generated in Slovenia and the wider region but also to strengthen international cooperation and advance innovative migration research across Europe.

By joining IMISCOE, the Slovenian Migration Institute hopes to deepen existing collaborations, develop new comparative perspectives, and contribute to a more inclusive and diverse understanding of migration in Europe and beyond.



# In the spotlight

# Meet the latest institutional members of IMISCOE!

## Institute for Research on Migration and Society (IRMS), Concordia University

Written by: Mireille Paquet



The [Institute for Research on Migration and Society \(IRMS\)](#) at Concordia University is an interdisciplinary hub for migration research based in Montreal, Canada. Founded in 2024, IRMS brings together faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and research professionals working across political science, sociology, anthropology, geography, communication, education, psychology, engineering, arts, and digital studies. As Concordia University's focal point for migration scholarship, the institute supports research, training, and public engagement on the evolving relationships between migration and society.

IRMS conducts research on a wide range of migration issues in Canada and beyond, with expertise in migration governance, migrant integration, temporary migration systems, labour and precarity, public attitudes toward migration and diversity, and the growing role of digital technologies and AI in migration management. Our work combines qualitative, quantitative, participatory, and interdisciplinary approaches and is often developed in collaboration with governments and community organizations.

Located in Montréal, Canada's second-largest city and a major francophone immigrant destination, IRMS benefits from unique research access to Quebec's distinctive immigration policies, linguistic integration programs, and provincial-federal governance dynamics. Our bilingual (French/English) capacity enables research that bridges anglophone and francophone scholarly worlds and creates important points of dialogue with migration research traditions in Europe and North America.

IRMS is also a core partner in [Migrant Integration in the Mid-21st Century: Bridging Divides](#), Canada's flagship migration research initiative (2023-2030, \$98.6M CFREF). Director Mireille Paquet leads the program's Citizenship and Participation theme, connecting IRMS to 60+ research leaders, 38 partner institutions, and 80+ active projects across Canada.

## In the spotlight

# Meet the latest institutional members of IMISCOE!

The institute maintains strong links with Quebec's emerging migration research ecosystem, including the newly established Réseau québécois de recherche en immigration, intégration et relations interculturelles (RQ3i), a unique gateway to Quebec's francophone research community and policy ecosystem rarely available through anglophone Canadian institutions. Supported by the Fonds de recherche du Québec and partnered with Quebec's Ministry of Immigration, RQ3i brings together researchers across Quebec universities to address the province's distinctive challenges: temporary immigration growth, asylum demands, legislative change, and public polarization.

Training and knowledge exchange are central to IRMS's mission. The institute supports graduate students and postdoctoral researchers through fellowships, scholarships, research assistantships, and conference funding. As a new IMISCOE institutional member, IRMS sees itself as contributing a strong North American and bilingual perspective to the network. We are particularly interested in strengthening transatlantic conversations on migration governance and politics, digital migration, labour and migration, as well as comparative research methods.

As IMISCOE continues to expand its presence in North America, IRMS is well positioned to contribute to the network's research, training, and knowledge-exchange activities. Through our access to Canada's largest migration research infrastructure, strong ties to francophone scholarship, and expertise in emerging areas such as digital migration governance and AI, we look forward to developing new collaborations and creating opportunities for researchers, students, and practitioners across the IMISCOE community.

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# In the spotlight

## Meet the latest institutional members of IMISCOE!

### **CRASH Center for Research on Social Change and Human Mobility, Kozminski University, Warsaw**

Written by: Izabela Grabowska and Ivanna Kyliushyk



*At CRASH, we study migration not only as movement but as a process of transforming skills, resources, and societies across borders.*

CRASH Center for Research on Social Change and Human Mobility, based at Kozminski University in Warsaw, is an interdisciplinary research center dedicated to understanding the dynamics of migration and the broader social transformations associated with it in contemporary societies. Established in 2021, CRASH brings together scholars from sociology, economics (and econometrics), and political science to study migration as a multidimensional process embedded in labour markets, technological change, and transnational social relations.

Our research is grounded in both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, with a strong emphasis on mixed-method approaches and methodological innovations. We focus particularly on international labour migration, human and mobility capital, transnational practices, and the intersection of migration with automation and artificial intelligence. A distinctive feature of our work is the development of innovative research tools, including digital platforms such as [mymigration.academy](https://mymigration.academy) and [mymobility.academy](https://mymobility.academy), which combine research with practical applications for mobility planning and labour market integration, with feedback for participants.

CRASH operates at the intersection of fundamental and applied research. Beyond academic outputs, we actively translate findings into evidence-based policy recommendations at local, national, and European levels. We collaborate closely with public institutions, international organizations, and civil society actors, including the City of Warsaw, European Employment Services (EURES), the European Commission, the European Labour Authority, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Poland and NGOs supporting migrants such as the Ukrainian House in Warsaw. This embeddedness allows us to contribute to ongoing policy debates on labour migration, skills matching, and migrant integration.

