

Call for papers: 2<sup>nd</sup> Transmobilities-Development seminar, 8-9 June 2017, Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands.

## **Friction in a mobile world: Transmigrants, contested citizenship and human in/security**

Human mobility does not occur without social and spatial friction. This is particularly articulated in the context of an increasing securitisation of migration whereby states and supra-states tend to frame international migration as a homeland security problem, leading to enhanced border control and the combatting of human smuggling, normalized in the everyday of host societies through television reality programmes like Border Security (Australia), UK Border Force, etc. At the same time, human right organisations and critical scholars have emphasized the human insecurity involved with migration flows and point to the countless deaths of innocent people simply looking for better futures abroad (Ferrer-Gallardo and Van Houtum 2014) as well as the exploitative acts of corrupt border guards and smugglers that are hereby produced (e.g. Triulzi and McKenzie 2012; Van Reisen, Estefanos and Rijken 2014). Moreover, when we look at the dynamics in the destination countries, we see that migrants continue to find themselves in precarious social-economic conditions and legal situations (Schuster 2005; Lucht 2012) with a substantial number of migrants facing the risk of deportation every single day (De Genova and Preutz 2010). Other forms of friction exist in the transnational space between the country of origin and destination locations. The frictions produced concern, among others, contestations over dual citizenship versus senses of loyalty, and the political engagement of diaspora communities on site and elsewhere. Moreover, migrant investments may reproduce, or even exacerbate social inequalities and divisions in countries of origin, not least if they are based on persistent social and cultural obligations.

Yet, the notion of friction is not to be understood in a negative manner only. Frictions can also have profound effects, resulting in new societal directions, or in affirmations of particular social institutions, creating incentives that may be sustainable, because of the hard questions asked on their role and impact along the way. Yet in all cases it does require critical thinking, and analyses that take on various perspectives, are steeped in insights of more holistic developments (geo-political, economic or otherwise), and which maintain an open perspective to temporal and spatial dimensions. This conference consists of the following eight different panels.

1. Locating migrant trajectories: Experiences of displacement, emplacement, and migration industries (Drotbohm & Winters)
2. Active Asylum: Everyday tactics and relational actions contesting asylum regime(s) of EU states (Aparna)
3. Migration, land and contested claims of citizenship (Steel, Kaag & Zoomers)
4. The Politics of Escape: Rapid Mobility, Facilitation and Materiality (Jones & Schapendonk)
5. Education without borders? Frictions and boundary-crossing in the field of internationalised education (Ahrens & Leung)
6. Contested citizenship in urban spaces (Fauser, van Liempt & Nijenhuis)
7. Deportation as Friction (Kleist & Drotbohm)
8. Climate change, infrastructure and new mobilities: frictions in new settlement processes (Otsuki, Zoomers & Oates)

If you would like to present a paper, please submit your abstract by sending an email to the specific panel organizers. We would like to receive all abstracts by **7<sup>th</sup> of April 2017**. **Please find below the full panel descriptions.**

# 1. Locating migrant trajectories: Experiences of displacement, emplacement, and migration industries

Panel convenors: Prof. Heike Drotbohm, Mainz University  
Dr. Nanneke Winters, University of Antwerp

## Description:

Current views on migration crises are often dominated by one-sided perspectives on a limited number of border and destination settings. However, these settings are part of broader, multi-faceted migrant journeys (C. Mainwaring & N. Brigden, 2016) that cross multiple regions and remain highly contingent, hierarchical and volatile. To contribute to an in-depth understanding of the differentiations and interconnections of human (im)mobility, this panel aims to highlight and 'locate' these migrant trajectories through focusing on both displacement and emplacement, and on the role of migration industries herein.

