MIGRANT BELONGINGS

DIGITAL PRACTICES AND THE EVERYDAY

**ONLINE CONFERENCE
21-22-23 APRIL 2021**
UTRECHT UNIVERSITY
THE NETHERLANDS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
PAUL GILROY
ENGIN ISIN
NICHOLAS DE GENOVA
LARISSA HJORTH
SASKIA WITTEBORN

CONVENERS
SANDRA PONZANESI
KOEN LEURS

erc

CE

CONNECTING_
EUROPE

Abstracts and biographies

Speaker index: page 5

Chairs

Adi Kuntsman, Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
SESSION 8.2 *Diasporic Queers from Eastern Europe and Eurasia*

Ajay Bailey, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
SESSION 7.1 *Migrant Digital Food Practices*

Amanda Paz Alencar, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Keynote Larissa Hjorth and SESSION 4.1 *Southern approaches to digital responses and imaginaries in (forced) migration*

Anita Lucchesi, Federal University of Sergipe, Brazil
SESSION 5.2 *The Internet as Migrant Milieu*

Araa Al Jaramani, Leiden University, the Netherlands
SESSION 4.5 *Syria*

Cathrine Bublatzky, Heidelberg University, Germany
SESSION 3.2 *Mobile Belongings: Digital Everyday Life and the Question(s) of Citizenship*

Çigdem Bozdag, University of Bremen, Germany & University of Groningen, the Netherlands
SESSION 3.3 *Youth*

Dağhan Irak, University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom
SESSION 2.4 *Resistance*

Daniella Trimboli, Deakin University, Australia
SESSION 5.1 Archives and Autographics

David Ongenaert, Ghent University, Brussels
SESSION 4.4 *Humanitarianism*

Domitilla Olivieri, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Keynote Nicholas de Genova

Elisabetta Costa, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
SESSION 1.2 *Affect*

Eva Midden, Utrecht University, the Netherlands,
SESSION 3.5 *Religion and Transition*

MIGRANT BELONGINGS
DIGITAL PRACTICES AND THE EVERY DAY

Fran Meissner, University of Twente, The Netherlands
SESSION 8.3 *Borders, Securities & Insecurities*

Gerwin van Schie, Utrecht University, the Netherlands,
SESSION 2.5 *Data*

Giorgia Donà, University of East London, United Kingdom
SESSION 7.2 *Digital Everyday Forms of Mobilisation and Solidarity Led by Migrants and Refugees in times of Covid-19*

Griet Steel, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
SESSION 3.1 *Digital entrepreneurship*

Helena Dedecek Gertz, Hamburg University, Germany
SESSION 1.4 *Political Economy*

Ilse van Liempt, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
SESSION 4.3 *Belonging/Affect*

Irene Gutierrez, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
SESSION 3.4 *Screening and Staging Strangers* and Screening of *Bab Sebta* France, Morocco / Colour / 2019 / 19' and Q&As with filmmaker Randa Maroufi

Katrien Pype, KU Leuven, Belgium
SESSION 3.1 *Digital entrepreneurship*

Kevin Smets, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
SESSION 7.4 *Mediated Diasporas*

Koen Leurs, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Keynote Saskia Witteborn*,* Round Table, SESSION 7.3 *Platforms / Infrastructure,* closing session (together with Irati Agirreazkuenaga) and paper award

Laura Candidatu, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
SESSION 6.3 *Digital Diaspora and Placemaking*

Lukasz Szulc, Sheffield University, United Kingdom
SESSION 2.3 *Queer migrants and digital Practices*

Mélodine Sommier, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands
SESSION 5.4 *Politics of Care*

Mine Gencel Bek, Siegen University, Germany
SESSION 6.4 *Visuality & Social Media*

MIGRANT BELONGINGS
DIGITAL PRACTICES AND THE EVERY DAY

Oksana Morgunova, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Moscow, Russia
SESSION 8.1 *Migrants' Digital Connections from the Sending Countries' Perspective*

Myria Georgiou, London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom,
Keynote Engin Isin and SESSION 1.5 *Cosmopolitanism & Representation*

Natasha Webster, Stockholm University, Sweden,
SESSION 7.1 *Migrant Digital Food Practices*

Pierluigi Musarò, University of Bologna, Italy
SESSION 6.2 *Digital Corridors for Transnational Belonging*

Rick Dolphijn, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
SESSION 6.1 *Food, Belonging and Digital Public Spaces* and special roundtable session: Digital
practices, materialities and migrant belongings

Rutvica Andrijasevic, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
SESSION 4.2 *Platformization of migration*

Sandra Ponzanesi, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Keynote Paul Gilroy, Round Table and SESSION 2.1 *Somali Diaspora and Digital Practices of
Belonging*

Shireen Walton, Goldsmiths, University of London, United Kingdom
SESSION 3.2 *Mobile Belongings: Digital Everyday Life and the Question(s) of Citizenship*

Silvia Almenara Niebla, Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium
SESSION 1.3 *Doing Family & Homemaking*

Tetyana Lokot, Dublin City University, Ireland
SESSION 1.1 *Patterns and practices of transnational involvement in homeland politics among the
Ukrainian Diaspora*

Vasiliki Makrygianni, independent researcher
SESSION 8.4 *Mobility*

Viviana Premazzi, University of Malta and Global Mindset Development, Malta
SESSION 5.3 *Covid-19*

Zsófia Hacsek, Coventry University, United Kingdom
SESSION 2.2 *How has digital technology impacted & shaped migration inter*

MIGRANT BELONGINGS
DIGITAL PRACTICES AND THE EVERY DAY

Index

MIGRANT BELONGINGS
DIGITAL PRACTICES AND THE EVERY DAY

MIGRANT BELONGINGS
DIGITAL PRACTICES AND THE EVERY DAY

MIGRANT BELONGINGS
DIGITAL PRACTICES AND THE EVERY DAY

MIGRANT BELONGINGS
DIGITAL PRACTICES AND THE EVERY DAY

MIGRANT BELONGINGS
DIGITAL PRACTICES AND THE EVERY DAY

Anisa Abeytia

Title:
"The Digital Lives of Syrian Refugees in Norway and the European Union: The Creation of Digital Jama'iyat and Facebook Social Media Networks as a Tool of Social (Ex)Inclusion"

Abstract:
Digital spaces are increasingly playing a pivotal role in the lives of refugees as a means of maintaining ties to their home countries, connecting to communities in their new homeland and as a means of self-integration and social (ex)inclusion. This study explores the social media habits of Syrian refugees over time and across geography, from 1998 when the internet was first introduced into Syria, until 2019. As Syrians began to arrive in Europe their posting habits on Facebook reflected changes they were experiencing during resettlement that are indicative of; altered trajectories of life goals, depression, a lack of confidence in the efficacy of social media as a medium of change, and a means of avoiding the Syrian state's censorship apparatus. However, instant messaging and private/secret groups remain popular and mimic older Syrian social networks, jama'iya, that migrated onto the internet and serve as in-group networks. Facebook allowed for the development of communities that emerged from an outpouring of sympathy for asylum seekers, and served as a major platform for the expansion of Syrian's digital lives via the creation of Refugee Welcome Pages and digital jama'iya. Refugee Welcome Pages thus far developed in three stages; first as a triage to provide support to refugees, then as a mechanism for locals to build networks to truly welcome refugees. However, not all countries were able to build robust communities online. The study findings suggest an overlap between online and offline activity as indicative of the level of engagement between refugees and locals as well as to resources in their communities. In the case of some participants, their online engagement reflected their exposure to the Syrian state's censorship apparatus, which prompted a continued cautionary interface with social media platforms.

Biography: Anisa Abeytia is a research and policy professional with a background in humanitarian diplomacy. She worked with the United States Congress, the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. State Department to shape U.S.-Syria policy, with a focus on domestic immigration and humanitarian advocacy.

Her research interests include; the social inclusion of Syrian refugees in Europe, the role of online platforms on the social inclusion of vulnerable populations in offline environments, and access to socio-spatiality in the upward mobility of refugee populations. She regularly presents her research internationally and publishes via national and international web based and print media, including a book chapter and policy briefs for UNESCO and The Hill.

She is the recipient of a Student Forum Award (2019) from the American Sociological Society and an Emerging Scholar Grant from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, University of Indiana/Purdue. She is currently Global Research Network's Think Tank Programme Co-Ordinator and a graduate student in Migration Studies at the University of San Francisco.

Abimbola Adelakun

Title:
""Thank God for amazon.com": Prayer Merchandize and Black Spirituality Commodity"

Abstract:
This essay explores the formation of global Pentecostalism by tracing a route some of the practices of exchange that sustain global Pentecostalism travel: amazon.com. A global business, amazon.com is the mall where one can find practically any ware. While the website, an online mall, carries an indeterminate number of goods, this essay spotlights the prayer merchandise (or prayer merch) on the website as produced by four Nigerian pastors and evangelists, Daniel Olukoya, Prayer Madueke, Daniel Okpara, and Tella Olayeri. This merchandise is in the form of books and spiritual warfare prayer manuals. With personal interviews and a content analysis of the reviews and ratings of their works, I critically analyze how African practical theology of prayers gets packaged into a commodity, the tactics of promotion, how the ethos of black spirituality facilitates the sales of these products, and how the evangelists balance the imperatives of divine encounter and enterprise.

Biography:
Abimbola A. Adelakun is an Assistant Professor in the African/African Diaspora Department, the University of Texas at Austin. Her research interests span the areas of theater and performance, Pentecostalism and Pentecostal culture, indigenous African religions, religious creativity, Yoruba studies, and black popular culture. Abimbola is also the author of Under the Brown Rusted Roofs (Kraft Books), writes a weekly column for PUNCH Newspapers.

Irati Agirreazkuenaga

Responsible for: Closing session

Biography:
Irati Agirreazkuenaga holds a PhD in journalism in public media and minority languages and she is Assistant Professor at the Journalism Department, School of Social Sciences and Communication at the University of the Basque Country, Bilbao. Her research interests include public media and citizen engagement in civic and political life, transmedia products in public service media, communication strategies for minority-language media and the role of the media in empowering minority identities, among others. She has published articles on communication strategies for immigrant radio and the role of the media in empowering minority identities., and she has co-authored books on audience participation and media convergence. She has pub- lished a book on the first Basque-language radio stations during Francoism (2016) and another on the attitudes and profiles of journalists working on Euskadi Irratia (EiTB) and Radio nan Gàidheal (BBC ALBA). She is currently Vice-Chair of the Diaspora, Migration and the Media section of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA).

Paul Agoe

Title:
"Clothing, Dress, and Belonging of Children of Ghanaian Immigrants in Germany"

Abstract:
Several studies have investigated the different facets of life of children of immigrants, in Europe, their integration into host societies has dominated research.
The paper extends the discussion on immigrant belonging to their children, or second generation immigrants. It focuses on children of Ghanaian immigrants in Germany and explores the importance they attach to clothing and items of dress from their parents' origin. It conceptualizes 'materialization of knowledge' as knowledge children of immigrants gain from these objects.
The paper seeks to highlight ways in which the everyday digital practices of children of immigrants, i.e. their usage of or visits to social media sites influence their clothing and dress, more especially on such items originating from their parents' origin, and ways in which using or keeping these items are important. The paper particularly seeks to show how these items are employed to negotiate, appropriate, and form a sense of belonging. For some, these are not just 'pieces of clothing'. Underlying their usage or keeping is 'materialization of knowledge', which helps in negotiating through and reconciling the 'two worlds' they live in in their everyday activities.
Empirical data for the paper was collected through qualitative interviews with children of Ghanaian immigrants in their youth. The concept of diaspora will be used to understand these data. The paper finds that though children of immigrants have not experienced migration as their parents, the material objects their parents carry from their origins are important to them in diverse ways.

Biography:
Paul Agoe is a PhD candidate at the Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS), Bielefeld University. His major research interests include material objects, clothing, and dress in the context of migration, African migration, transnational migration, and migration and development.

Tanja Ahlin

Title:
"Frequent callers: Family care through everyday information and communication technologies (ICTs) in Indian transnational families"

Abstract:
In the context of transnational family life, everyday information and communication technologies (ICTs) are key members of what I call 'transnational care collectives.' Based on ethnographic fieldwork among South Indian nurses who work abroad – in countries such as Oman, the Netherlands, and Germany – and their aging parents, I show how each transnational care collective has its own particular dynamic. This depends on which types of technologies are involved, who calls whom, when and how often, how ICTs demand care for themselves and how they involve people beyond the parent-child dyad. Exploring one aspect of the transnational care collective in more depth, I analyze the consequences of calling as a care practice by comparing various ICT devices. I investigate how daily calling shapes the content of that family members exchange. How does

frequent calling impact how people do family care at a distance? I compare two different kinds of technologies, phones and webcams, to show how their different affordances enact co-presence at a distance in distinct ways. I first describe how frequent calling via the phone and webcam, at least once a day, is a practice of enacting good care. I then explore how frequent calling is associated with certain content exchanged in phone calls and webcam interactions, particularly how people share their everyday on the phone and spend time together on the webcam. When family members are scattered around the world and care practices that demand physical proximity, such as food sharing and co-residence, is impossible, frequent calling becomes a key practice to enact good care at a distance.

Biography:
 Tanja Ahlin is a lecturer and post-doctoral researcher in anthropology and science and technology studies (STS) at the University of Amsterdam. In February 2020, she graduated at UvA with the thesis entitled "Care Through Digital Connections: Enacting Elder Care Through Everyday Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Indian Transnational Families." In her work, she approaches ICTs not as simple tools, but as agents which influence what care comes to mean when it is practiced at a distance. Currently, she is working on her first monograph on ICTs, transnational families, care, aging, labor migration and gender. She has published on these topics in journals such as Medical Anthropology, Current Anthropology and Gender, Place and Culture.

Safdar Ahmed

Title:
"The splintered self and the autographic frame"

Abstract:
In this presentation I will speak to the particular value of autographic comic-making as a multimodal form of art that is performatively self-aware and self-reflexive. This self-reflexivity, I argue, allows us to address complex themes of belonging, subjectivity and embodiment, whilst also challenging discursive social and political structures. I will relate this to my creative work, in which the interpretive act of rendering myself and family connects with what Charles Hatfield called the 'ironic authentication' of autobiographical comic-making. It is the very difficulty (the slipperiness of self-representation) acknowledged in processes of autographic work which makes it an ideal mode for undertaking narratives that are complex, multi-layered and difficult to encompass.

Finally I consider how the autographic approach might add to the discursive encounter with racism and other forms of marginalisation in contemporary Australia. I grew up as a mixed-race migrant child in the Blue Mountains who did not identify with the Australian national imaginary, in an unstable family marked by domestic violence and mental illness. This contributed to feelings of alienation that I later recognised in postcolonial theory: in Homi Bhabha's intellectual work on 'the third space' and Edward Said's descriptions of intellectual liminality. I will try to demonstrate how these conceptual tools fit within the autographic approach, enabling us to express a subjectivity that is deeply personal, whilst simultaneously resisting the hegemonic political and social paradigms of the colonial state.

Biography:
Safdar Ahmed is a Sydney based artist, musician and academic who lives and works on Dharug country. He works primarily in the mediums of drawing and comics, focusing on issues of representation and belonging with regard to language, religion and culture. He is the author of *Reform and Modernity in Islam* (IB Taurus, 2013) and the Walkley Award-winning documentary web-comic *Villawood: Notes from an immigration detention centre*. He is a founding member of not-for-profit community art organisation Refugee Art Project, for which he conducts regular art workshops with people of an asylum seekers and refugee background in their studio at Thirning Villa in Ashfield. Safdar recently completed a documentary graphic novel about Australia's harsh policies towards refugees, called *Still Alive*, to be published by Twelve Panels Press in April 2021.

Olawale Akinrinde

Title:
"Human Insecurities in Africa, the Politics of Non-Refoulement and the Plights of the African Refugees along Mexican-American Borders"

Abstract:
The rise of refugee problems worldwide, particularly the African refugee crisis, inherently underlines the preponderance of the spiking degree of human insecurity in Africa and the definitional and operational shortcomings of the Geneva Refugee Convention of 1951, which was designed to promote the defense of the rights of refugees and asylum seekers to safety and express access to neighboring states Despite the development of the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention and other international regimes, the increasing numbers of African refugees along the Mexican-American border and around the world remain alarmingly worrying. The African refugee crisis now poses unprecedented dangers to global human security, with over five million people internally displaced and thousands of African refugees seeking asylum along the Mexican-American border. Therefore, this article is an attempt to unpack how the spiking rate of human insecurity in Africa and the definitive and organizational shortcomings of the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention have led to the troubling spate of the Mexico-American border African refugee crisis.

Biography:
Olawale Akinrinde is a Lecturer II in the Department of Political Sciences, Osun State University, Nigeria, where he lectures and undertakes research in Human Security, Defence, Security and Strategic Studies. He holds an outstanding Master's Degree in International Relations from the University of Ibadan, Ibadan Nigeria, and a First Class Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and International Relations from Osun State University, Nigeria. Currently at the final stages of his Doctorate Degree in Defence and Strategic Studies, Nigeria Defence Academy Kaduna, Nigeria, Olawale has published in highly refereed International journals.

CONNECTING_
EUROPE

Amanda Paz Alencar

Chair: Keynote Larissa Hjorth and SESSION 4.1 *Southern approaches to digital responses and imaginaries in (forced) migration*

Title:
"#Migrantes on TikTok: Creative Practices and Platformed Belongings"

Abstract:
See co-author Daniela Jaramillo-Dent

Biography:
Amanda Alencar is a digital migration scholar specialized in the study of media and social media in Europe and Latin America, with a focus on how communication technologies are shaping mobility and sociocultural integration processes of (forced) migrants. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Media & Communication at Erasmus University Rotterdam and Vice Chair of the Intercultural Communication Division within the International Communication Association (ICA). Amanda was a Research Fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre (Oxford University) and Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Amsterdam. She has guest edited two special issues in the (open-access) peer-reviewed journals *International Communication Gazette* and *Media and Communication* on the intersections between media, communication and forced migration processes.

Katty Alhayek

Title:
"Digital empowering positivity: gender, displacement, and networked counterpublics"

Abstract:
In the last few decades, women's empowerment has been co-opted by both global development agencies and mainstream, popular culture (Cornwall and Anyidoho, 2010; Banet-Weiser, 2018; Rottenberg, 2018). However, in this article I show examples of how Syrian displaced women negotiate and reclaim empowerment in their daily lives through forming networked diasporic counterpublics. Based on 23 interviews with co-founders and members of two Facebook communities, digital ethnography, and document analysis, I analyze and discuss two Facebook communities Syrische Frauen in Deutschland (i.e. Syrian women in Germany) (SFD) and Let's Stand Again (LSA). Using the Facebook's feature of private pages, Syrian displaced women created safer, separate women's only digital spaces to address their needs in response to various social, political, and material constraints. In these spaces, they invented and circulated a counterdiscourse I call digital empowering positivity.
I show that digital empowering positivity became a counter discourse in which the women of SFD and LSA produced positivity as a surviving discursive strategy against the negativity of various systems of oppressions including war, displacement, racism, misogyny and other forms of marginalization. The discursive practices of digital empowering positivity form a space of collective therapy and healing that brings women together as networked counterpublics to serve their

interests without interference or harassment of the exclusionary voices of the dominant groups (such as men, elite women, politicized groups, racist or sectarian individuals).

Biography:
Katty Alhayek is a PhD candidate in Communication at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She earned an undergraduate degree in Media Studies from Damascus University in 2008. Following that, she worked for Syrian and international organizations dedicated to human rights and gender issues. A former Open Society Foundations fellow, Ms. Alhayek holds Master's degrees in International Affairs and Media Studies from Ohio University and a graduate certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Alhayek's scholarship is broadly centered around themes of displacement, activism, gender, digital media and audiences with interests in popular culture, critical cultural studies and the role of media in promoting social change and justice. Her research has appeared in journals such as Feminist Media Studies; International Journal of Communication; Gender, Technology and Development; and Participations: Journal of Audience & Reception Studies.

Donya Alinejad

Title:
"The multi-sitedness of Somali diasporic belonging: comparative notes on Somali migrant women's digital practices."

Abstract:
In this comparative article we offer a critical overview of the articles included in this special issue, paying attention to common patterns and distinctive features. We do so by exploring the ways in which Somali migrant women living across different cities in Europe engage in everyday digital practices. The central question that underlines this comparative investigation is how transnational multi-sitedness, different generations and urban localities play a role in contemporary Somali diasporic formations and take shape through digital media. We consider the multi-sitedness of Somali diaspora in light of the emergent transnational potentials of communications technologies, while keeping in focus gendered dynamics and intersectional aspects; how generation plays into processes of diasporic cultural change and continuity; and how spatial relationships of belonging are shaped by the communicative spaces that mobile devices and software platforms afford. Our findings show that to better understand the role of digitally mediated experiences, we need to focus on everyday media environments within contexts of international mobility across continental borders marked by postcolonial traces.

Biography:
Donya Alinejad (PhD, VU University of Amsterdam, NL) is a postdoctoral researcher in the Media and Culture Studies Department of Utrecht University. She was a postdoctoral fellow within the ERC Project *Digital Crossings in Europe: Gender, diaspora and belonging.* Her research interests include ethnographic approaches to digital media, transnational mobility and communication, migrant subjectivities.

Araa Al Jaramani

Chair: SESSION 4.5 *Syria*

Biography:
Araa al Jaramani works as a researcher at the Van Vollenhoven Institute (VVI). Araa completed her Ph.D. in Semiotic Critique at the University of Damascus, department of Arab Studies, Syria, in 2012. When Araa was based in Syria, she worked as a lecturer at the Department of Arabic Language at the University of Al-Furat, as a scriptwriter for TV series (Souk al Waraq) and as a freelancer for numerous newspapers and magazines. During her current residence in the Netherlands, Araa worked as a researcher at the Arab Reform Initiative in Paris, as an interpreter test assessor at KTV Kennisnet in the Netherlands, as founder and director of the Syrian Women's Foundation in the Netherlands (SVNL). Furthermore she worked as a Post-doctoral researcher at Université Libre de Bruxelles at (GERME) Group for Research on Ethnic Relations, Migration and Equality where she researched the cultural and social movements of Syrian women through their activities in the time of transition and war, by the use of social media. She also worked as post-doctoral researcher at Utrecht University in the Department of Media and Cultural Studies, researched the Syrian refugee women's experience in the Dutch immigration bureaucrat system. Currently she works at the VVI on the project 'Living on the Other Side'.

Virginie Amilien

Title:
"Digitalizing foodscapes" - Thoughts about the dynamic construction of hybrid spaces between private and public.

Abstract:
See Helene Fiane Teigen

Biography:
Virginie Amilien (Research Professor, Oslo Metropolitan University) is a researcher in cultural history, with a special interest in food culture and consumption, everyday food practices, cultural heritage, local and sustainable food products.

Rutvica Andrijasevic

Chair: SESSION 4.2 *Platformization of migration*

Title:
"On-demand migrant labour"

Abstract:
Drawing on original ethnographic fieldwork in Central and Eastern Europe, this talk will show how transnational business deploy social media platforms and messaging apps to achieve synchronization

CONNECTING_
EUROPE

between the fluctuating demands of production and recruitment of cross-border migrant labour, which I call 'on demand' labour. How such model engenders novel forms of control that colonize workers everyday lives will also be discussed.

Biography:
Rutvica Andrijasevic is an Associate Professor of International Migration and Business at University of Bristol School of Management (UK).