## In the spotlight

# Meet the latest institutional members of IMISCOE!

Our research portfolio includes major international projects such as Link4Skills (Horizon Europe), where CRASH acts as the scientific coordinator, focusing on skills, labour market transformations, and migration corridors. We have also contributed to projects such as MIMY (Horizon 2020) on the integration of young migrants and BigMig, which explores digital and analogue traces of migrants. These projects reflect our commitment to combining theoretical advancement with empirical depth and societal relevance.

The CRASH team consists of senior scholars, early-career researchers, and PhD candidates with complementary expertise in labour migration, Ukrainian migration, social and political integration, technological change, and new methodologies. Our work is strongly embedded in the Central and Eastern European context, while simultaneously contributing to global migration debates. In particular, our research on Ukrainian migration in the context of Russia's full-scale invasion provides timely insights into forced migration, resilience, and mobility trajectories.

Within the IMISCOE network, we see our role as both contributors and connectors. Our research aligns closely with several Standing Committees, particularly Migration, Migrants and Labour Markets (IILME), Migrant Transnationalism (MITRA), Forced Migration and Refugees (FMR), and methodological initiatives such as Meth@Mig. We aim to actively contribute to these platforms through collaborative research, joint publications, and participation in IMISCOE events.

At the same time, we place strong emphasis on supporting early-career researchers. Through engagement with the IMISCOE PhD Network and training activities, we seek to foster the next generation of migration scholars and strengthen transnational academic exchange. We also view IMISCOE as a key space for developing new research collaborations and advancing comparative perspectives on migration.

By becoming an institutional member of IMISCOE, CRASH consolidates its long-standing engagement with the network and contributes to its development as a leading global platform for migration research. We are committed to active participation, knowledge exchange, and the co-creation of research that addresses the complex challenges of migration in a rapidly changing world.

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## PhD Academy

# Beyond the Ivory Tower: A New Horizon for PhDs' Non-Academic Career Development

Written by: [Thais França](#) and [Martha Munezhi](#)



A non-academic path is a perfectly valid option after completing a PhD. Yet, throughout the doctoral journey, a quiet assumption often lingers: that the “real” destination is academia. The script tends to be familiar – a postdoc, a lectureship, a tenure-track position – as if years of research, writing and intellectual labour were all leading toward a single, predetermined endpoint.

### **But what if that assumption is too narrow?**

This question was at the heart of the third session of the IMISCOE PhD Academy, held on 8 April 2026. Organised by Martha Munezhi and Thais França from the IMISCOE PhD Training Committee, the two-hour session entitled *Non-Academic Career Development* created space for an open and honest conversation about life after the PhD, and the many directions it can take.

What made the session particularly compelling was the opportunity to hear from speakers who have pursued non-linear, non-academic careers and built meaningful work beyond the university. Alongside these reflections, participants also took part in a practical workshop focused on crafting a non-academic CV.

We were delighted to welcome Maria Shaidrova, a long-standing member of the IMISCOE community and former Chair of the PhD Network. After completing her PhD on representation in migration studies, she went on to found the OPORA Foundation – an organisation dedicated to social innovation and community support, producing evidence-based research that informs and strengthens policymaking.

We also heard from Marco Mogiani, who holds a PhD in Development Studies from SOAS, University of London. He currently works as a researcher at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and serves as an external lecturer at the University of Vienna’s Department of Development Studies.

Shaidrova and Mogiani’s message was both simple and powerful: leaving academia is not a “second-best” option. It is often a deliberate and rewarding choice.

# PhD Academy

## Beyond the Ivory Tower: A New Horizon for PhDs' Non-Academic Career Development

### **But how does one make that transition in practice?**

To address this, Martha Munezhi (Executive Director of Bridging Divides) led a hands-on workshop on developing a non-academic CV. While the traditional academic CV may span several pages, it can obscure rather than highlight the skills that matter most outside academia. Martha guided participants through the key principles of effective CV writing, offering practical “dos and don’ts” and providing individual feedback on submitted drafts.

By the end of the session, what initially seemed opaque had become far clearer. Participants left with a stronger sense of how to translate years of rigorous research into concise, results-oriented profiles that resonate with employers in policy, industry and the social sector.

One of the key takeaways from the session was that a PhD does not only produce knowledge – it produces people with highly transferable skills. Doctoral researchers learn to manage complex, long-term projects, work under pressure, communicate ideas clearly, construct persuasive arguments, navigate uncertainty and think critically when it matters most. These are not narrowly academic abilities; they are precisely the skills sought after by policy organisations, NGOs, international institutions, and research-oriented organisations.

And yet, many doctoral programmes continue to train students as though academia were the only destination. As a result, when PhD researchers begin to explore alternative career paths, they often struggle to recognise their own strengths or to articulate them in ways that resonate beyond academic circles.

