

Messaging Migration and Mobility

2021 IMISCOE SPRING CONFERENCE

22-23 March 2021 | Programme



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General Information

Session passcode

All sessions have a passcode to enter; you will need to register for the conference to receive this passcode.

Technical Assitants

The IMISCOE Spring Conference technical assistants have volunteered to be on hand to help with managing and running the various sessions, including welcoming attendees and fielding questions for the chairpersons. Throughout the timetable, each session has a named technical assistant.

The fine print

- All times listed are GMT
- The details and content of this conference programme are correct at the time of publishing, but may be subject to change due to influences outside of our control. In the event of a cancellation or significant material changes, the conference organisers will ensure that these are made public on the [IMISCOE Spring Conference page](#) on the COMPAS website and via social media.
- The Centre on Migration, Policy & Society (COMPAS) does not have a centre view and does not aim to present one. All views expressed in this document are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IMISCOE, COMPAS or the University of Oxford.

Timetable

Monday 22 March 2021 (All times GMT)

#IMISCOEox21

<p>8.30–9.00 GMT</p>	<p>Welcome from Organisers</p> <p>Chair: Sarah Spencer (University of Oxford, Chair of the IMISCOE Board of Directors)</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Saher Ali (University of Oxford)</p>	<p>Will Allen (University of Oxford, Conference Organising Committee)</p>
<p>9.00–10.30 GMT</p>	<p>Parallel Session 1A</p> <p>Messaging Migration on and Through Social Media</p> <p>Chair: Marie Sandberg (University of Copenhagen, IMISCOE Board of Directors Member)</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Anya Jhoti (University of Oxford)</p>	<p><i>Patterns of Migration/Immigration related Information Flows among Non-elite Users on Twitter</i> Bindi Shah (University of Southampton) Anirudh Shah (Independent Researcher)</p> <p><i>We will cross and you will see: the dissenting self-recordings made by Sub-Saharan migrants at the Moroccan-Spanish border</i> Irene Gutiérrez (VUB Vrije Universiteit Brussels)</p> <p><i>Immigrants' Cultural Integration Patterns in Spain, Germany, and the UK: Tweets as Expressions of Context</i> Sofia Gil-Clavel (University of Groningen)</p>
<p>9.00–10.30 GMT</p>	<p>Parallel Session 1B</p> <p>Imagining and Messaging Interculturalism</p> <p>Chair: Ilke Adam (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, IMISCOE Board of Directors Member)</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Mariri Niino (University of Oxford)</p>	<p><i>Social Markers of Acceptance and Migrant Inclusion in Japan</i> Adam Komisarof (Keio University)</p> <p><i>Transnational engagement of Afghan diaspora organizations: Drivers of diasporic specialization</i> Ali Ahmad Safi (Danube University Krems)</p> <p><i>From 'mei banfa' obstacle to 'you banfa' resolution: Coping Strategies of African Students in China – Prior and during Covid 19 Pandemic with systemic and non-systemic restriction and discrimination</i> Lin Chen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) Ching Lin Pang (KU Leuven)</p>

Monday 22 March 2021 (All times GMT)

#IMISCOEox21

<p>10.45–12.15 GMT</p>	<p>Parallel Session 2A</p> <p>Global Media Portrayals of Migration and Mobility I</p> <p>Chair: Marie Mallet-Garcia (University of Oxford)</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Zehui Qiu (University of Oxford)</p>	<p><i>On metaphor, persuasion and framing: a comparative study of the Mexican migration debate in the US written press</i> Laurence De Backer (Ghent University) Renata Enghels (Ghent University)</p> <p><i>Media Narratives about the Syrian Refugee Crisis in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait: Reproducing the Security Discourse</i> Jinan Bastaki (United Arab Emirates University)</p> <p><i>Voices of 'us': Messaging migration in the docu-sphere</i> İlke Şanlıer Yüksel (Çukurova University) Aydın Çam (Çukurova University)</p>
<p>10.45–12.15 GMT</p>	<p>Parallel Session 2B</p> <p>New Approaches to Visual Messaging</p> <p>Chair: Will Allen (University of Oxford)</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Saher Ali (University of Oxford)</p>	<p><i>Researching Brexit en vivo: voice, authority and representation</i> Nando Sigona (University of Birmingham) Marie Godin (University of Oxford)</p> <p><i>Cartographies of migration and mobility as levers of deferral policies</i> Elsa Gomis (University of East Anglia)</p> <p><i>Migrant Messages: Graphic Novels of Migration to Europe</i> Jennifer M Güllý (College of William & Mary) Lynn Mie Itagaki (University of Missouri, Columbia)</p> <p><i>Messaging Mobility through Photography: The Framing of Environments, Places and People</i> Parvati Nair (Queen Mary University of London)</p>
<p>12.15–13.15 GMT</p>	<p>Virtual Lunch and Coffee Room</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Suqi Tang (University of Oxford)</p>	
<p>13.15–14.00 GMT</p>	<p>Migration, Research, and Media</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Yee Aung (Joshua) Low (University of Oxford)</p>	<p><i>Lessons from the Migration Observatory</i> Madeleine Sumption (Director, The Migration Observatory)</p> <p>Robert McNeil (Deputy Director, The Migration Observatory)</p>

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#IMISCOEox21

13.15–14.15 GMT	IMISCOE PhD Network Assembly	Technical Assistant: Assad Asil Companioni (University of Oxford)
14.15–15.45 GMT	IMISCOE PhD Network Panel	<p>Will Allen (University of Oxford)</p> <p>Rosaleen Cunningham (University of Oxford)</p> <p>Marie McAuliffe (International Organization for Migration)</p> <p>Martha Montero Sieburth (University of Amsterdam)</p> <p>Chair: Hakan Kilic (Donau- Universität Krems)</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Mariri Niino (University of Oxford)</p>
15.00–15.45 GMT	Virtual Coffee Room	Technical Assistant: Suqi Tang (University of Oxford)
15.45–17.00 GMT	Plenary	<p>Eromo Egbejule (Award-winning journalist and writer)</p> <p>Parvati Raghuram (The Open University)</p> <p>Wiebke Sievers (Austrian Academy of Sciences)</p> <p>Chair: Robert McNeil (University of Oxford)</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Natalie Lim (University of Oxford)</p>
17.30–18.30 GMT	Social Activities	Choose between a Migrateful cooking demonstration [limited places] or a yoga class . Please ensure you register in advance!
19.00–20.00 GMT	IMISCOE PhD Network 'Speed-Dating' Event	Technical Assistant: Assad Asil Companioni (University of Oxford)

Tuesday 23 March 2021 (All times GMT)

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<p>8.15–8.45 GMT</p>	<p>Virtual Coffee Room</p>	<p>Technical Assistant: Suqi Tang (University of Oxford)</p>
<p>8.45–9.00 GMT</p>	<p>Welcome from Organisers</p>	<p>Chair: Will Allen (Local Organising Committee)</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Natalie Lim (University of Oxford)</p>
<p>9.00–10.30 GMT</p>	<p>Parallel Session 3A</p>	<p><i>Floods and invaders: the intersections between the metaphoric construction of immigrant Otherness and ethno-nationalism</i> Catherine Ann Martin (University of Western Australia)</p> <p><i>Deportation in the Finnish media: Mediated emotions as acts of citizenship</i> Päivi Pirkkalainen (University of Jyväskylä) Saara Pellander (Migration Institute of Finland)</p> <p><i>Violent Ignorance: The Windrush Scandal, racism, nationhood and border control</i> Hannah Jones (University of Warwick)</p>
	<p>Global Media Portrayals of Migration and Mobility II</p>	
	<p>Chair: Jacqueline Broadhead (University of Oxford)</p>	
	<p>Technical Assistant: Yee Aung (Joshua) Low (University of Oxford)</p>	

