FROM THE PRESIDENT:

A key principle motivating the teaching and research that many of us do is the idea that migration scholars should consider the interests and well-being of migrants – and then act professionally in ways that support migrants’ well-being where possible.

Of course, that statement requires care and caveats. We shouldn’t bend our research findings on this basis. We shouldn’t indoctrinate our students; we must give room for a variety of viewpoints, and a key goal is to develop students’ abilities to think for themselves, without worrying too much about what conclusions they might reach.

But many migrants are in situations of vulnerability, especially when public discourse in their destination country is saturated with xenophobia. In such contexts, research and teaching about vulnerable people should not aspire to be ‘disinterested’, producing ‘knowledge for its own sake’ as if the consequences of our knowledge didn’t matter. A ‘political’ engagement is entirely appropriate (as long as certain boundaries are respected).

On that basis, I’m going to be quite blunt: I am experiencing unqualified joy (and considerable relief) at the outcome of the US-American election. The soon-to-be-former president (may his name be forgotten) has spent four years cynically exploiting the topic of immigration, wreaking misery (and sometimes death) on vulnerable people for
his own political and personal gain. The next administration will need to do a huge amount of work to repair the damage done over the last four years.

I doubt that there will be many members of RC31 who disagree with this view about the election outcome. I apologise to those who simply don’t want to hear about it. The USA is not the center of the universe, though it does have outsize influence on global migration patterns. (It also happens to be my country of origin; I have lived in the UK only for the last ~20 years – an immigrant, myself, though hardly a vulnerable one)

I’d like to note two additional items. First, the ISA Forum, which will take place in February in on-line format (as most of you surely know). Some RCs opened an additional abstract submission process; RC31 did not. Having surveyed the RC31 sessions after participant confirmation in October, I took the view that the number of confirmed participants (including those in roundtable sessions, who have to be shifted to regular sessions) was sufficient, that there wasn’t a need (or space) for additional papers. In any event, I look forward to our sessions. I have participated in several on-line conferences in the last few months; the format does work (though we will of course miss the social component).

The second item: in the next few weeks you will hear from me about a proposed revision of the RC31 statutes, in connection with election of Board members (including officers). As discussed at the last business meeting (in Toronto), we are proceeding with a proposal to adopt a more “open” process of nominations and elections. I hope you will support this proposal; please watch for an email discussing the details, and then please participate in the decision (vote) on the proposal.

David Bartram
President, RC31
University of Leicester
d.bartram@le.ac.uk
MEMBERS’ NEW BOOKS


This book examines questions about the changing nature of security and insecurity in Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Previous discussions of security in the Pacific region have been largely determined by the geopolitical interests of the Global North. This volume instead attempts to centre PICs’ security interests by focussing on the role of organisational culture, power dynamics and gender in (in)security processes and outcomes. Mapping Security in the Pacific underscores the multidimensional nature of security, its relationship to local, international, organisational and cultural dynamics, the resistances engendered through various forms of insecurities, and innovative efforts to negotiate gender, context and organisational culture in reducing insecurity and enhancing justice. Covering the Pacific region widely, the volume brings forth context-specific analyses at micro-, meso- and macro-levels, allowing us to examine the interconnections between security, crime and justice, and point to the issues raised for crime and justice studies by environmental insecurity. In doing so, it opens up opportunities to rethink scholarly and policy frames related to security/insecurity about the Pacific. Written in a clear and direct style, this book will appeal to students and scholars in criminology, sociology, cultural studies, social theory and those interested in learning about the Pacific region and different aspects of security.

https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520298705/the-big-gamble

