

Call for Papers

15th International Migration Conference

Thursday, 18 June to Saturday, 20 June 2015

Centre de Documentation sur les Migrations Humaines

CDMH, Dudelange/Luxemburg

„Migration und Gender/Migration and Gender“

Content

Gender is, along with race and class, a line of difference in society leading to structures of inequality. It is also of central importance in the context of migration. In public and political debates, migration appears principally as a phenomenon associated with labour migration, people fleeing their homes and homelands for a range of reasons, and migration driven by poverty. In public debate and likewise in the sciences, gender relations are problematized in very different ways: thus, for example, female migrants were largely ignored in migration research down into the 1980s. Migration was seen mainly as a phenomenon dominated by males. Women and children appeared principally as family members who remained behind in the country of origin or who migrated in the framework of family reunification. Viewed from this perspective, female migrants were seen in the main as the victims of patriarchal social relations in the regions of origin of the women migrants. Subsequently, it was above all the merit of the social-historical and feminist migration research to draw attention to the fact that women were being intentionally recruited and that they were not victims in migration but rather independent, self-confident actors, despite the prevailing representations.

Since the 1980s, social-scientific research on migration and gender has become ever more differentiated, initially in particular with an eye to motives for migration, the life situations of female migrants and the image of the woman migrant. From the end of 1990s, the specific conditions of socialization of youth (male and female) from migrant backgrounds were also increasingly investigated in research on youth. Later, more interest emerged in the dimension of gender relations. In the 1990s, some spoke for a time of a feminizing of migration. The reason for that was the increased migration of women to work as domestics in private households and in the care sector. This is a migration of interest because here in public discussion the cliché of ‘women’s work’ emerged once again.

Only in the past decade has research on masculinity in the context of migration become a focus of its own in the German-speaking countries. To date interest in these studies has centered principally on contexts involving family and youth welfare. In international research on masculinity as well, not until the past 14 years has there been a greater interest in the topic of migration. Of special importance within studies on masculinity in the context of migration is the connection between the structural and biographical-individual levels. Masculinities are characterized by hegemony, subordination, complicity and marginalization. The question arises: what cultural ideal of masculinity is hegemonial, in what context and why?

In the analysis of masculinities and migration, as in research on female migrants as well, along with the categories of gender and ethnicity, class and body also must be taken into account and explored. The approach of intersectionality focuses on a nexus between these various relations of inequality and oppression and their importance for the social positionings and various different mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion. In the meanwhile, queer theory has also been given greater attention. Through its lens, further dimensions of gender relations in the context of migration can be rendered visible and the bipolarity of gender construction in particular can be interrogated. In the framework of the conference, the relations between migration and gender will be analyzed and discussed from an interdisciplinary and international perspective and within a range of different contexts. Proposals can be submitted on the following theoretical and empirical perspectives:

Principal thematic focal areas

1. Gender relations in the context of migration (such as related to youth, family, age, education, work/profession)
2. Approaches in research on gender and migration (including those drawn from feminist, queer, masculinity and intersectionality-oriented studies)
3. Media and public representations of gender and migration
4. Sexuality-body identity in the context of migration
5. Flight migration and Gender
6. Migration and gender in cultures of memory: exhibitions, museums and public space

Proposal Submission

Interested potential presenters are requested to submit an abstract of 500 words maximum with a short title, along with a brief bio and contact address (e-mail, telephone and postal address). For that purpose, please use the online form available at www.migrationskonferenz.ch or www.irm-trier.de. Please indicate the subtopic under which your presentation should be included, and also whether you can present and discuss in both the conference languages (English and German) or only in one.

Proposal submission deadline: 30 December 2014

Notification on proposals by: February 2015

Submit proposal per email to Tobias Studer: tobias.studer@fhnw.ch

Conference languages: German and English

Information and contact: www.migrationskonferenz.ch

Invited Speakers: Prof. Dr. Helma Lutz (Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany), Prof. Dr. Lena Inowlocki (University of Applied Sciences Frankfurt, Germany), Dr. Katrin Huxel (University of Münster, Germany), Prof. Dr. Rudolf Leiprecht (Carl von Ossietzky University, Germany), Prof. Dr. Sylvia Hahn (Salzburg University, Austria), Prof. Dr. Ursula Apitzsch (Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany), Prof. Dr. Marlou Schrover (Leiden University, Netherlands)

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- Centre de Documentation sur les Migrations Humaines CDMH (Dudelange, Luxembourg)
- Institute for Integration and Participation, School of Social Work, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (Olten, Switzerland)
- Institute for Regional and Migration Research IRM (Trier, FRG)
- Competence Center for Migration, Intercultural Education and Organizational Development, University of Applied Sciences Cologne, Faculty for Applied Social Sciences, Competence Center for Migration, Intercultural Education and Organizational Development (Cologne, FRG)
- Institute for the Educational Sciences, Faculty of Education, Innsbruck University, Austria

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