Sarah Anschütz

Title:
""Most of my friends are from WhatsApp": The role of social media and transnational online peer relationships in shaping young people's experiences during 'home' visits in Ghana"

Abstract:
There is a growing number of young people with migration background who grow up in 'transnational social fields' and establish and maintain transnational relationships through digital media and their own geographic mobility. Research highlights the importance of digital connectivity for migrants' emotional bonds across borders, yet studies remain adult-centric and focused on families and existing relationships. Transnational peer relationships created online and the role they play in shaping migrant youth's relationship to the 'home' country are underresearched, largely because youth mobility has been oversimplified. Conceptualizing migrant youth as either having migrated themselves ('first generation') or having parents who migrated ('second generation') conceals other types of mobility. Using a mobility lens, this paper looks at how migrant youth experience 'home' visits to their (parents') country of origin, and what role social media and online peer relationships play in making young people feel part of a community and navigate everyday life in Ghana. Drawing on 18 months of ethnographic multi-sited fieldwork with 25 young people of Ghanaian background (aged 14-25) in Belgium and in Ghana when accompanying them on trips there, this paper looks at mobility as it unfolds which gives insights into how online practices and relationships spill over into offline spaces during 'home' visits. I find that young people use different platforms for different purposes and create new social networks in Ghana before their trips that are different from childhood friends and family networks in terms of geographic locations and nature of relationships. These new networks spark mobility within Ghana during trips, provide social capital, and help to recreate the 'everyday', for example through chance encounters in offline spaces, that make young people feel part of a community in Ghana. As such, social media facilitates young people's agency in shaping their continuous transnational engagement and relationship to the 'home' country.

Biography:
Sarah Anschütz is a fourth-year PhD candidate at Maastricht University. She is responsible for the Belgian case study of the broader MO-TRAYL project, led by Prof. Valentina Mazzucato, which aims to understand youth mobility trajectories – i.e. their geographical moves in times and space and the concomitant family constellations – and how these shape young people's life chance outcomes. Her research employs a mobility lens to shed light on how young people of Ghanaian background experience growing up between Belgium and Ghana. She is interested in the role of physical mobility and digital media practices in establishing and maintaining transnational networks with family and

peers, shaping feelings of belonging and intimacy, providing different forms of capital and growth opportunities, and affecting young people's experiences with family separation and reunification before and after their international migration.

Rana Khaled Arafat

Title:
"Examining Diaspora Journalists' Digital Networks and Role Perceptions: A Case Study of Syrian Post-Conflict Advocacy Journalism" (1)

"Digital self-help initiatives as instances of negotiating integration and migrant belonging: A case study of Eritrean forced migrants in Switzerland" (2)

Abstract:
The increasing violence and turmoil following the insurrections that started in 2011 against Bashar Al-Assad's regime have led to one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent times with various armed factions fighting against each other (Al-Rawi & Fahmy, 2018). The Syrian government's security forces and cyber-army used surveillance tools to monitor and silence dissidents and control the online flow of information (Reporters without Borders, 2011). Due to the increasing number of attacks targeting journalists, Syria has become one of the most dangerous countries for reporters (Yousuf & Taylor, 2017) with almost 138 killed, 71 imprisoned, and 77 missing journalists since 2011 (Committee to Protect Journalists, 2020). This led to the migration of Syrian journalists and independent media outlets, mainly to neighboring Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon (Omari, 2016).

Using digital ethnography and in-depth interviews, this study offers a comprehensive understanding of how diaspora journalists maintain connections with their authoritarian homeland and advocate for transnational human rights and political reforms after fleeing its repressive political sphere. The paper examines how anti-regime Syrian diaspora journalists engage in transnational advocacy practices through building digital networks that blur boundaries between journalism, activism, human rights advocacy, social movements, and civil society work. The paper further investigates how these advocacy practices shape the
diaspora journalists' perceptions of their roles as well as their understanding of the different political, economic, procedural, organizational, and professional factors that influence how they perform them. Findings demonstrated that diaspora advocacy journalism poses various challenges to traditional journalism paradigms as journalists' roles go beyond news gathering and publishing to include petitioning, creating transnational solidarity, collaborating with civil society organizations, and carrying out various institutional work. Sensational coverage, state intervention, journalists' political leanings, funding pressure, and accessibility of sources also pose serious limitations to diaspora journalists' advocacy efforts. An advanced theoretical model that maps out the influencing factors on news reporting and advocacy networking in the unique transnational conflict context is further proposed. (abstract 1)

See co-author Wegahtabrhan Kiros Sereke (abstract 2)

Biography:
Rana Arafat is a PhD student and research assistant at Faculty of Communication, Culture, and Society in University of Lugano (USI), Switzerland. Her PhD project investigates the online political participation, digital activism and protest mobilization of Arab refugees, with a focus on the diaspora journalism advocacy and online social movements in Europe. Rana worked as a journalism and media lecturer for five years at the College of Language and Communication in the Arab Academy of Science and Technology. She also worked as a journalist for a number of local and international newspapers and magazines including Egypt Independent, Daily News Egypt, the German Orange magazine and the European Journalism Observatory led by Oxford university. Her current research interests include diaspora journalism advocacy, political communication, and journalism innovations.

Yan Asadchy

Title:
"#Migrantes on TikTok: Creative Practices and Platformed Belongings"

Abstract: See co-author Daniela Jaramillo-Dent

Biography:
Yan Asadchy, MA, is Junior Researcher and CUDAN PhD student, School of Humanities, Tallinn University. Asadchy's research is part of the new CODAN program funded by the European Commission, which aims at building a new analytical approach termed "Cultural Data Analytics" that integrates quantitative and qualitative methods, including aspects of network science, complexity science, computational social science, science of science, machine learning, data science, design research, visualization, art history, cultural semiotics, digital culture studies, and creative industries' studies to work with digitized cultural heritage as well as with born-digital data acquired from contemporary platforms.

Maria Avraamidou

Title:
""Innocent" hashtags? A cautionary tale. The #IStandWithGreece as a network of intolerance on Twitter during a land border crisis."

Abstract:
This study explores the hashtag #IStandWithGreece as part of meaning making processes on Twitter about a border crisis at Europe's periphery. #IStandWithGreece was became trending during the Turkish/Greek land-border crisis (February towards March 2020) constituting a continuation but also a consequence of how the EU managed the earlier so-called refugee crisis which peaked in 2015. Specifically, the EU reached a deal with Turkey (March 2016) according to which all irregular migrants crossing from Turkey into Greek islands would be returned to Turkey. February 26, 2020 Turkey declared the suspension of the deal and numerous migrants moved towards its borders with Greece and Bulgaria in an attempt to cross into EU. Greek security forces, citing public health, violently stopped migrants from crossing, suspended asylum procedures and used an extrajudicial center while reportedly three migrants died during clashes. Adopting a network perspective, we

located the most influential twitter accounts using #IStandWithGreece, the sub-communities they formed and other hashtags they used to communicate their views about the unfolding events. The findings show that anti-migrant voices characterized by a range of restrictive ideologies such as ethno-nationalism and white supremacist ideologies almost exclusively dominated the debate under the hashtag. Namely, eight out of the top ten influential users described themselves as nationalists or patriots and three were habitual users of extremist discourse and eventually Twitter suspended their accounts. For example, the debate in the Francophone and Germanic sub-communities was spearheaded by members of the French and German Identitarian movement. Grounded within this evidence, we argue that the use of non-blatantly anti-migrant hashtags could serve as a strategy resembling the coded language that populist and authoritarian politicians use to scapegoat migrants and other vulnerable groups.

Biography:
Maria Avraamidou holds a PhD in Communication and Internet Studies. Currently, she is a Post-doctoral Fellow at the University of Cyprus studying social/ media and migration. Before taking an academic turn, she held professional posts at UNHCR, anti-racist organizations and worked as a journalist.

Abdul Aziz

Title:
"Being Rohingya, Being Muslims: Religious Placemaking and Belonging in Rohingya Diaspora"

Abstract:
The Rohingya, an ethnic minority group in Myanmar, have been forcefully made stateless through constant and ongoing systemic persecution by the military government. The genesis of the institutionalised persecution of Rohingya is firmly anchored in their identity as Muslims. Drawing from a larger project on the use of communication technologies among Rohingya diaspora in Brisbane city (Australia) and the refugee camp in Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh) to negotiate transnational identity and integration. Applying the multi-sited qualitative approach, this study utilises semi-structured and social media scroll back interviews (Robards & Lincoln, 2019) to investigate how transnational identities are negotiated and developed through digital media use, and in turn how the expression of religious identity on social media is contributing to Rohingya diasporic identity. The findings show that religious identity offers possibilities for resistance and memory as a form of lived experience and 'reactive identity'. In the context of forced migration, such religious practices may yield the potential outcomes in coping with the traumatic memories, pains and perilous journey experiences of refugees. Additionally, using the non-media-centred approach to contextualise digital and social media is used with other social and cultural productions in everyday life. In this paper, I argue that social media has been the 'digital lifeline' transforming diasporic experiences. The role of diasporic sociocultural norms such as religious practices should not be overlooked in the formation of diasporic identity, social cohesion and integration in a host society. While digital media are crucial in negotiating diasporic identity, there is a need to reflect on other forms of sociocultural experience in the context of forced migration.

Biography:
Abdul Aziz is a PhD candidate at Digital Media Research Centre and School of Communication, Queensland University of Technology, Australia. He holds a master's degree from at University of Salzburg, Austria and Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium under the Erasmus Mundus Joint master's in digital communication leadership (DCLead). His research focuses on digital and cultures practices of everyday life with particular emphasis on diaspora, religion, gender, ethnic identity and inclusion. His current research focuses on understanding the Rohingya diaspora: the identity construction and integration in the age of digital media.

Ajay Bailey

Chair: SESSION 7.1 *Migrant Digital Food Practices*

Title:
"*Simple vegetarian South Indian food*: Performing home and identity through food and cooking practices"

Abstract:
Using short videos South Asian diasporic vloggers are bringing regional Indian food and cooking practices to the fore. These 'bite' sized videos cater to a growing audience of young, urban, skilled and diasporic populations. The Indian diaspora accounts for more than 25 million people living worldwide. India also exports a large number of skilled IT workers to the countries in the Global North. The focus on skilled Indians has thus far been largely on their migration decisions and family formation. There is scant attention on the everyday lived experiences of transnationalism. In this paper I specifically focus on the site Hebbars Kitchen (https://hebbarskitchen.com/) run by a former IT worker turned food vlogger. Hebbars has 9.2 million organic followers on Facebook and 1.8 million subscribers on YouTube. Applying a discursive content analysis approach I explore the cultural meanings that are generated through the videos, recipes and the user/viewer feedback. The focus on 'vegetarian food' and the manner in which each of the recipes and videos are presented reveal intersectional performances of caste, regional identities, and contested everyday belonging to the 'home'.

Biography:
Ajay Bailey holds the Chair in Social Urban Transitions at the Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning, Utrecht University. He leads the research line Global Migration, Culture and Place working at the interface of anthropology, geography, demography and public health. He holds the prestigious Dr T. M. A. Pai Endowed Chair in Qualitative Methods at Manipal University, India. His work significantly contributes to expanding the field of transnational mobilities, ageing, intergenerational relations, health systems research, health services, reducing barriers to care, while establishing meaningful North-South and South-South collaborations.

Shiella Balbutin

Title:
"Every drawing has a story: Filipino youth migrants in Rome and their social representations of migration"

Abstract:
This paper is part of a PhD research completed in 2019 and conducted in Rome, Italy. Informed by the social representations theory, the study explored Filipino youth migrants' social representations of migration and multidimensional identities. The specific research questions were, what are the contents of the Filipino youth migrants' representations of their multidimensional identities? How do they represent their migration experience? What are the contexts in which they construct their identities? Using the modelling approach, data was collected from 89 students of the Philippine School in Italy using the associative network (to detect multidimensional identities), figurative technique integrated with storytelling (to evoke graphical representations of the migration experience) and contextual interviews (to capture the over-all migration experience). Data from the figurative technique integrated with storytelling revealed that their representations of the migration experience were accessed through the memories of the life 'there' (home country) and the reflections of their current positions 'here' (host country). The figurative and imaginative images contained elements that were predominantly linked to people (their personal and social networks in the Philippines and in Italy) and to symbolic place-identity (house, school, iconic places, nature elements, functional places and food). Notions of identity and belongingness were closely tied to the country of origin; their active engagement with Filipino socio-cultural practices while in Rome, as well as their strong presence online have helped them maintain transnational relationships in both countries. The complimentary results provided by the research tools showed the close link between multidimensional identities, migration, and social representations. The figurative technique aided in exploring the visual representations of migration as they relate to the lived realities of the research participants.

Biography:
Shiella C. Balbutin finished the European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication at the Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy in 2019. She is currently affiliated with Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan in the Philippines working as educator and administrator. She is an Assistant Professor of the Development Communication Department, teaching courses on communication research, cross-cultural communication and interpersonal communication; and she is also the Director of the Office of International Cooperation and Networking, managing the international affairs of the university. She was a recipient of the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Programme of the European Commission and finished MA in Media, Communication and Cultural Studies from University of Aarhus and University of London. She is a graduate of the Media Studies program of the International Summer School, University of Oslo, Norway and an alumna of the Radio Netherlands Training Centre, The Netherlands. Her research interests include transnational media, globalization, migration, development communication and Filipino diaspora.

Loretta Baldassar

Title:
(1) "Ageing in the digital era and transnational mobility: perceptions and experiences of Vietnamese migrant parents"

(2) "Digital anticipation: facilitating the pre-emptive futures of PRC Chinese grandparenting migrants to Australia"

CONNECTING_
EUROPE

Abstract:
See Hien Nguyen (1) and Catriona Stevens (2)

Biography:
Loretta Baldassar is a Professor in the Anthropology and Sociology Discipline at School of Social Sciences, UWA. Loretta is a leading international scholar on transnational migration, family, ageing, aged care and ICTs. Her scholarship focuses on different immigrant groups in Australia. Particularly, in recent years, Loretta is well-known for her initiatives on ageing and ICTs. Email: Loretta.baldassar@uwa.edu.au

Hongwei Bao

Title:
"Sharing Food and Intimacy Online: Being Queer and Chinese in Europe During the COVID-19 Pandemic"

Abstract:
The current COVID-19 pandemic has exuberated existing nationalism, xenophobia, and anti-immigration sentiments all over the world. Many people of the Chinese heritage living in Europe have experienced various forms of racism and Sinophobia. What does it mean to be queer, Chinese and migrant in a world dominated by Whiteness and Eurocentrism, and at a time when the disease is racialised and when access to public space is curtailed? In this paper, I examine the digital artwork created by two Chinese queer artists living in Europe: a digital video titled Learne Deutch in meiner Kueche made by Berlin-based filmmaker Popo Fan, and a digital performance piece titled Non-Taster created by the Beijing and London-based artist Burong Zeng. Both artists have turned to the trope of food to address issues of identity, culture and belonging. Although particular types of Chinese dietary practices are demonised in the COVID-19 pandemic, food still serves as an important means of communication that has the potential to cross national borders and cultural identities, thus creating transcultural understanding. Both artists have also challenged the patriarchal and heteronormative forms of intimacy valorised in the quarantine discourse. While Fan sexualises food and tells sex stories in online blogs, Zeng enacts public intimacy through the online sharing of food and personal experiences. On top of their video and performance pieces, both artists have also actively reached out to the public, creating transnational and transcultural connections online and on social media. For example, Fan frequently gives online talks and organises online workshops; Zeng performed her piece on Facebook and invited the audience to join her for virtual brunches. For both artists, sharing experiences about food and intimate stories becomes an important means of social activism, through which they not only negotiate migrant belongings, but also create an interconnected social world and public intimacy.

Biography:
Hongwei Bao is an Associate Professor in Media Studies at the University of Nottingham, UK, where he also directs the Centre for Contemporary East Asian Cultural Studies. He holds a PhD in Gender and Cultural Studies from the University of Sydney, Australia. His research primarily focuses on queer cultures in contemporary China, including queer media, film, art and performance. He is the author of Queer Comrades: Gay Identity and Tongzhi Activism in Postsocialist China (NIAS Press,

2018), Queer China: Lesbian and Gay Literature and Visual Culture under Postsocialism (Routledge, 2020) and Queer Media in China (Routledge, 2021).

Yener Bayramoğlu

Title:
"Queer Migrant (Un-)Belongings in Pandemic Times: Digital entanglement and worldmaking"

Abstract:
The challenges posed by the outbreak of COVID-19 to diasporic and migrant communities are not only economic or health-related. Measures taken by governments to curb the spread of the virus impact sexual, racial, and ethnic minorities in particular ways, with extended lockdowns threatening the existence of community spaces and sharpening inequalities between generations and social classes. Furthermore, mediated images and conceptualizations of the virus often become attached to bodies marked as ethnically, racially, and sexually "other".

Against this backdrop, this paper looks at digital solidarity and worldmaking by Berlin's queer migrant communities as a case study of mediated migrant transnational (un-)belongings in times of COVID-19. Of particular interest here is a project called "Berlin Remembers Turkey's Queer Idols", which formed as a translocal organization in summer 2020 to create a digital platform for sharing memories and documenting queer diasporic histories, and to establish a digital network of solidarity between Berlin and Istanbul. Informed by insights gained through digital ethnography, interviews, and participant observation, this paper demonstrates how queer migrant activists and artists in Berlin use digital media to collaboratively discover and create new strategies to alleviate the pandemic's impacts upon subcultural spaces, to (re-)entangle geographically separated localities to undermine the divisive effects of borders, and to overcome the networks of repressive forces exerting pressure upon LGBTIQ+ people in Turkey under increasing authoritarianism. This paper takes unbelonging as a concept to discuss the multifaceted, fragmented, and intersectional queer migrants' lives that resist reductive categorization as belonging or nonbelonging. It argues that digital media not only enable queer migrants to foster transnational solidarity and engage in digital worldmaking, but also produce new inequalities, divisions, and boundaries between different generations and localities in times of COVID-19.

Biography:
Yener Bayramoğlu is a media and communication scholar who focuses on queer theory, postcolonial theory, migration, and temporalities. Bayramoğlu received his PhD from the Freie Universität Berlin in media and communication studies, supported by a fellowship from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. His postdoc project on the significance of digital technologies for queer refugees received a grant from the Margherita-von-Brentano-Center for Gender Studies. He is currently working at the ASH Berlin in a research project on intersectional inequalities amongst LGBTIQ+ (non)citizens, funded by HORIZON 2020. In this project, he explores the role of media in disidentification processes across individuals' lifespans. His latest research on online hate speech and conspiracy theories in times of COVID-19 will commence shortly, and will involve collaboration with data scientists to study how algorithms intertwine with racism and antisemitism. In addition to

numerous journal articles, his first monograph, Queere (Un-)Sichtbarkeiten was published in Germany in 2018.

Luce Beeckmans

Title:
Reflections on a digital mapping and exhibition of arrival infrastructures during a covid pandemic

Abstract:
In this paper we will reflect on a student research seminar we have supervised together in 2020in which MA students in architecture and urban planning at Ghent University explored the mapping and visualisation of arrival infrastructures in Ghent. The development of a mapping toolbox is part of the HORIZON 2020project 'ReRoot- arrival infrastructures as sites of integration for recent newcomers' we are both involved in (start April 2021, see Meeus, Beeckmans, et al 2020). Originally the students would do 'offline' ethnographic fieldwork, which they would then translate into 'deep mappings', thus experimenting with a relatively new research method of 'architectural ethnography' (Kalpakci, Kaijima and Stalder 2020; Iseki 2018) - a method which is related to the 'spatial ethnography' as proposed by Setha Low (2016) but goes into more detail about the physical components and uses of infrastructures. The final outcome would be presented in a small-scale exhibition. Yet, due to the covid-measures, in particular the lockdown, the research seminar turned into a 'digital ethnography' exercise. A mosque, a socio-cultural initiative for refugees or an Afro-Christian church, all of these were 'mapped' via online research, tapping into the virtual 'mobile commons' (Papadopoulos & Tsianos 2013) or 'migrant digitalities' (Trimikliniotis et al 2014) that newcomers also use during the process of arrival, such as Facebook, Whatsapp, Youtube, Zoom, etc. Hence, they tried to establish a detailed mapping of some of the spaces of arrival without having the chance to physically enter these spaces (a project that is similar to 'mental mapping', but in a digital way), yet with the advantage of possessing high technical (mapping) skills. In their mappings, which could be understood as multi-media depictions in which source material of different kinds is juxtaposed and that make an argument in a visual way, they mapped how specific places in the city of Ghent, often hidden in the urban fabric, acted as arrival infrastructures and how the covid-pandemic had affected the capacity for enabling arrival of the infrastructures. They were encouraged to not only make effective mappings, but also affective ones: map the struggles, emotions, challenges their respondents were confronted with due to the pandemic, but also their own difficulties in accessing the arrival infrastructures in the 'closed city'. At the end of the semester, the students were also invited to present their mappings in a digital exhibition, using interactive website design or newly available digital white boards (as miro or adobe.xd). Surprised by the remarkable high quality of their mappings of spaces they were never able to visit, bringing in more detail about the spaces as well as the perceptions and use of it than expected, we would like to further reflect on the possibilities and (ethical) challenges this digital mapping and exhibition of arrival infrastructure has taught us. By commenting on the ample visual material we gathered during this exercise, we would like to shed light on the new perspectives this collective endeavour could potentially open on a methodological level both in the field of urban and migration studies in which we situate ourselves.

Biography:
Luce Beeckmans is Assistant Professor in Architecture and Urbanism related to Migration and Diversity at Ghent University (Department of Architecture and Urban Planning) and senior post-doctoral research fellow funded by the Flanders Research Foundation (FWO). Her research is situated at the intersection of migration, city and architecture. More specifically, she explores the materialities of trans-national migration (in particular from sub-Saharan Africa) and the spatial dimensions and implications of living in diversity. In her research, she applies an interdisciplinary perspective, combining methods and insights from architecture and urban planning, ethnography, human geography, post-colonial studies and urban studies. She also researches new ways of data visualisation and deep mapping. Her most important research topics are urban segregation and encounter; urban agency and citizenship; spatial appropriation and place-making; housing and diversity; and global religious spatiality. She has published widely and co-curated exhibitions on these topics.

Mohammad Rashed Alam Bhuiyan

Title:
Does online social networking help build resilience for the migrants facing precarious working and living conditions in destination?

Abstract:
A large portion of the South-to-South migration consists of international short term contract labour migrants. These labour migrants face many issues in destination countries, such as fraud in recruitment systems, inability to comply with visa and immigration regulations, and deception with work conditions in destination countries4. Yet, recent developments are showing that migrants are creating groups on social media platforms such as Facebook in order to facilitate communication and consultation with their fellow migrants. New or prospective migrants seek remedy or advice from group members by posting about issues they are experiencing. Many members of these groups are from the same country of origin, which creates solidarity and emotional bonds among them. In these groups, there are migrants in a variety of situations: from well-established migrants to more vulnerable migrants such as unemployed, exploited or undocumented migrants. Based on the observation of two Bangladeshi migrants Facebook groups in Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, this presentation questions whether online-based social networking can be used as a useful means to build resilience in face of precarious working and living conditions and support the agency of the migrants faced with challenges in destination countries. It will discuss the dynamics of the use of Facebook groups by migrants and how they use it for several purposes, such as sharing information related to destination countries, regulation changes, issues regarding employers or recruitment agencies, and provide support and counselling to other group members who are experiencing difficulties in Saudi Arabia and Malaysia.