It is important to emphasise that the aim of this workshop was not to steer PhD researchers away from academic careers, nor to position non-academic paths as an alternative of necessity. Rather, it was designed to broaden perspectives – to encourage participants to think more expansively about how their expertise might connect to a range of sectors and opportunities. By engaging in practical exercises, such as developing a CV tailored to non-academic roles, the session sought to equip doctoral researchers with the tools to begin preparing for multiple possible futures. In doing so, it opened up space for informed choice, allowing participants to navigate their careers with greater confidence, awareness and flexibility.



# Updates from the IMISCOE PhD Network

Written by: Denis Zeković  
& Yowali Kabamba



The months since our last update in February have been full of activity. When the PhD Network last wrote for the bulletin at the start of 2026, we were looking ahead to the Spring Conference in Liège, and we are glad to report that both events lived up to the anticipation. Alongside those, new opportunities arose to carry the spirit of *Cultivating Curiosity* and *Community-Engaged Research* into spaces beyond our usual programme.

At the Spring Conference in Liège in March, local PhD researchers at the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM-ULiège) had crafted a thoughtful programme centred on the tensions of doing migration research in politically charged times. The panel with Myriam Cherti, Marco Martiniello, and Xingcheng Wen was a perfect start, and the workshop that followed gave PhD candidates the space to speak about knowledge production under pressure.

This was also the occasion for our in-person board meeting, the first time the current board has been in the same room together. We used the time to step back from the day-to-day and think critically about how we are working. The conversations were honest and productive, and we left with a clearer picture of where we stand and where we want to go. We clarified roles and responsibilities within the board, which should make it easier for new members to orient themselves and for existing members to share the load more effectively. We also took a closer look at the broader IMISCOE structure and its various committees, and how we can use that knowledge to the PhD Network's advantage. We reviewed and consolidated our existing activities with an eye to building in more structure as the network continues to grow, and we agreed on strategic priorities for the next months. Concretely, this means our activities will revolve around four workstreams:

- IMISCOE Conferences, which include all PhD activities during the Spring Conference, Annual Conference and the IMISCOE Forum,
- PhD Connections, formerly known as the Buddy System, whose main purpose is to facilitate connections (virtual and otherwise) between PhD researchers,
- Blog, which features relevant research and societal issues in migration studies, and
- Communications, to make sure our network is informed and up to date about the latest opportunities and research across our field.

## Keep in Touch with the IMISCOE PhD Network

In April, Tulika Bourai and Denis Zeković had the opportunity to take the PhD Network's work into a new setting. The Collaborative Research Centre 1604 at the University of Osnabrück organised a PhD Spring School, and we were invited to facilitate two workshop sessions as representatives of the IMISCOE PhD Network Board. The Spring School itself was organised by local PhD researchers and combined keynotes, paper presentations, and a poster session. Our two sessions were designed around the themes that have framed our activities of the last two years: ***Joy in Academia*** and ***Curiosity and Community***. We ran them as open discussion spaces, deliberately leaving room for the kind of conversations that rarely make it into research seminars. The questions we posed revolved around motivation along the PhD trajectory, navigating the supervisor relationship, and how to hold on to the things that drew you to research when times get busy.

The IMISCOE PhD Blog has also resumed its activities with two new blog posts. [Filipa Saraiva](#) explored how religious belief, lived experience, and environmental pressures intersect in shaping the future of climate-induced displacement in Portugal, while [Aneesha Jhonny](#) wrote about how the Supreme Court of India foregrounded a child-centric approach to protect Rohingya refugee children's right to education.

As we move into the summer and towards the Annual Conference, the theme of curiosity and community continues to guide what we do. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to and participated in the events of the past months, and we look forward to what the rest of the year holds.

Interested in being informed more regularly about our activities? Give us a follow on [LinkedIn](#), and don't forget to [become a member](#) to receive our newsletter!



# News from IMISCOE Standing Committees

## SC Arts, Culture and Migration (DIVCULT)

The [SC DIVCULT](#) has recently been involved in different activities and events. One of them was the Spring Event, held in Lisbon from 4–6 May 2025 in collaboration with the [ARTIVES](#) project at the Universidade de Lisboa. Titled "*Urban Mobilities: Artistic and Cultural Engagements with Migration Histories and Discourses*," the event brought together scholars, artists, filmmakers, and practitioners to explore how migration reshapes urban imaginaries, cultural production, and public space. The programme included keynote lectures, thematic panels, roundtables with artists and filmmakers, film screenings, and an excursion through Lisbon's Amadora district focused on migration and urban transformation. The event also included a hybrid doctoral activity organized by the DIVCULT PhD representatives in order to reinforce our commitment to supporting emerging researchers.