Tens of thousands of Eritreans make perilous voyages across Africa and the Mediterranean Sea every year. Why do they risk their lives to reach European countries where so many more hardships await them? By visiting family homes in Eritrea and living with refugees in camps and urban peripheries across Ethiopia, Sudan, and Italy, Milena Belloni untangles the reasons behind one of the most under-researched refugee populations today. Balancing encounters with refugees and their families, smugglers, and visa officers, The Big Gamble contributes to ongoing debates about blurred boundaries between forced and voluntary migration, the complications of transnational marriages, the social matrix of smuggling, and the role of family expectations, emotions, and values in migrants’ choices of destinations.
https://books.emeraldinsight.com/page/detail/Thinking-Home-on-the-Move/?k=9781839097232

Home has been used in social sciences as a description, a metaphor and, more recently, as an emergent concept. The goal of this book is to illustrate its analytical power as a lens on the ways in which migrant and displaced people see their life circumstances and attempt to attach a sense of security, familiarity and control over them. Whether as a place or an aspiration towards it, home is a critical entry point into their life histories, experiences and prospects. Migrants’ rights and opportunities to make themselves at home are not just a private concern – rather, they are a major social and political question. This book addresses it through an original theoretical approach and an edited set of interviews with scholars from different national and disciplinary backgrounds. This reflexive conversation unveils the conceptual, methodological and empirical dimensions of researching home on the move and from the margins. Overall, Thinking Home on the Move is a powerful and in-depth look into what we as humans perceive as ‘home’ and what this truly means.


In Entrepreneurs and Capitalism since Luther: Rediscovering the Moral Economy, Ivan Light and Léo-Paul Dana study the history of business, capitalism, and entrepreneurship to examine the values of social and cultural capital. Six chapters evaluate case studies that illustrate contrasting relationships between social networks, vocational culture, and entrepreneurship. Light and Dana argue that, in capitalism’s early stages, cultural capital is scarcer than social capital and therefore more crucial for business owners. Conversely, when capitalism is well established, social capital is scarcer than cultural capital and becomes more crucial. Light and Dana then trace moral legitimations of capitalism from the Reformation to the Enlightenment, the Gilded Age, and finally to Joseph Schumpeter whose concept of “creative destruction” freed elite entrepreneurs from moral restraints that encumber small business owners. After examining the availability of social and cultural capital in the contemporary United States, Light and Dana show that business owners’ social capital enforces conventional morality in markets, facilitating commerce and legitimating small businesses the old-fashioned way. As their networks become more isolated, elite entrepreneurs must claim and ultimately deliver successful results to earn public toleration of immoral or predatory conduct.

Through an ethnographic journey among different border situations, temporary places and re-appropriated spaces (in Calais, Entimiglia, Ceuta and Melilla, Athens, Paris, Atras, and Pozzallo), the research moves from station to station of a hypothetical and updated underground railway, the Underground Europe, which represents the only possible escape from the claustrophobic and racialized geography of contemporary Europe. The book recounts the current migrant routes within, around and against the European borders through the historical lens of the Underground railroad, the essentially black experience of escaping from the chains of slavery and the plantation regime of the southern United States.


This original, scholarly collection of essays investigates the intersections of large-scale international migration and solidarity-building. Unpacking how civil courage occurs, under what forms, and what sustains it, this volume explores a new theory of the exemplary individual or collective in the recent age of “migration crises”—actors who stand against injuries or injustices toward migrants, even when it is costly or risky in a context of hostility or indifference.

A resource for those interested in the triggers and safeguards of democracy and civil society, and for scholars and practitioners alike, these chapters offer empirical case studies from the US, Europe, Africa, Australia, and Latin America of cross-group solidarity efforts.