Biography:
Mohammad Rashed Alam Bhuiyan is a PhD student of Centre for Trust Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, UK [https://www.mideq.org/en/about-us/our-team/mohammad-rashed-alam-bhuiyan/]. He will be studying 'The role of Intermediaries in understanding the relations of Migration (In) equality and development' under CTPSR-(GCRF) under South-South Migration, Inequality and Development Hub. He is a faculty of the Department of Political Science at the University of Dhaka

(on leave). He did an MSc in Sustainable Development from the University of Exeter. His expertise lies in studying various forms of Internal and International Migration, Migrants' rights and Well-being, Adaptation to Climate Change, Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development. Previously, he worked in Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit- RMMRU (Bangladesh) &has worked across several research projects on migration in collaboration with University of Exeter, University of Sussex, University of Southampton and other research units. Recent publication link https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1758-5899.128553

Anca-Diana Bibiri

Title:
"The Young Romanian Intention to Migrate in the Pandemic Era"

Abstract:
Romania is one of the European countries with the highest flow of emigrants at a time when local labour market is facing a major deficit of labour force, according to the official statistics placing our country among the top positions in international migration rankings (3.098.235 people left Romania during 2003 – 2016, cf. www.insse.ro). In Belgium, the number of Romanian immigrants recorded an upward trend starting with 2017, the year when Romania joined the EU. According to Myriatics 10 (October 2018, cf. www.myria.be), 18.000 Romanian immigrants were recorded in Belgium in 2017, 5 times higher than in 2006, a year before Romania joined the EU. Compared to data provided by specific Romanian institution, the Myria Report noted that starting with 2014, Romania has overtaken France in the ranking of immigrants to Belgium, preserving its position up to now. Romanian community in Belgium comprises 170.000 people, of which 48.000 in its capital Brussels. Nowadays we live in a new era, under the pandemic umbrella, that has rapidly spread all over the world. Coronavirus pandemic puts enormous pressure on the world's population, resources and economies. We want to investigate the European citizens mobility intentions from the perspectives of covid effects. The approach of this research aims at elaborating a substantiated answer to the question: How the pandemic influenced the migration intentions in Europe? For this goal we take into consideration a case study about the young Romanian intentions (graduate, until 25 years old). Our research is based on tow dimentions: changes in the intention of mobility, and changing in the choice of host countries in the context of health crises. At the methodological level, it is performed a qualitative research implemented in the project CO-MIB (The Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic on the Mobility Intentions within Europe) which aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of the relationships between the intention of mobility and the restrictions imposed by pandemic situations.
We were interested in exploring the main drivers for these potential behaviors, the common influences, and the different ones. The main triggers are mainly related to familial and background (parental education attainment, career, religiosity, migration experience, living in urban areas, income level etc.), and individual reasons (age, gender, trust in other people and in institutions, inherited values, and ethical values).

Biography:
Anca-Diana Bibiri is a scientific researcher at the Department of Interdisciplinary Research in Social Sciences and Humanities, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi, Romania. Her fields of interest

are phonetics and dialectology, prosody, computational linguistics, natural language processing, lexicography.

Katie Blair

Title:
"Digital Methods in the Linguistic Landscape Analysis of the southern Italian town of Riace, Calabria"

Abstract:
This paper presents a linguistic landscape analysis of the 'Riace Model' of refugee resettlement and integration, and discusses the methodological adaptations for data collection made necessary by Covid-19. Riace's linguistic landscape is comprised of murals and public/street art that celebrate and memorialise its history of solidarity and hospitality to people displaced from many different countries. This linguistic landscape, created by activists and refugees, builds a three-dimensional ideology surrounding Riace's inhabitants, forming a semiotic resource of protest and activism that I term 'hospitality capital'. Photographic images of the 'hospitality capital' are disseminated and consumed on news and social media, a virtual linguistic landscape that links Riace to refugee hospitality activism in other contexts and places. Despite the town's distinctive linguistic landscape, the worldwide renown of its innovative resettlement model, and the variety of its inhabitants' potential linguistic repertoires, Riace is understudied in general and, as yet, not studied at all by linguistic landscapes scholars. I use ethnographic linguistic landscape analysis to gain insight into the collective identity of those who created and who consume Riace's linguistic landscape, examining the roles of language, civic participation, protest and activism. I argue that through the multilingual linguistic landscape we can attempt to theorise processes of inclusion and integration. Due to restrictions imposed by Covid-19 on in loco fieldwork, I have redesigned my data-gathering methods to use digitally-sourced photographs, together with online earth browsers (satellite, aerial photography, street level applications, and three-dimensional geo-spatial data), to map, collect, annotate and analyse images of artefacts and linguistic phenomena within the study area. These digital methodological innovations, combined with contextualising archival and interview materials, build a data source for a case study that sheds light on inclusion and integration through civic participation.

Biography:
Katie Blair is currently a PhD researcher in Modern Languages and Social Policy at the University of Birmingham. Katie's doctoral research focuses on the 'Riace Model' of refugee resettlement through a multimodal and digital linguistic landscapes analysis of the town's displacement- and solidarity-themed street art. Katie seeks to understand inclusion processes and collective identity formation involved in the creation of Riace's distinctive public space, its impact on Riace's residents, and how digital images of this public art are utilised on the social media networks of pro-immigration supporters and activists. Katie has a degree in Italian from the University of Reading, an MA in Literature from the Open University, and an MA in Translation Studies from the University of Birmingham. Her further academic interests include community and asylum translation, linguistic human rights, multilingualism and Italian postcolonial/translingual literature.

Ingrid Boas

Title:
"The digitalisation of pastoral herding: Navigating socio-environmental risk in the Kenyan Laikipia Highlands"

Abstract:
This paper examines the digitalisation of pastoral herding in the Kenyan Laikipia Highlands. Pastoralists have been moving around with livestock in the contexts of rains and droughts for centuries. This mobility is, however, faced with numerous changes and challenges; in particular, related to privatisation of land resulting in limited access to grazing areas, processes of urbanisation changing the dynamics of pastoralist livelihoods, and climatic changes causing uncertainties in the weather seasons making decision-making on when to stay or leave, where to go and the breading of livestock increasingly complex. This paper examines how pastoralists are navigating these changes and challenges through the use of basic phones, smart phones and social media. It demonstrates how these mobile technologies enable herding identities to endure and for them to be reshaped by taking on a mix of physical and digital forms. This happens through social media platforms allowing those in rural and urban spaces to connect on pastoral issues; virtual herding enabling those in urban areas to continue participate in livestock management and mobility; and through pluralised networks of information exchange on grazing strategies navigating socio-environmental changes and limitations. For instance, in case of the latter, the sharing of photos and videos via WhatsApp of locational information about pasture, water points, or of the cattle, allow pastoralists to "travel virtually and be present in another location on an imaginative level" (Ozkul 2013). Taken together, these digital forms of communication and information sharing merge with pastoralist mobility practices, pluralizing and extending the ways in which pastoralists mediate the ongoing restrictions and the changes coming their way. In examining these issues, the paper connects with the conference's themes on translocality, co-presence and togetherness.

Biography:
Ingrid Boas is an associate professor at the Environmental Policy Group of Wageningen University, and currently fellow with the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute. Ingrid does research in the fields of environmental change, mobilities, and governance, with a focus on environmental/climate change-related human mobility and its intersection with digital technologies. In 2016, she was awarded a personal (Veni) grant with the Netherlands Scientific Organization to study environmental migration in the digital age, focusing on the cases of Bangladesh and Kenya. This project examines the role of digital practices and ICT-enabled information exchange in shaping decisions to move or stay in the context of environmental and climate change. Ingrid's work has appeared in journals such as Global Environmental Politics, Environmental Politics, Geoforum, the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Nature Climate Change, and in the monograph (Routledge, 2015) on Climate migration and security: Securitization as a strategy in climate change politics.

Claudia Böhm

Title:
"Trust Building and Future Construction via Smartphones and Social Media at intermediate Locations of Transnational Migration"

Abstract:
Many refugees spend much of their migration process at transit places, such as refugee camps, where their mobility and freedom are restricted. At the same time, today's migrants have access to mobile communication technologies such as smartphones and online platforms, which have a boundary expanding effect. This connection between mobility (people in motion) and location-relatedness (people at places), and smartphones as mobile tools or social media as boundary expanding spaces of information and imagination shall be set in relation to migrants' future construction and trust building.

Through social media, migrants can built larger social network, which extend far beyond the place where they are staying. Through digital practices, they can (re)present and inform themselves, engage in social and political activism and seek support. In this way they actively search, value and make possible futures in moving on, staying in a refugee camp, trying to integrate in the host community or returning to their home countries. However, as migrants have to deal with very different actors during their journeys, in transit and especially in virtual spaces, whom and what to trust/mistrust is a major problem.

The paper is based on off- and online media-ethnographic research, which links personal migration biographies or "journeys of trust" (Lyytinen 2017) to individual and collective media practices and cultures. With the example of refugees who are currently staying in Germany, on the Greek island of Lesvos (Moria) and in a Kenyan refugee camp, the paper intends to show how refugees actively imagine, plan and make their future online. In relation to this the paper seeks to shed light on the questions if, when, how and to what extend refugees trust or mistrust their interlocutors, how trust is established and negotiated, or what is communicated, when and on which network channels.

Biography:
Claudia Böhme is post-doctoral researcher at the Chair of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Trier, Germany. Her main research interests are new media, migration and refugee studies with a geographical focus in East Africa. She has undertaken long-term fieldwork and participant observation in the area of film and new media, migration and refugee studies in East Africa and Germany. Her current research project deals with „Trust Building and Future Construction via Smartphones and Social Media at intermediate Locations of Transnational Migration with the Example of Refugees from East Africa" (funded by the German Research Foundation, DFG). One of her recent publications is ‚The Illusion of Being a Free Spirit'- Mobile Phones and Social Media in Transit Places of Migration with the Example of the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. In: Birgit Englert (ed.) (2019) Stichproben-Wiener Zeitschrift für Afrikastudien Nr.36 Special Issue Translocal Popular Culture: 51-74.

CONNECTING_EUROPE

Olga Boichak

Title:
"Diasporising humanitarianism: social media and the changing nature of diasporic involvement in homeland wars"

Abstract:
Diasporas have historically responded to and mobilised around homeland crises. As social technology platforms have once again reconfigured international relief by shifting the relationship between information, compassion, and capacity for humanitarian activism, diasporic actors have gradually moved from the margins of the global geopolitical landscape toward its centre. This study analyses patterns of diasporic involvement in battlefront relief among the Ukrainian diasporic communities. Exploring four case studies of Ukrainians in Canada, United States, Poland, and Israel, I visualise the semantic structure of public discourses on Facebook to shed light on the patterns of these actors' involvement in the transnational humanitarian landscape. I find that the process of *diasporising* surrounding military conflicts happens along three dimensions: first, by discussing homeland politics; second, by discussing the war and its geopolitical implications; and finally, by providing battlefront relief directly to the communities in crisis.

Biography:
Olga Boichak is a sociologist of digital media and a Lecturer in Digital Cultures at the University of Sydney, Australia. She holds a PhD in Social Science from Syracuse University, and her research interests span networks, discourses, and cultures of activism in the digital age. She is a member of the Centre for International Security Studies and Editor of the *Digital War Journal* and has a track record of publications on digital war, legitimising state power, transnational mobilisation, and algorithmic surveillance. Her work has appeared, among others, in *Big Data & Society*, *International Journal of Communication*, *Media, War & Conflict*, *Oxford Handbook on Digital Media & Society*, and the *Journal of Intelligence and National Security*.

Jeroen Boom

Title:
"Floating Encounters in Purple Sea (2020)"

Abstract:
In October 2015, an overcrowded migrant boat, accommodating more than three-hundred refugees, sank near the coast of Lesbos, taking the lives of at least forty-three people. Amel Alzakout's documentary *Purple Sea* (2020), which she made together with Khaled Abdulwahed, captures the unendurable moments after the boat capsized and hundreds of vulnerable bodies were floating in the open sea, waiting for help. Alzakout was one among those passengers who took the risk to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach European shores, unaware that her waterproof camera, which was tied to her wrist, was still recording after she fell aboard. The film plunges the viewer into chaos and disorientation, depriving her of any stable focus or anchor points to hold on to, attuning instead to the visceral affects of the merciless sea, which has become a compositional assemblage of splashing waves, injured bodies, and fluorescent life-jackets. Alzakout's camera necessitates a sense of haptic

nearness to the tragic event, which at once feels claustrophobic and immersive. In this paper I explore the role of (1) closeness, (2) slowness, and (3) formlessness in the aesthetic and affective production of the Mediterranean Sea in *Purple Sea*, tracing how the film negotiates reductive media representations of European refugees which tend to use a vernacular of distance, fleetingness, and essentialisation. It theorises a transversal perspective that destabilises normative representational tropes and stretches familiar modes of looking into new directions.

Biography:
I am a PhD candidate at the Radboud University Nijmegen, where I examine how European cinema can offer alternative spaces to negotiate the complex relations between borders and migration. Through the lenses of affect studies, postcolonialism, and posthumanism, my dissertation focusses on filmmakers such as Amel Alzakout, Mati Diop, Jan Locus, and Pedro Costa to see how they use different notions of in-betweenness to counter and undermine political stigmatisation.

Elias Boukrami

Title:
"Migration and social transformation: Algerian Diaspora Responses to COVID-19"

Abstract:
See co-author Latefa Narriman Guemar

Biography:
Elias Boukrami is a Director (Content) Global Management at Regents University. His team under his leadership was awarded the 2014 Trustees' Prize for Outstanding Service to Regents University London. In 2018 he won a double award, one for the prize of Excellence in Teaching and Learning and one Prize of Leadership and Management during the 2018 Regent's Annual Staff Conference. Dr Boukrami is the associate director of the Regent's Transnational Centre for Business and Management. His books publications include also "The History of the Algerian Banking Industry, 1830 to 2010". Dr Boukrami a member of the editorial board of International Economic Letters and the International Journal of Islamic Marketing and Branding.

Çigdem Bozdag

Chair: SESSION 3.3. *Youth*

Title:
"Digital Inequalities and young people in the urban migration society. An Intersectional approach"

Abstract:
Digital media technologies offer possibilities of connectivity and social inclusion and create new mechanisms of exclusion and inequalities at the same time. Existing research on digital inclusion and digital inequalities points out to existing social inequalities in relation to gender, socio-economic disadvantages and cultural backgrounds (Helsper & Livingstone, 2007; van Deursen and van Dijk, 2013). However, as most research on digital inequalities adopt a quantitative approach, there is a

need for contextualized that study of the dynamics behind these inequalities. The paper adopts an in intersectional approach in order to develop such a contextualized analysis looking at the interdependences between categories such as nationality, gender, race, ethnicity, class, religion, and age and how "these are reconfigured and reinvented through the appropriation of technological affordances" (Leurs and Ponzanesi, 2013: 637).

The presented paper is based on the findings of the participatory action research project INCLUDED (MSCA, University of Bremen, 2019-2023) that is conducted in the context of a school in a socio-economically disadvantaged and highly diverse neighbourhood in Bremen, Germany. The fieldwork of the project continued for a year (before and after the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic). The research design of the project includes participatory observations (online and offline), interviews with the teachers and focus-groups with the students as well as development and carrying out of teaching content together with the teachers of the school. Based on preliminary analysis of the research data, the paper will discuss how socio-economically disadvantaged young people with diverse backgrounds attending in this highly diverse neighbourhood adopt digital media technologies in their everyday lives.

The paper will firstly argue that although digital media technologies, especially social media platforms, streaming services and instant messaging services are at the centre of social activities of these young people, schools fail to integrate these technologies not only as tools but as topics for discussion. Secondly, although these young people are very competent in terms of developing their own strategies for dealing with several problems that they face online, they also express that they especially feel vulnerable when it comes to managing time spent on media and understanding the platform dynamics and their use of data. Thirdly, the paper will also show how the closure of the schools and the transition to online education crystallized existing digital inequalities that these young people face in terms of technological infrastructure, cultural, social and digital capital (Ragnedda, 2017).

Biography:
Cigdem Bozdag works as an assistant professor in the Research Centre for Media and Journalism Studies at the University of Groningen. Bozdag is at the same time a Marie Sklodowska Curie Fellow at the University of Bremen with her project INCLUDED (2019-2023). Bozdag previously worked as an assistant professor and the head of the New Media Department at the Kadir Has University, Istanbul and as a Mercator-IPC fellow at the Sabanci University, Istanbul. Bozdag's research interests include digital media, social media, migration and media, digital media literacy, digital inequality and education.

Cathrine Bublatzky

Chair: SESSION 3.2 *Mobile Belongings: Digital Everyday Life and the Question(s) of Citizenship*

Title:
"Resisting and commemorating from a distance? Digital transformation of migratory citizenship in times of the pandemic"

Abstract:
The lockdown and travelling restrictions in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic have a strong impact on the everyday life worlds of migrants and their daily practices of 'staying in touch' and 'belonging

to' communities and families in their home countries. The challenges of these restrictions become particularly evident when commemoration and memorial days interlinked with political action and resistance are central to humans' civil everydayness in migratory and exile settings.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and of new dimensions of immobility and social distancing, the increasing use of social information technologies and online media platforms in everyday life has given rise to complex dynamics of digital citizenship and the empowerment of individuals through solidarity and online communities (Zayani 2018) who make 'rights claims through the Internet' (Isin/Rupport 2020) and perform acts of belonging and resistance in response to injustice and oppression.

As part of ethnographic research about Iranian migrant photographers and artists in Europe, this paper explores digital activities of commemoration and resistance from the distance (Ebbrecht-Hartmann 2020). Taking the 22th anniversary of the murder of the Iranian political activists Parvaneh and Dariush Forouhar and its virtual commemorating during COVID-19 pandemic as starting point, this paper raises the question of how global crises transform migrants' engagement as digital citizens and empower them to create new forms of rememberance and migratory intimacy?

Biography:
Cathrine Bublatzky works at the department of Visual and Media Anthropology at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies. She coordinates the network 'Entangled Histories of Art and Migration: Forms, Visibilities, Agents' and was awarded a grant by the Elite PostDoc Programme of the Baden-Württemberg-Foundation to investigate photographers from Iran who live in the European diaspora and work in the field of photo documentary and art (2017). Bublatzky's research interests include visual cultures, contemporary art, photography, museums and exhibition studies, migration and diasporas. Her monograph, *Along the Indian Highway: An Ethnography of an International Travelling Exhibition* was published with Routledge (2019).

Rita Budiman

Title:
"Make My House a Home: How Indonesian female expatriate vloggers mitigate cultural displacement through vlogging"

Abstract:
Much of the interest in the recent boom in vlogging has focused on the monetization of the phenomenon. Vlogging is no longer just an extension of blogging but a new kind of industry. In this context, increasing numbers of scholarly studies have examined content creators, vloggers, microcelebrities, influencers and YouTubers. These analyses focus largely on the commercial significance of those whose core identities are one of the above. In this chapter, I argue that such analyses have led us to overlook what might be called 'everyday' vlogging forms in which the medium is used for mundane communication, self-expression and maintenance of cultural identities. The example I am going to utilize is the use of vlogs in the context of global mobility through cross cultural marriage migration. I draw specifically, on in-depth interviews with eight Indonesian female expatriate vloggers in a number of countries such as Australia, Scotland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, France, Finland and Poland. I focus on the way in which these women use vlogs to maintain relation with their home country, Indonesia.

I propose that the use of media here does not fit the paradigm of 'diasporic' media as the vlogs are not used to connect with displaced Indonesians but with people back home, including but not limited to immediate loved ones. The medium enables viewers in Indonesia to lend a sympathetic ear to the struggle of my participants in sustaining Indonesian cultural forms in their married lives. At the same time, the viewers are 'invited' to celebrate their success in the continuous maintenance of those values. Vlogs, I argue, help my participants to alleviate the feeling of cultural loneliness and double displacement in their interracial married lives and host countries. They become a tool for cultural maintenance and cultural strategy in finding ways to feel at 'home'.

Biography:
Rita Budiman is a PhD candidate at the school of Media and Communication, RMIT University, Australia.

Her research interest lies in the area of internet culture, focusing especially on the cultural aspects of digital media in relation to migration, interracial relationship and everyday life. She is currently working on an ethnographic research that analyses 'everyday' vlogging forms in the context of global mobility through cross cultural marriage migration.

B Camminga

Title:
"'GoFundMe': LGBTI asylum seekers in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya"

Abstract:
Since the 2013 passage of Uganda's now-infamous Anti-Homosexuality Bill (AHB), the number of LGBTI people on the move on the African continent seeking sanctuary has increased. Neighbouring Kenya hosts one of the five largest UNHCR mandated operations in the world concentrated most visibly between the Kakuma and Dadaab Refugee camps. Even though homosexuality remains criminalised within Kenya's borders, those seeking refuge have increasingly included LGBTI people from the region. Although initially allowed to live in urban Nairobi in response to increasing fears regarding terrorism, the Kenyan state re-issued a strict directive in 2015 requiring all refugees in Kenya to move back to the camps – making it illegal for refugees to live outside of designated camp areas. When entering the camp, LGBTI refugees and allies created a series of online fundraising campaigns via the crowdfunding website GoFundMe. It is these campaigns, in their global circulation via the Internet and what they tell us about the spatial and temporal experience of resettlement as a 'waiting event' that this paper explores. I suggest that LGBTI refugees' use of GoFundMe, as a form of self-publication, resists the camp's spatial and temporal logics, a space designated for their waiting, by crafting a temporality that refuses the experience of waiting as suspension within the camp. This access to the virtual means that they are not solely confined to the refugee camp's physical space but are, simultaneously, projecting themselves both into their future goal of resettlement and thereby transforming the experience of waiting in their present.

Biography:
B Camminga (they/them) is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the African Centre for Migration & Society, Wits University, South Africa. Their work considers the interrelationship between the conceptual journeying of the term 'transgender' from the Global North and the physical embodied journeying of

transgender asylum seekers from the African continent. Their first monograph Transgender Refugees & the Imagined South Africa (Palgrave, 2019) received the 2019 Sylvia Rivera Award in Transgender Studies (with Aren Azuira) and honourable mention in the Ruth Benedict Prize for Queer Anthropology from the American Anthropology Association. They are the co-convenor of the African LGBTQI+ Migration Research Network (ALMN). They are currently working on a new collection addressing African LGBTQI+ migration entitled: Queer and Trans African Mobilities: Migration, Diaspora and Asylum (Zed/Bloomsbury 2022)

Laura Candidatu

Chair: SESSION 6.3 *Digital Diaspora and Placemaking*

Title:
"Diasporic mothering and Somali diaspora formation in the Netherlands"

Abstract:
This article addresses how Somali women from the Netherlands participate in digital diaspora formation. It specifically takes the lens of "diasporic mothering" understood as a site where difference and belonging are negotiated through work of cultural reproduction, collective identity construction, and stable homemaking. I first analytically distinguish between two generations of Somali women on the basis of their arrival trajectory and their socio-economic background at the time of their living in Somalia. Second, by foregrounding Somali women's lived experiences, I show how their participation in diaspora formation is shaped by both mothering practices, and local and national Dutch policy approaches to migration. Last, I argue that the specificities of the local and national Dutch context favors rather physical and neighborhood-based diaspora encounters, while de-centering the role of digital media in the initial formation of diaspora networks.

Biography:
Laura Candidatu is a PhD candidate in the ERC project *Digital Crossings in Europe: Gender, Diaspora and Belonging* at Utrecht University. Her doctoral project focuses on Somali, Romanian and Turkish women migrants living in the Netherlands and the research explores the relation between women's migration, mothering and the use of digital technologies within the concept of digital diaspora. Initial findings from her work were published in the journal *Global Networks* and the *Handbook of Diaspora, Media & Culture* (Wiley).