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<p>9.00–10.30 GMT</p>	<p>Parallel Session 3B</p> <p>Messaging Mobility Using Apps and Platforms</p> <p>Chair: Nina Grønlykke Møllerup (University of Copenhagen)</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Anya Jhoti (University of Oxford)</p>	<p><i>Moving between (im)mobility categories: The importance of social platforms for migration aspirations and migration capabilities</i> Naiara Rodriguez-Pena (University of Kent)</p> <p><i>From design to use: Studying app infrastructures and their shaping of migrants' practices of navigation</i> Olga Usachova (University of Padua)</p> <p><i>Proving who they 'really' are and transnational activism through social media: the case of asylum claimants on the grounds of sexual orientation in the UK</i> Vitor Lopes Andrade (University of Sussex)</p> <p><i>IT and Media Usage Impacts on the Mobility of Nepalese Immigrants in Portugal</i> Alexandra Pereira (University of Lisbon)</p>
<p>10.30–11.00 GMT</p>	<p>Virtual Coffee Room</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Assad Asil Companioni (University of Oxford)</p>	
<p>11.00–12.30 GMT</p>	<p>Parallel Session 4A</p> <p>Narrating Migration in Policy and Electoral Politics</p> <p>Chair: Peter Walsh (University of Oxford)</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Lauren Brown (University of Oxford)</p>	<p><i>Ethno-racial inequalities in Belgian and German employment policy: Understanding policy frames through critical race theory</i> Laura Westerveen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)</p> <p><i>Hegemonic narratives as a source of normativity in world politics. German and Hungarian interpretations of the 'right to asylum' in 2015</i> Kathrin Bachleitner (University of Oxford)</p> <p><i>Ordering Visibility, Ordering Responsibility: Lessons from the Turkish Border Spectacle of March 2020</i> Aslı İkiçoğlu Erensü (Sabancı University)</p> <p><i>As Clear as Mud? The Use of Migration-Related Terminology and Subsequent Framing of Migrants and Refugees in National Parliaments</i> Elodie Thevenin (Jagiellonian University)</p>

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<p>11.00–12.30 GMT</p>	<p>Parallel Session 4B</p> <p>Migration and Mobility During COVID-19</p> <p>Chair: Guia Gilardoni (ISMU Foundation, IMISCOE Board of Directors Member)</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Suqi Tang (University of Oxford)</p>	<p><i>Framing '(im)mobility' through 'proximity': a study of television news coverage at the start of COVID-19</i> Marina Morani (Cardiff University) Lizzy Willmington (Cardiff University)</p> <p><i>The 'invisible enemy' and the usual suspects: How Covid-19 re-framed migration in Italian media representations</i> Elena Giacomelli (University of Bologna) Pierluigi Musarò (University of Bologna) Paola Parmiggiani (University of Bologna)</p> <p><i>The perceptions of the migratory phenomenon during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Italy</i> Elena Ambrosetti (Sapienza University of Rome) Sara Miccoli (Sapienza University of Rome)</p> <p><i>'Troublemakers' in times of COVID-19: Newspaper representations of asylum seekers and refugees in Hong Kong and their thoughts</i> Ka Wang (Kelvin) Lam (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)</p>
<p>12.30–13.30 GMT</p>	<p>Virtual Lunch and Coffee Room</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Assad Asil Companioni (University of Oxford)</p>	
<p>12.30–13.30 GMT</p> <p><u>JOIN</u></p>	<p>IMISCOE PhD Network Workshop on Mixed Methods</p> <p>Chair: Mariana Rosca (University of Deusto)</p> <p>Technical Assistant: Saher Ali (University of Oxford)</p>	<p>Bing Zhu (Assumption University of Thailand)</p>

13.30–14.45 GMT	Plenary	Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (University College London)
	Migration Messages and Public Attitudes	Andrew Geddes (European University Institute)
	Chair: Mariña Fernández-Reino (University of Oxford)	Maria Sobolewska (University of Manchester)
	Technical Assistant: Zehui Qiu (University of Oxford)	
14.45–15.15 GMT	Virtual Coffee Room	
	Technical Assistant: Assad Asil Companioni (University of Oxford)	
15.15–16.45 GMT	Parallel Session 5A	<i>Backlash or Legitimization? Voter Responses to Pro-immigration Reforms and Rhetoric</i> Alexander Kustov (Yale University)
	Policymaking and Migration Attitudes	
	Chair: Mariña Fernández-Reino (University of Oxford)	<i>The European migration crisis as an exogenous shock: Investigating the association between integration policies and threat perceptions</i>
	Technical Assistant: Lauren Brown (University of Oxford)	David De Coninck (KU Leuven) Giacomo Solano (Migration Policy Group) Willem Joris (KU Leuven) Bart Meuleman (KU Leuven) Leen d’Haenens (KU Leuven)
		<i>The Usual Suspects. Offenders’ Origin, Media Reporting and Natives’ Attitudes Towards Immigration</i>
		Sekou Keita (Institute for Employment Research) Thomas Renault (University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) Jérôme Valette (University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)
		<i>Simultaneous feedback between migration policy and public attitudes toward migrants</i> Akira Soto Nishimura (Donau University Krems)

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**15.15–16.45
GMT**

Parallel Session 5B

Changing Narratives
Through Interventions
and Practice

Chair: Marie Mallet-
Garcia (University of
Oxford)

Technical Assistant:
Yee Aung (Joshua) Low
(University of Oxford)

*Constructing a (different) message –
Reflecting approaches and narratives
that constitute discourses on migrants in
museums*

Susanne Boersma (University of Hamburg
and Museum Europäischer Kulturen-
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin)

*Messaging Inclusion with Consequence: U.S.
Sanctuary Cities and Immigrant Wellbeing*

Ashley R Houston (Northeastern University)
Carmel Salhi (Northeastern University)
Alisa K Lincoln (Northeastern University)

*The role of local journalists in shaping
narratives about Europe in The Gambia:
agenda, dissemination channels and
communication strategies*

Alagie Jinkang (University of Bologna)
Valentina Cappi (University of Bologna)
Pierluigi Musarò (University of Bologna)
Gabriele Puzzo (University of Bologna)

*“Can the Nauruan and the Refugee Speak?”:
Imagining and Representing Offshored
Asylum in the Republic of Nauru*

Julia Morris (University of North Carolina,
Wilmington)

**16.45–17.15
GMT**

Closing session

Chair: Sarah Spencer
(University of Oxford,
Chair of the IMISCOE
Board of Directors)

Technical Assistant:
Mariri Niino (University of
Oxford)

Peter Scholten, IMISCOE Coordinator

Abstracts

Parallel Session 1A: Messaging Migration on and Through Social Media

Patterns of Migration/Immigration related Information Flows among Non–elite Users on Twitter

Bindi V. Shah (University of Southampton)

Anirudh Shah (Independent Researcher)

Scholars highlight the role of social media in enabling right-wing populists, whether linked to institutions or not, to spread xenophobic, exclusionary narratives, targeted at immigrants. Thus, it is important to understand how information flows on immigrants/immigration influence non-elites on social media. Specifically, we ask: what are the patterns of information sharing and consumption on the topic of migration among non-elite users on Twitter, and how does this influence their views on migration? Drawing on a corpus of 47,978 tweets collected in temporal proximity to the lifting of transitional controls on Romanian and Bulgarian migrants in the UK (1 October 2013 to 1 March 2014), we use statistical and computational techniques to address these research questions. Sentiment analysis on the whole corpus indicated that the UK policy change increased negative sentiment towards these migrants and immigration in general. Further analysis using computational techniques revealed: a) patterns of information sharing and consumption are very different among those who are anti-immigrant and those who are pro-immigrant; and b) the Twitter 'conversation' on immigrants/immigration in the UK is influenced not just by online news sources but also by debates going on in the wider society amongst political actors and activists. These findings are important for understanding how social media shapes attitudes to migration/immigration, and specifically how Twitter's algorithmic information filters amplify homophilic patterns of information sharing and consumption. They have wider ethical and political implications for generating trust, inclusion and social solidarity in the UK.

We will cross and you will see: the dissenting self-recordings made by Sub-Saharan migrants at the Moroccan–Spanish border

Irene Gutiérrez (VUB Vrije Universiteit Brussels)

This paper, which merges academic with practice-based research, analyses the videos made by Sub-Saharan migrants during their passage across the Moroccan–Spanish border as symbolic and spatial disruptions against the European migration regime. We depart from recent contributions to digital migration studies on processes of self-representation and border crossing to develop the concept of 'Departheid' as the way in which Western liberal states systematically legalize migration with a governing ideology based on racialization and segregation (Kalir 2019). For that, we examine a set of clips of videos recorded in 2009, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2020 by male Sub-Saharan migrants on their experiences of (im)mobility in the Moroccan–Spanish border during their attempts to go (in)to Europe. Based on long-term collaborative research with the videomakers that includes active participation and in-depth interviews, we analyse how their self-representations, recorded in a-legal areas where the law blurs with violence, constitute acts of resistance by serving as offline and online human corridors that interfere in the mechanisms of contention, detention and deportation employed by the 'Departheid' to sustain the securitization and illegalization of migration. In these terms, the expressions they perform repeatedly in front of the camera as we will jump, you will see / we made it: Boza produce a strengthening ritual of self-conviction, self-protection and camaraderie which would enable them to fulfil their mission of crossing to the other side. By recording these videos, they also create symbolic and material underground railroads that address the Sub-Saharan migrants' 'right to scape' (Mezzadra 2005) as they act as their own grassroots diplomats. Least but not last, we explore how can these self-recordings reach the public sphere as non-mediated discourses coming from subaltern subjectivities that, otherwise, will remain unrepresented, unarchived and forgotten.