On 25 June, the SC is organising a Spring Webinar on participatory and visual methods, an online event based on six individual presentations open to researchers and practitioners interested in exploring participatory action research (PAR) methodologies and visual approaches to migration studies. The goal is to create a space for exchange and reflection through concrete case studies, as well as discussions of ethical and methodological dilemmas encountered in practice. It further strengthens the network's engagement with visual and participatory approaches as key tools for researching migration, mobility, memory, and belonging grounded in principles of care.

As in previous years, the SC DIVCULT continued to contribute actively to IMISCOE's academic life through dedicated panels and thematic exchanges during the annual conference. At the [Annual Conference](#), Divcult will feature various panels and workshops that demonstrate the committee's ongoing dedication to highlighting art-based, creative, and cultural approaches in migration research and encouraging dialogue between academia, cultural institutions, community-led initiatives, and arts practitioners.

We are also pleased to announce the launch of our new [LinkedIn channel](#), which will serve as an additional space to share updates, activities, and opportunities related to the SC's work and to further strengthen exchange within our growing network.

# News from IMISCOE Standing Committees

## SC Families, Welfare, Care and the Life Course (FamWeLC)

SC FamWeLC is a relatively new group within IMISCOE (former SC Older Migrants it was renamed and reshaped in 2024). Our aims are to advance a life-course perspective in migration studies and to draw wider attention to the interconnections between families, welfare and care, and their changing contexts. The SC has an active PhD and ECR representation, as well as four thematic working groups:

- Informal care and social support;
- Healthcare and social services;
- Financial welfare and welfare regimes;
- Migration and life-course transitions.

### Events so far in 2026:

4 February: Online Book Forum on Stuck at Home: Pandemic Immobilities in the Nation of Emigration (Stanford University Press, 2025) by Yasmine Ortiga (Singapore Management University). Discussant: Anju Paul (NYU Abu Dhabi), Kerilyn Schewel (UNC-Chapel Hill), and Ken Chih-Yan Sun (Villanova University).

20 May: Webinar. *Decolonization and Critical Intercultural Education: Bridging Practices from the Global South to the Global North*, facilitated by Tatiana Edith Vergara (Universidad Nacional del Chaco Austral, Argentina), Eduardo Andrés Martín (Universidad Católica del Maule, Chile), Julio Cesar Tovar Galvez (Universidad a Distancia de Madrid, Spain), and Martha Montero-Sieburth (UMass-Boston, USA). Co-hosted with Thais França and Jens Schneider, coordinators of the Standing Committee Education and Social Inequality. [Watch recording [here](#)]

### Upcoming activities:

Autumn (date TBC): Webinar showcasing IPUMS, the world's largest accessible database of census microdata and health survey data, co-hosted with the Gerontological Society of America (GSA).

Further information about these events will be posted on the SC FamWeLC webpage: <https://www.imiscoe.org/research/standing-committees/families-welfare-care-and-the-life-course>

Fill in the form [here](#) to join SC FamWeLC and stay updated with our activities.



You can also follow the SC LinkedIn page:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/famwelc-imiscoe/>

# News from IMISCOE Standing Committees

## SC Gender and Sexuality in Migration Research (GenSeM)

### Activities at the 2026 IMISCOE Annual Conference

The [SC GenSeM](#) is delighted to welcome all GenSeM members and IMISCOE attendees who are interested in our Standing Committee to the hybrid Annual Meeting that will take place on 29 June at 16:40 (CEST). At the Meeting, the SC will announce the *Best Paper Award* and the *Seedcorn Funds Award*, as well as discuss with all members plans for the coming year. Room and Webex link will be confirmed closer to the time.

On June 30 from 18h30 onwards, the SC will have a social get-together (own tab) for all GenSeM members and friends. Please feel free to join!

Furthermore, GenSeM will host two special sessions, in addition to 12 regular panels and workshops.

Special Session 1: *Where is Girlhood in Migration?* Organised by Rachel Larking and Tatiana Avignone. June 30th, 9-10.30 CEST

Special Session 2: *Critical Intersections: Migration, Gender, and Sexuality in Global Perspective. Launch of the Oxford Handbook of Migration, Gender and Sexuality.* Session Organiser: Sarah Scuzzarello, with Tanja Bastia, Jean Beaman, Dounia Bourabain, Laura Cleton, Rik Huizinga, Liza Mugge and Gökce Yurdakul. July 1, 16:50–18:20 CEST

### Other activities

GenSeM Migration Dialogue with Professor Louise Ryan, Professor María López and Mursal Rasa discussing the paper *Walking with Afghan women: using mobile methods to understand differentiated embedding within different places across England*. 19 June 15.00-16.30 CEST

GenSeM PhD "*Shut Up & Write*" series. This is a session for and with GenSeM PhD student members that aims to create a space for writing and support. It will start on 26 June, and it will be a recurring activity happening every month.

GenSeM Migration Dialogue with Dr B Camminga, Dr John Marnell and colleagues discussing East African Queer and Trans Displacements. September 2026

ECR members - Forthcoming online series about navigating the job market as ECR/post doc with invited academic and professional consultants planned for autumn/winter 2026.