Valentina Cappi

Title:
"The role of Gambian journalists in shaping narratives about Europe: agenda, dissemination channels and communication strategies"

Abstract:
Even after the collapse of Jammeh's 22 years of dictatorship, The Gambia's less than 3 million population is still faced with food insecurity, unemployment and broken infrastructure (Altrogge and Zanker, 2019). Today, many jobless Gambian youths risk their lives and investments into the so-called

'back way', with the hope to maximise opportunities of 'better life conditions' for themselves and their families (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. Among other local actors, Gambian journalists contribute to shape public debates about 'back way' migration and mobility as well as in disseminating awareness campaigns to fill the gaps created by false expectations and information precarity.

Linked to H2020 PERCEPTIONS project, the aim of this paper 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, 'bantaba talks', etc.) and the communication strategies they tailor for their audiences. Considering their professional role and their background, this paper will discuss the results of an online survey which involved up to 55 Gambian journalists, in order to shed light on how they integrate digital and non-digital practices to be present for potential migrants and the families of the diaspora about the 'back way' and life in Europe.

Biography:
Valentina Cappi is post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Sociology and Business Law, University of Bologna, within the H2020 Project "Perceptions: Understand the Impact of Novel Technologies, Social Media, and Perceptions in Countries Abroad on Migration Flows and the Security of the EU & Provide Validated Counter Approaches, Tools and Practices".

Alejandra Castellanos Breton

Title:
"A Homing Journey: Notions of Home during the COVID-19 pandemic"

Abstract:
From March 2020 until today, the media and the governments have bombarded society with the phrase 'Stay at home', the most common recommendation to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The constant uncritical use of the term 'home' brought up several questions and became an invitation to re-think: What is home? How does it feel? And how is it built up? Home is primarily related to everyday life experiences, which involves different temporalities, spaces, and settings. However, in western society, the heteronormative model of 'home' has come to be the lens that informs and molds the experience of home remaining as a preferred model that neglects space for differences. Therefore, the present article shows how notions of home among the current LGBTQI+ Erasmus Mundus master students have been shaped during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research is relevant for understanding migrants' everyday life as a unique domain that provides multiple meanings of home that might disrupt its fixed and heteronormative notion.

This study uses a qualitative approach based on photovoice methods, in-depth interviews, and focus groups. The results show how the COVID-19 pandemic created a new space for the LGBTQI+ students to understand and review how they lived their sexual orientation during their home experience with themselves and their families. This brought reflections about the body, placing it as an active agent that creates new sites of attachments. The COVID-19 pandemic also deconstructed the usual romanticized and positive connotation of home by adding a constant feeling of fear and discomfort, limiting their homing options as wanted. Finally, due to the COVID-19 measures, memories became a way to recreate and bring up home-like elements from the past lacking in the

present. In this way, they tried to seek a sense of home by adding and subtracting symbolic meanings to objects, places, relationships, and memories.

Biography:
Alejandra Castellanos Breton. She is a current student at the European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR). She studied Political Science and International Relations in Bogota, Colombia. In the last few years, she worked in Colombia with NGOs and the United Nations on topics related to coordination in humanitarian affairs, armed conflict, forced displacement, gender, and Venezuelan migration.

Vincenzo Cavallo

Title:
"Somalis Social Media and Migration Narratives in Conflict"

Abstract:
In this publication, we are sharing the findings emerging from the first phase of the research Conflict-Net by Oxford University integrated by other findings independently obtained by the author of this paper while working as creative producer in Kenya, Somalia and Europe. The research covers a period of about seven years. The independent work started when the author worked on his first feature "WAZI?FM" with a group of Somali actors and video-makers that then started a YouTube collective and the production of other independent documentaries and feature films in which the author has been and is currently involved as creative producer, director or actor. The commissioned research started in 2018, the initial objective was to understand how different types of new and old media were used before, during, and after the journey that Somalis are making abroad, especially to Europe. However, with time the scope of the research shifted, and the personal experiences started to influence the course of the commissioned research work, this is why we decided to focus on the "narratives in conflict" that are emerging from the interactions between different types of Somalis, refugees, migrants, diaspora, non-diaspora and returnees in order to understand how Somali YouTube collectives and independent film-makers are producing and sharing content on Somali identity, culture and migration to support or deconstruct a specific narrative. The new objective of the study allowed the author not only to involve his personal friends and fellow video-makers into a conversation that transcends the traditional dynamic observer vs. observed but also to reflect about himself and his involvement within the construction and deconstruction of migration narratives within a postcolonial media ecology. This is mainly an ethnographic qualitative study based on personal experiences and a series of interviews with refugees, migrants, creatives and social activists.

Biography:
In 2010 Vincenzo Cavallo obtained a Ph.D. in Communication and New Technologies with a thesis on eParticipation. He has been working for UN/DESA on the project African iParliaments, after he co-founded Cultural Video Production. He has been working as both a creative producer and independent researcher, he won several awards and published different articles on media and culture in Africa. In 2021 he won the Impact award at XR MUST, in 2020 best director at the Lumiere Awards, both with the interactive film African Space Makers. In 2019 and 2018 he has been selected at Berlinale Film Festival as a Talent producer and won the VFF award, in 2017 he won both Berlin

Web Fest and in 2016 Rome Web Fest with a web-series on migration, in 2015 the Golden Dhow at the Zanzibar Film Festival with the feature WAZI?FM. In 2018 he started to work with Oxford University.

Duha Ceylan

Title:
"Gender in Refuge"

Abstract:
As a result of the conflict in Syria, millions of refugees were forced to migrate to various destinations such as Turkey, Jordan, and Europe for safety. Studies attempting to understand Syrian refugees in Europe have been dominated by a focus being shed on men; however, understanding women's experiences remain limited in such attempts, ignoring that refuge is a gendered process. Nevertheless, when Syrian refugee women are discussed mostly in Western and Arab media, two compelling images appear; the West demonstrates Syrian refugee women as victims. The Arab media blames Syrian refugee women for destroying the traditional Syrian family. Therefore, this paper attempts to understand the ways Syrian refugee women adapt and build their identity within their new social contexts in the country where they initiated their asylum-seeking process. The paper explores identity building with attention given to assessing the influence of digital connectivity and the use of social media between Syrian refugee women in their new host country. For this research, in-depth interviews were conducted with 20 Syrian women living in Western Europe (The Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany) who obtained refugee status. Results indicate that women tend to undergo a noticeable change in their identity, and such change is reflected in their daily lived experiences. Digital connectivity proved to be of high importance to these women while adapting to their new host country. It offered three different mechanisms in their integration process; support, control, and helplessness.

Biography:
Being born to a Syrian mother and a Turkish father has given me the ability to grow up with the needed observation and evaluation skills to better understand differences between cultures and groups. Having such a background came in useful during my interdisciplinary bachelor's in social sciences, where I developed an increased interest in three important disciplines, Political science, Communication studies, and Sociology. I continued to pursue my interests by doing a master's in Sociology with a focus on Conflict and Development studies, and currently preparing for my doctorate application, which will be focused on migrant women using three disciplines better to understand women and their experiences as migrants in Europe. My research interests are agency in refuge, digital connectivity, childcare in Europe, and gender representations in Arab media.

Margie Cheesman

Title:
"Reconceptualising blockchain in aid: from trust in institutions to faith in infrastructure"

Abstract:
Proponents of the decentralised database technology blockchain suggest it will revolutionise the aid sector by allowing money and data to be exchanged more equitably, efficiently, transparently, and securely. In particular, blockchain is expected to replace many trusted human intermediaries, organisations and social processes with trusted code, technocratic consensus and governance by algorithms. The technology is being applied to refugee identification, cross-border remittances, humanitarian supply chain management and more. However, there is a lack of critical scholarship on how the promises for blockchain are playing out in practice from the perspectives of refugees. This contribution presents close-up research in women's centres in Jordan, where blockchain technology is being used to deliver financial aid. Foregrounding Syrian women's everyday financial practices and priorities, I examine how the Islamic concept *barakeh*--with various cultural meanings, including blessed, consistent, substantial and dependable--is the central lens through which they evaluate the new digital system. While trust is the dominant concept in scholarly and policy debates surrounding blockchain, and digital infrastructures more broadly, I suggest that faith is a more pertinent term. Trust has become enrolled in the vocabulary of technocrats, seen through the lens of the *homo economicus* as something to be automated and, ultimately, dispensed with. By contrast, faith gets at the unexpected and not necessarily 'rational' ways in which digital infrastructures interface with humans and their principles, choices, and systems of belief. Overall, the contribution aims to address the neglected subject of religion in communities' responses to digital humanitarianism. It re-centres the discussion around the spirit of humanitarian giving, and argues for more context-sensitive approaches to aid.

Biography:
Margie Cheesman is a digital anthropologist based at the Oxford Internet Institute. Her DPhil research examines the imaginaries, uses and effects of blockchain technologies in humanitarianism, and involves fieldwork in Jordan with aid agencies and refugees. Margie's research interests include digital identity, inequality and rights. She has worked for the civil liberties initiative, Open Migration, and the ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-cultural Change (CReSC). She has conducted research with international organisations such as InfoMigrants, GSMA Mobile for Development, and United Nations agencies. Margie is Assistant Editor of the journal Big Data & Society, and her editorial work includes Data Politics: Worlds, Subjects and Rights (Routledge, 2019) and Data Practices (forthcoming).

Julie Yujie Chen

Title:
"Temporal arbitrage and fragmented rush"

Abstract:
This talk will argue that a new temporal order, referred to as temporal arbitrage, is being engendered by digital technologies. While the 'social' aspect appears to be promoting participation, such participation is just a 'mirage' that, as I show in the case of migrant taxi-drivers in China, conceals an emerging digital infrastructure of distribution that disadvantages migrants social and working lives.

Biography:
Julie Yujie Chen is an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information, and Technology (ICCIT) and holds a graduate appointment at the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto, Canada.

Peter Chonka

Title:
"Mobility scams and the transnational everyday: Young men's engagement with social media 'opportunities' in Hargeisa, Somaliland"

Abstract:
This paper examines various ways in which social media are used by young men in Somaliland to imagine and facilitate international mobility, and some of the risks of migration/mobility-related scamming that they encounter on these platforms. The paper is based on the author's development and preliminary testing of an innovative method for engaging young people about their online lives ('screen-shot elicitation' group interviews) as well as digital ethnographic investigation of particular scamming practices related to bogus local and international job and education opportunities. Existing research on migrants' use of social media has primarily focused on those en route to global North contexts, or on perspectives of diaspora communities engaging with 'homelands'. This paper stresses the importance of exploring the transnational everyday digital experiences of potential migrants within urban Horn of Africa contexts. The paper demonstrates how purported migration opportunities on social media content both reflect and shape young people's ideas about life in the diaspora, their orientations towards possible migration, and more general notions of social mobility. It also details the transnational construction of elaborate digital scamming techniques (as an illicit form of ecommerce) and raises questions for further research on locally-grounded meanings and operationalisations of 'digital literacy'.

Biography:
Peter Chonka is a Lecturer in Global Digital Cultures at King's College London. His research looks at how online platforms affect politics, civil society activism, conflict and mobility in so-called 'fragile' states. He has a long-standing regional interest in the Horn of Africa and focuses on Somali-language media networks and their influence on the cultural politics of state reconstruction in this part of the world. Peter previously worked for the University of Hargeisa (Somaliland) and later as a Somali interpreter for the International Committee of the Red Cross' Somalia delegation. Recent and ongoing research with the Rift Valley Institute has looked at digital media, transnational networks and mobility in the Horn of Africa. As a Co-Investigator on a new UKRI-funded network project (datarightsafrica.org) Peter is currently involved in bringing together East African researchers, civil

CONNECTING_EUROPE

society activists, and tech-professionals to develop future work on datafication and digital rights in the region.

Anastasia Christou

Title:
The significance of things: Objects, emotions and cultural production in migrant women's return visits home

Abstract:
This paper draws on qualitative research in Basel, Switzerland with highly skilled migrant women from various European nationalities employed in a number of professional sectors. It seeks to contribute to the literatures on the sociologies of migration and the sociologies of everyday life by intersecting the conceptual frame of 'affective habitus' with the phenomenology of material culture in unpacking how emotions triggered by objects shape settling practices in host societies.
The analysis centres on pathways of cultural production as they unfold through memories, objects and experiential return visits. The authors find sociological depth in applying 'affective habitus' as the conceptual framing to examine how mediations of memory and emotions can extend understandings of how women migrants create agentic ways to settle in new host societies while making cultural accommodations. The conceptual terrain of 'affective habitus' is theorised through a phenomenological approach to gendered migrancy and cultural materiality in everyday life.

Biography:
 Anastasia Christou is Associate Professor of Sociology, Middlesex University, London, UK. Anastasia has an interdisciplinary background encompassing English Literature, Philosophy, International Relations and Comparative Politics, International Law, Social and Cultural Geography, Feminist and Gender studies, while having engaged in multi-sited, multi-method and comparative ethnographic research in the United States, the UK, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Cyprus, France, Iceland and Switzerland. As a critical interdisciplinary scholar working across the humanities and the social sciences, engaging in empirical field research and extensively theorising from her findings, Anastasia has widely published research on issues of migration and mobilities; citizenship and ethnicity; space and place; transnationalism and identity; culture and memory; gender and feminism; inequalities and austerity; postsocialism; home, belonging and exclusion; emotion and narrativity; youth and ageing; sexualities; translocal geographies; affect, care and trauma; motherhood and mothering; women, men and masculinities; racisms and intersectionalities; gendered violence and social media; tourism mobilities; material culture; academic exclusion and solidarity; educational inequalities; embodiment. Anastasia has edited a number of book volumes and journal special issues, including recent themed journal editions for Mobilities; Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power; Women's Studies International Forum; Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies; Journal of Mediterranean Studies and Transnational Social Review: A Social Work Journal. She is the author of Narratives of Place, Culture and Identity: SecondGeneration Greek-Americans Return 'Home' (Amsterdam University Press, 2006) and her most recent book is a jointly authored research monograph entitled, Christou, A. and King, R. Counter-Diaspora: The Greek

Second Generation Returns 'Home', appearing in the series Cultural Politics, Socioaesthetics, Beginnings (Harvard University Press, 2015). Anastasia also writes poetry which recently has been published by the Feminist Review journal.

Olga Chuprina

Title:
"Welcoming migrants back: Ecuadorian return migrants after the economic crisis of 2010s"

Abstract:
The paper will examine the wave of emigration from Ecuador at the turn of the century and the subsequent return of migrants to their homeland during the 2012-2013 economic crisis. The impact of these mass migrations on the economy, politics and social sphere of the sending country will be assessed. More than 10% of the country's population emigrated and lived abroad before the crisis. Migrants remittances allowed many to pay off debts, invest in wellbeing and education, their standard of living. The subsequent return of the population to Ecuador was caused by the economic crisis (in particular in Spain) and the massive influx of people could have a devastating effect on the country's life: a wave of immigration could have triggered an increase in unemployment, and impact the situation of people relaying on remittances. However, return migration was not spontaneous, but foreseen. The Ecuadorian authorities made systematic efforts to return citizens. The efforts ranged from long-term strategic policies- such as distance participation in elections – to measures taken directly at the time of the crisis in Spain, such as programmes of reintegration of migrants. The expanding of migration flows in Ecuador since 1999 caused transformations in all areas of the country's life, permeating the entire social fabric. The paper addresses the establishment of new migration routes (to Spain, Holland and Italy, through the Pacific Ocean to Mexico and through Central America to reach the USA) and discusses the formation of migration chains and networks in late 20th century to explain these patterns of migration. Particular attention is given to the role of the new technologies of communication and the role they play in the migrations. I am putting the digitalization of migration in context of the feminization of migration and investigate the effects on the reconfiguration of family roles.

Biography:
Graduate student at RUDN.

Carmelina Concilio

Title:
"Migrants' narratives and Digital Humanities"

Abstract:
The Digital World has a crucial role in the life of migrants. Their journey is prompted by a bombardment of images from a globalized marketed reality, the journey itself is possible only thanks to directions, instructions and payments received via smartphones and through the internet. For migrants, and while they are on their way, keeping in contact with someone who has already arrived in their final destination is vital, it is a reason for hope and sometimes it prevents them from losing

their mind and their faith. They might travel light, but having and possessing a smartphone can be life-saving, it can make the whole difference. All this is very well represented in two novels about migration: Amitav Ghohs's Gun Island (2019) and Christy Leftery's The Beekeeper of Aleppo (2019). The aim of this paper is to discuss the role of the digital world and its potentialities in migrants' daily life, affect, and in migration narratives.

Biography:
Carmen Concilio is Associate professor of English and Postcolonial literature at the University of Torino: Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Modern Cultures. She is President of AISCLI (www.aiscli.it) and has recently published Imaging Ageing. Representation of Age and Ageing in Anglophone Literature (Transcript 2018) and New Critical Patterns in Postcolonial Discourse. Historical Traumas and Environmental Issues (2012). With Daniela Fargione she coedited Antroposcenari. Storie, Paesaggi ecologie (2018) and Trees in Literatures and the Arts. HumanArboreal Perspectives in the Anthropocene (2021). Her research fields are Canada, India, Australia, South Africa and the Caribbean, Migration and Diaspora studies, Ageing studies, Human and Environmental Rights, Urban studies, Photography, and Eco-Digital Humanities.

Ann Cathrin Corrales-Øverlid

Title:
"Navigating Media Discourses and Digital Practices: Peruvian Immigrant Women's Culinary Entrepreneurship in Southern California"

Abstract:
The Peruvian government and elite chefs have employed a range of media strategies to export the so-called Peruvian gastronomic boom. Peruvian immigrants in Southern California capitalize on the increasing recognition of Peruvian cuisine and open a variety of culinary businesses. However, positive food discourses enmesh with a negative narrative toward Latinx immigrants who are depicted as a threat. Food and food discourses arise as powerful tools that immigrant entrepreneurs draw upon as they navigate this complex context of reception. Drawing on life history interviews with 35 Peruvian women who run culinary businesses in and around Los Angeles, I explore the role of food discourses and immigrant entrepreneurship in processes of inclusion and exclusion. Women across socioeconomic strata, including those with precarious legal immigration statuses, establish culinary businesses in the formal and informal economic sector. Drawing on the status of Peruvian food they seek inclusion through distinction. Food becomes a social weapon through which they claim the right to representation and to membership of the urban community. Yet, experiences of racialization intersect with class and legal status in shaping entrepreneurial practices and influence marketing strategies. Online community platforms are often used for marketing, and are particularly important for informal home-based businesses, which are less visible in the urban landscape and depend on marketing to attract customers. Visibility in these forums, however, places informal entrepreneurs, particularly those who are undocumented, in a vulnerable position, and prompts some to opt for more private channels, which conditions their chances of reaching a broader clientele.

Biography:
Ann Cathrin Corrales-Øverlid is a PhD candidate in Latin American Studies at the University of Bergen, Norway. Her doctoral project explores how Peruvian immigrant women who have opened culinary

businesses in Southern California negotiate gender, home and belonging. She has an interdisciplinary background in languages, literature, history and cultural studies, but her main fields of interest are migration, gender and entrepreneurship, particularly unauthorized immigration and informal economic activities, with a geographic focus on Latin America and the United States. In 2017/2018, she was a visiting scholar at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where she also conducted field work.

Elisabetta Costa

Chair: SESSION 1.2 *Affect*

Title:
"Digital nostalgia: places and temporalities of immobility during the Covid-19 pandemic"

Abstract:
Lockdown and forced immobility have changed migrants' relationship to the places they inhabit. Interactions with people living in the same physical locality have become less intense and frequent, and interactions with relatives and friends spread in different places around the world have intensified. This paper explores the mediated experiences of time and place among professional migrants living in Groningen, the Netherlands, during the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic. Before the outbreak, connections with friends and colleagues in Groningen were mostly based on face to face communications and gatherings in public spaces, such as cafes, restaurants, museums, universities. Not all these relationships moved online though. By contrast, online interactions with friends and relatives living far away have become more frequent. They did not have to migrate from offline to online. Professional migrants now engage with a larger variety of forms of communication with loved ones spread around the world, through Facebook, WhatsApp, Zoom, Instagram, and other platforms. Attachments to physical places and peoples from older times have become more important than ever before, leading to a shift in the relationship that migrants have with past, present, and future. Emotional bonds with people and localities from the past are now more relevant in the present, filling the vacuum left by an uncertain future.

Biography:
Elisabetta Costa is a social anthropologist and media scholar. She is Assistant Professor at the Department of Media and Journalism Studies at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Her research broadly examines the roles of digital media in people's everyday life. She has studied social media, personal relationships, politics, and gender in Turkey and the Middle East, and her current research is based in Northern Italy. She is the author of Social Media in Southeast Turkey (UCL Press, 2016) and co-author of How the World Changed Social Media (UCL Press, 2016). She has published in Ethnos, Global Perspectives, the Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication, New Media & Society, Oriente Moderno, and the Journal of Ethnology.

CONNECTING_
EUROPE

Sara Creta

Title:
"I hope, one day, I will have the right to speak"

Abstract:
Situated at the intersection of digital migration studies, social movement studies and critical citizenship studies, this article explores how people on the move (migrants, refugees) in Libya use digital media to raise rights violations and to challenge European Union (EU) polices and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) practices. To examine how digital media provide a 'space of appearance' for people on the move in Libya, the study presents a qualitative thematic analysis of 49 posts and 986 comments published on the official Facebook page of UNHCR Libya between January 2018 and January 2019. Major themes include criticisms of UNHCR services and EU policies as well as the raising of human rights issues surrounding detention and evacuation. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how digital media enable people on the move to raise rights claims, contest official narratives and become active narrators of their individual struggles with the system of control and exclusion that is so deeply embedded in the discourse of securitized humanitarian care at Europe's border. At the same time, it highlights how issues of digital access and communicative capacity influence visibility and self-expression in the digital space of appearances.

Biography:
Sara Creta is an award-winning journalist and documentary filmmaker, with extensive experience investigating human rights abuses. Over the past years, she has reported from Sudan, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, DRC, Libya, Chad, Cameroon, Morocco, Tunisia, the Gaza Strip and a rescue ship in the Mediterranean. Currently she is pursuing her doctorate at the School of Communications of Dublin City University under the Future of Journalism Institute. With an academic background in International cooperation and protection of Human Rights, she focuses much of her research on how dissident actors use internet technologies in affecting political action vis-a-vis the horn of Africa region and politics. For her research, she has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action.

Helena Dedecek Gertz

Chair: SESSION 1.4 *Political Economy*

Title:
"Migrants and content creators: transnationalising educational aspirations on social networking sites"

Abstract:
Marielle and Joana are young, black Brazilian women from low middle-classes. Both migrated to Germany first as Au Pairs, then learned the language, acquired certificates, and now have stable residence permits. Both also have a similar digital presence: they strive for gathering followers by producing content for social networking sites (SNS) related to educational opportunities in Germany and life as a migrant. The quality and constancy of the content they create implies in a considerable

amount of unpaid workload, although neither of them has training or a job related to education or media.

Following a non-media centric digital ethnography approach, I investigate the transnationalising (Glick-Schiller et al, 1992) element of the digital work performed by these migrants. Marielle and Joana claim to share their knowledge about migrating "using" education because they wish to support other Brazilians to pursue educational aspirations in Germany. Through their digital presence, they also gain social recognition among peers, yet they do not wish to become online celebrities: both follow independent educational careers, one woks in business management and wishes to pursue a PhD in social sciences and the other is pursuing vocational training in health sciences.