Immigrants' Cultural Integration Patterns in Spain, Germany, and the UK: Tweets as Expressions of Context

Sofia Gil-Clavel (University of Groningen)

The rapid increase in migrants diversity in backgrounds, and their development of transnational identities have created new challenges for the study of their integration patterns. At the same time, the rapid expansion of Twitter usage worldwide has created new opportunities to study migrants' cultural integration and transnationalism. In this paper, I study language and topic changes in immigrants' tweets over time, specifically immigrants whose host-countries were Spain, Germany, or the UK between 2012 and 2016. My analysis focuses on (1) the use of the host language and (2) similarity of topics discussed on Twitter between the origin- or host-country. These behaviors serve as proxies of language proficiency and identification with the host-culture, respectively. To classify migrants' conversations and to uncover integration patterns, I built a corpus of geo-located tweets generated between 2012 and 2016 from 176 countries. Based on this corpus, I trained a Deep Structure Semantic Model to

classify the language and the most likely conversation-country, country of either origin or destination, based on migrants' tweets. Preliminary results show that migrants – users that tweeted 50% from one country and 30% from Spain, Germany, or the UK – keep tweeting in their origin-language and keep discussing topics classified as from the origin-country. This pattern is observed regardless of the number of years they have lived in the host-country. Therefore, this work supports the transnational notion that migrants now live in continuum space, where the borders between the country of origin and destination are not clear anymore.

Parallel Session 1B: Imagining and Messaging Interculturalism

Social Markers of Acceptance and Migrant Inclusion in Japan

Adam Komisarof (Keio University)

In modern nation-states, populaces often construct sets of shared national traits that allow their members to function as "imagined communities," united by these "common" characteristics (Anderson, 1991). Such "communal" attributes constitute part of individuals' national identity, encompassing norms, values, language skills, and other indicators that are constructed to define the national ingroup and utilized as criteria for deciding which migrants belong within the national ingroup. Recipient nationals' choices of such criteria, termed by Leong (2014) and Komisarof (2020) Social Markers of Acceptance ("SMA"), reveal the degree of inclusiveness of host nationals: namely, greater emphasis on the number and importance of SMA reflect a narrower definition of acceptance, while flexible expectations for fewer markers reveal a more welcoming benchmark. As expectations for SMA may vary depending upon migrants' country of origin, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic class, disparities in host societal expectations for SMA towards different migrant groups reveal biases which may then be challenged to maximize inclusivity. The presenter will share his latest findings about SMA applied by Japanese towards migrants in an online survey taken by a representative sample of Japanese in terms of gender, age, and geographic regions (n = approximately 2,000). The goal is to assess which SMA are valued most by Japanese and how such perceptions vary according to perceived immigrant threat, contributions, social status, and intergroup boundary permeability (i.e., within a framework of Social Identity Theory). The implications of the findings will be detailed for improving societal inclusiveness toward migrants in Japan.

Transnational engagement of Afghan diaspora organizations: Drivers of diasporic specialization

Ali Ahmad Safi (Danube University Krems)

Since the mass out-migration of Afghans in early 1980s, a large number of Afghan diaspora organizations have been established in Europe. Surprisingly, little is known about the various forms of their transnational activities and to what extent they direct these activities towards home country. Engaged in a plethora transnational activities, these organizations encourage the flow of the economic and social remittances to Afghanistan. This research will examine how ADOs engage with their homeland while living in the diaspora. Employing Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), the study aims to use fuzzy-set as a research approach and analytical tool to examine the causes and effects of ADOs. Based on extensive information on 50 Afghan diaspora organizations from Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden, the causal analysis will disentangle configurations factors that determine the level and degree of diasporic engagement. The fuzzy set analysis will focus on two conceptual spheres of diaspora engagement: first, economic, socio-cultural transnationalism as part of the 'known community', and second, political engagement as part of Benedict Anderson's (1983) concept of 'imagined community'. This study aims to identify the drivers of alternative forms, impact and intensities of cross-border engagement at the level of diaspora organisations. The findings tend to explain ADOs' choice of geographical focus areas based on their available resources and ethnic preferences in homeland through various forms of development activities that include building schools, supporting healthcare system, girls' education sponsorship programs, advocacy for the rights of women and transnational social movements.

From 'mei banfa' obstacle to 'you banfa' resolution: Coping Strategies of African Students in China – Prior and during Covid 19 Pandemic with systemic and non-systemic restriction and discrimination

Lin Chen (KU Leuven and Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Ching Lin Pang (KU Leuven and University of Antwerp)

African students are increasingly finding their way to China as destination for higher education in the last two decades. Yet at the everyday life they are facing a manifold of obstacles turning their study period in China into a challenging endeavor. These constraints concern immigration regulations, educational program, access to health care, banking and financial services and the internship-labor market. These systematic hindrances are furthermore aggravated with the additional dimension of discrimination and racism. We also examine the decoupled digital space in China from the Western countries, which exerts a negative impact on the integration and mobility of African students in China. The encountered problems are further explored against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic when these challenges are compounded with communication problems and distance learning. Based on data from in-depth interview and ethnography online and offline, this paper investigates the coping

strategies of African students when confronted with both systemic and non-systematic restriction and discrimination, their daily life in the real and virtual space prior and during COVID-19 pandemics, especially within the African social network and through the African self-organized news media which located established through China social media platform.

Parallel Session 2A: Global Media Portrayals of Migrants and Mobility I

On metaphor, persuasion and framing: a comparative study of the Mexican migration debate in the US written press

Laurence De Backer (Ghent University)

Renata Enghels (Ghent University)

Various experimental studies have proven that metaphors can represent potent tools to persuasively frame controversial social and political issues in such a way as to stimulate the reader to adopt a particular stance on said topic (e.g., Thibodeau and Boroditsky, 2011). However, as of late, researchers have started to question this assumption (e.g. Steen, Reijniere & Burgers, 2014), as identical metaphorical domains seem to appear in a wide range of discourses, regardless of their specific social, political, geographical and/or ideological context (e.g., Joris et al., 2014, p.616; Joris et. al, 2018, p.14). In the light of these observations, this communication aims to clarify the persuasive nature of metaphor and its potential impact on public opinion formation. Using the Mexican migration debate in the US written press as an empirical case study, it will be demonstrated that different stakeholders in this polemic discussion (La Opinión, The Washington Post and Foxnews.com) can negotiate similar metaphors according to their respective ideological stance and group alignment. Hence, its compelling character may be located not only in the type of metaphor but also, and perhaps more importantly, in the selection and application of what we have termed 'semantic roles'. On a methodological level, this observation leads us to conclude that, for scholars interested in metaphor for its potential social impact, it may be wise to explore metaphorical frames on a deeper level, examining how they are applied in discourse.

Media Narratives about the Syrian Refugee Crisis in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait: Reproducing the Security Discourse

Jinan Bastaki (United Arab Emirates University)

The United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, two wealthy Arab states, are not parties to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees. While both are made up of significant expatriate populations, they are not a resettlement country for refugees, nor do they have domestic laws that regulate the status of refugees. As a response to the Syrian refugee crisis, however, both states have mobilized significant funds for the support of refugees in other host states, most notably Lebanon and Jordan. The official state narrative is one of benevolence, care, and responsibility towards their Syrian brethren. This paper seeks to analyze and compare the local media narratives in the UAE and Kuwait in regards to Syrian refugees, particularly as it relates to themes of generosity and responsibility, through examining articles in the most widely-read newspapers, both in English and Arabic. It appears that though these states are home to majority non-citizen, migrant populations, local media narratives still reproduce the global security discourse surrounding refugees. The implications for this are that refugees are seen as a category of foreigner as distinct from others who reside in these countries, but their distinction is due to security concerns and not reasons of flight. This appears to remove the notion of responsibility towards refugees that would entail granting access to territory.