## SC Migration, Migrants, and Labour Markets (IILME)

Over the years, the SC IILME has sought to advance research on migrant labour and labour markets across a wide range of European and transnational contexts. IILME's work has engaged with questions concerning migrant workers and trade union representation, migrant and refugee entrepreneurship, and the relationship between migration, labour precarity and changing welfare and migration regimes. More recently, the SC has extended its focus towards cultures of rejection, racialised labour formations, digitalised labour markets and increasingly mobile and fragmented forms of labour organised across borders. As the SC continued to follow developments within the field, its activities and academic engagements within the IMISCOE Network and beyond expanded to address the ways in which labour, employment, and work are being reconfigured within increasingly stratified neoliberal labour markets. Particular attention was given to how migration intersects with emerging forms of labour to produce new hierarchies of power, deepen social inequalities, and generate complex challenges concerning the legal recognition and representation of workers' rights

Building upon this renewed research agenda, several IILME panels and workshops will be organised during the conference, so please do join us to continue our exchanges. IILME will organise a special workshop at the 23rd Annual IMISCOE Conference in Girona & Online, entitled "*Participatory and Activist Approaches to Migrant Labour, Precarity and Resistance*", convened by Nilay Kılınc (University of Helsinki). The workshop features a distinguished group of participants whose work spans migration studies, labour research, political sociology and activist scholarship. Contributors include Domenica Farinella (University of Messina), Laura Stielike (Osnabrück University), Giacomo Solano (Radboud University), Maizi Hua (University of Oslo), Lisa Berntsen (De Burcht, Scientific Research Institute for the Dutch Labour Movement) and Mai Lundemark (Linnaeus University). Situated within ongoing debates in migration studies and critical labour research, the workshop seeks to explore how participatory and activist methodologies may reshape the ways migrant labour is studied, represented and politically engaged under conditions of neoliberal globalisation.

Those interested in contributing to discussions on the future activities of IILME are warmly invited to attend the Standing Committee meeting. Date and place to be found [here](#). IILME looks forward to welcoming colleagues in Girona!

## SC Reflexivities in Migration Studies (Reflexivities)

The [SC Reflexivities](#) has had several activities taking place in the last months and is looking forward to the IMISCOE Annual Conference in Girona.

The SC is happy to share that its blog series [VISIONS FOR MIGRATION](#) has been launched and, over the next weeks, a total of twelve contributions will be published on the SC Reflexivities website and social media channels. The blog series addresses the burning question: *How does who we are shape how we do migration research, and what kind of world do we hope our research can contribute towards?* The SC warmly invites you to read and share the contributions.

The SC working group on Activism has also been engaged in a collaborative reflection process. Through a dialogical writing exercise, the group has been exploring the concepts of activism in relation to reflexive migration studies. The discussions around this writing continue, also in light of the upcoming workshop at the Annual Conference (see below). If anyone would like to join in this activity, please reach out to the SC.

Looking forward to the IMISCOE Annual Conference 2026 in Girona, the SC Reflexivities has the pleasure to invite you to two SC Reflexivities Special Sessions:

*Bottom-up Epistemologies: Decentering and Reflexivity in Knowledge Production through Community-Based Research?*, jointly organised with The Global (De)Centre: Diversity, Mobility and Culture. (July 1, 09:00–10:30)

*Beyond Exceptionalism: Normalizing Engaged Research and Questioning Its 'Non-Engaged' Counterpart*, organised by the SC working group Activism (July 2, 09:00–10:30)

If you filter the sessions in the conference programme by standing committee ("reflex studies"), you will find a total of 25 sessions that are hosted by and affiliated to the SC Reflexivities and its members. You can find the full list of our sessions [here](#).

Please remember that subscription to the SC Reflexivities Newsletter is available via the [following link](#). Please keep an eye on the newsletter, as a new call is expected to be announced in the fall for funding to support the organisation of events related to the aims of the SC.

Thank you, and see you in Girona!

## SC Migrant Transnationalism (MITRA)

Through a wide range of academic activities and publications, the SC MITRA contributes to theoretical, conceptual and methodological discussions around transnationalism from an open and reflective standpoint. To promote such exchanges, is SC organizing various sessions at the 2026 IMISCOE Annual Conference in Girona, including the special workshop *“Transnationalism, community engagement and the co-production of knowledge: A workshop for early-career scholars”* organized by MITRA PhD representatives Hilda Gustafsson (Malmö University) and Yichi Zhang (University of St Andrews); the panel *“Understanding transnational family life through historical and other sources”*; and the SC annual gathering.

Regarding the SC's latest publications, since the last bulletin, MITRA has been involved in supporting and disseminating/launching the Short Reader *“Migrant transnationalism”* and the edited volume *“Translocal lives in times of conflict: Understanding People’s (Im)Mobilities and (Dis)Connections under Conditions of Violence and War”*. For those interested in the themes discussed within the SC, you can subscribe to the SC newsletter and follow the MITRA page on the IMISCOE website and social media channels (LinkedIn, Bluesky, Facebook).