Marielle and Joana receive messages from strangers seeking tailored information for their migratory projects. Other migrants I interviewed – who do not produce content semi-professionally – highlight the role SNS have played in their decision-making processes. Hence, the knowledge circulating on SNS plays a role in finding and filtering information within a context of "information precarity" (Emmer et al., 2020). Finally, as migrants from way below the middle-classes contribute to the transnationalisation of the German educational system (Fürstenau, 2019), migrants producing their own content for SNS and aiming at a broader audience (not only family and friends) push transnationalism further.

Biography:
Helena Dedecek Gertz is a Ph.D. student at the Hamburg University in Germany. Her current research investigates migrant's media use and its associations with educational aspirations. She is concerned about social inequalities and the role of media and education in reinforcing or alleviating them.

Mira Demirdirek

Title:
"Refugee machinga on Dar es Salaam's digital pavements. Navigating immobilization through social media commerce in urban Tanzania"

Abstract:
Female Congolese refugees in Dar es Salaam pivot their social media engagements to commerce to offset their immobility and eke out a living as mobile vendors, commonly known as *machinga*.

Urban refugees' immobility relates to spatial restrictions but equally touches upon temporal, legal, and financial constraints. Unlike their Tanzanian counterparts, refugees' mobility is restricted both physically (encampment policies) and socially (lack of working permits and negative societal attitude).

Based on ethnographic research (July 2019 - December 2020), including qualitative interviews and (digital) observation, we will look at novel entrepreneurial opportunities facilitated by social media, mainly WhatsApp and Instagram. Through which practices do refugees capitalize upon personal networks to engage in commerce? In which ways is maintaining a strong transnational network an asset? How do these entrepreneurs relate to the local market? How do refugees circumvent restrictive policies? How are these practices gendered?

Even though this paper will primarily focus on women entrepreneurs, social media commerce is practiced by men too. Moreover, it is not only refugees who inhabit the informal virtual commercial landscape. One urban problem constraining everyone's mobility are the *foleni*, Dar es Salaam's infamous traffic jams. Social media commerce opens up avenues for Tanzanian and non-Tanzanian residents to undertake transactions without being limited by *foleni*.

By exploring how social media commerce enables overcoming immobility in Dar es Salaam, this papers illustrates to what extent global digital connections have made the world of trade more accessible for those who are restricted to move physically through macro and micro space.

Biography:
Mira Demirdirek is a MA student in African Studies at Leiden University. She is currently writing her thesis on youth's usage of mobile communication for the navigation of livelihood uncertainties in Dar es Salaam. She is interested in questions of borders, mobility and the securitization of migration.

Nadica Denić

Title:
"Digital Auto-ethnographies of Migration: An Affective and Ethical Engagement with Midnight Traveller (2019) and Purple Sea (2020)"

Abstract:
Despite the hypervisibility of migrants in the mainstream European news media, especially in regards to the discourses of "crisis" since 2015, their voices are largely silenced and are not offered much opportunity to contribute to the discussion that directly concerns them. While migrant voices might not have been equally acknowledged in the public sphere, recent years have seen a rise in documentary practices in which migrants document their own experiences of migration. In "Midnight Traveler" (Hassan Fazili, 2019), a family documents their three-year long journey from Afghanistan to Germany, while in "Purple Sea" (Amel Alzakout and Khaled Abdulwahed, 2020), a woman migrating from Syria to Germany records her five-hour crossing from Istanbul to Lesbos on a capsized boat. The first journey is filmed with the help of three digital mobile devices, the latter with a digital camera small enough to be wrapped around a wrist. These digital devices enable and shape the documentary presentation of personal experiences of migrating to Europe and help to question the hegemonic ways of documenting migration. In my research, I examine how these two films 1) use home-video footage and first-person narration to communicate the process of regrounding a home, 2) construe "Europe" as scene of (cruel) optimism, and 3) reflect on the mediation of migration and the intimate workings of "refugee" interpellation. Throughout the film analyses, I trace how the affective structures of the migration journeys inform ethical engagement with the films. Overall, I argue that "Midnight Traveler" and "Purple Sea" engage digital mobile technologies to develop oppositional gazes, which act as counter-narratives to the European news media's victimization and criminalization of migrants.

Biography:
Nadica Denić is a PhD Candidate (2020-2024) at Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA), as part of the department of Media Studies at University of Amsterdam. Her NWO-funded PhD research, entitled "Cinematic Ethics of Migration: Auto-ethnographic Migrant Perspectives in Contemporary Documentary," examines how auto-ethnographic documentaries about migration

portray the affective structures of migration experiences, as well as how they evoke and express ethical perspectives on migration. Before starting her PhD, Denić obtained a research MA degree in Media Studies at the UvA, and a BA degree in Film Studies and Philosophy at Amsterdam University College. Alongside her research, she works for the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) as a selector and moderator.

Rick Dolphijn

Chair: SESSION 6.1 *Food, Belonging and Digital Public Spaces* and special roundtable session: Digital practices, materialities and migrant belongings

Title:
"A Taste of Home"

Abstract:
Taste and smell concern senses that, contrary to for instance sight and sound, suggest a kind of closeness to our bodies… What we smell must be very near and what we taste has to be inside our mouth even. But when we study *the idea* of 'the taste of home', which for many of us is so important, physical or geographical distance, does not seem to play a very important role. DARPA researchers, designing the meals for the American soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, knew that the taste of home, should be included in their meals-ready-to-eat. Even the zein-packaging had to carry the smell of home, as their research told them this would make the soldiers feel more at ease, less scared and anxious in an environment alien to them.
For those who seek refuge in Europe, a taste of home seems equally fundamental for their wellbeing. But the search for their new homes, for their *return* to safety (the term 'refuge' actually refers to someone *returning* to safety, *returning* to 'a home', since the old home is destroyed), is, regretfully, always a long and difficult process. Michel Agier describes the different stages the refugees go through stressing that a 'community of peace', often can only be established after having been part, sometimes for years, of a 'community of exodus'. What does this mean for this 'taste of home'? How do personal relationships and digital bonds as they run through various communities, allow us to negotiate, remember, recognize and redefine, 'a taste of home'?

Biography:
Rick Dolphijn (Associate Professor, Utrecht university) has a background in philosophy and art and uses these to explore material culture at large. Among his books are *Foodscapes* (2004), *New Materialism* (2012, with Iris van der Tuin), and *The Philosophy of Matter: A Meditation* (2021, forthcoming). Dolphijn holds an Honorary Professorship at the University of Hong Kong (Comparative Literature) and a Visiting Professorship at the University of Barcelona (Art History and Geography). He is PI in the HERA funded project FOOD2GATHER.

Giorgia Donà

Chair: SESSION 7.2 *Digital Everyday Forms of Mobilisation and Solidarity Led by Migrants and Refugees in times of Covid-19*

Title:
"Everyday forms of mobilisation and solidarity in Calais techno-borderscape"

Abstract:
The European migration 'crisis' has shed light on the perils of Europe's external borders with less attention being paid to borders inside Europe and the ways in which their formation alters understandings of transit and destination. Borderlands - such as the one at the France-UK border - are characterised by a specific state of governance. As a response to the state of exception of governmentality, new forms of mobilisation and solidarity have emerged. Based on the UK-French border, we rely on the concept of techno-borderscape to unravel these embodied and virtual encounters, negotiations, mediations and contestations among various state and non-state actors that unfold at the border. It shows how digital surveillance, humanitarianism, and activism – often studied separately –intersect with one another across territorial, geopolitical and symbolic borders. Drawing from ethnographic data, we demonstrate how mobile technologies play an important role in the mobilisation of forms of solidarity in which migrants, together with other social actors, negotiate, mediate and engage with at the border. In techno-borderscapes, migrants use mobile technology 'to interact' with other social actors but also strategically 'to mobilise' at the border by resisting and challenging it. The interplay of digital oppression and subversion reshapes power imbalances and transforms the roles of traditional actors involved in surveillance, humanitarianism, volunteerism and activism in conditions of 'exceptional' governance. However, in this time of crisis, the pandemic has turned Calais into a harsher hostile environment for people on the move making it even more difficult for refugees to organise as well as to mobilise both offline and online.

Biography:
Giorgia Dona is Professor of Forced Migration and co-director of the Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging at the University of East London. For more than three decades she has worked as a researcher, practitioner and activist with refugees in Central America, Eastern Africa and Europe. Her research focuses on conflict and displacement, child and youth migration, psycho-social perspectives in forced migration, refugee voices and representation, and multi-modal narratives.

Jolanta Drzewiecka

Title: "Digital self-help initiatives as instances of negotiating integration and migrant belonging: A case study of Eritrean forced migrants in Switzerland"

Abstract:
See co-author Wegahtabrhan Kiros Sereke

Biography:
Drzewiecka (PhD, Arizona State University, USA) recently moved to Switzerland after teaching and conducting research at Washington State University, USA. She is Academic Director of the Master of Advanced Studies in Intercultural Communication at USI, and Academic Director of the European Masters of Intercultural Communication. Her researches focuses on discursive constructions of cultural, racial, and national differences and identities to advance a critical intercultural communication framework. She focuses on two areas: immigrant identity and public memories. In the first, she examines how immigrant identities are negotiated and represented in personal and media narratives. Here, she develops a theory as to how immigrants are racially incorporated through intercultural translation in ways that sustain structures of inequality. The latter area explores how public memories are shaped by and shape nationalism. She is particularly interested in how memories of ethnic violence are discursively disabled and blocked and victims rendered unrecognisable to protect fictions of the national self. Here, she combines discourse and rhetorical analyses with psychoanalytic theories.

Evan Easton-Calabria

Title:
"Digital Belonging in Berlin: Syrian Refugee-led organisations during COVID-19"

Abstract:
The COVID-19 crisis has brought new forms of solidarity alongside securitization and xenophobia in cEurope. In this paper we explore notions of digital belonging and integration as fostered through organisations founded and led by refugees ('refugee-led organisations' or RLOs) in Berlin, Germany. We present case studies of RLOs as they navigate COVID-19 and rising European xenophobia, with a lens to understanding how changes necessitated by the pandemic, such as digitalization, can in fact improve and offer new opportunities to connect and to belong. We draw on interviews and surveys to expand understandings of how Syrian RLOs contribute to fellow refugees' experiences of belonging and integration during the pandemic. Many everyday forms of solidarity and even resistance by refugees now occur digitally, as refugees provide assistance, assert rights, and combat misinformation online. Research was conducted with the leaders and staff of refugee-led organisations and their members to learn about how COVID-19 has affected organisations' work, strategies, and aims, and the pandemic's impact on their members.
We examine:

• the existence and potential of refugee-led organisations as grassroots European institutions to foster digital inclusion in German society and internationally during COVID-19;
• the ways these organisations foster relationships with different groups (e.g. minority and majority groups of different religions) and reduce the 'othering' of refugees both online and in-person through digitally-mediated channels (e.g. social media)
• good practices on increasing the broader promises and possibilities of digital integration through refugee-led organisations within a context of rising xenophobia in Europe.

Biography:
Evan Easton-Calabria is a researcher at the Refugee Studies Centre focusing on refugee livelihoods, self-reliance, and local governance, and a Junior Research Fellow in Social Sciences at Wadham College, Oxford. She is Principal Investigator of the RSC research project, 'Responses to Crisis Migration in Uganda and Ethiopia: Researching the role of local actors in secondary cities', funded through the Cities Alliance/UNOPS, and a John Fell Fund grant, 'Digital Livelihoods for Refugees? Exploring pathways to the new world of work in Nairobi and Tel Aviv'. She is also lead editor of the Refugee Studies Centre's research dissemination platform Rethinking Refuge. Previously she worked on the Refugee Economies Programme's research project on refugee-led social protection.

Emily Edwards

Title:
"The Shaheeh Bagh Protests: Transnationalizing Anti-CAA-NRC Protests from Urban to Digital Streets"

Abstract:
This paper examines protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Registry of Citizens (NRC), policy interventions passed by India's parliament which restricted citizenship by Hindu affiliation thereby discriminating against Muslim Indian citizens. The passage of the CAA-NRC spurred massive protests in India and abroad among allied activist collectives. We focus on a specific anti-CAA-NRC protest which unfolded in the working-class, majority-Muslim Shaheen Bagh neighborhood in Delhi, India. The Shaheen Bagh protest became a highly visible symbol of the movement on social media platforms and in mass media outlets due to the leadership of previously marginalized political-actors, Indian Muslim women. We emphasize that the Shaheen Bagh protests unfolded in both digital and physical streets; on social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram and in the urban neighborhood of Shaheen Bagh featuring collaboration between Indian Muslim women in Delhi and diasporic, progressive Indian activists in the United Kingdom. We analyze this social movement focusing on gender, political subjectivity, and affective networks in the context of global activism. Embracing a feminist grounded theory approach to data gathering, we deploy data scraping and visualization tools alongside ethnographic interviews with protestors at the site and with Indians activists. We argue that the mediation of the Shaheen Bagh protest on social media is a co-constitutive element of the protest on the ground and features the connection of transnational coalitions and South Asian migrants strategically managing to brand the Muslim "Women of Shaheen Bagh" as affective, feminist symbols of a secular, multicultural India. This paper thus situates the Shaheeh Bagh protests as a dynamic, glocal, and platformed social movement demonstrating the influence of transnational activist coalitions in addressing far-right Hindu nationalist authoritarianism through forms of digital activism.

Biography:
Emily Edwards is a PhD Candidate in Bowling Green State University's American Culture Studies Program and serves as co-producer of the Fembot Collective podcast Books Aren't Dead as well as the incoming Student and Early Career Representative for the Feminist Studies Division of the International Communication Association (ICA). She received her Masters of Arts from New York University's Center for European and Mediterranean Studies where she served as the Max Weber

Research Fellow. She is concerned with the negotiation of national identity, race, and power through cultural and media forms in Germany and the United States and has most recently explored these issues in Germany as a Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) visiting researcher at the University of Leipzig's Department of Sociology. Her current research focuses on far-right reactions to Arab and Muslim diaspora communities in the United States and Germany on Twitter and refugee media usage and consumption.

Nermin Elsherif

Title:
"The Guardians of "the good old days": Nostalgia and belonging to the ideal nation in post-revolutionary Egyptian Facebook"

Abstract:
Exploring post-revolutionary Egyptian Facebook as a site of cultural production, this article focuses on the nostalgic discourse of "al-zaman al-gamīl" or "the good old days" that frames different – and often contradictory – periods of Egypt's 20th century as the nation's "golden age". This nostalgic discourse emerges as a social and moral critique of the present; a means by which Facebook users express their anxieties and alienation from the current image of the nation. Through circulating vintage photographs and mass-media content depicting Egypt's lost grandeur and prosperity that varies from film stills of the 1950s, national songs/operettas of 1960s, and television dramas of 1980s, the initiators and the members of these online communities, co-produce an ideal imaginary of the nation they aspired to belong to. These online communities act as transnational sites of belonging, as they include members of the Egyptian migrants in the Arab-Gulf and the West along with members currently residing in Egypt, and members of the Jewish-Egyptian diaspora and the cosmopolitan Greek-Italian communities that left Egypt after 1952. Based on an online/offline ethnographic account that extended for twenty-four months, the article examines how the initiators of three Facebook communities dedicated to this discourse assert their online identities as "amateur historians" and "dedicated archivists" on a mission to "educate" their fellow Egyptians about the past. It argues that through their media-practices, they negotiate their own online-subjectivities as the guardians of an ideal past and an ideal nation. By examining their media-practices of content-generation, cultivation of followers, and gatekeeping techniques online, the article outlines how Facebook is sought as tool for disseminating and debating national and societal grievances in a moment of unprecedented online surveillance and censorship. As such, this case-study contributes to the bigger questions of: how online personas are articulated over social media platforms? How alternative imaginaries of nationalism and belonging are co-produced and negotiated online?

Biography:
Nermin is a PhD researcher in the Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture (AHM). She is part of the Marie Sklodowska-Curie INT Project 'CHEurope' . Nermin's research is concerned with social media cultures in post-revolutionary Egypt. Her project examines how heritage discourses are co-produced over social media platforms to negotiate national and societal grievances.Prior to joining the university of Amsterdam Nermin taught for five years between the German University in Cairo (GUC) and the Arab Academy for Science and Technology (AASTMT). Meanwhile, she worked as an architect and an urbanist in various heritage management projects in Cairo funded by URHC-UNESCO and the Egyptian State.

CONNECTING_EUROPE

Kate Erskine

Title:
""Palatable Foreignness": Subjectivity, Ethnicity and Race in Migrant Cinema"

Abstract:
Migration is an increasingly defining feature of our global political condition, and as such, it is worth considering what it means to be both a citizen and a migrant.The purpose of this paper is to examine the ways in which two films, "Last Resort" (2000) and "Dirty Pretty Things" (2002), approach similar themes related to migration in different ways. Both films critically engage with migrant women's experiences in the United Kingdom, and my intent is to illuminate how these narratives are situated in broader cultural and socio-political contexts that have particular implications, and to explore how certain visual strategies and narrative discourses are employed to diminish or accentuate these implications. I will begin with an analysis of "Last Resort," which is structured as a response to Alice Bardan's work and addresses issues of migrant subjectivity, sexual exploitation and agency in the film. Then, I will turn to "Dirty Pretty Things" for a comparison, looking specifically at how the ethnic identities of each film's female protagonist result in similar experiences having different historical, cultural and political significance.

Biography:
Kate Erskine is a PhD student in Screen Cultures at Northwestern University. Her research explores intersecting themes of migration, surveillance and gender in visual culture. Kate earned her B.A. from the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at New York University, and her MSc in Media from the London School of Economics. She previously worked in film development for production companies based in New York, London and Shanghai.

Marcia Vera Espinoza

Title:
"#RegularizacionYa in Chile: local and transnational migrant solidarity in times of COVID"

Abstract:
This paper explores the role of migrant-led organisations in Chile during the pandemic, by analysing the social media campaigns created to demand the regularisation of the migrant population. The COVID-19 crisis hit South America in the middle of the massive displacement of more than 5 million Venezuelan citizens (R4V 2020). Although less visible, there are other migrant groups whose vulnerability has also increased during the pandemic (Vera Espinoza, Zapata and Gandini 2020). The growing numbers of intraregional migration have been particularly significant in Chile. The country's migrant population increased from 1.3% in 2001, to 8% of the total population by the end of 2019. Migrants' mobility to Chile, either permanent or temporary, has increased their visibility in the country and has been met with sporadic and selective hospitality, as well as with increasing xenophobia and hostile immigration policies. Migrants' resistance to the increased politicization of migration has also meant the politicization and diversification of their own fight. This paper explores the negotiations, alliances, and spaces where migrants' organization takes place in Chile and analyses how their

relationship with the government and other key stakeholders has changed during the pandemic. The paper discusses how migrant organization has moved from the community space alone to build alliances, locally and transnationally, as well as to expand their arenas of action both online and offline.

Biography:
Marcia Vera Espinoza is a Lecturer in Human Geography at Queen Mary University of London. She is co-founder member of the research group CAMINAR (Comparative Analysis on International Migration and Displacement in the Americas). Her research interests are in migration and refugee dynamics, experiences of inclusion, and migration governance in Latin America. Before joining QMUL, Marcia was an associate researcher in the ERC funded project ´Prospects for International Migration Governance´ (MIGPROSP) and taught at the University of Sheffield (2015-2018). Her recent publications include the co-edited books 'The Dynamics of Regional Migration Governance' (Edward Elgar, 2019) and 'Latin America and Refugee Protection: regimes, logics and challenges.' (Berghahn Books, June 2021).

Maria Festa

Title:
"Digital Storytelling in Current Migration Narratives"

Abstract:
This paper assesses the impact of the digital world and new media on the body of current migration narratives by and about authors leaving or fleeing countries of origin.
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Americanah, Reni Eddo-Lodge's Why I'm No Longer Talking To White People About Race and Lucy Popescu's A Country of Refuge clearly reveal the interconnections between Anglophone Postcolonial Literature and the digital world. In Adichie's novel everyday forms of electronic communication such as blogs and emails appear and blend with the narration. The London-based journalist, Eddo-Lodge, best known for her 2017 non-fiction book on how racism is deeply rooted in contemporary Western societies, has been communicating on her blog posts for over a decade. Popescu delivered a speech on the TEDx Talks platform with the intent to expand on the potent content of her anthology A Country of Refuge, which includes short fiction, poems, memoirs and essays about migrants and refugees.
In these narratives, the conditions of the country of origin exist in some form of political and/or economic crisis, sometimes as a direct result of colonial rule, neo-colonialism, or decolonization. Especially refugee narratives represent a genre of literature that highlights the human rights issues facing stateless persons. Digital connectivity temporarily erases national borders and catalyses feelings of belonging and longing for home. This virtual space functions as the migrant or refugee's personal bubble where the very real effects of racism and marginalization that prevail in the host society can be felt less harsh.

Biography:
Maria Festa is a PhD student at the University of Torino, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Modern Cultures. Her research focuses on Anglophone Postcolonial Literature and digital storytelling. She has participated in international conferences, published reviews, short articles and essays. Her recent publications include "Teju Cole's Narrative through Words and

Images" in Carmen Concilio and Maria Festa (eds.) Word and Image in Literature and the Visual Arts, Milano, Mimesis International, 2016 and History and Race in Caryl Phillips's The Nature of Blood, ibidem-Verlag, Stuttgart, 2020.

Sarah Ford

Title:
"Technologies towards Accountability? Data-driven protection contexts and communication with people seeking refugee protection in Jordan"

Abstract:
See co-author Emily Edwards

Biography:
Sarah Ford is a second year PhD student in the Department of American Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University. She received her MFA from the NEOMFA program in 2019 and her BA in English from William Smith College in 2015. Her primary area of research is digital fan cultures and how the technological and social aspects of those spaces impact a person's sociopolitical beliefs. With the global of social media, fans are now interacting on a previously unthinkable level and we are seeing cultures clashing and coming together in ways that redefine what it means to be connected in a fandom. Her article on fan archives and the Lord of the Rings fan magazines is forthcoming from the Journal of Fandom Studies in 2021.

Radhika Gajjala

Title:
"Technologies towards Accountability? Data-driven protection contexts and communication with people seeking refugee protection in Jordan"

Abstract:
See co-author Emily Edwards

Biography:
Radhika Gajjala (PhD, University of Pittsburgh, 1998) is a Professor of Media and Communication and of American Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University, USA. She was Fulbright Professor in Digital Culture at University of Bergen, Norway for the year 2015-2016. In 2012, she was Senior Fulbright scholar at Soegijapranata Catholic University. Her published work engages themes related to globalization, digital labor, feminism and social justice. Published books include "Digital Diasporas" (Rowman and Littlefield International 2019), "Online Philanthropy" (Lexington Press 2017), "Cyberculture and the Subaltern" (Lexington Press, 2012) and "Cyberselves: Feminist Ethnographies of South Asian Women" (Altamira, 2004). Co-edited collections include "Cyberfeminism 2.0" (Peter Lang, 2012), "Global Media Culture and Identity" (Routledge, 2011), "South Asian Technospaces"(Peter Lang, 2008), "Webbing Cyberfeminist Practice" (Hampton Press, 2008). Her current research project is centered on Indian digital diasporas and forms of transnational feminist Indian digital activism in the context of far-right Hindu nationalism.