Voices of 'us': Messaging migration in the docu-sphere

İlke Şanlıer Yüksel (Çukurova University)

Aydın Çam (Çukurova University)

Although themes such as how immigrants are framed in the mass media and the discourse on immigrants are frequently studied in the literature, the number of studies investigating how immigrants themselves convey their messages to a broader audience is unfortunately still relatively small. In this paper, we try to discuss the ways that migrants transmit their messages in the docu-sphere. By analyzing documentary and semi-fictional films directed by Syrian refugees who reside in Turkey and refugees on the move, and as well as in-depth interviews conducted by the directors/producers of these videos and films, we discuss how the migrants and refugees utilize image-making processes in order to overcome information precarity, to use their right to communicate or basically to pass their messages to a wider audience. Our preliminary findings reveal that refugees and/or irregular migrants who are on the move (1) use videos to document their mobilities, (2) use short documentaries/fictional films to narrate their daily lives, and (3) use informative videos to tell their own stories rather than framed by an institutional mediatization. This way of looking at the mediated messages, in particular, helps us to de-center the established paradigm of media studies that excludes the agency of the migrants themselves.

Parallel Session 2B: New Approaches to Visual Messaging

Researching Brexit en vivo: voice, authority and representation

Nando Sigona (University of Birmingham)

Marie Godin (University of Oxford)

EU citizens in Britain were mostly voiceless in the Brexit referendum, while migration and migrants from the EU were firmly placed at the centre of the political and media debate. Even when forms of pan-European community-based activism emerged after the referendum, many were left out of the conversation. In this contribution, we reflect on "In the shadow of Brexit: Portraits of EU families in London", a participatory photo project, in which we tried to offer a more nuanced, non-teleological and plural representation of the EU population in London. In doing so, our aim was to capture the 'diversity' of EU families living in London as well as the complexity of belonging and home for different members of the family and as an inter- and intra- generational dialogue. Our positionality as EU nationals added a further layer of complexity not only to the dialogue with our participants, but to our 'authority' vis-à-vis other stakeholders. London's superdiversity is not only a socio demographic reality but enables new encounters and relationships which may be harder to establish and sustain elsewhere. The participatory photographic dispositive that we created made visible and explicit some of the disruptions induced by the Brexit referendum with EU families forced to redefine "what is home". Through visual as well as audio narratives of both children and parents this participatory photo project sheds some light on the reshaping of the 'Us versus Them' narrative. Overall, the juxtaposition of images and voices evoke some of the intricacies of what is to belong as an EU family living in London in the post-Brexit referendum age.

Cartographies of migration and mobility as levers of deferral policies

Elsa Gomis (University of East Anglia)

This paper questions rhetoric of objectivity attached to cartographies of migration and their relationship with a contemporary political context. A search on Google Images with the keywords 'migration' + 'Europe' allows observing the increasing popularity of maps to portray displacements of people. These maps are created by geographers and analysts from data collection compiled by international organisations and NGOs. These visual messages are widely disseminated in mainstream media, research papers and educational supports. An examination of these cartographies shows that their greater part is representing human displacements by broad arrows, often of warm colours, pointing in direction to European countries. These cartographies of a war-like aspect convey the idea of a threatening invasion. How can one reveal the relationships between the messaging conveyed by migration mappings and public narratives on the same topic? Building on art historian Aby Warburg theories on the survival of images later theorised by Georges Didi-Huberman, this presentation focuses on cartographies illustrating the so-called 2015 migration 'crisis' to highlight the collective imaginary attached to mainstream cartographies of migration. As a first step, it provides an historical perspective on the way this kind of messaging has impacted visual descriptions of human mobilities to the point of influencing the Brexit referendum campaign. As a second step, this paper explores experimental cartography created by geographers and artists that embrace subjectivity and offer unique overviews of the experience of the border.

Migrant Messages: Graphic Novels of Migration to Europe

Jennifer M Güllly (College of William & Mary)

Lynn Mie Itagaki (University of Missouri, Columbia)

Mass media promoting anti-migrant discourses have solidified in xenophobic, anti-Muslim, and anti-African frames that have persisted in the concept of a homogeneous white, Christian Europe for millennia. How are these reductive and inflexible discourses countered by migrants themselves? How can migrants author their own discourses and make themselves heard in a saturated mediascape? How do pro-migrant and anti-migrant activism around the circulation of (drowned) migrants in the European Union and the Mediterranean challenge and redefine ways of talking about migration? The Syrian refugee crisis has exposed the fragility of human rights and humanitarian discourses that bind the European Union. We examine the graphic novels and stories of *Threads* by Kate Evans, and *The Coldest Summer* and *Alphabet of Arrival* by collectives made up of migrant and activist writers and artists. Representing the hyper-mobility of our times and their attendant upheavals, this written and visual art ignites conversations that enable the most profound critique of distinctions among mind, body and flesh that dehumanize and obscure migrants. We explore how migrants actively refute this silencing through the form of the graphic novel as a visual argument of the expression of their humanity. Inspired by Black diasporic theorists Spillers, Weheliye, and Wynter, we question long-standing certainties of ostensibly liberatory practices--the recuperation of migrants' humanity and equal inclusion into the nation-state--through graphic novels revealing the comparative contiguities and intersections among Arab, Asian, and Muslim diasporas and identities converging on the Mediterranean.

Messaging Mobility through Photography: The Framing of Environments, Places and People

Parvati Nair (Queen Mary University of London)

Many agree that environmental emergencies are set to trigger mass uprooting in the decades ahead, a phenomenon that already

affects many parts of the world. To understand human mobility in the contemporary era, it is vital to take environmental issues into consideration. The policy spheres dealing with the environment, however, remain largely separate from those focusing on migration or displacement. Photography, however, in recent times, has increasingly framed human mass mobility and immobility within the context of environmental challenges, that are inevitably also linked to poverty and conflict. At stake in such imagery is the interconnected nature of people and places, so that the uprooting of people comes as a consequence of the impossibility of place. In this sense, the work of key photographers serves to highlight how visually messaging migration is also about visually messaging environmental emergency and vice versa. The question I pursue in this paper is how can we rethink human mobility via photography, not simply as the forced movement or uprooting of people from somewhere, but as the falling apart of that somewhere, of that place or habitat, itself? More importantly, how can photographs that emerge from within the overarching context of the Anthropocene resist the latter, through their suggestiveness and metaphoric move to a different relation between the human, the social and the geographical?

Parallel Session 3A: Global Media Portrayals of Migration and Mobility II

Floods and invaders: the intersections between the metaphoric construction of immigrant Otherness and ethno-nationalism

Catherine Ann Martin (University of Western Australia)

Metaphors are a feature of public and media discourse on immigrants, with 'undesirable' immigration often referred to in terms of invasions, floods and swarms in both the press and by politicians. Within Australia, such immigration metaphors can be dated back to the 1850s, and the arrival of Chinese immigrants during the gold rushes, reoccurring within both press and political discourse with every large-scale arrival of non-white immigrants. Discourses around immigration within colonial Australia focused on whiteness as the defining feature for desirable immigration, with enacting racialized immigration restriction one of the foundational acts of the new Australian nation (1901), and whiteness enshrined as fundamental to national identity within the White Australia policy. Yet despite the abolition of the policy in the 1970s and the shift towards multiculturalism, negative immigration metaphors have increased. Based on a research project examining metaphor-containing press reports about immigration between 1854 and 2018, and drawing on a corpus of over 3,000 press reports and 12,000 metaphors, this paper argues that there has been remarkable consistency in the metaphors applied to groups that are perceived as racially Other, with certain recurrent metaphoric tropes, which together construct an over-arching narrative of racialized immigrant threat. Moreover, that these metaphoric discourses intersect with and flag a form of ethno-nationalism which continues to implicitly centre whiteness as the defining feature of Australian national identity in a way that is no longer explicitly possible.

