

## **U4 Cluster Conference Social Sciences, Economics and Law presents:**

### **"On the Move – Exploring Contemporary Dynamics of Migration"**

**Uppsala University invites paper proposals for a U4 Cluster Conference Social Sciences, Economics and Law (SSEL), hosted by Uppsala University, 29-30 May 2017.**

U4 is a strategic partnership between Ghent University (BE), University of Göttingen (DE), University of Groningen (NL), and Uppsala University (SE). It is based on well-established, existing, bilateral agreements between the partner universities. The U4 cooperation is especially intended to take stock of academic research activities within the participating universities. The aim is to disseminate research, stimulate research cooperation, and provide a venue for innovative and multi-disciplinary research approaches and critical reflection.

The SSEL Conference 2017 aims to bring together researchers and PhD students from the participating universities on topics specifically addressing today's global challenges for societies. The conference theme of the contemporary dynamics of migration operates at many levels in society. It involves challenges emanating from different kinds of population movements, influencing issues of borders, governance, legislation, labour, health, mediation of refugeedom and among others.

Researchers are kindly invited to send in proposals for papers to be included in one of the panels.

## Proposed sessions

### 1. Regulating labour migration

Global migration has become the perhaps most salient political issue of our time. On the national level, party politics is revolving around discussions about the challenges of international migration. This is spilling over to regional levels. In June 2016, the whole EU project was shaken in the aftermath of the Brexit referendum in the UK. Yet this is not an exclusive European phenomenon. While the 2015 refugee crisis attracted a lot of attention and the war in Syria (and conflicts elsewhere) continue to put the refugee situation in focus, there is at least a global architecture in terms of the Geneva Convention for managing the refugee crisis. It is different with labour migration. Despite the fact that a number of regions in the world, such as the EU, EEC and Mercosur, have developed labour migration regimes (or are in the process of doing so), there is no functional regime for managing labour migration on a global level. Even if this policy area is extremely contentious in political terms, the fact that IOM is now part of the UN system and the longstanding work of the ILO on the rights of migrant workers, opens up for change. This workshop invites papers that deals with different ways of regulating labour migration and their potential consequences for migrant workers as well as for sending and hosting countries.

*Organizer: Joakim Palme, Rebecca Stern and Emily Diab*

### 2. Migration Rights & Arbitrary Law-Making

In 2017 it will be 50 years since the UNHCR Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees came into force: It removed the geographic and temporal limits of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees that set the legal framework of Article 14 on asylum in the 1948 Universal Declaration of human rights. This offers the occasion to take stock of what we have learnt and reflect on some of the challenges that migration raises today. Legal practices require reason-giving to be justified. Absence thereof or parochial forms of reason-giving is a challenge to law in general and to migration law in particular since it relies on the assumption that states enjoy discretion in this field. The workshop is structured in two half-day sessions.

The first session discusses the so-called flying Dutchman asymmetry. The right to leave a country, and the right to enter, seems to escape the traditional definition of rights: their implementation entails responsibilities going beyond the domestic legal order. In order to leave is it necessary to be able to safely enter another country? What does this entail for contemporary migration governance?

The second session will be dedicated to understanding arbitrariness in the field of migration law: discretionary practices, unjustified legal decision-making and discriminatory legislation with regard to admission are examples of “the dark side” of contemporary law-making. Migrants, illegals, asylum-seekers are often the object of measures of this kind that include e.g. indefinite detention. Under which conditions can we describe practices as arbitrary law-making?

*Organizer: Patricia Mindus and Guilherme Marques-Pedro*

### 3. Migration and health: Entanglements of Bodies and Cultures

Migration, both forced and voluntary, has multiple consequences at social, political, economic and biopolitical levels. At one end of the spectrum we have medical tourism in the form of people going to other countries to have medical procedures ranging from fertility treatments to dental and cosmetic ones. Such 'tourism' may occur either because of legislative or for economic and labour reasons. At the other end we have medical and medico-cultural needs arising from migration, for instance treatment following female genital mutilation, or the need for post-traumatic treatment of people tortured under oppressive regimes. Given these multifarious issues, what are the impacts of migration on health? How do we understand and respond to migration for health purposes (to access better/different treatments; treatments under different legal and cultural regimes)? What are the impacts of migrant communities' health needs on host communities' health services? How do we understand the relation between health provision and regulation of migration? And how do we understand the relationship between culturally specific practices and medical regimes in cross-cultural contexts?

*Organizer: Gabriele Griffin*

### 4. Unaccompanied Children and Health

Each year, a large number of children and adolescents are seeking asylum in Sweden and other European countries without an accompanying parent, so-called unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Over 35,000 unaccompanied children sought asylum in Sweden in 2015, a major increase over previous years. Many of these young people may suffer from physical and mental illnesses and being dependent on drugs. They are therefore in a great need of care. The Swedish National Board of Health estimates that between 20 and 30 percent of asylum seekers and refugees coming to Sweden are estimated to suffer from mental illness and The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) describes unaccompanied asylum-seeking children as the most vulnerable group of refugees, in terms of risk for mental health problems. Correlation between mental health problems and substance abuse is well documented in the scientific literature, which (for this and other reasons) makes unaccompanied minors particularly vulnerable in terms of developing substance use- and other addictive problems. These complex challenges need to be addressed from a wide range of perspectives, e.g. medical, social and psychological. It is also important to analyze a society's legal responsibility to promote and protect health in relation to these unaccompanied children. The legal questions that will be addressed in this workshop relate to individual and social rights as well as legal definitions of health and well-being. What right to health do unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have? What responsibility do the municipalities and the counties have to provide care?