Ehab Galal

Title:
"Mediatized Egyptian opposition in diaspora: Entangled revolutionary spaces"

Abstract:
Since the Arab Spring, Istanbul has outmatched London as center for hosting Arab political opposition groups and regime-critical media. The geographical placements outside non-Arab countries allow them to establish media that criticize the regime of their countries of origin. Together with the London- and Doha-based media (Doha as the Arab exception), the result is the appearance of new and varied politically-mobilized media outlets and platforms. Among these are several Egyptian YouTubers, social media, News sites and TV stations. Examples are e.g. the Muslim Brotherhood channel Al-Watan TV; Al-Sharq TV, which is administered by the well-known Egyptian liberal politician Ayman Noor; and Mekameleen TV that employs both liberals and young Muslim Brotherhood associated. The London- and Doha-based media are not Egyptian as such, but devote much time on and space to the political situation in Egypt while simultaneously employing many TV-presenters and journalists with Egyptian background. These are Al-Jazeera in Doha and Al-Hiwar TV and Al-Araby TV, and Al-Araby Al-Jadid newspapers in London. Despite their different ideological outlook, all these media outlets share a critical approach to the autocratic Egyptian regime and aim at mobilizing political opposition among Egyptians within as well as outside Egypt. As such, they aspire to serve as potential revolutionary spaces.

However, the question is how Egyptian diasporas relate to these mediated spaces? To be more precise: What is the role of Egyptian regime-critical media placed in Istanbul, London and Doha in political action formation among Egyptian diasporic communities in Europe? To answer this question, this paper will discuss the conceptual as well as empirical entanglement of diasporic, revolutionary, oppositional, Shar'ia, and critical media in the context of mediated Egyptian opposition in diaspora. Drawing on a political communication approach to political action formation as mediatized (Mortensen 2016) and connective (Bennett & Segerberg 2012; 2013), the paper continues by exploring how members of Egyptian diasporas are mobilized on three levels: by means of narratives, political involvement, and direct intervention in the country of origin (Adamson 2002). Based on non-media-centred and media ethnographic approaches (Ginsberg et al. 2002; Gillespie 2005; Moores 2012), the paper draws on interviews with Egyptian elites and media producers in diaspora, who represent Islamist, liberalist and leftist political views. The interviews are conducted in seven European countries, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, Scotland, England, and Turkey in the period between 2015 and 2019.

Biography:
Ehab is an Associate Professor at Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen. He has approached research questions from a cross-disciplinary perspective inspired by media as well as ethnographic, cultural and religious studies. Since 2018, he has been leading a research team working on the project Mediatized Diaspora, which investigates transnational media use and contentious politics among Arab diaspora in Europe. For more information about Ehab, please follow this link: https://ccrs.ku.dk/staff/?pure=en/persons/164164

Mine Gencel Bek

Chair: SESSION 6.4 *Visuality & Social Media*

Title:
"Exploring (migrant) women's lives and stories through photographs"

Abstract:
"Similar to people's mobility, the circulation of photographs organizes and structures social life. Photographs themselves travel within families, across different generations and continents, as material objects. Photographs are to be seen, held and exchanged. They expose life. They also travel across time and space…" (Giorgia Alu, 2019: 11).

This study explores the life narratives of ten women who migrated from Turkey and live in Germany through their photographs. Photographs as practice and content which are analyzed in this process have deepened the conversations and interactions. As Giorgia Alu's beautiful paragraph above states, both migrants and photos move, circulate or travel in different forms. One of the travelling materials, as Alu (2019) states is photographic albums which is an "object to collect and preserve but also has content to narrate. All these acts are gendered: Women create, use or appropriate them to preserve the past, narrate the migration" (p.11). Visuals for this study is important to try to show the gendering aspects of migration with inhabited power dynamics, constraints and possibilities. In our study, albums are included but mainly talks are structured around the photographs which are visible in their houses as well as photographs they showed.

The interviews with women on their lives, and migration stories are realized in 2019 and 2020 around the cities of Cologne and Siegen through photographs they chose to show and those on display in the houses (on their walls, different parts of the house including fridge, their selections from their albums or mobile). These were the research questions: What do women do and say with the photos at home and with those they showed, about their lives? Which themes, words, discourses are repeated? Which themes, words, discourses are absent or silenced? How do they construct their identities? What and where do they feel belong to? How do they express selves? How do they remember, and connect with their past places and relations and imagine a future? What is the role of power relations? What are the constraints and possibilities?

Biography:
Mine Gencel Bek works as a researcher and Principal Invesitagator for the DFG funded research group Transformationen des Populären (2021-2024) at the University of Siegen. She completed her Ph.D at Loughborough University in 1999 with the thesis titled 'Communicating Capitalism: A Study of the Contemporary Turkish Press'. She was a visiting lecturer at MIT Comparative Media Studies, Open Documentary Lab and Civic Media Lab in 2013 and 2014. She was dismissed from her position as a professor at the Department of Journalism, Faculty of Communication, Ankara University, Turkey, with the decree in February 2017 for signing the petition for peace.

CONNECTING_
EUROPE

Zeynep Genel

Title:
"Understanding of Informal Communication Eco-System Effects on Social Inclusion"

Abstract:
By the critical problems inevitably happening in Syria, approximately 5 million Syrian people came across to Turkey. Today, a significant Syrian population desperately trying to adapt their life to exist in Turkey. Cultural and religious similarities bring advantage for adapting themselves to a new life, differences and other cultural problems cause difficulty for increasing social inclusion.

One of the main reasons that make harder the Syrians for setting a new life in Turkey is the cultural gap between the two societies. The differences between religious customs make most of them understand the hosting society's daily life cycle. On the other hand, welcoming a different culture is similarly hard, and harmonizing a new life depends critically on the spoken language and communication ability. Apart from formal language learning, using informal communication methods that provide voluntary motivation can also be effective in adapting to a different culture. Communication problems lie at the root of the difficulties that refugees experience.

Communicative barriers are thought to be important at the point of learning Turkish. It is predicted that the more you learn Turkish, the easier it will be to discover aspects that will adapt to society. For these reasons, a qualitative field study has been carried out in order to recognize the communicative environment and to understand how informal communication resources are used. To this end, Turkey's third largest city of Istanbul, Adana and in-depth interviews using the interview technique of qualitative methods in the years 2017-2019 was carried out with Syrian refugees living in Izmir. In the study, it is aimed to understand how the communicative environment is effective in adaptation to language and culture and adaptation to life in the country where it is located. Thus, with this study, the communicative eco-system that refugees use to adapt to the society in which they exist, namely, neighbourhood relations, social media, digital resources, environmental signs, etc. is aimed to be understood.

Biography:
Zeynep Genel completed her undergraduate degree at İstanbul University in 1998 on Public Relations She took her first MA degree in 2004 at Marmara University on Public Relations and Advertising, and second MA degree in 2008 at Marmara University on Journalism . Genel took her doctoral degree in 2015 at Yeditepe University, on Media Studies. She has lectured at Okan University's Public Relations and Advertising department since 2016 and also she is a member of Applied Science Faculty. She has been researching on sustainability advocacy since 2015. Her research and publications focus on corporate reputation, marketing communications, city branding, dijital media, corporate social effect and sustainability.

<u>Nicholas de Genova</u>

Title of Keynote:
Migration and the Antinomies of Mobility

Abstract:
Confronted with the ever more devious reaction formations of border policing and militarization, migrant detention, immigration enforcement, and deportation by state powers, the constitutive force and autonomy of human mobility must nonetheless be central in our analyses of the veritable making and remaking of our contemporary world. Rather than seeing the economy of power that unevenly enforces borders as if it were purely a matter of control, however, it is instructive to situate the tactics of border enforcement in relation to the primacy, autonomy, and subjectivity of human mobility on a global (transnational, intercontinental, cross-border, postcolonial) scale. If we start from the human freedom of movement and recognize the various tactics of bordering as reaction formations, then the various tactics of border policing can be seen to introduce interruptions that temporarily immobilize and decelerate human cross-border mobilities. Indeed, it is this dialectic that reconstitutes these mobilities as something that comes to be apprehensible as "migration," which is to say, as a target and object of government. How then can a critical analysis of border struggles instructively problematize our very sense of what is at stake intellectually and politically in migrants' struggles to appropriate mobility? Even against the considerable forces aligned to immobilize their mobility projects, migrants' subjective autonomy remains an incorrigible force. In the worst of situations, when compelled to revert to a kind of "standby" mode, migrants become temporarily immobilized and must find ways to convert their waiting from "dead time" into more or less productive time. Yet, waiting to be re-activated, their mobilities remain an intractable and always potentially disruptive constitutive power.

Biography:
Nicholas De Genova is Professor and Chair of the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies at the University of Houston. He previously held teaching appointments in urban and political geography at King's College London, and in anthropology at Stanford, Columbia, and Goldsmiths, University of London, as well as visiting professorships or research positions at the Universities of Warwick, Bern, and Amsterdam. He is the author of Working the Boundaries: Race, Space, and "Illegality" in Mexican Chicago (2005), co-author of Latino Crossings: Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and the Politics of Race and Citizenship (2003), editor of Racial Transformations: Latinos and Asians Remaking the United States (2006), co-editor of The Deportation Regime: Sovereignty, Space, and the Freedom of Movement (2010), editor of The Borders of "Europe": Autonomy of Migration, Tactics of Bordering (2017), co-editor of Roma Migrants in the European Union: Un/Free Mobility (2019), and co-editor of Europa/ Crisis: Nuevas Palabras Claves en "la Crisis" en y de "Europa" (2021).

Myria Georgiou

Chair: Keynote Engin Isin and SESSION 1.5 *Cosmopolitanism & Representation*

Title:
"How does the subaltern speak? Migrant voice and the necessity of critique and praxis"

Abstract:
This presentation focuses on voice in the context of migration's hypermediation and examines whether migrant voice has been elevated to agentive recognition or reduced to a media trope. As migration's mediation has diversified over the last few years, understanding representational politics of migration cannot be fully contained in the binary of voice versus silence. In fact, and as migrant voices increasingly appear across institutional and grassroot digital spaces, we should now perhaps shift our question from: Does the subaltern speak? to: How does the subaltern speak and for whose benefit? The presentation draws on research of migration's representation in Europe over the last five years. Initiated by my frustration with the narrow framing of migrant voices in digital Europe, this research has become an epistemological journey highlighting the importance of critique but also of praxis. This presentation aims to contribute to debates on the decolonisation of media and communications, first, by confronting the colonising gaze of mainstream representations of migration, and second, by contesting them through cocreative alternative representations. With reference to the storytelling project "Digital city of refuge" (www.digitalcityofrefuge.com), I will speak to the necessity for a dialogue between theoretical critique and committed praxis. Specifically, I will show how knowledge produced through analysis of mainstream representations of migration informed the creation of a digital storytelling project. This has been driven by the values of (i.) cocreative storytelling as pedagogy of colearning; (ii.) anchoring of the subject in collective and individual experience of the past and the present; (iii.) declassification of "the migrant" as a set category of an Other whose experience and voice are by definition different to the citizen.

Biography:
Myria Georgiou is Professor in Media and Communications at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Elena Giacomelli

Title:
"In-between narratives: reflections on multiple layers of invisibility of migration"

Abstract:
See co-author Paola Parmiggiani

Biography:
Elena Giacomelli is Research Fellow at the Department of Sociology and Business Law, University of Bologna. She is now working within the EU funded project #ClimateOfChange. She obtained a PhD

conducting an ethnographic research on social workers with asylum seekers and refugees. Her research and publications focus on mobility and migration, ethnography and cultural sociology.

Paul Gilroy

Title of Keynote:
"Do The Wogs Still Begin at Calais?"

Biography:
Paul Gilroy is Professor of the Humanities at University College London and Founding Director of the Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Racism & Racialisation. He is one of the foremost theorists of race and racism working and teaching in the world today. Author of foundational and highly influential books such as There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack (1987), The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness (1993), Against Race (2000), Postcolonial Melancholia (2005) and Darker Than Blue (2010) alongside numerous key articles, essays and critical interventions, Gilroy's is a unique voice that speaks to the centrality and tenacity of racialized thought and representational practices in the modern world. He has transformed thinking across disciplines, from Ethnic Studies, British and American Literature, African American Studies, Black British Studies, Trans-Atlantic History and Critical Race Theory to Post-Colonial theory. He has contributed to and shaped thinking on Afro-Modernity, aesthetic practices, diasporic poetics and practices, sound and image worlds.

Marie Godin

Title:
"Everyday forms of digital mobilisation and solidarity under strain in Calais techno-borderscape"

Abstract:
See co-author Giorgia Donà

Biography:
Marie Godin is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre (University of Oxford). Her research project looks at the nexus between 'forced migration, social protection and digital technologies', with a particular focus on international migration from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe. Marie has published extensively on the Congolese diaspora and the politics of 'home' and belongings in different contexts.

Consuelo González Pavicich

Title:
"Latin American bike couriers and mobile place making in Berlin during the Covid-19 pandemic"

Abstract:
The increasing importance of digital platforms that provide services (e.g. Uber or Airbnb) is an urban phenomenon present worldwide. The digital labour platforms are part of the gig economy, which is characterized by short-term contracts or freelance work. One of the tactics played by gig economy companies within a neoliberal context is hiring economically vulnerable, usually migrant, labour. The Coronavirus pandemic has grown the delivery market due to 'social distancing' measures and with that has made platform-based workers essential. In the field of platform-based work, it has been investigated mainly on regulatory issues, especially the classification of workers. If there is limited research on workers' experiences in the gig economy, there is even less in the evening/night, as within urban studies' field has been day-centered. This research focuses on Latin American migrants working as bicycle food couriers in Berlin. Understanding the practices of this moving work as socially produced, mobility implies giving meaning to the practice of moving from one place to another and suggests the possibility of places being appropriated and transformed during this practice through the so-called process of mobile place making. Considering the diversity of Latin American migrants, the aim of this research is to understand the internal variation in mobile place making of this group of food couriers in different time-spaces in Berlin. Therefore, the research question is the following: How mobility practices of Latin American bike couriers shape their placemaking in the city of Berlin during the Covid-19 pandemic? The methodology is based on ethnographic fieldwork, where different qualitative research methods (static and mobile) were used. First, in-depth interviews were conducted, followed by rides-along with each interviewee, and direct observations as a complementary method. The findings provide insights into the impact of the gig economy on how migrant workers use and experience urban spaces considering the relevance of the body and the different uses of technologies (mobile phone and bike). It also contributes to understanding the lives of undocumented migrants in a new informal secondary labor market.

Biography:
I am a social anthropologist and currently a second-year student in a research master's degree in Urban and Economic Geography at the Utrecht University, funded by the Chilean scholarship ANID. Since my undergraduate thesis and throughout my career as a researcher in Chile, I have worked on issues of gender, mobility, work, and transnational migration from an ethnographic approach. My publications address issues such as situated urban intelligence, migrant sex work and international migration in agrarian territories.

Arianna Grasso

Title:
"New Media and Refugeehood: Practices of Decolonial Resistance in Contemporary Australia"

Abstract:
Over the past decades, migration phenomena have globally intensified due to a number of dramatic events that have often redrawn national borders, and reconfigured geopolitical relations among nation-states. In this unstable scenario, Australia has used extreme measures to stop the maritime arrival of people seeking asylum (Devetak 2004). With the 2012 reimplementation of the Pacific Solution and the 2013 Operation Sovereign Borders, asylum seekers who have tried to reach the Australian shores in search of protection have been arbitrarily confined to the offshore detention centers of Nauru and Manus Pacific Islands, among other detention facilities. While Australian politicians have instrumentalised the refugee issue to foment nationalist and xenophobic discourses (Grasso 2020), refugees have engaged in virtual spaces to reappropriate their self-presentations and resist forms of neo-colonial subjugation. In this context, digital platforms have provided empowering epistemic resources, which have been mobilized by the digital actors to decolonize the imaginary that mainstream discourses have imposed upon them (Tofighian 2020). On this premise, the present article aims at centering the refugee voice, by analyzing counter-narratives as constructed by a group of eleven (formerly/currently) detained refugees, who were interviewed over virtual platforms in the past few months. The research draws upon netnographic methodologies (Kozinets 2010) and is positioned at the intersection of Migration and Digital Media Studies (Smets et al. 2020). Specifically, by applying approaches of Content Analysis (Saldaña 2009) on the Refugee Interview Corpus (RIC), the study will examine digital refugee practices as established in contexts of material and symbolic marginalization. The present work will focus on the role of social media in the reconstruction of refugees' individual and collective identity, and in the building of transnational communication channels from detention. Findings will shed light on how these communicative practices are intercalated in a wider socio-political and historical order, which positions deterritorialized subjects into counter-hegemonic systems of communication.

Biography:
Arianna Grasso is a PhD Candidate at the Department of Literary, Linguistic and Comparative Studies of the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (Italy). She has obtained an International Master Degree in *Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism* at the University of Johannes Gutenberg Mainz (Germany) and the University of Vytautas Magnus (Lithuania). Her research interests include Populism, Migration and Social Media Studies. Her PhD project focuses in particular on the analysis of resistance practices enacted on Twitter by refugees in the context of the Australian refugee policy.

Melissa Gregg

Title:
"Circuits of consumption and production"

Abstract:
This talk will build on the material turn in media studies in order to propose a theoretical framework to examine the dependencies between consumption and production. Such model will help us connect consumption, distribution and assembly and understand how new technical affordances of platforms and apps are producing transnational labour markets while at the same time altering the established directionality and temporality of traditional migratory flows.

Biography:

CONNECTING_
EUROPE

Melissa Gregg is Chief Technologist for User Experience and Sustainability in the Client Computing Group at Intel, where she leads Research and Experience Definition in Client Platform and Silicon Architecture, and coordinates technologists' involvement in Intel's corporate responsibility goals.

Lena Grip

Title:
"From Disadvantage to Advantage: Digital performance of ethnicity in migrant entrepreneurship"

Abstract: Co-authored with **Quang Evansluong**
Immigrant entrepreneurship literature has discussed ethnicity mainly as a source of disadvantage which triggers many immigrants decide to be self-employed as a way to enter the labor market. However, when immigrants embark on their entrepreneurial journey, ethnicity can be utilized as a commodity and a resource in several ways.
Based on netnography research, this study examine seven successful Vietnamese restaurants in Sweden. For these entrepreneurs the Vietnamese ethnicity is a resource responding to customers' expectations of an exotic and authentic food experience. However, to run popular restaurants the entrepreneurs also need the knowledge of the host community, and we relate this to Georgios Transnational habitus skill, the "ability to use mobility, connectivity, and transnational association to achieve certain goals" (Georgiou 2019:73). Although ethnicity as a resource has been discussed in the entrepreneurship literature, little is known about how immigrant entrepreneurs turn ethnicity from disadvantage to advantage. Therefore, we focus on how ethnicity is used and digitally performed in immigrant's businesses, as a part of the process of transforming ethnicity from a disadvantage to an advantage.
Our point of departure is that digital technologies has become an integrated part of the social production of space through mediating socio-spatial relations (Ash et al., 2018). In this study, the use of social media is therefore central for the understanding of the production of space and performance of ethnicity and how the ethnicity is used as an asset. Visual content of Facebook, Instagram and webpages of the restaurants are the main empirical material. However, we are interested in more than the content of images themselves, as we understand them as a part of the social context and relationships for which they are produced, that is, the social relation between immigrants and their new home-place, and the relation between restaurant owners and their customers.

Biography:
Lena Grip PhD, is a Assistant Professor in Human Geography at Karlstad University, Sweden. Her main interest of research is in social aspects of community and spatial planning, and how the practical output of planning are met and understood by those directly concerned. This also includes an interest in how to work for social sustainable development on a local and everyday level. Gender equality in the rescue service has been researched from this perspective, as well as questions about integration policy in medium sized and small towns. She is a part of the Geomedia research group at Karlstad University and currently works on two different projects relating to issues of integration, belonging and media use. Lena Grip is the managing editor of Gender, Place and Culture.

Adria Guardiola Rius

Title:
"To be seen or not to be seen. The Spanish migrant frontier or how to die between two regimes of (not) being seen"

Abstract:
On February 8, 2014, 15 people drowned at the border while the Spanish police fired rubber balls at them in the Tarajal tragedy (Ceuta). Unlike usually, the Ministry for Home Affairs made public the images of the event, provoking a polarization in two opposite directions: for the accusation (various NGOs denounced the events), images were the evidence of the State crime; while for the accused (the Spanish State) those images represented proof of his innocence. Through a short documentary film (Under_Pixel, 2019) that complements —from practice— the theoretical analysis developed here, I argue that in order to avoid an identification based on the common bodily condition proposed by Butler, the low resolution of the images was an essential technical aspect. In an image-world, in which identities exist on the basis of their resolution, staying below the minimum resolution is equivalent to evading identification. But depending on the legal status of the subject, it has different consequences. Within Fortress Europe, political dissidence can avoid control if it manages to be "smaller than a pixel" (Steyerl); from the border out, migrants do not even become identifiable. Technically, their death is prefigured because they do not become sufficiently visible, a fact that makes the common corporeal condition impossible. Therefore, the resolution of the images varies according to the objective and underlies its strategic character in relation to the place in which it is placed. In an image-world, screen resolution becomes, therefore, a transcendental technical specification to build an identity that struggles to survive the current neoliberal necropolitics.

Biography:
Adrià Guardiola Rius (Barcelona). Works as cinematographer in fiction, documentary, tv and teaches at Catalonia University of Cinema (ESCAC). Currently pursuing a PhD in Communication in the Pompeu Fabra University. His research is based on the figure of the whale corpse in contemprorary cinema as allegory of the left melancholy.

This abstract is the theoretical approach to a documentary shortfilm developed around the images of the Tarajal tragedy (Under_Pixel, 2019), where the digital image is confronting new violences and contradictions, widely pointed out by Hito Steyerl, Harun Farocki and Judith Butler.

Latefa Narriman Guemar

Title:
"Migration and social transformation: Algerian Diaspora Responses to COVID-19"

Abstract:
Focusing on the Covid pandemic, this article draws on Castles' concept of social transformation to examine the kinds of initiatives and solidarity that emerge within diasporas in response to the impact of public-health or socio-economic crises on migrant communities. Factors that sometimes prevent such engagement include limited physical space and resources, and a lack of trust or communication.

However, new forms of solidarity have emerged with the use of social media and other online applications. Using online observations drawn from hundreds of Facebook pages created by the Algerian community in the UK and participation in WhatsApp meetings and online fundraisers, the author explores a wide range of initiatives supporting vulnerable communities during the pandemic. Characteristic of this solidarity is an increasing trust in local elites and leaders, effective engagement in online spaces, and a shared Islamic faith and pride in a transnational Algerian identity. Seemingly apolitical towards the homeland, this locally focused online diaspora philanthropy is challenging negative social transformations in the host country by rebuilding fractured communities and creating new social identities

Biography:
Latefa Guemar is member of the Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging at the University of East London. She was forced to leave Algeria following personal attacks on her family as a result of her husband's work as a journalist. Having received refugee status in the UK in 2004, Latefa has had to re-orient her study and has undertaken an MSc on Population Movement and Policy at Swansea University and a PhD on highly skilled Algerian women displaced during the Black Decade at the the University of East London in 2016. Latefa has a particular interest in gender issues in forced migration, diasporas and identities. She is currently Senior Research Consultant at Coventry University for the project "Imagining the Future: Engaging young people on environmental challenges to create new and sustainable livelihoods in Algeria".

Shilpi Gupta

Title:
"Digital matrimonial sites: a disruption or continuity of gender and caste in the marriage system of Indian diaspora?"