Deportation in the Finnish media: Mediated emotions as acts of citizenship

Päivi Pirkkalainen (University of Jyväskylä)

Saara Pellander (Migration Institute of Finland)

While public debates as well as academic interest in deportations is growing, there is little scholarship that focuses on deportations in the media. Taking Finland as a case study, we focus on the mediation of emotions in relation to deportations, exploring the ways in which mediated resistance to deportation forms and transforms media representations, as well as anti-deportation activism. We examine how the circulation of emotions (Ahmed 2004) produces affective value both in media representations and in mediated resistance. We analyse media material consisting of articles and editorials of the main national print media, Helsingin Sanomat, between 2015 and 2019 (90 articles). We address blank spots and missing perspectives in these media debates by critically contrasting the findings of the media material against interviews with asylum seekers (8 interviews) who have been under the threat of deportation, as well as with Finnish citizens (23 interviews) who have supported deportable migrants post-2015. We explore the interviewees' experiences with the media and journalists in their attempts to resist deportation orders. Our findings indicate that media representations of deportations on the one hand fall under the well-known victim or threat-trope. On the other hand a focus on the circulation of emotions of both those under the threat of deportation as well as those supporting their plea paints a more multifaceted picture, in which mediated emotions are tied to notions of trust and to everyday acts of citizenship (Isin & Nielsen 2008).

Violent Ignorance: The Windrush Scandal, racism, nationhood and border control

Hannah Jones (University of Warwick)

This paper sets out a phenomenon I have named 'violent ignorance': what it is, how it works, its consequences, and possible ways to resist it. Violent ignorance is a name for the action of turning away from painful knowledge, and for the further violence this can bring. The choice to 'ignore' is not always conscious or deliberate, but it still matters. By ignoring violence, one is implicated in that violence continuing; often, the risk of confronting one's implication in structural violence is what makes it painful to contemplate. Violent ignorance sustains all kinds of injustice, but migration control, and messaging about it, are rife with examples. Treating

the 2018 UK Windrush Scandal as an example of how violent ignorance functions, how it can be breached, and what happens afterwards, this paper also discusses how messaging on migration and its control often attempt to decouple borders from racism. Yet racism and border control are linked because they operate in similar ways. Controlling access to a territory, and the right to safety and dignity there, is a process of deciding who matters, based usually on where they were born, to whom they are related, or their material resources – or a combination of these. Racism comes in many forms, but certainly includes enforcing differential access to dignity, safety and resources based on where a person comes from, to whom they are related, and on what resources they can call. The failure to see the connections between racism, nationhood and border control is itself a form of violent ignorance.

Parallel Session 3B: Messaging Mobility Using Apps and Platforms

Moving between (im)mobility categories: The importance of social platforms for migration aspirations and migration capabilities

Naiara Rodriguez-Pena (University of Kent)

While there is a considerable literature on the politico-economic dynamics that constrain the movement of aspiring individuals, few studies have examined how social media platforms raise individual migration aspirations and expand migration capabilities. This paper, drawing from 17 interviews with 18 Latin American gay men, shows how Facebook groups are pivotal to move between (im)mobility categories, in particular from a state of involuntary immobility to being able to realize one's migration aspirations. By doing this, the article demonstrates the strategic role that social apps play in establishing alternative social networks and trust relationships, particularly when heteronormative family values impede the migration of gay family members by hindering the mobilization of familial economic, informative and emotional resources. In this manner, Facebook groups expand social capital and migration capabilities, concurrently facilitating the overcoming of a state of temporary involuntary immobility to be able to migrate. On the other, this study shows how the involvement in social media groups and messaging apps increase migration aspirations by raising the awareness of opportunities elsewhere, lowering the threshold of acceptability in which mobility occurs and, thence, leading to further flexibility on how and under which circumstances the interviewees were willing to move. This research highlights, then, the necessity to explore how the use of new technologies enable moving between distinct immobility categories, while emphasizing the agency and adaptation mechanisms that aspiring individuals put in place to surpass involuntary immobility.

From design to use: Studying app infrastructures and their shaping of migrants' practices of navigation

Olga Usachova (University of Padua)

Taking into account the increasing reliance on the digital technology in all spheres of everyday life, and especially the focus on the digitalization of migration governance, scholars working in the field of media and digital migration studies argue that the use of mobile phones during and after the migration journey influences the whole migration experience (Gillespie et al., 2018; Kaufmann, 2018). Considering the rapid development of digital technology and the need to provide relevant information for asylum seekers in a very short time, we can witness the increasing amount of mobile applications as digital media, which are intended to support the integration process of refugees in Germany. However, despite several studies based on a content-related and technical-functional level of the app (Egelhaaf, 2017; Fiedler, 2016), the limited empirical knowledge is on the side of the user of these applications. In this regard, the question of use/ non-use of such mobile applications comes to the fore. This paper contributes to such work by focusing on the processes of design, development, and implementation. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in Germany including in-depth interviews, document analysis, observations of mobile applications use this paper follows different traces, that is developers and the process of design, municipalities and the process of implementation, social workers, and migrants and their navigation through the complex terrain of state administration procedures. By this, the paper studies the relational entanglements of a mobile application infrastructure and critically analyses the impact of design, development, and implementation practices on migrants' practices of usage and navigation.

Proving who they 'really' are and transnational activism through social media: the case of asylum claimants on the grounds of sexual orientation in the UK

Vítor Lopes Andrade (University of Sussex)

In order to be granted refugee status on the grounds of sexual orientation in the UK, claimants need to provide evidence 'to prove' their sexualities. In this process, while evidence is 'collected', it is also somehow 'produced'. Drawing on my doctoral ethnographic fieldwork conducted in London in 2019 and 2020, the aim of this paper is to analyse how a refugee-led group of African asylum claimants and refugees developed strategies regarding this necessity to prove their sexual orientation to the Home Office. I show how their use of social media, particularly Facebook and YouTube, in the production of evidence increases their likelihood to be granted refugee status. On Facebook, they promote their events, share pictures of members who have been granted refugee

status, publish pictures of their meetings and parties. On YouTube, they upload interviews with members telling – both in English and in their native languages – what they have faced in their countries of origin, such as Cameroon, Nigeria and Uganda. In doing so, they are not only increasing their chances to be accepted as ‘really’ being gay, lesbian or bisexual, but also advocating for changes in their countries of origin. I conclude therefore arguing that when challenging heteronormative assumptions through their own experiences via Facebook and YouTube, they are doing transnational activism.

IT and Media Usage Impacts on the Mobility of Nepalese Immigrants in Portugal

Alexandra Pereira (University of Lisbon)

In this study, we analyze the IT and media usage impacts on the mobility of Nepalese immigrants currently living in Portugal. In particular, we detail the messaging/media effects on their attitudes, perceptions or understandings about mobility, and their migration or re-migration plans, as well as forced stillness. Additionally, we address mobility and inclusion topics, such as migrant-led journalism initiatives by Nepalese immigrants in Portugal, access to Covid-19 pandemic informative materials online by the Nepalese in Portugal, and the forced collective quarantines of different groups of Nepalese workers around the country, during the year of 2020. This is a qualitative and quantitative research, combining participant observation, the field diary and ethnographic method, with semi-structured interviews to 30 Nepalese immigrants in Lisbon and 30 Nepalese immigrants in other regions of Portugal, as well as further informations collected from 50 online questionnaires to Nepalese immigrants all over the country, during the lockdown, in the Autumn of 2020. We describe, in detail, how IT, new platforms, journalism initiatives and media are changing the ways that Nepalese migrants and their receiving community experience and respond to mobility, and with what ethical and practical implications. We further draw conclusions on how Nepalese migrants contribute to, challenge and reshape both messages’ content and their delivery. Finally, we analyze platforms associated with decision-making and communicating all kinds of information – personal, social, news as well as public health/Covid-19 information.

Parallel Session 4A: Narrating Migration in Policy and Electoral Politics

As Clear as Mud? The Use of Migration-Related Terminology and Subsequent Framing of Migrants and Refugees in National Parliaments

Elodie Thevenin (Jagiellonian University)

The 2015 migration crisis triggered major controversies on the way asylum – and a fortiori migration – is dealt with in the European Union (EU). The crisis and its implications have indeed been highly mediatised and politicised, and brought up numerous concerns to the top of the political agenda. In addition to practical issues, the crisis also triggered conflictual discourses and opened up discussion around the terms used to refer to incoming people. One indeed has to acknowledge that terms hold deeper meanings than the words per se and those meanings evolve alongside discourses and social representations. In this perspective, this paper focuses on the use of words related to migration and analyses the frames on migration subsequently linked to these terms, answering the following question: How are frames on migration discursively constructed and employed by Members of Parliament when debating on the issue of migration in Europe? A mixed methods approach is used throughout this research applied on parliamentary debates collected from 2015 to 2020 in the lower chambers of parliament of four EU member states, i.e. Austria, Germany, France and Poland. This paper does not only consider the use of words related to migration – taking into consideration the refugee/migrant dichotomous terminology – but also explores, through the linguistic and qualitative approach taken, the underpinning frames beyond these terms which trigger social and political consequences. Thus, it contributes to the current debate on the political use of language related to migration, as well the issue of framing migration in discourse.