*Organizers: Anna-Sara Lind, Gustaf Gredebäck, Moa Kindström Dahlin, Kavot Zillén*

## 5. The Mediation of Refugeedom: Europe's Refugee Crisis Through Different Lenses

The large number of refugees from Syria and elsewhere has arguably put a strain on the European Union, causing harsh debates around European solidarity with people in need as well as solidarity between EU countries. This panel looks at how this co-called crisis has been mediated as well as how it can be understood in terms of mediation through different venues, platforms and practices. The panel will span over a diverse field of commemoration practices, broadcast news journalism and online discussion fora. What binds the contributions together is that they all address the mediation of refugeedom.

*Organizer: Nico Carpentier*

## 6. Migration and/or family!?

One of the most pressing concerns for refugees and beneficiaries of international protection who have found safety and protection in Europe, is how to be reunited with their family members left behind. Even though living together with one's family members is a key premise for the successful integration into a host society, family reunification remains far from obvious. Each case has to be assessed in an individualised way, weighing various elements including the moment at which family life started, the best interests of the child, and public policy considerations. In practice, each Member State regulates the issue of family reunification differently, and often increasingly restrictively.

However, before these migration law rules even begin to play a role, several other questions arise, such as the meaning of the notion 'family/family member', how does a sponsor prove that the spouse is really his/her spouse and/or that certain minors are his/her children or how should receiving States deal with religious, polygamous or child marriages?

This panel will focus on the personal status of refugees and beneficiaries of international protection and their family members. It invites papers which explore topics such as family reunification, the concept of family, proof and recognition of personal status in a cross-border context, human rights protection of family life, alternatives to family reunification (e.g. humanitarian visa), the socio-psychological impact of living without one's family etc. We aim at a multi- and interdisciplinary approach, including but not limited to contributions from private international law, human rights law, anthropology, sociology and psychology.

*Organizer: Jinske Verhellen, Ghent University, CESSMIR*

*Co-organizer: Ellen Desmet, Ghent University, CESSMIR*

## 7+8 Discourses and Politics of Return and Reintegration

Description TBA

### 9. The social and political preferences of refugees

The world is currently witnessing refugee flows on a scale not seen since World War II. At the same time, refugee situations are on average highly protracted, with cross-border forced migrants typically remaining displaced for 25 years. Sweden has responded to this situation with comparatively generous asylum policies. The integration of these refugees is thus one of the defining challenges for Sweden and other major asylum countries in the 21st Century. An important theme underlying contemporary integration debates concerns the determinants of immigrant social trust and civic-mindedness – fundamental aspects of civic culture and democracy. Although armed conflict is a key driver of contemporary migration flows, little attention has been paid to the political and social preferences of refugees in particular. This is surprising, as refugees are exposed to specific pressures that could potentially alter their preferences, such as exposure to violence during war and displacement and stigmatization in countries of asylum and refuge.

This workshop will examine the political and social preferences of refugees. What do we know about political and social trust in refugee populations? What do we know about the prevalence of other social preferences such as fairness or altruism in refugee communities? Do refugees differ from other migrants in terms of their attitudes and behavior? Are the key determinants of immigrant trust identified in the literature (e.g. cultural background, settlement country institutions, etc.) the same for refugee trust and other preferences? What do we know about the political and social participation of refugees? What role, if any, does exposure to war trauma play in shaping the social and political attitudes and behavior of refugees? What role does the stigmatization of refugees play in determining these outcomes?

*Organizer: Jonathan Hall*

## **11. Issues of Reception, Governance, Borders, and Polarization based on the 2015 Refugee Crisis**

The 2015 Refugee Crisis has been one of the biggest challenges that the EU has faced since its establishment. The crisis foregrounded the vulnerability and structural fragility of the European border regime, the tenuous jurisdiction of the Schengen system and broad problems with the multi-level governance of migration and integration. One of the most visible impacts of the refugee crisis has been the polarization of politics in EU Member States and intra-Member State policy (in)coherence in responding to the crisis.

The issue of migration has different dimensions, covering migration governance in source, transit and destination countries; border and security concerns that have arisen in relation to the irregular and uncontrolled nature of this new immigration; the international protection regime and reception policies; socio-economic and socio-cultural dimensions of integration; public discourses and host society attitudes towards migrants.

This panel aims to discuss the impacts of this crisis on source, transit and destination countries as well as migrants themselves, and to enhance and harmonize the capacities of transnational, governmental and non-governmental actors in responding to the refugee influx. Furthermore, the panel will critically analyse the existing governance capacities of transit and destination countries, and look at the responses given to this crisis at macro, meso and micro levels.

We invite papers covering the following themes:

- (I) Reception policies: A legal-political approach
- (II) Border management and migration control
- (III) Protection regimes and reception policies
- (IV) Migration Governance: Socio economic and cultural dimensions of integration
- (V) Polarization of politics: Are we approaching towards the end of the Multi-cultural societies in Europe?

*Organizers: Önver Cetrez, Söner Barthoma, Sabine Hess*