**RECENT ARTICLES/CHAPTERS**

Ang, A. P. and Opiniano, J. (2020). Possible economic impacts of falling oil prices, the pandemic, and the looming global recession onto overseas Filipinos and their remittances. *Policy Brief no. 2020-09*, Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development (ACERD), Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU), The Philippines. [http://ateneo.edu/sites/default/files/downloadable-files/Policy%20Brief%202020-09_0.pdf](http://ateneo.edu/sites/default/files/downloadable-files/Policy%20Brief%202020-09_0.pdf)


PhDs


MEMBERS’ OTHER ACTIVITIES


NOMINATIONS:

Chien-Juh Gu: "Bargaining with Confucian Patriarchy: Money, Culture, and Gender Division of Labor in Taiwanese Immigrant Families," published in Qualitative Sociology, has been selected as a finalist (one of
higher learning by populism, the curtailment of free speech, religious extremism, the spread of disinformation, and the state-sponsored persecution of scholars. AiE supports scholars from across the globe, who are at risk in their countries of origin due to the character of their scholarly work and/or civil society activities, and it gives them an opportunity to continue their work in Germany. While risk status is a primary consideration in the selection of AiE fellows, equally important is the academic merit of their work. AiE is formally linked to preeminent institutions of higher learning, allowing us to promote the work of our members and to foster a space for reflecting on the pressing challenges to intellectual life, critical thinking, reason, social justice, and diversity that are facing the world today.

Academy in Exile is an institutional platform currently based in Berlin and Essen, as a joint initiative of the Turkish Studies Department at the Universität Duisburg-Essen, the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut (Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities / KWI) in Essen, the Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien, and the Freie Universität Berlin. The cooperation between these institutions is manifest in Academy in Exile’s threefold structure: The AiE team administers the Academy’s activities in its various locations and implements its academic program. The AiE team develops perspectives for advancing the Academy and facilitates the communication between all partners. The AiE team is controlled by a council consisting of representatives of the partner institutions carrying AiE, while the new advisory board offers further support and advice.

Vilna Bashi Treitler is the 2020 recipient of the Cox-Johnson-Frasier award bestowed by the American Sociological Association for scholarship in service to social justice.

Vilna Bashi Treitler’s 2013 book, The Ethnic Project: Transforming Racial Fiction into Ethnic Factions, was honored by inclusion in the Zora Canon, a list of the best 100 books ever written by an African American woman.
CALL FOR PAPERS:

XII International scientific and practical forum Migration bridges in Eurasia: global and regional dimensions. 8-9 December 2020. Institute of Socio-Political Research of FCTAS RAS and Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO University), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

The main topics of the Forum:
- International migrations before and after the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Interstate migration in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Migrantophobia challenges and integration policy responses
- New migration policy decisions
- Health, self-preservation behavior and the spread of infections among migrants
- Features of the economic behavior of migrants
- Migrants in times of crisis: the problem of exclusion and loss of income

No conference fee is charged for participation in the Forum. Organizers do not cover travel and accommodation expenses but provide organizational and visa support for participants.

Working languages: Russian and English; simultaneous interpretation will be provided. Deadline for application and paper submission – 10 November 2020.

An electronic application form is available for filling out on the official website of the Institute of Socio-Political Research of FCTAS RAS: [http://испи.рф](http://испи.рф). Application forms should be filled up both in Russian and English languages and sent to riazan@mail.ru and kh-mari08@yandex.ru

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EMPIRICAL GLOBALIZATION RESEARCH Professions, medical practices, and travelling knowledge. Conference hosted by the DFG-project “Glocalization of medical professional knowledge and practice” (Glopro). March 25th and 26th 2021. The University of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg Campus.

Organizers: Prof. Dr. Tao Liu, Benjamin Quasinowski, Dr. Ilka Sommer, Prof. Dr. Anja Weiß, and Sarah Weingartz

Global Studies comprises a wealth of theoretical and empirical approaches. World systems theory, world polity theory, world society approaches, along with historical institutionalism and the sociology of global and transnational fields offer fruitful theoretical perspectives. Yet, dialogue between different approaches is rare and Global Studies is divided between macro and micro approaches. The conference works toward an empirically grounded sociological meso-social perspective in Global Studies by combining a theoretical interest in emerging global and transnational forms with empirical studies of meso-social forms and situated practice. These studies employ various research methods, such as the analysis of global microstructures, transnational surveys, comparative statistics, global ethnographies, and the study of assemblages. They yield important insights and concepts bridging theory, methods, and empirical material with a world-wide scope. We now call for abstracts concerning the following conference goals:

- To conceptualize global and transnational forms: In what ways and to what extent are professions, epistemic communities, organizations, networks, etc. transnationalizing or globalizing? What are
specific conditions for these diverse social forms to globalize or transnationalize? (cf. Heintz & Werron 2011)

- To improve our understanding of the ways in which local and global, particular and universal articulate during processes of different temporalities, and also in situated practice. So far, such processes and practices have been variously studied, among others, as standard diffusion (Dobbin et al., 2007) – often from centers to peripheries, vernacularization (Levitt & Merry, 2009), i.e. as universalization and re-invention on the ground, “glocalization” (Robertson, 1995), in which situated knowledge from particular contexts universalizes, and is then reappropriated by local contexts again, “local universality”, as insisted on by Social Studies of Science and Medicine (Timmermans / Berg, 1997), and which coincides with Sassen’s (2007) and Beck’s (2014) insight that the “‘Global Other’ is in Our Midst”. What can be gained from a dialogue between these approaches and how can such a dialogue become fruitful?

- To ask how new salient theoretical concepts of the global can develop from empirical research addressing micro or meso level phenomena – do new concepts synthesize older concepts or do they go beyond them?

- To consider whether particular theories of the global are suited for particular empirical approaches, or whether the relation between empirical research and theory should be kept open as wide as possible.

We particularly want to encourage young scholars to send us their abstracts. Under certain conditions we can provide funding for travel and lodging and are thus looking forward to applications. Please send your abstract to ilka.sommer@uni-due.de and benjamin.quasinowski@uni-due.de until December 16th, 2020!

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The II All-Russian demographic forum with international participation, Moscow. December 4-5, 2020. Leninsky Prospect, 32A (the main building of the Russian academy of sciences)


According to the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin’s Address to the Federal Assembly on January 15, 2020, family support and the need to solve demographic problems that determine the country’s future are defined as a priority of the strategic development of Russia. The Forum is a platform to bring together scientists, politicians and civil society representatives to discuss the problems of implementing the national project «Demography». The aim of the Forum is to develop a strategy for a national demographic policy and a family support policy that preserves continuity and formulates new approaches to socio-demographic policy regarding regional and ethno-cultural features of the country, as well as considering effective foreign practices.

The Plenary Meeting will be held on May 25, 2020 in Blue Hall. At the Plenary Meeting representatives of federal and regional legislative and executive authorities, leading Russian and foreign scientists will give a speech. In addition, the presentation of the annual National Demographic Report will take place, which will include the results of the first wave of the All-Russian sociological study “Demographic Well-being of Russia”, conducted by the working group of the Scientific Council “Demographic and Migration Problems of Russia” at the Department of Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences. On the second day of the Forum there will be held four Round Tables:

1. Lifestyle and self-preserving behavior of the Russian population;
2. Reproductive behavior and family values of the Russian population;
3. Migration behavior of Russians and the problems of migrant integration in Russian society;

The selection of scientific papers for round tables will be carried out by the Organizing Committee, which will consider all abstracts received by the published deadline to ensure that the proposed submission is relevant to the Forum. The forum will end with the adoption of proposals and recommendations for improving the socio-demographic policy of the country, which will be sent to the state authorities of the Russian Federation. Heads and representatives of the legislative and executive authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation in charge of the implementation of the national project «Demography», representatives of the scientific and expert community, journalists, civil society representatives are invited to participate in the Forum.

It is planned to publish a collection of materials of the Forum in the series of the scientific publication «Demography. Sociology. Economics», which will be included in the Russian Science Citation Index (RSCI).

For any question, please email to Doctorate in Sociology, Prof. Rostovskaya Tamara Kerimovna, + 7-905-558-97-91, email: rostovskaya.tamara@mail.ru Doctorate in Economics, Prof. Ivanova Alla Efimovna + 7-916-543-83-90, email: ivanova-home@yandex.ru. Submission Deadline is 10 November 2020.