Ethno-racial inequalities in Belgian and German employment policy: Understanding policy frames through critical race theory

Laura Westerveen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Migrants and minorities continue to face inequalities in European societies across multiple societal domains, such as the education systems and labour markets. This paper studies the framing of these inequalities within policy discourses. It does so by studying policy frames in Belgian and German employment policy. Through a critical frame analysis of policy documents, the first part of the paper analyzes the prevailing representations of ethno-racial (in)equality as a policy problem in Belgium and Germany. Inspired by critical race theory, it proposes a two-dimensional typology for conceptualizing ethno-racial (in)equality policy frames that distinguishes between colour-blind and colour-conscious policy frames, on the one hand, and redistributive and non-redistributive policy frames, on the other hand. The second part of the article adopts a comparative analysis and provides possible explanations for the dominantly found (colour-conscious and non-redistributive) ‘deficit frame’. Within the deficit frame, ethno-racial inequalities are portrayed as being caused by individual deficits of people with a ‘migration background’, and policy responses focus on compensating for these deficits. Again drawing on critical race theory, the paper suggests that the idea of ‘racial neoliberalization’ in Europe can best help explain the observed dominance of and trend towards the deficit frame. The

paper shows how racial neoliberalization in its specific political and institutional context can account for the prevalence of this policy frame in Belgium and Germany.

Hegemonic narratives as a source of normativity in world politics. German and Hungarian interpretations of the 'right to asylum' in 2015

Kathrin Bachleitner (University of Oxford)

This paper examines the use of hegemonic narratives by political leaders to legitimise their policy choices in the face of the 2015 refugee crisis. It argues that policymakers selectively invoke stories from their country's historical experience to give a contextualised meaning to their policy responses, particularly concerning pressing normative, international matters such as that of 'asylum'. Empirically, the paper, therefore, investigates how the refugee-receiving countries Germany and Hungary came to interpret the international right to asylum in diverse ways in 2015, with one country opening and the other closing its border. In a qualitative content analysis of political speeches, the case study shows that both countries' leaders constructed a diverse normative meaning for the right to asylum. However, this process unfolded equally through the invocation of hegemonic narratives. In both cases, political leaders in their official rhetoric employed such narratives to generate a context-specific value for their policies, and per extension, also for the international norm of asylum. At a time when the privileged status of the refugee is politically threatened, the proposed focus on political narratives offers an alternative framework through which to ground – and understand – the source of states' normative obligations towards refugees.

Ordering Visibility, Ordering Responsibility: Lessons from the Turkish Border Spectacle of March 2020

Aslı İkizoğlu Erensü (Sabancı University)

Existing literature on migrant and refugee representation in the media highlights two regimes of visibility. In one, migrants and/or refugees appear as a 'sea of humanity' (after Malkki's influential work), rendered speechless, reduced to bare life, de-historicized and de-politicized, yet still deserving the spectator's pity. In the other, migrants and/or refugees appear as threatening hordes, again de-historicized but this time invoking fear in the spectator. The spectacle on Turkey's Greek border in March 2020 was a failed border spectacle: Turkey appeared neither as a strong state nor as a benefactor of migrants. Yet, I would like to argue, this spectacle constituted a third regime of visibility, based on an analysis of Turkish evening news on mainstream TV as well as the Twitter publicity campaign run by the Directorate of Migration Management. In this regime, migrants figured merely as background extras (figurants in French) to the real news story; the real news actors were Turkey and Greece/EU. While media coverage made Greece and Turkey hypervisible in a constant relay of responsibility from one to the other, migrants could not even appear as bare lives. The presentation will address how such a regime of visibility impacts the response-ability of spectators, especially highlighting the worrisome consequences for the Turkish public/s, for whom migrants' exposure through the media only justified their disposability.

Parallel Session 4B: Media and Migration During COVID-19

Framing '(im)mobility' through 'proximity': a study of television news coverage at the start of COVID-19

Marina Morani (Cardiff University)

Lizzy Willmington (Cardiff University)

The article examines how UK television broadcasters framed human '(im)mobility' at the start of COVID-19, and how, in doing so, they relied on the news value of 'proximity' (Galtung and Ruge, 1965) to select and report on stories of displaced or migrant individuals and communities in the context of an unprecedented tightening of national borders. The study draws on a systematic content analysis of the UK flagship evening television bulletins between April and May 2020 at the height of the first wave of the pandemic. This is complemented by an in-depth frame analysis building on Chouliaraki's typology of news narratives in televisions' mediations of distant suffering (2006). Our analysis finds that (im)mobility-themed narratives are editorially construed according to different degrees of geographical proximity of the spectator to the represented subjects or communities: i) intra-UK lockdown privileged (im)mobility, ii) intra-EU utilitarian labour (im)mobility, iii) cross-Channel securitised (im)mobility, iv) compassionate intra-international (im)mobility. The study contributes to scholarship and research on the representation of (im)mobility through a timely assessment of television news output with the potential to inform debates surrounding the role of television as a powerful agent of social and cultural responsibility. As television remains in the UK the most consumed source of information (Ofcom, 2020), public service media have a crucial role as well as obligation to enhance the public understanding of the pandemic through a balanced and informative reporting which needs to be inclusive of a range of fair and nuanced representations of displaced and migrant subjects and communities.

The 'invisible enemy' and the usual suspects: How Covid-19 re-framed migration in Italian media representations

Elena Giacomelli (University of Bologna)

Pierluigi Musarò (University of Bologna)

Paola Parmiggiani (University of Bologna)

The last decade has been characterized by an intense inflow of people into borders of what has been called the "Fortress Europe". Italian governments, from Gentiloni-Minniti to Conte-Salvini, have implemented restrictive border management and migration control measures, fueled also by an over mediatization of the issue in and by public discourses. However, from February 2020 public debates and narratives have been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic, an health emergency often described as a war against an invisible enemy. Through a qualitative analysis of Italian media representations carried out with and for Amnesty International Italy, this paper analyses how Covid-19 overshadowed and reframed migration narratives and discourses. Moving within the concept of (in)visibility, this paper explores the two macro-discourses around migration during the lockdown: on one side, the link between migration and illness (fear of infection) that led to strict border security measures; on the other, the utilitarian regularization of migrants working in informal economy. The conclusion reflects on long-term implications of the pandemic on mobility justice and what Mbembe (2020) has defined the 'right to breath'.

The perceptions of the migratory phenomenon during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Italy

Elena Ambrosetti (Sapienza University of Rome)

Sara Miccoli (Sapienza University of Rome)

The paper focuses on the perceptions on the immigration phenomenon in Italy expressed through the social media². In particular, the paper aims at analyzing the perceptions expressed on the immigration flows in Italy, in relation to the COVID-19 emergency and to the amnesty for irregular migrant workers implemented to respond to the lack of seasonal workers during the pandemic. This study is conducted by applying a Content Analysis to the tweets which present hashtags and keywords related to the migratory phenomenon and to the same issue in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. By analyzing the content of the tweets, it is possible to understand negative or positive sentiments towards certain topics, such as migration phenomenon in relation to COVID-19 emergency. The study focuses on an increasingly important topic for receiving countries, such as Italy. Understanding the perceptions towards migration and immigrants is an essential step to act for developing specific actions to counteract some narratives and shed lights about migration phenomenon among the public opinion. At the same time, COVID-19 pandemic has probably altered the perceptions and sentiment of uncertainty and insecurity often connected with migratory phenomenon. Analyzing the way in which this new emergency relates with perceptions about migration is essential to understand one of the consequences of the health uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

'Troublemakers' in times of COVID-19: Newspaper representations of asylum seekers and refugees in Hong Kong and their thoughts

Ka Wang (Kelvin) Lam (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

The terms 'asylum seekers', 'refugees' and 'bogus refugees' often appeared in Hong Kong newspapers in recent years. Mass media reaches the vast majority of the public and is also influential in shaping their perceptions. In times of covid-19, a time when xenophobia becomes prevalent worldwide, it is important for us to look into the media representation of forced migrants who are vulnerable groups in society. This study analyses the ways local Chinese-language newspapers report issues related to asylum seekers and refugees (ASRs) in Hong Kong under the pandemic. Using media content analysis, it shows a tendency for these newspapers to frame ASRs as 'troublemakers' who 'fish in troubled waters' and 'threaten public health'. To bring their voices back onto public agenda, 20 ASRs in Hong Kong were interviewed to understand their thoughts on the media coverage concerning them. Their narratives further accentuate the problems of underrepresentation, stereotyping and negative framing. This study concludes by discussing the strategies to ameliorate the current situation from ASRs' perspectives and highlighting the importance of ethical journalism.