Recent interpretations of displacement have moved beyond the narrow category of formally recognized refugees, to include a diversity of actors, places, and possible gains involved in migration crises (A. Hammar, 2014). Moreover, discussions of displacement coincide with a recognition of migrant emplacement, or the ways in which they re-embed their lives and re-build their networks in the localities of their trajectory (N. Glick Schiller & A. Çağlar, 2016). Whereas displacement often evokes images of passivity and victimhood, emplacement emphasizes how beyond loss and emergency, 'the displaced' also re-shape local space (W.A. Vogt, 2013). In both home and (temporary) host communities, migrants engender change in the socioeconomic landscape when they engage in relationships of assistance, consumption and employment. Many of these relationships are directly or indirectly linked to ever-expanding yet context-specific migration industries, which include migration entrepreneurs, multinational companies, NGOs, and other actors, who engage in activities that both control and facilitate migration for both financial and non-financial gain (T. Gammeltoft-Hansen & N. Sørensen, 2013). In this sense, cross-border dynamics such as smuggling, solidarity, and surveillance are often intimately linked.

These critical elaborations of displacement, emplacement and migration industries allow us to unravel migrant trajectories as they 'touch the ground'. These trajectories need to be embedded in the localities migrants traverse en route, localities that are linked but have their own specific migration industry characteristics. Such a focus on trajectories contributes to a better understanding of the elusive forces behind migrants' arrival at highly visible border and destination settings.

To explore migrant trajectories in this way, we invite papers that discuss dynamics of displacement and emplacement amidst complex migration industries, particularly along routes in Global South regions. Papers may address questions like:

- how are experiences of displacement and emplacement linked and shaped by migration industries?
- in which way are ethnic, class and other social boundaries crossed and challenged in the course of displacement and emplacement?
- what kind of ethical and methodological considerations are required for locating migrant trajectories?

Please send your abstract (250 words) to [drotbohm@uni-mainz.de](mailto:drotbohm@uni-mainz.de) or [nannekewinters@gmail.com](mailto:nannekewinters@gmail.com)

## 2. Active Asylum: Everyday tactics and relational actions contesting asylum regime(s) of EU states

Panel convenor: Kolar Aparna, Radboud University

### Description:

Despite migratory movements to Europe being negligible within a global context, they are the most represented in the media and political debates (alongside USA) such as the recent ones around BREXIT. These representations tend to reinforce stereotypes and prejudices of migrants as 'the Other' (passive victim, exotic other, among others), rather than focusing on the relational dimensions of migration and geopolitics and geo-economies, solidarities across borders, affective relations between actors blurring categories of 'citizen' versus 'migrant'/'refugee'.

In this session we would like to understand the lived dimensions of asylum and all the underlying relations that question the very assumptions of asylum regimes of EU states. From solidarity movements, to everyday friendships and social networks, or genealogies of Europe's asylum laws, to intertwined (his)stories and overlapping territories (Said) of asylum migration.

In particular the session seeks to open discussions from three main angles

First, what actions and relations are being forged by actors operating within the formal asylum structures of (EU) states? What kinds of spatialities and socialities are being produced from the same?

Second, what actions and relations are being forged by actors informally in order to gain access to and/or transform asylum structures of (EU) states? What kinds of spatialities and socialities are being produced from the same?

Third, what are their implications for political visions and subjectivities on migration that are relational (such as 'shared responsibility', 'transnational histories')?

With this in mind we invite paper that address the relational dimensions of asylum. These could be:

- relational biographies involved in asylum migration
- Genealogies of Asylum law (Geneva Convention, Dublin regulation, among others)
- role of historical colonial (his)stories and contemporary geopolitical contexts producing asylum relations
- emotionalities and affective relations of asylum, among others

We welcome different formats of presentations that could include, but not limited to, performative lectures, artistic representations, provocations leading to discussions, workshops, academic presentations of papers.