For more information on SC MITRA, please visit:  
<https://www.imiscoe.org/research/standing-committees/migrant-transnationalism>

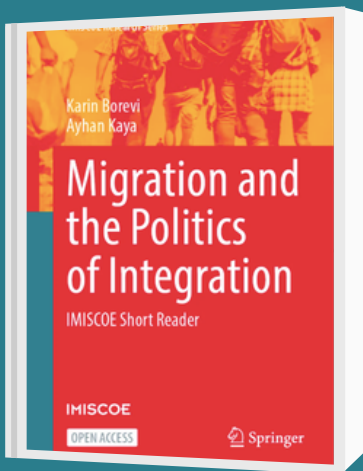
# IMISCOE Publications

## Updates on the IMISCOE Book Series

Written by: Anna Triandafyllidou and Irina Isaakyan

IMISCOE, the world's largest network focusing on migration and diversity, is proud to have an official book series in **collaboration with Springer**. This collection showcases empirical and theoretical research on diverse facets of international migration. Authored by experts in the field, these publications serve as a comprehensive resource for both researchers and individuals interested in migration studies. The series, consisting of over eighty titles, is meticulously curated under the watchful eye of our **IMISCOE Editorial Committee**, which comprises a diverse group of renowned scholars. The internationally peer-reviewed nature of the series ensures the preservation of exceptional academic standards and high scholarly quality. Most of these invaluable resources are freely accessible to the public. Here you will find a review and recap of the latest publications.

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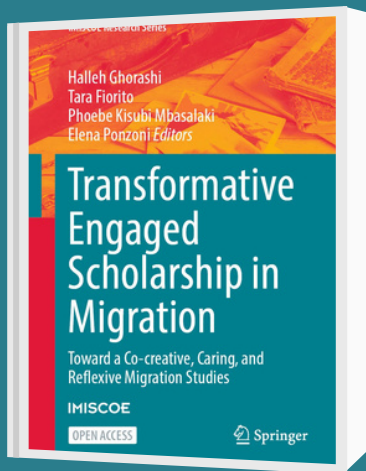
### Migration and the Politics of Integration IMISCOE Short Reader

Authors: Karin Borevi, Ayhan Kaya | March 2026, 8105 Accesses

This [open-access](#) short reader provides an introductory yet critically analytical exploration of migration and the politics of integration. Drawing inspiration from Nira Yuval-Davis' concept of the 'politics of belonging,' we define the 'politics of integration' as various political projects aimed at constructing integration, belonging, and cohesion within different collectivities. The book explores theoretical debates, such as the cultural, civic, and local turns, governmentality, subsidiarity, nationalism, nativism, securitization of migration, ultra-politics, sub-politics, populism, nativism, multiculturalism, and interculturalism. Based on the authors' empirical research findings, the book analyzes the directions the politics of integration have taken in Europe during the neoliberal era. This era is characterized by a bipolar, Manichean view of the world, which exacerbates the divide between "us" and "them". Written in an assessable way, the book offers valuable insights for social science students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels as well as for policymakers and practitioners grappling with the challenges posed by migration and its political dimensions.

# IMISCOE Publications

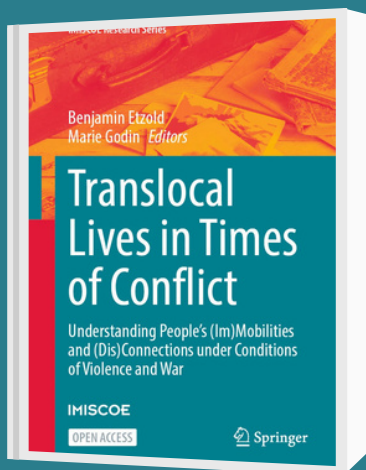
## Updates on the IMISCOE Book Series



### **Transformative Engaged Scholarship in Migration: Toward a Co-creative, Caring, and Reflexive Migration Studies**

Editors: Halleh Ghorashi, Tara Fiorito, Phoebe Kisubi Mbasalaki, Elena Ponzoni | May 2026, 9223 Accesses

This open access book centers the everyday experiences of forced and undocumented migrants in the Global North and Global South – specifically, the Netherlands, USA, and South Africa – through the prisms of engaged scholarship and co-creation as well as through transformative research processes within the field of migration studies. It goes beyond general definitions of engaged scholarship to describe how academics/researchers realized co-creation through meaningful collaboration with forced migrants in the three countries, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The book teases out contextual differences between the countries while connecting to broader debates on forced migration, ethics of care, complexities of engaged scholarship, and community networks and well-being as well as the politics of knowledge production on forced migration and reflexive migration studies. With its range of empirical work, this book is a great resource for students at all levels, academics in migration and refugee studies, policymakers in the three countries, and members of forced migrant communities.



