

IMISCOE

24th Annual IMISCOE Conference, Brussels 6-9 July 2027

CALL FOR PAPERS

Deportations as Forced Migration

The Standing Committee on Forced Migration and Refugees (SC-FMR) proposes the following panel for the IMISCOE Annual Conference 2027 in Brussels: “Deportations as Forced Migration”, coordinated by Eveliina Lyytinen, Marta Jaroszewicz & Zeynep Yanaşmayan. In the SC on FMR, forced migration and refugees is defined in an inclusive sense covering a wide range of types of movements as well as immobility, including that of coerced return and deportations.

Even though deportations can be conceptualized as forced movement (De Genova & Peutz 2010), studying them was somewhat ignored by forced migration scholars (Gibney 2013). Yet, over the past decades a burgeoning multidisciplinary field of deportation research emerged. Scholarship has, for instance, focused on the vulnerability of deportees, the rise of the deportation state, and the construction of the deportable subject (Anderson, Gibney & Paoletti 2010). Research on the legal frameworks and the logics of implementation of deportations, spanning from conceptualisation of regimes (De Genova & Peutz 2010) to continuums (Kalir and Wissink 2016) and corridors (Drothbohm and Hasselberg 2015) has also been influential in establishing the field. Spatio-temporal studies of deportation has demonstrated how deportations take place and are affected by various actors at different scales and spaces (Lyytinen 2025), also after deportation (Khosravi 2017). The concept of deportability (De Genova 2002) has been crucial in such inquiries that unpacks the temporally protracted possibility of being deported. Studies have also attended to the bottom-up dynamics of deportation analysing grassroots and local actors (Gravelle, Ellermann and Dauvergne 2013) alongside the lived experiences and perspectives of deportees and their families and their communities.

The issue of deportations remains at a centre of public and policy discussions, nationally, regionally and globally. In the European context, this is also linked with developments, such as the EU Return Directive, the national implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, and attempts to externalise asylum processes. In this political climate that proposes deportations as *the* only viable option to deal with irregularity, it has become essential to ask how we can, as migration scholars, conduct ethically sound and methodologically rich research on deportations (Radziwinowiczówna 2024, Lemberg-Pedersen 2022).

With the annual conference theme **human rights and global equity** in mind, our key topics to discuss in this panel include - but is not limited to -:

- How can deportations be analysed from human rights and global equity perspectives?
- Conceptually, what are useful ways to consider deportations as forms of forced migration?

- Which methods and ethical consideration are key in human right-centred deportation scholarship?
- How is the current expansion of deportation and return policies, including new EU legislation and the externalisation of asylum processing, reshaping forced migration?

If you are interested in joining this panel session as a speaker, kindly send us (eveliina.lyytinen@migrationinstitute.fi) a 250-word paper abstracts, including the names, affiliations and contact details of the author(s) by 21th of September.

References

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