Abstract:
This essay revisits the notion of the Indian diaspora in connection with recent advancements in the technologies related to matrimonial ads. As a new phenomenon, matrimonial sites have replaced the traditional style of matchmaking and the newspaper matrimonial ads. The sites have spread all over the Indian land and also crossed the border to include the Indian diaspora on their platform. Unlike any dating app, these sites have uniquely attracted the Indian diaspora to search for their compatible life partner just through registering and browsing. Unlike the traditional matchmaking process where the bride and groom had no say in the marriage, the young Indian diaspora finds this technological development useful. They have freedom and access to search for their life partner. These matrimonial sites filter the bride or groom according to the user's criteria. *Jeevansaathi.com* is one of such matrimonial sites helping Indian diasporas finding their Indian blood marriage partner in any part of the world.
Using *Jeevansaathi.com* as a case study, the paper will study 50 matrimonial profiles (25 male profiles and 25 female profiles) to see how matrimonial sites, like any technology which connects diaspora to its land - homeland, also used to conjoin to the originality/ purity of the Indian marriage system. We will look at how the Indian diaspora through digital matrimonial sites perpetuates the endogamy marriage system based on caste and class. This study will also observe the construction and perpetuation of normative heterosexuality, which intersects with caste and class.

Biography:
Shilpi Gupta has done her B.A. (2008-2011) and M.A. (2011-2013) in Hispanic Language and Literature from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has submitted her M Phil thesis on the comparative feminist studies titled "Negotiating border as the site of un/belonging in the text of Gloria Anzaldua and Taslima Nasreen" (2013-2015) Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has done the Erasmus Mundus Master's Program in Women and Gender studies from the University of Granada, Spain, and the University of Bologna, Italy, under GEMMA. She defended her Master's thesis in Spain on the title "Dis/locating homeland: In-betweenness in Monica Ali's Brick Lane and Taslima Nasreen's French Lover." Currently, she is writing her doctorate thesis on the topic "Caste and Gender Among Indian Diaspora: Through the Novels of Bharati Mukherjee, Matrimonial Sites, and Blogs." She is enrolled in the Department of Women and Gender studies, University of Granada, Spain. She has presented many research papers in international conferences inside and outside India on comparative feminist studies, border studies, transnational studies, and Indian diaspora studies from a feminist perspective.

Irene Gutierrez

Chair: SESSION 3.4 *Screening and Staging Strangers* and Screening of *Bab Sebta* France, Morocco / Colour / 2019 / 19' and Q&As with filmmaker Randa Maroufi

Title:
"Self-mediating migrant's presence in the 'digital border': the boza videos made by Sub-Saharan migrants at the Moroccan-Spanish divide as contemporary 'underground railroads'"

Abstract:
Can we think about the role of media technologies in the passage of undocumented Sub-Saharan migrants into Europe through the lens of the emblematic movement Underground Railroad? Building on one long-term study on videos recorded by Sub-Saharan migrants at the Moroccan-Spanish border that is being carried from 2009 until the present time, this contribution questions how their clips, focused on their forcedly clandestine border crossing, serve as political media practises that embody digital presence and belonging to Europe through self-mediation. Taking inspiration from the epic scope on America's emblematic political movement, we claim that these videos act as digital corridors that mediate mobile performances of disobedience against the European border regime.
This paper is based on the non-media-centric analysis of the videos made by young male Sub-Saharan migrants in their act of preparing their border crossing from Morocco to the colonial enclave of Ceuta. Departing from the concept 'digital border' (Chouliaraki and Georgiou, 2019) and the notion of 'migrant slaves' (Stierl, 2020), we see how these videos, focused on their clandestine passage into Europe, (re)mediate their presence by propitiating their transfer from the symbolic spectrum to the physical action and vice versa. As the main purpose of these self-recordings is to witness the successful border crossing, I name them *boza* videos because they conform a digital corridor where migrants establish a new transnational order from below (Cerdán and Fernandez Labayen, 2015) by being their own non-state diplomatic agents that negotiate their permanence and belonging (Varela Huerta, 2013).

CONNECTING_
EUROPE

Biography:
Irene Gutierrez is a PhD candidate at the departments of Communication at Vrije Universiteit Brussel and University Carlos III of Madrid and a member of the research project Reel Borders and the research group Tecmerin. She has also directed the films *Border Diaries* (2012), *Hotel Nueva Isla* (2014), *Connected Walls* (2015), *Exile Diaries* (2019) and *Between Dog and Wolf* (2020). She works with visual participatory methods and has organized multiple audiovisual workshops on migration in Ceuta and Madrid. Her films and research link the intimate portrait and the historical dimensions of human experiences with the landscape as an expression of the political tensions between individuals and nations.

Zsófia Hacsek

Chair: SESSION 2.2 *How has digital technology impacted & shaped migration inter*

Biography:
Zsófia Hacsek is a Research Assistant at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations. Alongside supporting ongoing projects on violence, peace education and migration, she is also a PhD candidate researching female perceptions on dignity and vulnerability in the Coventry area. In 2018, she won the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Regional Academy on the United Nations with a research project 'The Impact of Social Media on the Smuggling of Migrants'. A year before that, she obtained her MA degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna. She holds BA degrees in Social and Cultural Anthropology and International Development. Prior to moving to the UK, she lived in Austria and in Hungary, the latter being her native country.

Hiroko Hara

Title:
"Filmmaking and Performing towards the Visualization of Rhizomatic Being and Becoming in Diaspora"

Abstract:
This paper explores the identity (trans)formation of people living in diasporic situations in the global and digital age. Due to the long-term conflict inside the country, a larger number of Cambodian people had no choice but to leave their homeland and were resettled in such countries as the United States of America, Canada, France, and Japan (Haines, 1989). Drawing on the concept of "a rhizome" presented by Deleuze and Guattari (1980/1987), this research project combines qualitative and visual research methods, namely, interviews, ethnographic observation (conducted in Ottawa, Canada and Kanagawa, Japan), filmmaking, and performance in order to capture the fluidity and complexity of the identity of the study participants (three women and seven men) living in the Cambodian diaspora. As part of this project, I made a short film entitled "The Art of Becoming", which contains the voices of the research participants as well as my performance of calligraphy and Buddhist hand gestures. A combination of the paper and the film reveals study participants' reactions to the dominant meanings and representations of Cambodia, the people, and culture created by mass media in Canada and Japan. It also shows various digital/non-digital activities (e.g.,

blogging, filming, performing dance, photographing, and writing) practiced by the research participants in the daily-life settings as counter-narratives challenging the hegemonic view. Hence, this study proposes a novel model of blending qualitative and visual research methods, which can suggest similar application in the European contexts.

Biography:
Hiroko Hara is an associate professor in the Department of English Language & Literature at the Prefectural University of Kumamoto, Japan where she teaches courses in intercultural communication and media. She received a M.A. and a Ph.D. in Educational Studies from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Trained as a critical educationalist and filmmaker, Hiroko's research has mostly focused on the identity (trans)formation of marginalized populations (e.g., refugees, immigrants, and hyphenated people) and the visualization of an alternative space, which transcends the dichotomies of West/East, First/Third, and North/South, and promotes diversity. She is the author of a book entitled Arts-Based Education to Become Global Citizens (Kinseido, 2018). She also contributed a book chapter to De-Westernizing Visual Communication and Cultures: Perspectives from the Global South edited by T. Herdin, M. Faust, and G. Chen (Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, 2020).

Charlotte Hill

Title:
"Poetic Resistance: Karen Rap Music and YouTube"

Abstract:
There is a concern among encamped elder Karen refugees (an ethnic minority group from Myanmar) living along the Thai-Myanmar border that the Karen youth are disconnected politically and culturally. This article challenges this belief and argues that Karen youth are creative active participants reimagining and revitalizing Karen politics and culture in their own image. Combining a long-term ethnographic study with multimodal discourse analysis, this article explores how displaced Karen youths have found a voice in Karen rap and how they express this voice in the mediated space of YouTube. I argue that Karen refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border are far from spaces of exception where inhabitants are reduced to bare life (Agamben, 2005) and have lost their political and cultural voice. Instead, I approach camps as critical spaces of expression and resistance and will argue that Karen youths are active political agents, who demonstrate long-distance nationalism and a sense of belonging - just not in the way the elders expect.

Biography:
Charlie is a 4th year PhD candidate studying at Goldsmiths, University of London in the Department of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies. Her research explores how encamped refugees articulate their identities within the bounded confines of a 'temporary-permanent settlement' as well as in a mediated space. Her thesis is particularly interested in how everyday practices of the camp intertwine with inhabitant's new media technology uses and mediated communication practices. Her approach is ethnographic, where she argues that Karen refugee camps are far from spaces of exception where inhabitants are reduced to bare life (Agamben, 2005). Instead, she approaches camps as critical spaces of expression, resistance, and cultural production. Charlotte has

lived in Thailand for 12 years and is currently working with encamped Karen refugees along the Thai-Myanmar border.

Larissa Hjorth

Title of Keynote:
Digital Kinship – Understanding familial care at a distance

Abstract:
During the pandemic many elements of our life were recalibrated through the digital. As we have argued through the notion of digital kinship (Hjorth et al. 2020), digital media practices are about a process of continuity rather than disruption to everyday rhythms. In our cross-cultural and intergenerational fieldwork in Tokyo, Shanghai and Melbourne spanning four years, we found how families and intimates could use data ambiently to keep a 'friendly' eye on each other. Sometimes, these tacit forms of ritual and care moved ambiently from the background to the foreground in everyday life. These practices demonstrated complex ways in which care at a distance (Pols 2009) can play out a across digital, social and material worlds.

In this talk I will reflect upon a few vignettes from fieldwork to pose some questions around intergenerational informal care within digital media practices, especially when distance is involved. While much of this fieldwork was conducted prior to the pandemic, the learnings could provide insights into more nuanced notions of care through digital kinship moving forward. Understanding the quotidian and mundane forms of intergenerational digital literacy can provide insight into care as a complex way of knowing the world that is both intimate and at a distance.

Biography:
Distinguished Professor Larissa Hjorth is a digital ethnographer, socially-engaged artist, and director of the Design & Creative Practice (DCP) research platform at RMIT University, Melbourne. Hjorth has two decades experience leading interdisciplinary and collaborative digital and mobile media projects that innovative methods to understand intergenerational relationships. She has lead 20 national and international research projects in locations such as Japan, South Korea, China and Australia. Hjorth has also worked extensively how mobile media is used for grief, loss and recovery including the Fukushima disaster of 2011. Hjorth has published over 100 publications on the topic—recent publications include Haunting Hands (with Cumiskey, Oxford Uni Press), Understanding Social Media (with Hinton, 2nd Edition, Sage), Creative Practice Ethnographies (with Harris, Jungnickel and Coombs, Rowman & Little) and Ambient Play (with Richardson, MIT Press).

Roman Horbyk

Title: "Saving sergeant Markiv: Information war and mediated self-mobilization of Ukrainian diasporas"

Abstract:
Diasporic media has long been in the focus of scholarly attention, suggesting that the rise of digital media has changed the forms of diasporic belonging by enabling a "shared imagination" with others

(Georgiou 2002: 3). The Ukrainian case, with a heavily mediatized revolution and seven years of war, has presented a great many examples of diasporic "self-mobilization" (Tsagarousianou 2004). This study is focussed on the dramatic story of Vitaliy Markiv, a Ukrainian soldier sentenced to 24 years in prison by an Italian court for his alleged involvement in the death of an Italian photo reporter in the Donbass region. Markiv had been subsequently acquitted on appeal amidst vocal protests and support of Ukrainian diasporas in Italy and around the world. Analyzing the role that *The Wrong Place*, a film crowdfunded and promoted by Ukrainians around the world, played in Markiv's acquittal, I seek to outline the model of diasporic hybrid media practices of self-mobilization across a range of legacy and new media.

Biography:
Roman Horbyk is Assistant Professor at the Department of Culture and Media Studies at Umeå University, Sweden. His research interests include contemporary media texts and discourses, media history and history of ideas, as well as sociolinguistics. He received his PhD in 2017 at Södertörn University with a dissertation on how mediated narratives about Europe influenced power relations between journalists and politicians in Eastern Europe. His current project focuses on the construction of "fake news" as narratives.

Dağhan Irak

Chair: SESSION 2.4 *Resistance*

Title:
"New forms of mediated politicisation among diaspora members from Turkey: BOYUT alumni organisation and their use of Slack"

Abstract:
Diaspora communities from Turkey are comprised of different groups with different and often conflicting social, cultural and political positions, along with ethnic and religious differences. One of the rather overlooked determinants in these differences is the education background. Especially since the Erdoğan regime took an ultra-conservatist, autocratic turn, dozens of thousands of highly-educated people from Turkey have recently fled the country and created a mass exodus. This group of people has been understudied as they are incomparably lower in numbers compared to millions who migrated to Europe as guest workers and their families.
Boğaziçi University is one of the most prestigious public universities in Turkey, and an important number of its graduates has sought for careers abroad, even though the alumni network abroad has never been active as a community. In January 2021, President Erdoğan appointed one of his party's members as a rector to the university, a controversial figure with serious plagiarism allegations against him, triggering mass protests. A group of Boğaziçi alumni abroad, in order to support the protesting students and teaching staff, created a WhatsApp group to discuss what could be done. This group turned into a new alumni organisation called Boyut within a month, quickly moving its platform to Slack and establishing working groups in a dozen of different areas related to the protests.
This paper aims to investigate this particular group of highly-educated diaspora from Turkey, in terms of how their cultural and social capital, with references to Bourdieusian sociology, played a role in their sudden and mediated political mobilisation. It will also try to reveal hints of the highly-

educated diaspora members' relationship with the "homeland" and also the other diaspora communities. Methodologically, the Boyut members will be surveyed, supported by semi-structured interviews with the movement's founders as a secondary method. Also, the research will have autoethnographic elements as the author is an active participant of Boyut.

Biography:
Dağhan Irak is a Lecturer in Media and Communication at the University of Huddersfield (UK) and a former journalist. He earned his PhD at the University of Strasbourg, in France, with a dissertation on football fans' politicisation in Turkey, and worked in the same institution as a lecturer. He completed a post-doc at Médialab of Sciences Po Paris on the social media use of Turkish-speaking diaspora members in France. He had taught Turkish Studies at University Aix-Marseille for two years before joining the University of Huddersfield as a permanent faculty member in 2020. His research interests are sociology of popular culture, diaspora sociology and political communication. He has three published books, two in Turkish and one in English language.

Engin Isin

Title of Keynote:
Digital Citizens Yet to Come

Abstract:
How are people performing rights by disrupting corporate, governmental, and military organizations in and by acting through the Internet? Such acts are bringing new political subjects into being and it is necessary that we understand the emerging legal, performative, and imaginary forces making these political subjects possible. Making rights claims through the Internet involves a tension between acts of closing that give control over the conventions of the Internet to governments and corporations and acts of opening through which people invent new conventions, repeat, iterate, cite, or resignify old conventions. This tension is the performative force producing the conditions for digital citizenship. Making digital rights claims by saying and doing 'I, we, or they have a right to' is effectively producing digital citizens as collective political subjects.

Biography:
Engin Isin is Professor in International Politics at Queen Mary University of London. His research and teaching focus on doing international politics: the ways in which people constitute themselves as actors or subjects of international politics through performances, movements, and struggle. Engin has undertaken historical and political sociological studies of British imperial and colonial practices in Africa, America, Asia and Middle East, Ottoman imperial and colonial practices in Europe and Middle East and North Africa and French colonialism in Quebec, Haiti, and Algeria. He has also conducted historical sociology of citizenship in Canada and Europe. The driving force in all Engin's studies has been the tension between imperial, colonial or national designs for conduct of people and how people subvert these designs by performative acts and invent political subjectivities. This is the tension he often explores in how people constitute themselves as international citizens.

Daniela Jaramillo-Dent

Title:
"#Migrantes on TikTok: Creative Practices and Platformed Belongings"

Abstract:
In this paper, we analyze the creative practices of migrant creators on TikTok, to understand how these uses relate to traditional understandings of belonging. We do this while considering the mimetic and creative deployment of effects, sound and visual configurations as relevant creative strategies by Latinx migrant tiktokers in the US and Spain. We argue that these uses constitute platformed belongings that enable the exploration of the ways in which conventional forms of belonging converge with digital cultures, through social media vernaculars, affordances and visibility strategies. We argue that this presents opportunities for migrant tiktokers and other traditionally marginalized groups to advance specific counternarratives and (self)representations. The opportunity to share information of interest about rights and migratory processes is also relevant, as well as cases where creators challenge oppressive norms.

Through the content analysis of 198 TikTok videos identified using a variation of the digital snowball method and scraped using a Python script, we found that the mimetic structure of this platform positions TikTok's vernacular creative practices and formats as relevant for migratory narratives. Our analysis suggests that these content creators enact their digital belongings by following existing, mainstream creative practices, using mimetic components and relevant hashtags. Simultaneously, they embody their cultural/social and political belongings through the use of relevant creative choices including musical genres, song lyrics and personal migratory narratives of nostalgia, difficulties and aspirations.

We argue that some of these convergent creative choices constitute platformed belonging practices aimed at achieving visibility within the platform's for you page, and among certain niche publics including other migrants, immigration opponents, prospective migrants and their receiving society. Moreover, some of these audio tracks and visual configurations have become part of a sort of cultural script of the migratory experience and one of identity within specific niche audiences and creators, who repurpose them through the "use this sound" functionality. In terms of the themes of these videos, they fall within the following topics: 1) vindication of migration; (2) migration as common experience; (3) countering mainstream narratives about migration; (4) journey and difficulties (5) aspiration for a better life.

Biography:
Daniela Jaramillo-Dent is a Doctoral Student in the Communication Doctoral Program at the University of Huelva. Her research explores discourse, representations and narratives about immigration on social media platforms. Her academic background includes undergraduate and graduate studies in Communication, Education and Leadership. She currently collaborates in the Board of Management for the peer-reviewed journal Comunicar.

Diana Jarnea

Title:
"Media, collective memory and the Romanian diaspora through the narrative approach"

Abstract:
The article aims to explore the way collective memory is constructed using digital media platforms by the Romanian diaspora in Brussels. As Clifford mentions (1994, p.318), "Linear history is broken, the present constantly shadowed by a past that is also a desired, but obstructed, future: a renewed, painful yearning". The problematic relationship to the past the diaspora has is thus revelatory of the way Safran (1991), Tölölyan (1994) and Dufoix (2003) apprehend the elements that would allow an identification of a diaspora. In his renowned work titled Mémoire, Histoire, Oubli, Paul Ricoeur (2000) states that while the individual memory can serve as a space to store our own memories, collective memory rather belongs to the plural register precisely because it has the ability to materialise common memories (traditions, rituals, commemorations, etc.). In doing so, the article aims to question precisely what happens when memories aren't experienced together, with the use of a narrative approach. For Casalegno (2001), it is indeed through the narrative that collective memory can be constructed. There are questions that the article sets out to answer, relying on a theoretical framework combining a socio-technical approach to digital platforms uses and a postclassical narrative approach to the "discourse" the diaspora has while using them. We thus set to explore how social media usages mediate the Romanian diaspora collective memory, especially during a time when transnational relationships between the homeland and the country of arrival are strained in the context of the much-known pandemic. The case and data we study is RomBel, a Romanian diaspora group founded in 2009, which counts 11121 Romanians living in Belgium. We thus explore the results collected from the data we accessed from March 2020 until January 2021.

Biography:
After obtaining a bachelor's and master's degree in Communication at the Catholic University of Louvain, Diana Jarnea has been working as a research and teaching assistant and is a member of Lasco (The Communication Systems Analysis Laboratory of Organizations). Her master's thesis focused on the ethos' construction of Belgian political representants on Twitter. While still choosing to keep a focus on digital media, she currently starts her PhD research which analyses the way collective memory is constructed both on the "on-line" and "offline" field, by the Romanian diaspora in Brussels through a narrative approach.

Sazana Jayadeva

Title:
"Study Abroad Influencers: How YouTube channels are facilitating international student mobility from India"

Abstract:
A new genre of YouTube channels is radically transforming how people in India—the fastest growing source of international students worldwide—negotiate the process of going abroad for higher education. Run by Indians who are already studying abroad, these channels are aimed at offering

aspirant student migrants back home detailed information on the application process, universities, work prospects, and life abroad. With large and loyal followings—the most successful of these channels has been viewed over 10 million times—these YouTubers have emerged as important 'influencers' among Indians planning to study abroad. Drawing on interviews with the YouTubers and a digital ethnography of their channels, this paper will provide a fine-grained qualitative analysis of the types of content these YouTubers produce and the strategies they use to engage with their audiences, as well as the impact their channels have on aspirant student migrants' aspirations, strategies, and trajectories. In addition it will examine how these YouTube channels fit into the broader infrastructures involved in organising international student migration from India, and the impact they have on these infrastructures. It will show that while Study Abroad YouTube channels have contributed to the crystallisation of a strong narrative against commercial education agents—long viewed as the authorities on study abroad in India—in online aspirant student migrant communities, these channels have themselves produced new formats of education consultancy. The paper will argue that Study Abroad YouTube channels are disrupting how information about study abroad is produced and circulated, and how 'expertise' is conceptualised and constructed.

Biography:
Sazana Jayadeva is a Lecturer at the Department of Sociology at the University of Cambridge in the UK, and an Associate Researcher at the GIGA Institute for Asian Studies in Germany. Her research revolves around the interrelated themes of education and inequalities, class and language, as well as student mobilities and social media, with regional focus on India and Europe.

Alagie Jinkang

Title:
"The role of Gambian journalists in shaping narratives about Europe: agenda, dissemination channels and communication strategies"

Abstract:
See co-author Valentina Cappi

Biography:
Alagie Jinkang is research assistant at the International University College of Turin and research consultant at the Department of Psychology, University of Bologna, within the H2020 Project "Perceptions". He has his Ph.D in Philosophy of Law: "Human Rights: Evolution, Protection and Limits" at the University of Palermo and University of Valencia.

Ivan Josipovic

Title:
"Between identification and national security: the emergence and implementation of Smartphone Data Extraction (SDE) during asylum procedures in Austria and Germany"

Abstract:
Over the past decade, smartphones have proved to be a key instrument for asylum seekers who travel irregularly and rely on geographic information, distant social resources as well as knowledge on institutional procedures. Now, several EU Member States have turned this instrument into one of their own by enabling immigration authorities to extract particular types of data that can be used to verify identity or assess potential risks associated with individual applicants. In my paper, I will address how smartphone data extraction (SDE) became a politically legitimate tool in Germany and Austria, how it was implemented, and which potential social and legal consequences arise from its application. My case study draws on extensive desk research, analysing laws, public policy documents and public statements by policy makers as well as refugee rights and internet rights organisations. I will interpret my findings in the light of Science and Technology Studies. In this vein, I will consider SDE as an incorporable feature to a pre-existing digital infrastructure for migration control, consisting of various EU databases as well as national and European legal and technical procedures which structure asylum decision-making. Drawing on a "Doing Citizenship" perspective, I assume that SDE has an impact on the social conditions under which immigrants might materialize a legal status.

Biography:
Ivan Josipovic (MA, MSc) is lecturer (Univ. Ass.) and PhD candidate at the Institute for Political Science of the University of Vienna. After completing his master's degree, he studied European and national asylum politics und co-authored a series of country reports on Migration Governance in Austria under the EU Horizon 2020 project RESPOND. Since 2021, he pursues a dissertation project which deals with the role of digital infrastructures for migration management in the EU.