Parallel Session 5A: Policymaking and Migration Attitudes

Backlash or Legitimization? Voter Responses to Pro-immigration Reforms and Rhetoric

Alexander Kustov (Yale University)

Can significant pro-immigration reforms and/or mere political messaging—especially in the contexts where most people are anti-immigration—be counter-productive in terms of increasing xenophobia or populism? Despite the voluminous literature on immigration group threat, the extent to which immigration policy itself or vis-à-vis political rhetoric influences voters have been unclear. To address this question, this paper estimates the impact of immigration policy and media rhetoric on populist voting and attitudes by exploiting the timing of major changes to migration legislation using an original dataset linking the best

available public opinion, media salience, and policy data across the last forty years in 24 European countries. I find extensive pro-immigration reforms and media messaging are associated with slightly higher levels of populist voting. However, I also show most significant pro-immigration (or anti-immigration) policy changes do not robustly affect populist voting or attitudes in either the short or long run. This evidence suggests that pro-immigration reforms are unlikely to backfire due to voter backlash regardless of the underlying media discourse.

The European migration crisis as an exogenous shock: Investigating the association between integration policies and threat perceptions

David De Coninck (KU Leuven)

Giacomo Solano (Migration Policy Group)

Willem Joris (KU Leuven)

Bart Meuleman (KU Leuven)

Leen d'Haenens (KU Leuven)

The link between integration policies and intergroup attitudes or threat perceptions has received considerable attention. However, no studies so far have been able to explore how this relationship has changed following the European migration crisis due to a lack of recent comparative policy data. Using new 2019 MIPLEX data, this is the first study to examine mechanisms underlying the policy-threat nexus following the European migration crisis, distinguishing between several strands of integration policies and realistic and symbolic threat. To do so, we combine 2017 Eurobarometer data with 2019 Migrant Integration Policy data, resulting in a sample of 28,080 respondents nested in 28 countries. The analyses also control for economic conditions, outgroup size, and media freedom. Multilevel analyses indicate that respondents living in countries with more inclusive integration policies in general report lower realistic and symbolic threat. When investigating different policy strands, we find that inclusive policies regarding political participation and access to nationality for immigrants are associated with lower realistic and symbolic threat. We compare our findings to those from prior to the European migration crisis and discuss the potential shock effects of this crisis on the policy-threat nexus.

The Usual Suspects. Offenders' Origin, Media Reporting and Natives' Attitudes Towards Immigration.

Sekou Keita (Institute for Employment Research)

Thomas Renault (University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

Jérôme Valette (University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

This paper analyses how media-reporting policies on crime affects natives' attitudes towards immigration. We depart from most of the existing literature by investigating the content of crime-related articles instead of their coverage. Specifically, we use a radical change in local media reporting on crime in Germany, following hundreds of sexual assaults in Cologne on the 2015–2016 New Year's Eve, as a natural experiment. This unique framework allows us to estimate whether systematically disclosing the origin of criminals affects natives' attitudes towards immigration. Using individual survey data collected between January 2014 and December 2018 from the German Socio-Economic Panel and analyzing more than 545,000 crime-related articles in German newspapers, and data on their diffusion across the country, we find that systematically mentioning the origin of criminals, especially when offenders are natives, significantly reduces natives' worries about immigration.

Simultaneous feedback between migration policy and public attitudes toward migrants

Akira Soto Nishimura (Donau University Krems)

This paper examines the relationship between public opinion toward immigrants and national immigration policy. Much of the research on public opinion towards immigrants focuses on the effects of the media and less attention has been spent on the effects of policy. Past research has shown across a wide range of issues that public opinion affects policy and policy affects public opinion. However, most papers that focus on this relationship have only done so in separate unidirectional models. The thermostat perspective argues public opinion and policy are reciprocally causal; hence a feedback effect should be observed. In order to account for this feedback effect and opinion-policy endogeneity this paper uses the simultaneous feedback model as elaborated in Breznau (2017) and Breznau (2018). This model allows for the estimation of simultaneous feedback without lags while using cross-national and cross-sectional data. Using data from the European Social Survey and the migration policy index this paper helps identify opinion-policy patterns.

Parallel Session 5B: Changing Narratives Through Interventions and Practice

Constructing a (different) message – Reflecting approaches and narratives that constitute discourses on migrants in museums

Susanne Boersma (University of Hamburg and Museum Europäischer Kulturen–Staatliche Museen zu Berlin)

The so-called 'refugee crisis' in 2015 led to a shift in tone and narrative that enhanced xenophobic attitudes (Vollmer & Karakayali 2017; Bock & Macdonald 2020). It sparked an interest in migration and the representation of migrant perspectives in museums which started to reconsider their (political) roles, missions and strategies (Račić & Čeplak Mencin 2019, 218–219). Many museums invited recent forced migrants to participate in projects that addressed the theme of migration itself, or provided other opportunities to let them 'speak for themselves' (Vlachou 2019). Despite diverse efforts within the cultural sector, their narratives often echoed media and political discourses in presenting migrants as 'passive, suffering victims' with the aim of evoking empathy (Lynch 2019, 233; Whitehead et al. 2015, 45). This paper studies recent participatory museum work and asks in what ways museums actively challenged the messages produced in media and politics. Focusing on cases in the Netherlands and Germany, it addresses the discourse promoted by museums and how it aligns with and diverges from those prominent outside of cultural institutions. It looks at the role assigned to forced migrants in challenging the way in which 'their stories' are portrayed and they themselves are represented, whilst questioning the hierarchies as well as the aim to break with stereotypes within predominantly white institutions. As such, this study considers the problematic nature of tokenism in participatory work and how this contradicts recent efforts of museums. With an increased awareness of what constitutes a message, museums could transform attitudes towards migrant populations.

Messaging Inclusion with Consequence: U.S. Sanctuary Cities and Immigrant Wellbeing

Ashley R Houston (Northeastern University)

Carmel Salhi (Northeastern University)

Alisa K Lincoln (Northeastern University)

In the United States (U.S.), sanctuary cities have garnered public attention in the debate about the role of localities in immigration regulation. Sanctuary cities seek to limit their involvement with federal immigration law through local policy establishing noncooperation with federal immigration enforcement. As of 2018, there were approximately 400 jurisdictions with sanctuary policies, incorporating roughly half of the U.S. population within them.¹ Sanctuary cities are often depicted as safe havens for immigrants. As a result, sanctuary cities have become targets for federal criticism, illuminating conflicting tensions between local, state, and federal immigration policy in the U.S. However, sanctuary cities' inability to extend immigrants' legal rights create a discrepancy between public messaging and tangible protections available to immigrants in these cities. We examine the boundaries of sanctuary protections by drawing from qualitative interviews (n = 42) among organizational workers in two U.S. sanctuary cities, Boston, Massachusetts and Seattle, Washington. Our findings describe what protections offered by two sanctuary cities look like in practice. We highlight how housing rights, labor and wage protections, and access to healthcare remain salient concerns among immigrants residing within these areas. We situate our findings in the context of the socio-political climate that make it difficult for sanctuary cities to operate as the inclusive havens they are messaged as. Our findings demonstrate how critical tensions between inclusive messaging and federal immigration enforcement leave significant barriers to immigrant inclusion with impacts on wellbeing for immigrants residing within sanctuary cities in the U.S.