Participants will be responsible for their travel and accommodation expenses.

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Germany has emerged as the leading destination of refugees in the EU and among other high-income countries in absolute terms at 1.6 million asylum applications, which have been submitted there from 2015 to 2018. More than two-thirds of the refugee population in Germany has already received a protection status, another one-fifth of the applications are still pending. Five years after the surge in refugee migration to Germany and other European countries in 2015 we aim to draw first conclusions of what has been achieved regarding the integration of refugees into the economy and other areas of society in the leading destination countries of asylum-seekers in the EU and world-wide. This becomes of utmost importance given the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis for economies and societies worldwide. The conference aims to bring together demographers, economists, sociologists and political scientists to discuss the most critical lessons on refugee integration in Europe and encourages contributions on the following topics:

- refugee migration, family reunification and patterns of settlement;
- selection of refugees;
- asylum procedures and effectiveness of integration programs;
- refugee penalty and labor market integration;
- educational and training opportunities for refugees and their offspring;
- social integration and family dynamics;
- language and cultural integration;
- health and traumata;
- consequences of the COVID-19 Crisis;
- effects on host country economy and population.

SUBMISSIONS: Abstracts of max. 1000 words (plus max. five keywords) can be submitted to IAB-ECSR@iab.de Please, also indicate the preferred presentation format (panel or poster presentation). Deadline: 10 January 2021.
ECSR TRAVEL AWARD: The ECSR will also cover travels and accommodation costs up to 750€ for four outstanding PhD students. In order to be eligible for a travel award, the applicant must be the sole author, or the first author of the paper and the full paper must be submitted to and accepted by the workshop committee. Only PhD students or researchers, who have not submitted their PhDs before 2020 are eligible.

LOCAL ORGANIZERS: Yuliya Kosyakova (IAB & University of Bamberg, University of Mannheim) & Herbert Brücker (IAB, BIM & Humboldt University)

CONFERENCE FORMAT: Currently planned: Hybrid (on-site and online). It may be possible that the developments regarding the COVID19 pandemic indicate a change to a pure online conference. If so, all registered participants will be informed as soon as possible, and all information will be posted also on this website.

IMPORTANT DATES
January 10, 2021: Deadline for extended abstract submission
February 28, 2021: Notification of acceptance
March 01, 2021: Start of registration
April 10, 2021: Deadline for registration

Further information can be found here: https://de.xing-events.com/vi/RIXVNJS

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“Transnational Social Protection: Inclusion for Whom? Theoretical Reflections and Migrant Experiences”
Special Issue for the journal “Social Inclusion” editors: E. Scheibelhofer, A. Amelina, E. Carmel, and A. Runfors

During the past decades, welfare institutions in Europe and in other regions of the world have become the main pillar for the articulation of citizenship, and thus one of the essential mediums of social inclusion and exclusion. Although the linkages between migration, welfare and belonging are not a new phenomenon, their current transformations require new ways of analysing the so-called liberal paradox. Empirically speaking, we are confronted with a large variety of mobilities and migratory movements—e.g., temporary and circular patterns, cross-border lifestyles of many settled movers. The increasingly transnational quality of migration and mobility across Europe and other regions of the world has also contributed to the emergence of various forms of cross-border social membership. The latter manifest themselves in the form of phenomena such as migrants’ simultaneous use of social security arrangements in their sending and receiving countries. If welfare institutions assume responsibility for migration management and, in doing so, influence the production of differentiated life chances, then closer analysis of the social stratifications is of great importance.

