

EuMIGS Lecture Series

2022

Migration policy and refugee reception in the (trans-)local context

This lecture series is organized by the EuMIGS network and consists of 8 lectures that explore multiscalar refugee reception across Europe. Refugee reception means to follow both international and supranational laws and conventions to guarantee equal standards of granting asylum. But efforts have to go further to ensure fruitful measures in terms of housing, health care, education and employment, as well as to provide guidance for asylum, detention and attention to vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors and victims of torture. All these standards have to be equally applied to all refugees regardless of their country of origin or religious affiliation.

Contrary to those common rules we could observe over the last years in a cross-country comparison across Europe that refugee reception is largely shaped by national and local migration governance. By focusing on refugee reception in different national contexts in Europe, the lecture series enables students to explore differences and similarities in refugee reception across Europe, to learn how different welfare and citizenship regimes affect migration policy and to develop a comparative view on migration policies across Europe.

The lecture series are structured as four seminars where each seminar consists of short lectures by two partners and a joint discussion. All lectures take place online. The zoom link of the lecture series:

<https://liu-se.zoom.us/j/64682279393?pwd=Q3dnQm5meS9lYWJYT0ZCc3ZRWmN5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 646 8227 9393 // Passcode: 708330

For more information, please contact info@eumigs.eu

November 7th, 12:15-14:00

Shannon Damery – University of Liège – CEDEM

When a refugee is not a refugee, and child is not a child: Accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children's access to rights in Belgium

Helen Schwenken - University of Osnabrück – IMIS

Unifying and dividing feelings: How volunteers in Germany narrate about supporting refugees

November 21st, 12:15-14:00

Laura Oso – University of A Coruña

Newcomers and "Roots migrants": Welcoming spaces and rural revitalization of shrinking areas in Spain

Elina Jonitz – Erasmus University Rotterdam

Multi-level policies and governance of 'post-2014 migrant integration' in small communities (in the Netherlands)

December 5th, 12:15-14:00

Anita Manatschal – University of Neuchâtel

How effective are integration policy reforms? The case of asylum-related migrants in Switzerland

Stefan Lang – Paris Lodron University of Salzburg

Satellite technology and geospatial tools for humanitarian action

December 12th, 12:15-14:00

Karin Krifors – Linköping University - EMS

Conviviality: antiracist potentials of local welcoming cultures

Jacob Lind – Malmö University

Unaccompanied refugee minors and youth in Sweden – a review of research in the 21st century

November 7th, 12:15-14:00

Shannon Damery – University of Liège – CEDEM

When a refugee is not a refugee, and child is not a child: Accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children's access to rights in Belgium

This talk focuses on the integration of accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children, especially in Belgium, and in what ways on-the-ground practices diverge from international and supranational conventions. Refugee children's right to education, family reunification, and to have their wishes considered in decisions taken about their lives, are respected to varying degrees. This variation is created by numerous actors and forces, including governmental and civil society actors as well as the children's own mobilization. After touching briefly on the importance of the social construction of childhood, this talk will then draw on fieldwork with young migrants in public spaces and schools in Belgium.

Helen Schwenken – University of Osnabrück – IMIS

Unifying and dividing feelings: How volunteers in Germany narrate about supporting refugees

Activism and volunteering are emotional matters. On the basis of episodic interviews with people who support refugees in Germany, the presentation reconstructs the emotions that go hand in hand with voluntary action and activism. Both connecting and separating emotional states and dynamics are expressed. These are directed both inwards and outwards. The paper discusses the hypothesis that how these emotions are dealt with is crucial for the further course of engagement.

November 21st, 12:00-14:00

Laura Oso- University of A Coruña

Newcomers and "Roots migrants": Welcoming Spaces and rural revitalization of Shrinking areas in Spain

This presentation analyses the processes of rural shrinking/revitalisation from the perspective of chain mobilities. It attempts to go beyond the vision focused on the depopulation approach. The chain migration perspective is a dynamic means, as it considers the articulation between internal/international, historical/recent migrations and

shrinking/revitalisation processes. Spatial mobility is also analysed in relation to the articulation of the local and immigrant population's intergenerational social mobility processes. The research is based on intensive fieldwork (109 semi-structured interviews) conducted in several shrinking regions in Spain (Galicia, Andalusia and Castilla-La Mancha).

Our research reveals how the internal and international exodus of the second half of the 20th century in Spain, driven by the "Developmentalist" economic model, implemented by Franco's regime, is at the basis of the territorial imbalances and the configuration of rural shrinking areas in this country. It also shows how de-agrarianisation and the lack of intergenerational replacement explains the arrival of immigrant populations in rural areas from the turn of the century, in order to meet the needs of labour markets segmented by ethnic origin and gender. Along with newcomers, the shrinking areas are also benefiting from the arrival of returnees and root migrants (from both external and internal migration), who decide to go back to their roots, drawn by emotional ties. These groups of migrants (newcomers, returnees and root migrants) are different, yet complementary, in terms of sustaining life in rural areas. The impact of migration on the revitalisation of rural areas is visible in demographic, economic and social terms.

Elina Jonitz - Erasmus University Rotterdam

Multi-level policies and governance of 'post-2014 migrant integration' in small communities (in the Netherlands)

Similar to other European countries, the Netherlands experienced an increased arrival of asylum seekers in 2015/2016, challenging municipalities to accommodate these newcomers. Whilst much research has focused on the response of large(r) cities to such challenges (Van Breugel, 2020), we know less about the ways in which smaller municipalities and rural areas have approached refugees' settlement and integration.

