

## **IMISCOE Research Cluster: Qualitative and Conceptual Research #ImiscoeQualiConceptRG**

### **Call for Papers**

#### **The Practice of Qualitative Research in Migration Studies: Ethical Issues as a Methodological Challenge**

As migration scholars deal with more and more complex issues including vulnerable, hard to reach populations coming from diverse countries of origin, different legal status such as irregulars, asylum-seekers, and refugees, NGOs working at limits of legality, children, and other informal actors, ethical reflections have gained further importance in conducting qualitative research. The fact is that migration scholars have become aware that the practice of qualitative research is often full of obstacles that are probably consubstantial to the same field of migration studies. Ethical considerations rise at all stages of the research process including before, during, and after the research process. They can have multiple consequences on the research. On the one hand, they can be at odds with research quality, for instance, when researchers avoid over-persuasive and over-intrusive manners even though this might result in less data. On the other hand, ethical concerns can strengthen the scientific legitimacy of qualitative research by ensuring transparency and reliability of findings. Despite their crucial role, ethical practices are never straightforward and self-evident. Today, there are more ethical codes and guidelines available for migration researchers than before. Yet, many of these codes still carry traces of medical studies and natural sciences and do not adequately address the particular ethical concerns that migration researchers face. This one-day seminar calls for contributions that aim to explore the main frameworks and approaches of different ethical challenges in qualitative migration research and to offer guidance for conducting sound qualitative research practice.

In particular, we have two main objectives:

1. To map the existing ethical challenges that migration researchers face and to discuss the distinguishing features of these challenges in relation to the ones in other fields
2. To provide guidance/suggestions for these ethical issues against the background that many researchers deal with ethical challenges case by case and general frameworks might not adequately address to particularities of each case.

The seminar will take place at **GRITIM-UPF** (Barcelona) on **January 25, 2019**. The contributions will be considered for a special issue to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal. The seminar aims to cover methodological and ethical concerns in:

- researching vulnerable migrant groups such as asylum seekers, refugees, smuggled migrants, children of migrants, etc.
- researching in places of marginalization, of relative conflict, as in hotspots and immigrant camps, in closed territories with difficult access with NGOs and other social actors
- using relatively new data collection tools/communication channels such as online ethnography, tweeter and social networks.
- gathering informed consent and ensuring voluntary participation
- transparency, data protection and issues of confidentiality
- managing risks arising from research settings and avoiding adverse consequences
- the use of adequate terminology and the debate on political correctness

Deadline for sending your abstracts and bios is **November 9th, 2018**. Please send your application to Evren Yalaz ([evren.yalaz@upf.edu](mailto:evren.yalaz@upf.edu)), cc to [Ricard.zapata@upf.edu](mailto:Ricard.zapata@upf.edu) and Dirk.Jacobs@ulb.ac.be and use the following **email title**: CfP: Ethical Issues as a Methodological Challenge.

**Guidelines:**

- Title and abstract (max. 300 words)
- Brief bio (max. 200 words) with academic website