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DOHA INSTITUTE
FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

كلية العلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية
School of Social Sciences and Humanities

Workshop

5th Annual Meth@Mig Workshop

Methodological Approaches in Cross-Cultural and Cross-National (Migration) Research

November 18 - 19, 2026

18:00 – 19:30 (Doha Time)

ONLINE

SESSION 1:

Discovery through Diversity: The Advantages of Mixed-Methods and Mixed Team-Based Migration Research

18-NOVEMBER 2026 | 18:00-19:30 ONLINE

ABSTRACT

A small but growing number of migration scholars adopt a mixed-methods approach in their research. The typical strategy is to combine survey methods with interview/ethnographic methods so as to incorporate some breadth and depth into one's analysis of migration patterns or outcomes. The primary strengths of mixed-methods research that have been identified by other scholars include helping researchers understand complex realities, strengthening their research results, challenging their assumptions and worldview, and making their results more accessible.

Simultaneously, there has been growth in team-based migration research, particularly involving multi-sited teams to study different migrant groups in different locations, or a migration process involving two or more countries.

This keynote will talk about the advantages of combining mixed methods and mixed teams in migration research, drawing on a multi-year project on scientist migration to the Gulf that is co-led with a computational social scientist. Without minimizing the work required to make such complex projects successful, or the coordination challenges involved, the value of joining forces with scholars who are experts in completely different methodologies but are interested in similar research questions is highlighted. Beyond the efficiency and scale gains derived from this approach, triangulating results from large-scale bibliometric data, survey data, and interview data allowed us to unearth surprising patterns in scientists' migration behavior, as well as in their research collaborations. These discoveries would not have been possible without the diverse perspectives and methodologies the various team members brought to the table. But they also required openness to unfamiliar methods, and a willingness to admit that every method — even one's own — has particular blind spots and weaknesses.



Anju Mary Paul

NYU Abu Dhabi

Anju Mary Paul is a Professor of Social Research and Public Policy at New York University Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. Her research interests include emergent migration patterns (particularly to, from, and within Asia and the Middle East), gender and labor, globalization, and migration policy. She is the award-winning author of Multinational Maids: Stepwise Migration in a Global Labor Market (Cambridge University Press 2017) and Asian Scientists on the Move: Changing Science in a Changing Asia (Cambridge University Press 2021).

SESSION 2:

Survey Response Behaviors and Culture: Overview and Some Implications for Migration Research

19-NOVEMBER 2026 | 18:00-19:30 ONLINE

ABSTRACT

Survey response behaviors, such as acquiescent, extreme, socially desirable responding as well as item/unit nonresponse, are known to systematically vary across individuals and countries.

This keynote will explore the usefulness of cultural values for interpreting this variability. Focusing on the unique cultural frameworks proposed by Schwartz, Hofstede and Inglehart, an integrated literature review across multiple academic disciplines will be presented that summarizes existing empirical evidence of associations between culture and various measures of survey response behavior. The strengths and limitations of this evidence will be evaluated, along with practical considerations when conducting surveys with migrant populations, and recommendations for future steps in exploring the role of culture in understanding survey response behaviors.



Timothy P. Johnson

University of Illinois Chicago

Timothy Johnson is Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois Chicago, where he served as Director of the Survey Research Laboratory and as Professor of Public Administration. His research interests have included survey methodology, cross-cultural measurement in particular; the social epidemiology of health behavior; and current science policy issues. He is former president of AAPOR (2017-2018) and WAPOR (2021-2022), and a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.