

Call for papers

Exploring theoretical and methodological challenges in researching post-migration societies across Europe

Panel organized at the 15th IMISCOE Annual Conference, Barcelona, 2 - 4 July 2018

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Over the past decade, a growing number of migration scholars have urged for more reflexivity with regard to the categories used in the study of migration. Criticism mainly addresses nation-state and ethnicity-centred epistemologies that often inform empirical research on migration and mobility as well as the theoretical conclusions drawn from it (Wimmer and Glick Schiller 2003). In response to such calls for more reflexivity, recent contributions to the field unpack the constructed nature of categories that sustain policies and public discourse. Examples are critical interrogations of categories such as “migrants” (Favell 2016, Dahinden 2016), “refugees” (Carling 2017, Crawley and Skleparis 2017, Sigona 2017), “integration” (Korteweg 2017), “second-generation migrants” or “migration background” (Elrick and Schwartzman 2015, Römhild 2014).

Notwithstanding such advances, we are left with a dilemma: On the one hand ‘mainstream’ migration scholars often continue to ignore the implications of using normative categories. On the other hand ‘critical migration scholars’ struggle to find convincing methods that go beyond mere disclaimers of ‘not getting caught up in methodological nationalism’ when doing empirical research.

This panel **addresses the question how to put these theoretical, critical reflexions into practice in our research designs and interactions with research participants on the ground**. We invite papers proposing theoretical and methodological alternatives to a more reflexive research on migration and mobility.

Please send your abstract of up to 250 words, a title and institutional affiliation to Janine Dahinden (janine.dahinden@unine.ch), Carolin Fischer (carolin.fischer@unine.ch) and Joanna Menet (joanna.menet@unine.ch).

Deadline for application: 9 December 2017

Notification of acceptance: 12 December 2017

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