**Please send your abstract/contribution to Kolar Aparna ([k.kolaraparna@fm.ru.nl](mailto:k.kolaraparna@fm.ru.nl)) by the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2017.**

### 3. Migration, land and contested claims of citizenship

Panel convenors: Dr. Griet Steel, Utrecht University  
Dr. Mayke Kaag, Leiden University  
Prof. Annelies Zoomers, Utrecht University

The link between migration and land is manifold. Land investments cannot be fully understood without taking the role of migrants into account and the other way round, migration patterns cannot be understood without considering the geography of land investments, creating new opportunities for some while causing displacement and forced evictions for others. In classic migration debates, the rural exodus has been ascribed to farmers being pushed away from their land due to drought, war, land fragmentation and large scale land grabbing activities in the agribusiness. Lack of land and appropriate inheritance systems has been one of the root causes for many youngsters moving to cities and small towns to make a livelihood outside agriculture. Out-migration is often the main trigger of land-use change in rural areas. At the same time, migrants are often main investors in home towns and countries, as reflected in the impressive migrant architecture. Migrants from all over the world send huge amounts of remittances back home to invest in land and real estate, be it in cities or in rural areas in their home countries. By putting mounting pressure on real estate prices, they make urban land markets much more competitive and speculative. The economic value of these type of investments and its meaning in terms of productivity have been widely discussed in the migration literature. Less attention has been paid however to the meaning of these investments for identity and citizenship construction and the way it influences processes of socio-economic inclusion and exclusion. This panel aims to further disentangle the diverse linkages between migration and land by focusing on how growing interconnectivity and the worldwide intensification of flows of people, money, ideas and goods shapes current land markets in cities and rural areas in the Global South. Particularly we welcome papers focusing on the role of migrants in contemporary land transformations by addressing the following questions:

- How do competing claims over land and the growing influence of transnational migrants in land commodification processes may create frictions and socio-spatial fragmentation between those who have access to migration spaces and those who have not?
- What are the negative as well as positive (productive) consequences of migrants' contested claims of owner- and citizenship, including strategies used by diverse claimants?

Please send your abstracts to [g.steel@uu.nl](mailto:g.steel@uu.nl) by the 7<sup>th</sup> of April.

## 4. The Politics of Escape: Rapid Mobility, Facilitation and Materiality

### The Politics of Escape: Rapid Mobility, Facilitation and Materiality

Panel convenors: Joris Schapendonk, Radboud University Nijmegen  
Craig Jones, University of Newcastle

Discussant: Derek Gregory (University of British Columbia, Raboud Excellence Professor, Radboud University)

This panel discusses the politics and experiences attached to processes of escape. Escape may involve individual and collective evacuations from conflict situations and war zones and hence may refer to sudden life-or-death experiences (refugee movements, evacuation of wounded soldiers). From a very different angle, moments of escape may in fact reflect forms of transgressive mobility that frees the actor from stringent control regimes or entrapment. In the context of the latter, escape routes may create new rooms to manoeuvre and reflect political subversions (Papadopoulos, Stephenson and Tsianos 2008). For example, undocumented migrants often disappear from the radar in the period they encounter the risk of deportation and simply escape to other places. At both extreme ends, processes of escape profoundly reflect the politics of mobility as it articulates the questions of a) who is able to move, and who is not (see also Cresswell (2008) on the Katrina hurricane) b) how is the escape process facilitated, how is it planned or organised? and c) what materiality – i.e. means of transportation, communication, infrastructure – is involved and what kind of experiences does it produce?

This panel starts from William Walters' notion of *viapolitics* that articulates the politics of mobility as well as the diverse ways materialities shape processes of movement (Walters 2015). It invites papers that enhance our empirical, methodological and conceptual understanding of processes of escape, we have a particular interest in papers that:

- ... relate the notion of escape to processes of mobility (mobilities studies, migration and refugee studies, etc.)
- ... discuss the methodological and ethical challenges of investigating processes of escape
- ... take a processual approach that follows, or historically reconstructs, processes of escape through time and space

**If you are interested in participating, please send a title and 250-word abstract to Joris Schapendonk ([j.schapendonk@fm.ru.nl](mailto:j.schapendonk@fm.ru.nl)) or Craig Jones ([craig.jones@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:craig.jones@ncl.ac.uk)) by the 7<sup>th</sup> of April**

## 5. Education without borders? Frictions and boundary-crossing in the field of internationalised education

Panel convenors: Dr. Jill Ahrens, Utrecht University  
Dr. Maggi Leung, Utrecht University