The talk therefore focuses on how small communities in the Netherlands have dealt with the arrival of refugees after 2014. Based on case studies in four Dutch municipalities (comprising more than 100 qualitative interviews with public and non-public actors as well as newly arrived migrants), the talk zooms in to localized processes of integration (policymaking), paying particular attention to complex multi-level dynamics in local integration governance. In other words, the talk sheds light on the embeddedness of local actors in multilevel frameworks in which regional and national policies and stakeholders play an important role in shaping local integration policymaking – and (to some extent) the other way round. It looks at potential collaborations and tensions between actors at different governance levels. Here, local actors experience (lack of) funding, the enforced distribution of refugees across municipalities, and national policy shifts as main factors for causing tensions. Regional and/or nation-wide city networks and associations play a relevant role in representing local interests at the national level and in developing and changing policies.

Finally, the talk explores (briefly) how access to important services (such as housing and employment) is organized and how local narratives on 'integration' are shaped in small localities which have often faced both more public opposition but also more volunteer refugee support since 2014.

December 5th, 12:15-14:00

Anita Manatschal - University of Neuchâtel

How effective are integration policy reforms? The case of asylum-related migrants in Switzerland

The marked increase of asylum seekers arriving in Western Europe in the wake of the Arab Spring in 2015 or, more recently, of the war in Ukraine in 2022, has renewed debates on policy measures countries should put into place to support the integration of asylum-related migrants. Although implemented by many countries in recent years, research has neglected the effect of integration policy reform packages combining economic and social policy measures on asylum-related immigrants' adjustment processes. Exploiting a comprehensive integration policy reform in Switzerland, and using survey data from the Health Monitoring of the Swiss Migrant Population, and register data on the whole asylum-related population, our difference-in-differences analyses reveal that provisionally admitted individuals benefiting from the reform have higher employment probability, increased income levels, better language skills and feel less lonely or without a homeland relative to comparable asylum seekers who did not benefit from the reform. Robustness checks assessing common pre-reform trends support our findings, which highlight the importance of evaluating entire reform packages when assessing integration policies' effectiveness.

Stefan Lang - Paris Lodron University of Salzburg

Satellite technology and geospatial tools for humanitarian action

Globally, the number of forcibly displaced people (FDP) reaches close to 90 Mio. A large share of FDP are internally displaced; not crossing international borders means no registration or protection status under UNHCR. But then, where are those people in need? Earth observation (EO) products derived from satellite imagery play a key role in providing relevant and up-to-date information for humanitarian operations (Lang et al., 2019). Amongst the many benefits of remote sensing techniques in disaster- and conflict-related applications, timeliness and objectivity may be regarded as the most critical assets. This applies, for example, to dwelling extraction in refugee camp mapping or deprived urban areas for population estimation, where otherwise, no such figures exist at all, or convey – largely outdated – a distorted view. Recently, improved satellite sensor quality, data fusion techniques, and geospatial data availability in general have shifted the attention of researchers towards the automation information extraction process itself. In cooperation

with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), one of the largest independent humanitarian organisations worldwide, our Christian Doppler laboratory GEOHUM develops AI-based algorithms and geospatial tools to support logistics, food, water and nutrition supply and public health interventions of MSF and other aid organisations. The talk delivers a critical view on the benefits (and challenges) we face with such technologies at stake, balancing lifesaving action and issues of sensitivity and privacy.

December 12th, 12:15-14:00

Karin Krifors - Linköping University - EMS

Conviviality: antiracist potentials of local welcoming cultures

In this talk I will discuss the migrant solidarity movement in Europe. Cultures of welcome and hospitality may challenge notions of migration as economic and cultural burdens, but should, as interventions in migration studies have already pointed out in more general terms, also be critically examined in relation to race and coloniality.

I will present results from fieldwork in community activist groups that aim to create welcoming places outside the larger cities of Sweden, in particular by working towards the expansion of ‘the commons’. I will discuss how a critical multiculturalism can be part of this work, when activism engages people with different identifications in terms of migration and race, but how there are no guarantees that hospitality and welcoming cultures present antiracist challenges to status quo local relations. The talk will discuss the concept of conviviality, as it was re-introduced by Paul Gilroy (2005), and how it can highlight hope and potential for political creativity and different futures.

Jacob Lind – Malmö University

Unaccompanied refugee minors and youth in Sweden – a review of research in the 21st century

This lecture will discuss a review I have conducted that covers more than two hundred peer-reviewed articles, doctoral theses and scientific reports published in the last three decades, which focus on the category of “unaccompanied” migrant minors and youth in Sweden. In Sweden, more or less all unaccompanied migrants have applied for refugee status, thus a study of the experiences of unaccompanied migrants - or the practices of those who support them - is more or less implicitly also a study of refugee reception. This review focuses on the last three decades since, arguably, during this period the category of “unaccompanied” minors or youth has grown into a central issue in public policy and discourse in Sweden. During 2015, Sweden received - by far - the largest number of asylum seeking unaccompanied minors and youth in Europe per capita and a large number of publications were published in the wake of these developments. I will discuss trends and themes that have developed over time within this large body of research in an attempt to unveil how this key migrant categorisation has been constructed and understood. By including studies conducted within varying fields, such as migration studies, sociology, social work, public health research and psychological research, the

review enables a discussion of how the issue of “unaccompanied” minors and youth intersect with other contemporary societal and political issues. The review will also discuss what, if any, aspects of the experiences of unaccompanied minors and youth are worth researching further. The politically contested position of the figure of the “unaccompanied” minor or youth calls for a consideration of what the reasons for further knowledge production within this field is useful for. The review critically discusses the role of this research in relation to parallel political processes that both aim to increase the scope of “unaccompanied” minors’ and youth’s rights and at the same control and govern their mobility and territorial presence.