This thematic issue invites articles that address the changing relationships between social protection, cross-border migrations and social membership in Europe and beyond. We ask: What are the best conceptual tools (theoretically and methodologically-speaking) to address social security governance and social protection arrangements in the context of cross-border migration? We also invite contributions concerned with the ways in which mobile individuals organize their formal and informal social protection vis-à-vis relevant institutional opportunity structures. In particular, we invite contributions on movers’ concrete experiences of global, transnational and national social security/social membership and what experiences they have of inequalities in welfare opportunities. Articles may also address the symbolic horizons that sustain, and/or contest any forms of social protection and social membership, including debates about “social tourism.”

Deadline for Abstracts: 15 February 2021; deadline for Full Papers: 30 June 2021
Further information can be found here:
https://www.cogitatiopress.com/socialinclusion/pages/view/nextissues#SocialProtection

IMPORTANT: Please note that publication is only possible if you are covered by an Institutional Membership with Cogitatio Press in order to cover the process fee of 900 Euro; otherwise, authors have to cover this fee via other means.

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“Asylum in lockdown: access to international protection and reception in times of COVID-19”

Revista CIDOB d’Afers Internacionales opens submissions for academic papers for issue 129 (December 2021)

Objective: Created in 1982, CIDOJOURNAL of Afers Internacionales is a cultural–academic international relations journal that publishes original work. Pioneer in the Spanish-speaking world, each issue is a monograph coordinated by an expert that provides in-depth analysis of an aspect of the international state of affairs from an inter- and transdisciplinary perspective. The articles undergo an external double-blind peer review process and are indexed and summarised in the main academic social sciences databases, such as Scopus and Web of Science.

Scientific coordinators: Blanca Garcés, Senior Research Fellow at CIDOB and Ana López Sala, Senior Researcher at CSIC

The number of forcibly displaced persons in the world has been growing over recent years. UNHCR estimates that nearly 80 million people were in this situation in 2019, of whom 26 million have crossed an international border and are therefore refugees. That is the highest figure ever recorded. UNHCR also warns that not only is forced displacement much more widespread than before, it is also longer-lasting: increasing numbers of people are being displaced, but fewer and fewer are able to return to their place of origin in the short to medium term. COVID-19 has severely impacted every stage of a refugee’s journey. The virus and the responses to it have affected the causes of forced displacement; border crossings, with tighter restrictions on international mobility; access to asylum and its functioning, impeded by whole or partial office closures; reception capacity, reduced by the effective closure of camps; and reception services, whose limitation has left many refugees struggling to survive day-to-day life.

Given this situation, issue 129 of Revista CIDOB d’Afers Internacionales aims to analyse the pandemic’s impact on international protection from a comparative perspective. It has a dual objective: on the one hand, to produce academic knowledge on a subject whose recency makes it largely unknown; on the other hand, to examine the contradictions and implications of asylum in lockdown. Of particular interest is understanding the importance of context (international protection recognition, state capacity for social intervention, politicisation of immigration, cultural proximity of refugees, wider socio-economic conditions) when explaining substantial differences. In short, this issue of Revista CIDOB d’Afers Internacionales aims to provide a reflection that is both theoretical and practical on asylum in times of COVID-19. Contributions will be welcomed of original work – empirical, comparative or theoretical, and with a critical focus – on the pandemic’s impact on countries around the world (especially Europe, Latin America and the Middle East).

Timetable of the call:
November 30th, 2020: Submission deadline for abstracts (300 words) and a short biographical note (100 words). 13th–17th December 2020: Authors are notified of the outcome of the selection process. March 20th, 2021: Submission deadline for completed articles (see instructions for authors). Further information can be found here:
https://www.cidob.org/en/events/thematic_lines_of_research/cidob/convocatoria_de_articulos_el_asilo_confinado_el_acceso_a_la_proteccion_internacional_y_la_acogida_en_tiemsos_de_covid_19
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Visit the RC-31 web site.

MEMBERSHIP dues are $20 for a four-year period: to join, visit the ISA web site here.

SUBMIT YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS!
(Not only announcements – there is also scope for longer pieces in the form of op-eds, etc.)

Send submissions for the next issue to Oshrat Hochman: Oshrat.hochman@gesis.org