### Description:

The education field, across secondary, tertiary and professional levels, has become increasingly internationalised. The field is traversed by intersecting flows of people (students, staff and administrators), other tangible materials (money, books and other learning materials, equipment etc.) and intangible elements (money, knowledge, teaching and learning philosophies and techniques, management practices etc.). In migration/mobilities research, internationally mobile students have been the focus of many studies in the growing research field. While these students are generally viewed as an unproblematic migrant category, research has also shown the unevenness and 'darker' sides of their mobility experiences. Together with mobility, frictions and social boundary-crossings also define, in intersecting and contingent ways, the lived experiences of these mobile students. The is true for other elements in the field, e.g. institutions, practices, staff, curricula, knowledge, resources, skills and profits as well – they do not just flow across borders as often propagated but experience (and generate) frictions and (new) boundaries. The mobility and frictions of these various elements in turn shape the production, circulation and consumption of education and knowledge. It is important to examine how and why some elements cross social and geographical boundaries, while other elements are more difficult to mobilise and transfer into new contexts. This panel seeks to address the ways in which the frictions are created, experienced and resisted. How do these frictions affect geographies of knowledge and power? Who benefits from frictions? And who gets blocked? Can frictions also be creative? What are the implications for local education sectors and labour markets? Which policies and agendas have eliminated frictions and/or produced new ones? We are keen to receive abstracts from researchers interested in one or more of these questions.

**If you are interested in participating, please send a title and 250-word abstract to Jill Ahrens ([j.ahrens@uu.nl](mailto:j.ahrens@uu.nl)) or Maggi Leung ([w.h.m.leung@uu.nl](mailto:w.h.m.leung@uu.nl)) by the 7<sup>th</sup> of April**

## 6. Contested citizenship in urban spaces

Panel convenors: Dr. Margit Fauser, Ruhr University Bochum  
Dr. Ilse van Liempt, Utrecht University  
Dr. Gery Nijenhuis, Utrecht University

### Description:

Human mobility challenges empirical realities and concepts of belonging, identity and citizenship that are often premised on (territorially) bounded formal communities. A variety of frictions can be observed between newcomers and the 'established', between state and society, and within and between diverse subgroups. Contestations around the notion of citizenship often occur in urban space because it is at the local level that daily lived experiences of inclusion and exclusion are most immediate.

Meanings of citizenship differ greatly and range from a 'narrow' interpretation, restricted to the legal perspective and expressed in passports and identity cards, to a broader conceptualization in which participation, political mobilization, protest, place-making and other direct and indirect actions are used to demand the recognition, expansion or retrenchment of rights and belonging. This panel proposes to examine the broad interpretation of citizenship and more concretely claims-making practices in various urban spaces by migrants (including refugees, and migrant associations and alliances), actors supporting migrants, as well as groups opposing newcomers and their claims to citizenship. We are explicitly interested in socioeconomic, political and cultural factors that shape claims-making processes, and how the narratives are constructed.

We invite papers that deal with one of the following subtopics, looking into different regional contexts, focusing on the Global North or South:

- Theoretical reflections on urban citizenship
- The mechanisms that shape claims-making at the city level
- The facilitating and/or obstructing role of local and national policies/opportunity structures
- The role of the media in claims-making
- The position of space and place in claims-making
- Claim making by refugees/migrants, support groups as well as local protesters

Please send your abstracts by the 7<sup>th</sup> of April to [margit.fauser@ruhr-uni-bochum.de](mailto:margit.fauser@ruhr-uni-bochum.de) or [i.c.vanliempt@uu.nl](mailto:i.c.vanliempt@uu.nl) or [g.nijenhuis@uu.nl](mailto:g.nijenhuis@uu.nl)

## 7. Deportation as Friction

Panel convenors: Prof. Heike Drotbohm, University of Mainz  
Dr. Nauja Kleist, Danish Institute for International Studies

Deportation has become an increasingly utilized migration management instrument, aiming at deterring migration, expelling unwanted aliens and signaling a given state's tough stand on immigration to domestic constituencies. This panel has its objective to examine the implications of deportation for deportees and the institutions and states engaged in deportation, with particular focus on the interactions and connections occurring between them. We thereby wish to study deportation as friction, understood as precarious and disrupted interconnections (Tsing 2005) in a situation characterized by stratified globalization, a diversification of migration industries (Gammeltoft-Hansen and Sørensen 2013) and restrictive mobility regimes.