The role of local journalists in shaping narratives about Europe in The Gambia: agenda, dissemination channels and communication strategies

Alagie Jinkang (University of Bologna)

Valentina Cappi (University of Bologna)

Pierluigi Musarò (University of Bologna)

Gabriele Puzzo (University of Bologna)

With its over 2 million population, The Gambia is faced with food insecurity, unemployment and broken infrastructure after the collapse of Jammeh's 22 years of dictatorship (Altrogge and Zanker, 2019). Today, many jobless Gambian youths risk their lives and investments through the 'back way', with the hope to maximise opportunities of 'better life conditions' (Jinkang, 2020). Thus accurate information about countries of transit and destination, and potential risks and benefits of this migration are crucial in influencing would-be migrants behaviours. In The Gambia, as elsewhere, information campaigns are one of the initiatives carried out to raise awareness on the risks of irregular migration (Fiedler, 2019). However, the effectiveness of awareness campaigns has been widely criticized (Rodriguez, 2019), and other local actors contribute in shaping public debates and expectations about migration and mobility. Linked to the H2020 PERCEPTIONS project, our aim is to explore the role and practices of Gambian journalists in the dissemination of narratives about Europe, their involvement in awareness campaigns as well as the channels they use (newspapers, radio, local tv, social media, caravan tours, attaya crews, etc.) and the communication strategies they

tailor for their audiences. To this aim, an online survey, made of 37 open-ended and closed-ended questions, has been sent to a snowball sample of 40 Gambian journalists. The results of this research will shed light on the practices performed by Gambian journalists to influence prospective migrants' perceptions, allowing us to identify some limitations and opportunities for the implementation of best practices towards awareness campaigns.

"Can the Nauruan and the Refugee Speak?": Imagining and Representing Offshored Asylum in the Republic of Nauru

Julia Morris (University of North Carolina Wilmington)

Recent years have witnessed a trend of geopolitical cooperation between wealthier former colonial states and poorer dependent ones around projects of border enforcement. As countries in the Global North find political potency from guarding against the mobility of people from the Global South, policies of frontiering, border and asylum outsourcing, offshoring, and immigrant restrictions and imprisonment become commonplace. Drawing on fifteen months of fieldwork between Geneva, Australia, Fiji, and the Republic of Nauru, my research focuses on the impact of one such system in the Asia Pacific. In this paper, I examine the message framing of transnational activist networks who look to draw attention to the injustices of Australia's practice of offshoring asylum to the 21km² island nation of Nauru. I argue that the messaging of media and civil society campaigns is structured by deeply Orientalising discourses linked to histories of colonialism in the region. Objectifying tropes of savagery remain commonplace depictions of Nauruans, whereas the voices of asylum seekers and refugees are silenced by representational discourse of victimhood and humanitarian salvationalism. These Western mis/representations have troubling effects: not only do they essentialise people's identities as Other, but ultimately, they provide more political economic and moral value to the global refugee industry, who cyclically carry out the operations in places like Nauru. By recognising the continuities of colonialism in activist messaging campaigns—and the efforts of migrants and minority groups to contest these framings—we might better understand how to generate participatory movements for social change that could more effectively challenge existing power structures.

PhD Programme of the IMISCOE Spring Conference 2021

Organised by the IMISCOE PhD Network with support from the Oxford Migration and Mobility Network

The PhD activities of the IMISCOE Spring Conference are open to all doctoral students, regardless of whether they are registered to the conference. To register for the PhD activities: <http://forms.gle/Fwh9D5zVFGt74WWG6>. For questions, please contact: imiscoephddiscussionroom@gmail.com

DAY 1 (22 March)

13.15–14.15: IMISCOE PhD Network Assembly

The assembly is an opportunity for doctoral students to get to know the IMISCOE PhD Network. The PhD representative Isabella Trombetta will present the structure of the Network and give the board members the possibility to share their experiences and plans. Domiziana Turcatti will present the Oxford Migration and Mobility Network, which has contributed to the organisation of the PhD activities for the IMISCOE Spring Conference. We also expect PhD students from various IMISCOE Standing Committees to give a short presentation about their work at IMISCOE. The IMISCOE PhD Network Assembly is organised by Maria Shaidrova (Tilburg University) and Olav Nygård (Linköping University).

14.15–15.45: IMISCOE PhD Network Panel, 'Communicating Migration Research in Academic and Applied Settings'

Organised by Domiziana Turcatti, University of Oxford; Gülce Özdemir, Boğaziçi University; and Hakan Kilic, Danube University Krems. This panel brings together senior scholars sharing their experiences with PhD students on how to communicate their work/research with a variety of audiences. There will be four speakers:

- Dr. William Allen (COMPAS, University of Oxford) will discuss the process of submitting to journals and strategies for PhD submissions.
- Rosaleen Cunningham (COMPAS, University of Oxford) will share her knowledge and experience about communicating with non-academic audiences, focusing on the media and public.
- Dr. Marie McAuliffe (IOM) will discuss how to communicate migration research in the context of policy making.
- Dr. Martha Montero Sieburth (University of Amsterdam) will challenge the idea of researchers communicating knowledge to migrant communities by sharing some of the lessons learnt over the years of doing community ethnography with migrants.

19.00–20.00: IMISCOE PhD Network Academic Speed Dating

One of the key benefits of in-person conferences is to get to know people, discuss research interests, make contacts, find friends and/or co-authors. Virtual conferences may work for keeping in contact but are challenging for making new contacts – an essential for PhD students. This virtual speed dating aims to partly accommodate for that. The overall concept is based on random breakout-rooms of two, where PhDs will practice presenting their research (elevator pitch) and giving feedback to potentially unfamiliar research fields. This event is organised by Sandra Morgenstern (University of Mannheim) and Sebastian Carlotti (University of Pisa).

DAY 2 (23 March)

10.30–11.00 & 14.45–15.15 – PhD Coffee Room

The PhD 'coffee room' is an informal virtual space for doctoral students to meet and get to know one another, run on a 'drop-in' basis. It will be moderated by Lucy Hunt (University of Oxford) and Hakan Kilic (Danube University Krems), who will suggest topics for discussion and facilitate access to smaller break-out rooms.

12.30–13.30: IMISCOE PhD Network Workshop, 'Mixed Methods Research'

The purpose of this interactive workshop is to introduce junior researchers to mixed methods research (MMR). In the first part of the workshop, Dr. Bing Zhu (Assumption University of Thailand) will discuss the major types of MMR, definitions of MMR, purposes, objectives, and rationales for conducting an MMR study, analyzing the data, and writing MMR research questions and reports. Practical strategies using both manual techniques and computer software will be presented and placed in a context of examples from personal experience of the presenter and the literature. The second part of the workshop aims to foster the active participation of the PhDs, ask questions and discuss the possible application of MMR in their research. The workshop is moderated by Mariana Rosca (University of Deusto).

About Us

About COMPAS

The Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), conducts high quality research in order to develop theory and knowledge, train the next generation of academics and policy makers on migration, inform policy-making and public debate, and engage users of research within the field of migration. Our aims are:

- *Academic advancement:* reflecting and advancing theory, methods and multi-disciplinary understanding in the field of Migration Studies; contributing new empirical data; and supporting international collaborations and publications in the field of migration.
- *Teaching:* offering graduate programmes on migration at the [masters](#) and [doctoral](#) level; offering expert training for policymakers and others interested in migration issues; and building capacity among migration researchers and practitioners.
- *Informing policy-making and public debate:* providing evidence and analysis to policy-makers and to the wider public and facilitating knowledge exchange and collaboration with relevant policy makers.
- *Facilitating knowledge exchange with research users:* establishing reciprocal relationships with individuals and organisations with experience of migration, including migrants and their organisations, government, business, international organisations, and third sector and civil society organisations.
- *Maintaining long-term sustainability:* operating efficiently as a centre and ensuring a diversified funding base that allows the undertaking of a long-term mission and vision.

COMPAS is based within the [School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography](#) and maintains strong links with departments across the [University of Oxford](#).

www.compas.ox.ac.uk

About IMISCOE

IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe) is Europe's largest interdisciplinary research network in the field of migration, integration and diversity studies. The research network currently consists of [56 research institutes](#) from almost all European countries and from various disciplines, including sociology, political science, economics, law, demography, public administration, social geography and history.

www.imiscoe.org



School of Anthropology
University of Oxford
58 Banbury Road
Oxford, OX2 6QS

T. +44 (0)1865 274 711
E. info@compas.ox.ac.uk