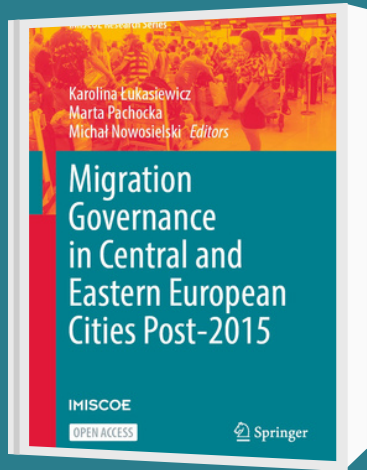
### **Translocal Lives in Times of Conflict: Understanding People's (Im)Mobilities and (Dis)Connections under Conditions of Violence and War**

Editors: Benjamin Etzold, Marie Godin | May 2026, 9223 Accesses

This open access book builds a bridge between migration and refugee studies and peace and conflict studies by examining the trans-local lives of people affected by violent conflict. Combining conceptual debates with rich insights from empirical research from across the world, 18 chapters address the question of how war and conflict shape, disrupt and transform (im)mobility trajectories and patterns of translocal living—within and across borders. The volume is complemented by an introduction that presents conceptual advances in this emerging interdisciplinary research field, two chapters summarising methodological innovations and challenges in conducting empirical studies, and a conclusion reflecting on the findings and policy implications of applying a translocal research perspective. This book will be an excellent resource for students and scholars seeking to move beyond a conventional, linear understanding of displacement, embracing instead a translocal perspective that captures the multi-sited patterns and repercussions of violence and war.

# IMISCOE Publications

## Updates on the IMISCOE Book Series



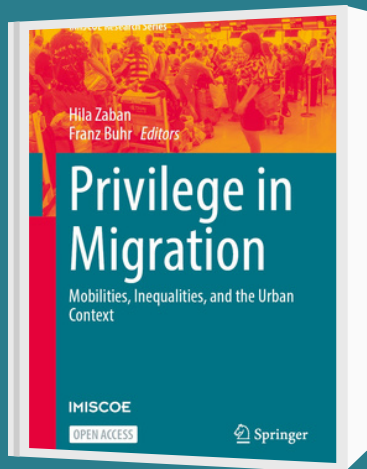
### Migration Governance in Central and Eastern European Cities Post-2015

Editors: Karolina Łukasiewicz, Marta Pachocka, Michał Nowosielski | Due August 2026 - Pre-order available!

This [open-access](#) book provides a thorough overview of migration trends and governance in Central and Eastern European (CEE) cities since 2015. For decades, CEE cities were primarily shaped by emigration. However, more than a decade of unprecedented change—from the 2015 European refugee reception crisis to the 2022 full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, which triggered the largest forced displacement in Europe since World War II—has transformed the region into one of Europe’s most dynamic new immigrant destinations. This volume offers the first comprehensive account of how nine diverse CEE cities across Poland, Czechia, Hungary, and Romania are navigating this new reality. Moving beyond traditional Western-centric models, the book explores the ‘local turn’ in migration studies through the experiences of capital cities such as Warsaw, Prague, and Budapest. It also examines rapidly diversifying second-tier cities like Kraków and Brno, as well as border and shrinking cities including Lublin, Oradea, Płock, and Łomża. Readers are introduced to the innovative CEE Local Migrant Governance Index (CEELMiG), a novel tool designed to measure and compare local policies across CEE cities—capturing integration strategies, coordination mechanisms, migrant participation, research on diversity, and the funding schemes of inclusive measures. From ‘mainstreaming by accident’ to the rise of grassroots solidarity, the book highlights how local administrators, activists, and residents are bridging service gaps and redefining urban citizenship in contexts marked by crisis and illiberal pressures. Migration Governance in CEE Cities Post-2015 is essential reading for scholars and students across disciplines, as well as for policymakers, urban planners, migration practitioners, and anyone interested in how cities respond to—and shape—evolving migration dynamics in Europe.

# IMISCOE Publications

## Updates on the IMISCOE Book Series



### Privilege in Migration: Mobilities, Inequalities, and the Urban Context

Editors: Hila Zaban, Franz Buhr | Due August 2026 - Pre-order available!