To illuminate these perspectives, we call for papers focusing on how different actors practice, govern and perceive deportation at different moments and locations along the so-called 'deportation corridor' (Drotbohm & Hasselberg 2015), which covers different places, actors and institution. We are particularly interested in presentations that tackle the diverse and conflicting social interactions between deportees and their social networks, institutions, entrepreneurs, laws and technologies that are part and parcel of the forceful route of involuntary return.

These include:

- Deportability: How do authorities govern, practice and stage deportability (Peutz and Genova 2010) – the constant but not necessarily realized threat of deportation ? Which impact has the condition of deportability on migrants and their perception of (im-)mobility and (potential) transnational life worlds? How do they respond to institutional requirements and constraints?
- Detention: what migration industries emerge and are involved in detention? Which technologies do they employ and what kinds of subjects do they (attempt to) create? How do detainees interact and differentiate themselves under this condition of institutional constraint?
- Removal: What types of institutions and migration industries are involved in different types of removal processes? What materialities and technologies of constraint, escort, communication and transportation do they employ? What are the interactions between departing agents and deportees?
- Post-deportation: Which institutional interactions and frameworks do deportees face or approach after their deportation? How is their deportation perceived and managed by authorities and national or local institutions? What is the role of transnational practices and networks after deportation?

Please send your abstracts to Nauja Kleist [nkl@diis.dk](mailto:nkl@diis.dk) or Heike Drotbohm [drotbohm@uni-mainz.de](mailto:drotbohm@uni-mainz.de) by the 7<sup>th</sup> of April

## 8. Climate change, infrastructure and new mobilities: frictions in new settlement processes

Panel convenors:        dr. Kei Otsuki, Utrecht University  
                                 Prof. Annelies Zoomers, Utrecht University  
                                 Lucy Oates, LANDac

### Description:

This panel is proposed for deepening our understanding on the relationship between climate and environmental changes, increased infrastructure projects and various modes of human mobility. Currently, a lack of basic, social and climate resilient infrastructures are recognised to be one of the major developmental problems. For example, studies imply that ‘climate refugees’ will be constituting new mobility underpinned by a lack of human security. Thus, the need for infrastructures to enhance resilience of people to be able to stay in the changed climate is likely to increase. This recognised need has been in fact endorsed internationally by the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations’ New Urban Agenda in 2016. Indeed, the world is beginning to witness new waves of investments in green infrastructures and masterplans for cities facing the threat of climate change (e.g. coastal and delta areas, small island states etc.).

However, little has been studied about new mobilities that these new flows of investments in climate resilient infrastructures are further driving and their implications for vulnerable people. As classic studies on development-induced displacement have shown, large-scale infrastructure developments often cause spatial exclusion for those who must be displaced and resettled from the construction of infrastructures and city upgrading or planning. In addition, infrastructure development attracts construction workers and engineers from outside, as well as migrants from less developed areas. Therefore, new infrastructure developments in the context of climate change are likely to create frictions between already mobile populations in growing cities or rural areas where large-scale infrastructure projects are constructed. Yet, it is still unclear how these frictions are actually experienced by the people on the way to unsettle and resettle themselves in the midst of changing climate and infrastructure developments.

We are particularly interested in actual experiences of the new mobilities that could be used to rethink about impact studies, policy and practice on climate change and infrastructure development. The panel considers that it is imperative at this point in time to examine empirical evidence and explore how migrants’ knowledge and practice could be used to establish alternative agenda for city and infrastructure planning, or climate change adaptation and mitigation policies. In this way, we also aim to incorporate mobilities aspects in discussions on SDGs and New Urban Agenda.

**Please submit your abstracts by the 7<sup>th</sup> of April by sending an email to: [k.otsuki@uu.nl](mailto:k.otsuki@uu.nl)**