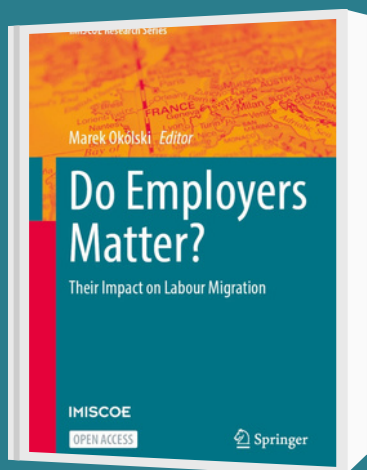
This open access book explores the transnational mobility of privileged migrants. The notion of 'privilege' has the merit of bringing to light various less-studied forms of migration, such as retirement, lifestyle, investment, amenity, elite, highly skilled and international residential mobilities. This book investigates the concept of privilege and examines its analytical reach in capturing and describing migration processes of middle- and high-income people. It advances the notion that privilege entails a critical assessment of power differentials, and that privileged migration is inherently relational, thus requiring to be contrasted to less privileged experiences of migration marked by precarity, vulnerability and a lesser choice. Throughout its 12 chapters, the volume broadens the geography of lifestyle and privileged migration, from being overly focused on North-South migration to including privileged forms of mobility emerging among the middle and elite classes from new areas of accumulation in the Global South.

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### Do Employers Matter? Their Impact on Labour Migration

Editors: Marek Okólski | Due August 2026 - Pre-order available!

This open access book explores employers' interests in international labour migration, arguing that employers' interests have consistently been a major force shaping and directing international labour migration in market economies. Employers' interests have been underestimated in part due to the lack of an appropriate theory. This book offers a comprehensive theoretical framework for studying employers' interests in labour migration. It does this by building on neo-institutionalist concepts, and proposing a framework for classifying institutions relevant to employers' pursuit of their interests in this domain. Contributors utilise qualitative document analysis, political discourse analysis, and in-depth interviews with representatives of employers' organisations and other actors knowledgeable about employers' interests. By looking at historical events on several continents, and subsequently focusing on four European countries: the UK, Germany, Italy and Poland, this book demonstrates that employers' interests have consistently been the reason behind international labour migration, even if they manifest themselves differently depending on the institutional environment of the particular country. This counters the dominant public narratives of today, which treat migration primarily as a security issue. By putting the spotlight on employers and offering a theoretical framework for analysing their interests and activities, this book hopes to rectify the imbalance in both academic and public discussions concerning labour migration and the forces that shape it.



# Season 6 of the IMISCOE Migration Podcast has started!

Written by: Asya Pisarevskaya, podcast PR & engagement

The [IMISCOE Migration Podcast](#) has launched its sixth season with three new episodes that explore migration through both conceptual and deeply personal lenses. The episodes talk about migrant transnationalism, the development lens in migration research and the impact of post-Brexit immigration policies on family life.

The first episode, "[Understanding the world through transnationalism](#)," features a conversation between the interviewer Asya Pisarevskaya and guests Özge Bilgili and Marta Bivand Erdal, who recently published a [book on transnationalism in the IMISCOE Short Reader Series](#). The episode explains what transnationalism means beyond abstract academic debates, using examples of migrants' social, political and economic transnational ties, as well as the speakers' own experiences. The episode shows how a transnational lens helps us better understand people's multiple connections, attachments and practices across borders, which go beyond nation-state expectations about citizens' loyalty, belonging and expected economic contributions.

The second episode, "[Brexit Couples & the British Immigration System](#)," focuses on the experiences of UK-EU couples after Brexit. Guest producer Kevin Caners interviews Helena Wray about her research project "Brexit Couples: UK-EU couples in the British immigration system." The project followed couples who, after Brexit, had to navigate the UK's immigration system to keep their family life. The episode shows how Brexit created obstacles for intimate relationships. Many UK-EU couples after Brexit found themselves confronted with complex, restrictive and costly migration regulations. Drawing on three years of research, the episode discusses the financial hardship, prolonged stress and separation that many couples experienced.

In the third episode, "[Migration and development – Has research and policy lost its way?](#)", you can hear Kate Dearden interviewing Oliver Backwell about the migration and development nexus in research and policy. Dr. Bakewell shares three arguments why he thinks that the relationship between migration and development has gone astray. For one, research shows that "orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration" is not necessarily the form of mobility that improves people's lives and reduces poverty, so how do migration researchers, who want to have a policy impact, not get trapped by policy demands? Dr. Bakewell discusses his ideas, which are also outlined in his recent essay "[Reshaping the Intersection Between Development and Migration Studies](#)".

Stay tuned for new episodes coming up in Season 6!



# Season 6 of the IMISCOE Migration Podcast has started!



**Understanding the world through transnationalism**



Özge Bilgili & Marta Bivand Erdal



**Brexit Couples & the British immigration system**



Helena Wray

After listening to their conversation, transnationalism is no longer just an abstract concept.

[listen](#)

What are the rules that UK-EU couples now face if they want to live in the UK? And what are their experiences of this so far?

[listen](#)



**Migration and development – Has research and policy lost its way?**



Oliver Bakewell

## Stay tuned for new episodes coming up in Season 6!

How development and migration are linked in policy today is narrow and starts from the premise that migration is problematic

[listen](#)



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IMISCOE Bulletin #15!**

**Keep in touch with us via**



**IMISCOE**

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