Elena Kaliberda

Title:
"European refugee radios: small platforms for deliberation"

Abstract:
This paper is about the use of radio by refugees in the EU. I look at how the medium of radio connects marginalized communities of refugees to a larger society and how it works to aid in resolving the problems related to the integration of refugees into European society. Radio is one affordable and accessible media technology for everyday use within refugee communities.
The theoretical framework of this study is the literature on radio and deliberative democracy. This study relies on the concept of small-scale public sphere as considered by Stiegler (2009) and Meadows et al. (2005). Stiegler's concept gives tools for understanding whether these radios constitute small-scale public spheres and platforms for deliberation, and to look at not only at radios but also at community infrastructures that might exist around these radios, and that these radios are in terms of participation of refugees in discussion of their common problems. The writing by Meadows et al. (2005) considers community public spheres as extending the mainstream public sphere (p. 173) by bringing all stations broadcast to one online platform (p. 178).
As a result of field studies and research, I identified several radio stations and programming broadcast at community radio stations by refugees for refugees since 2014-2015. It includes three radios that function in the surroundings of large refugee camps in Germany. An analysis demonstrates that refugee radios provide small-scale deliberation and bring these stations content

to the larger public life through including refugee radio programming into mainstream radio stream and making access to both online and broadcasting radio stations available through global online radio platforms such as Radio Garden.

Biography:
Elena Kaliberda is a doctoral candidate in the School of Journalism and Communication at Carleton University (Canada) focusing on radio studies, forced migration and the public sphere.
Elena Kaliberda holds a PhD degree in Philology from Lomonosov Moscow State University (2003), and a Master degree in Journalism (1996) and in European, Russian and Eurasian studies (2015).
Since 2012, Elena Kaliberda has been a producer of the Russian language program at CHIN, a multicultural radio station in Ottawa.
Elena Kaliberda is the author of scientific articles and two books in Communications in the Russian language that are recommended by the Advisory Board of the Universities of Russia specializing in Management as textbooks for Bachelor's and Master's students:
Public Relations. Introductory course, issued in three editions of 2002, 2004, and 2012;
Public Relations in the area of Economics, issued in two editions of 2008 and 2012.

Aisling Keavey

Title:
"Using digital ethnographic methods to explore hybrid identities among Irish immigrant women in London"

Abstract:
Introduction
This paper presents research in progress on Irish diaspora identity focusing on the hybridity of identity among Irish diaspora women in England. This research takes a phenomenological qualitative approach into exploring Irish women's migration. Keri E Smith suggests reasons for the emergence of hybrid identity (Smith, 2008). A number of theorists deal with identity and diaspora, among them, Homi K Bhabha, who says that the colonial subject is located in a place of hybridity, its identity is formed in a space of iteration and translation by the coloniser, defining hybridity of identity as "a form of in-between space", a 'third space', a space inherently critical of uniqueness or purity of original culture".

Methodology
The practical element of this research centers around photographing Irish women who have emigrated to London. Through their portraits and interviews centred around the immigrant experience, this project hopes to use the sentimental object as a method of loci, to enhance memories of the homeland and the diasporic journey, and uses both digital and analogue ethnographic methodology, beginning with with a historical review of representations of Irish people. The study participants were sourced online, using Irish studies forums and calling for participants on Twitter and Instagram. Fieldwork interview questions were concerned with Irish identity post-Brexit and also the notion of hybrid identities.

Expected outcomes
The expected outcome is a body of moving image work, a photographic book of portraits and

recorded interview texts. The work will also be disseminated through participatory workshops focusing on multi-generational trauma healing, Irish language and perceptions of Irish people.

Conclusion
This research is new in terms of the focus on women and the impact of hybrid identities of the Irish diaspora. More research is needed: there are a number of academics researching this topic.

Biography:
Aisling Keavey is a current MRes student at Dun Laoghaire College of Art, Design and Technology in Dublin, Ireland. Aisling's current project is 'Re-imagining Irish Identity: Photography, Hybridity and Identity' and is concerned with qualitative ethnography of Irish women in London and the surrounding area. She has a BA degree in Fine Art Print and Time-based Media from University of the Arts London and has presented research at various international conferences, including in the British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference in Savannah, Georgia, USA and the Limerick Postgraduate Research Conference, in Limerick Ireland.

Joanna Kędra

Title:
"WhatsApp iconology: Narratives on in-app photographic practices in (transnational) family communication"

Abstract:
Sharing photographs is a common practice in doing family at the distance, but not yet sufficiently explored in a context of digitally mediated communication. Photo-chatting plays an important role in transnational family display, acting as a form of visual co-presence with living apart relatives. In this paper, I look at the production and circulation processes of photographs within the family network, analyzing participants' narratives on WhatsApp photo-chatting. The data was collected as part of an ethnographic enquiry into the digitally mediated (transnational) family communication of Polish women and their children living in Finland. The in-app photographs are explored as 'imagetext' (Mitchell, 2015) or 'prose pictures' (Hirsch, 1997), that is, visual and verbal representations that create the WhatsApp 'iconology' of family visual communication. In participants' narratives, the photographs appear as fragmented, but conscious practices with an intentional choice of the visual over textual. Photographs assist in sharing the every day and special occasions with living apart relatives. Photo-chatting helps in maintaining family relationships by showing affection, comforting and caring over a distance. The participants briefly described the content of the photographs, which, however, seems to be less important than the phatic function of an in-app communication. Photographs are regarded as an obligation (always to be sent to somebody), an evidence (of being somewhere or achieving something), or as a form of visual co-presence that assist in fulfilling familial roles and duties. Photo-chatting may entertain (images of pets), provide expertise (snaps of medications), or can be used to show off (photos from the competitions). Interestingly, even despite the ephemeral and momentary character of digital photo-sharing, WhatsApp photo-chats are sometimes consumed in a similar manner as analog images, and in this way resembling in looking at family photo albums.

Biography:
Joanna Kędra works in the Department of Language and Communication Studies, University of Jyväskylä, Finland. As a Postdoctoral Researcher, she is involved in the project: 'What's in the App? Digitally mediated Communication within Contemporary Multilingual Families across Time and Space', in which she applies visual methods to investigate digitally mediated (visual) communication practices of Polish-speaking transnational families in Finland. Joanna is a Vice-Chair of the ECREA Visual Cultures Section, and Chair of the International Presence Committee for the International Visual Literacy Association (IVLA). Her research interest is in visual culture, photography and visual research methods as well as in visual literacy and visual pedagogy in a higher education context.

Anna Khotivrishvili

Title:
"In search for a safe and fulfilling digital environment: the case of female migrants from Georgia in Europe"

Abstract:
In 2017 the EU adopted a visa-free travel for the citizens of Georgia which led a stable flow of temporary migrants working in the EU but also resulted in a sharp increase in asylum applications creating concerns of the possibility of human trafficking and criminalisation of migration. In 2019 a programme of assisted return and the reintegration fund for migrants from Georgia was created with participation of a number of EU partners. The paper charters a map of digital communications of Georgian female migrants living in European countries in attempt to examine informal networks of female migrants. The presentation poses the question about the ways official information about reintegration schemes can be efficiently received by female migrants.
Digital questionnaire was distributed among a group of women (25 to 60 years old), migrated from Georgia to Europe as a family member or individually as labour migrants in order to find digital channels and hubs female migrants were using to keep up communication with the native country and establish contacts in the host countries. Follow up interviews allowed to dwell into particular cases of using social media in job search, personal networking and accessing important official information.

Biography:
Anna Khotivrishvili is from Georgia and graduated from the Georgian-American University. She worked as an intern at the Georgian Foreign Ministry and in the City Chambers of Tbilisi. Anna currently is doing her PhD at RUDN in Moscow and teachers at the IR department.

Jisu Kim

Title:
"Tell us what you think: home and destination attachment for migrants on Twitter"

Abstract:
Acculturation of migrants touches upon multidimensional aspects of a host country. Successful integration of a migrant could bring new opportunities, and hence an overall improvement of their living conditions and well-being. Acculturation can be described using two dimensions: the preservation of links to the home country and culture, i.e. home attachment, and creation of new links and adoption of cultural traits from the new residence country, i.e. destination attachment. In this paper we introduce a means to quantify these two aspects based on Twitter data. Our new indicators reflect well the behaviours of migrants across different countries. The home and destination attachment indexes are compared with various elements such as language proximity, distance between countries and also with Hofstede's cultural dimension scores. The results show the importance of host language proficiency to destination attachment, but also the link between language and home attachment. In particular, the common language between home and destination countries increases home attachment, as does low proficiency in the host language. Common geographical borders also seem to increase both home and destination attachment. Regrading cultural dimensions, larger differences among home and destination country in terms of Individualism, Masculinity and Uncertainty appear related with larger destination attachment and lower home attachment.

Biography:
Jisu is currently a Ph.D student in Data Science. She focuses on topics around migration economics and development economics using social big data as well as traditional data sources.

Before joining the Ph.D, she previously received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Economics at Versailles University (UVSQ) and her Master's degree in Applied Economics at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University. During her Master's degree, she focused on studying macroeconomic effects of international migrants in host and home countries.

Tatiana Klepikova

Title:
"Between Kazakhstan and Sweden: Queer Time and Space of Belonging and Migranthood in Facebook Stories Performed on an Almaty Stage"

Abstract:
This talk focuses on the performance of the documentary play *Community* in September 2016 in Almaty to examine the queering of time and space in Russophone narratives of belonging and migranthood in contemporary Kazakhstan. The verbatim play written by Olga Malysheva draws on her Facebook chat with a gay friend who had left Kazakhstan with his partner to seek asylum in Sweden. After many months in limbo, they were put under arrest on unsubstantiated charges related to their immigration process but later released and reinstated in their status of asylum seekers after the pressure by the Swedish and international civil society. Malysheva uses excerpts from her Facebook communication with her friend during over a month of this escalation to create a complex portrait of migranthood, belonging, and kinship that raises questions in regard to what community (especially, LGBTQ community) means in a world shaped by transnational connections. In this paper, I explore the queering of spatiotemporal axes of belonging and migranthood that is powered by a plethora of digital and real-life linkages between Kazakhstan and Sweden offered by

this play and its performance. I argue that the digital communication which lies at the heart of this play intervenes with the familiar clear-cut East-West divides in terms of LGBTQ freedoms, whereas the performance of *Community* at an independent venue in Almaty charts new territories of offline belonging in Kazakhstan by creating connections beyond the digital.

Biography:
Tatiana Klepikova is an Arts and Science Postdoctoral Fellow at the Women and Gender Studies Institute at the University of Toronto. She studied Slavic, Anglophone, and Hispanic Literatures and Cultures in Yaroslavl (Russia) and Passau (Germany). She currently finalizes her first monograph about privacy as technique in late Soviet literature (1953–85) and conducts research for her second project about contemporary Russian queer theatre and drama. She is co-editor of three interdisciplinary collections of essays on privacy, including *Outside the "Comfort Zone": Private and Public Spheres in Late Socialist Europe* (De Gruyter, 2020) and editor and translator of *Contemporary Queer Plays by Russian Playwrights* (forthcoming with Bloomsbury Methuen Drama). She also serves on the editorial board of *Digital Icons: Studies in Russian, Eurasian and Central European New Media* and is co-convenor of the Working Group on Drama and Performance in Slavic Studies.

Melora Koepke

Title:
"Crisis and the Camps: Emplacement, errancy and endurance at the frontiers of the "migrant metropolis"

Abstract:
Since the beginning of the so-called European "migrantcrisis" in 2015, informal camps inhabited by illegalized migrants from Africa and the Middle East have multiplied in the north of Paris, as in other European cities. Though simultaneously framed as humanitarian crises and threats to public security, hygiene and order, their ingenuity and co-presence with citizen residents of Parisian working-class neighbourhoods shaped hopeful alliances and enlivened and refocused the geopolitical abstractions of so-called "European migration crisis" through proximity at local scales. As the provisional encampments proliferate in the French capital despite cycles of installation and dismantlementcome to be understood not only as abject spaces, but as territories of movement and flight., many thousands of illegalized migrants who continue to endure and inhabit the interstitial frontiers of northern Paris show themselves as code-shifting architects both their own prospects and the city itself. This project, based on ethnographic research in the north of Paris from 2016-2018, draws from intertwined literatures of fugitivity (Moten, 2018) and waywardness (Hartman, 2019) and "world-repairing (Mbembe, 2013) to initiate a makeshift theory of urban emplacement, endurance and errancy and endurance in the 'migrant metropolis' to come.The work will be presented as a critical digital cartography for which research participants and researchers co-create a digital map of the 'migrant crisis" in Paris through intimate and topographical spatial, political and experiential representations ofthe Porte de La Chapelle neighbourhood of Paris from 2016-2020.

Biography:
Melora Koepke is an acclaimed and widely published nonfiction writer and scholar currently working between Vancouver, Canada and Paris, France. She is currently a doctoral candidate inGeography at

Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. She is also a committed instructor who has designed and taught courses in nonfiction writing, Urban Studies and Geography at several Canadian universities. Previously, she was the lead film critic and Contributing Editor at Montreal's alternative city newspaper Hour Magazine for more than a decade. She has received a number of professional and scholarly awards and fellowships, including a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship and the Canada Council for the Arts' Grant for Nonfiction Writers, and has been a fellow of the Banff Centre's Arts Journalism program, the Antipode Foundation's summer institute, and the Relational Poverty Network. She holds an M.A. in Media Studies from Concordia University, and a B.A. in Communications (Film Production) and English Literature from Concordia University.

Afroditi-Maria Koulaxi

Title:
"Kaleidoscopic Identities: Affectively Liberated, Ideologically Incarcerated"

Abstract:
The presentation focusses on citizens' identity through the encounter with the Other, who in the case of the multicultural city, is primarily embodied and represented as the migrant noncitizen. It takes a non-media and non-migrant centric approach which focusses on what has been under-researched – citizens that receive migrant populations in their neighbourhoods.

Based on a 4-month qualitative work (online and offline ethnography as well as in-depth interviews with Greek citizens) in a multicultural neighbourhood in the city of Athens, it shows how citizens engage in acts of solidarity towards migrant noncitizens through their everyday use of digital media.

The first part of the presentation explores how a 'translator' App creates and sustains a relationship between a Greek working-class woman and a refugee woman as well as helps the protagonists to deal with everyday challenges in the city.

The second part of the talk focusses on new solidarities that are formed on social media networks (Facebook groups and conversations as well as short films on YouTube) to support migrant communities, despite the structural constraints and national subjects' precarity.

The next section explores intercultural exchange and mutual learning that take place in the Municipal Market of Kypseli (a place that has a material entity but has received publicity through its mediation and sharing culture on social media platforms). It shows how Others' difference becomes a way for managing a shared space and getting to know the proximate Other – who might not be the same but can be recognised through their difference.

One key takeaway from the analysis is that while participant observation between citizens and migrant noncitizens reveals politics of solidarity and positive affective relations between the two groups, interview data point at sociocultural and communicative separation.

Biography:
Afroditi-Maria Koulaxi is a full ESRC DTP Researcher in the Department of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has a background in

politics and international relations as well as in media and communications. Her thesis explores the role of mediation in intercultural encounters for the construction of citizens' identity in a multicultural neighbourhood of Athens. She is currently a Research Assistant for the Mobile Citizenship, States of Exception and (non)Border Regimes in post-Covid19 Cyprus project. Afroditi has worked as a Research Assistant in the LSE project Resilient Communities, Resilient Cities? Digital makings of the city of refuge and the LSE Media and Migration project.

Mieke Kox

Title:
"Urban belonging in a climate of suspicion. Refugee and asylum youth's everyday experiences in the urban fabric of Amsterdam"

Abstract:
See co-author Ilse van Liempt

Biography:
llse van Liempt is an assistant professor in urban geography and qualitative research at the Human Geography and Planning department Utrecht University, Research Leader of the UU wide Focus Area Migration and Societal Change and Program Director of the Research Master Urban and Economic Geography. Previously she worked at the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES) in Amsterdam where she conducted her PhD, at the Sussex Center for Migration Research (SCMR) where she did her postdoctoral research. Ilse has published widely on irregular migration, refugee migration, gender, public space, diversity and processes of in – and exclusion.

Lukasz Krzyzowsk

Title: "Ageing in the digital era and transnational mobility: perceptions and experiences of Vietnamese migrant parents"

Abstract:
See co-author Hien Nguyen

Biography:
Dr. Lukasz Krzyzowski who is currently a Manager of Social Care and Social Ageing Living Lab in UWA. He is also a Manager of the ARC Ageing and New Media project. Lukasz has expertise in mixed methods and social network analysis. He has been developing social technologies to empower marginalized groups, including older people. Email: lukasz.krzyzowski@uwa.edu.au

Adi Kuntsman

Chair: SESSION 8.2 *Diasporic Queers from Eastern Europe and Eurasia*

Biography:
Dr. Adi Kuntsman is Reader in digital politics at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. Kuntsman's current work focuses on selfies between political activism and biometric governance; the politics of 'opting out' of digital communication; and environmental damages of digital technologies. Kuntsman has also published extensively on queer migration, politics and digital cultures. Dr Kuntsman is the author of *Figurations of Violence and Belonging: Queerness, Mingranthood and Nationalism in Cyberspace and Beyond* (Peter Lang, 2009), and *Digital Militarism: Israeli Occupation in the Social Media Age* (co-authored with Rebecca L. Stein, Stanford University Press, 2014); the editor of *Selfie Citizenship* (Palgrave, 2017) and the co-editor of multiple collections and journal special issues.

Helena Lassen

Title: "Can an App save a life? The role of digital solutions in improving the protection of women on the move"

Abstract:
The growing prominence of digital solutions in the migration and the forced displacement context is self-evident. The paper dwells on the "TechVelopment" programme, which was praised by some as a silver bullet on questions of efficiency and efficacy in terms of aid delivery, and cautioned against by others, as an uncharted territory lacking the accountability mechanisms across the spectrum of solutions used and applied, there is no unified view on the impact of tech and digital solutions used by those providing relief and protection.
This presentation will focus on those providing protection to women on the move, with a specific focus on pregnant women and women with new-borns. Can an App save a life of a woman going into labour in a refugee camp? Can it at least improve access to critical health care provision, and in that way enhance the protection space of women on the move? *The paper analyses the role digital solutions, such as the Safe Delivery App (mobile application for skilled birth attendants), plays in strengthening the response capacities of organisations working in migration and displacement context, and weights opportunities and risks digital means present for the protection of women on the move.*

Biography:
Helena Lassen (MA in Refugees protection and Forced Migration at the School of Advanced Studies(London), BA Ljubljana University) works as Programme Director at the Maternity Foundation and will start her PhD in September.

Jennifer Leetsch

Title:
"Digital Diasporas and Dictaphones: Cross-Oceanic and Cross-Generational Intimacy in Warsan Shire's Poetry"

Abstract:
Warsan Shire's poetry has been published widely, in anthologies on contemporary African diasporic and refugee poetry, in academic journals rooted in postcolonial studies such as Wasafiri, and in Shire's own chapbooks published by flipped eye. The place where her poetry is most widely shared and read, however, is the internet. Not only is Shire herself active on various social media platforms such as Twitter or Tumblr and publishes fragments of her poetry there herself, but even more so do her many followers spread her work through hashtags, shares and reposts.

In the twenty-first century, the internet has become a space for young poets to reach a global, connected audience – one that is on the one hand exceptionally attuned to their subject matters (in Shire's case young women of colour), and on the other hand one that is generated by the digital equivalent of "word-of-mouth", i.e. links, shares, likes and various algorithms. The internet constitutes a space of reaction and response that is much more open and fluid than traditional means of publishing and disseminating literary works. This openness and connectivity inherent to the digital space of the internet is especially interesting when talking about work like Shire's which touches upon trauma, suffering and the horrors of war, displacement and violence.

The watery spaces of rupture and connection so prevalent in her poems, and the transoceanic bridges built within her narratives of refuge, escape and survival, also travel along digital routes that are similarly marked by interconnectivity and a notion of sharing, voicing, speaking out. In this talk I will shed light on these new routes by first placing Shire's works in relation to Somalia's long-standing poetry tradition (such as the buraanbur and its transmission via cassette and Dictaphone recordings) and by examining the ways her poetry takes up these oral traditions, how it works around and with them to create something new that reaches across genres and generations. Following from there, I will show how the online spaces through which her texts travel constitute a world that overlaps with the transoceanic routes narrated in her poems.

Biography:
Jennifer Leetsch is a researcher and lecturer at the Department for English Literature and British Cultural Studies at Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg (Germany). She is currently working on a postdoctoral project which intertwines forms and media of life writing with 19th-century ecologies. Before joining the University of Würzburg, Jennifer completed a MA in English, Comparative, and American Literature at Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich and King's College London. At JMU, she convenes graduate and undergraduate modules on postcolonial and diaspora literature and theory, organises international conferences and summer schools, and coordinates the department's DAAD/IGP-funded project "Literature in a Globalized World".
Her research interests include, amongst others: black autobiography, feminist ecocriticism, Victorian ecologies and digital diasporas.

Daniel Leix Palumbo

Title:
"The datafication and biometric control of asylum seekers' voices and transnational intimacy"

Abstract:
The proposed paper investigates how the transnational intimacy established by asylum seekers' voices is datafied and weaponised in German asylum procedures through automated speech recognition analysis. Voice biometric technology has been in use by the BAMF (German Federal

Office for Migration and Refugees) for five years now, developed to help border authorities determine undocumented asylum applicants' country of origin and eligibility based on the capture of dialects and/or accents. BAMF's software, however, has been also at the centre of great criticism due to the many reported failures, caused by its problematic assumptions and biases which risk to compromise asylum seekers' applications and mobility.

I look specifically at how BAMF tries to operationalise certain anachronistic and problematic sociolinguistic strategies on how to elicit a speaker to speak naturally and provide her most "sincere performance" when conducting an analysis of a dialect. These strategies require great emotional involvement from the speaker, which is obtained by border authorities by letting asylum applicants describe via phone images that recall and connect to their cultural belonging, memories of home, family and cultural practices. The phone records the speech and checks it against the databases of biometric templates stored in the system, so to determine the speaker's origin and identity. The choice of such databases is also not left to chance, as reflected by the names of these speech corpora, namely CALL FRIEND and CALL HOME, containing multitudes of phone conversations between Arabic speakers and their families or friends back home.

By sourcing and analysing BAMF original documentation, I draw from the usually-disconnected fields of security and surveillance studies, voice and sound studies, aiming to address how new biopolitical interventions and biometric control occur in Europe through the datafication of the transnational connection to the familiar elsewhere and the digital intimacy established by voice.

Biography:
Daniel Leix Palumbo is a recent graduate from the research master in new media and digital cultures at the University of Amsterdam. Both his RMA thesis and first publication tackle the issues related to the current use of voice biometrics in German asylum procedures for the determination of identity and origin. In addressing the problematic assumptions and biases underpinning this technology's decision-making processes, he uses the lens of sound studies. In this way, he investigates how the voice has become a new site for the exercise of biopolitical practices in the management of individual mobility, aiming to attribute through sound studies additional meanings and nuances to notions of biopolitics, identity, citizenship, Big Data and datafication of life within the broader field of new media and digital cultures studies.
He is also a sound designer who widely composes music for audio-visual installations and performances, videos, documentaries, theatre plays etc.

Koen Leurs

Chair: Keynote Saskia Witteborn, Round Table, SESSION 7.3 *Platforms / Infrastructure,* closing session and paper award

Title:
"Histories of humanitarian technophilia: How imaginaries of media technologies have shaped migration infrastructures"

Abstract:
See co-author Philipp Seuferling

Biography:
Koen Leurs is assistant professor in gender and postcolonial studies, Graduate Gender Program, Department of Media and Culture, Utrecht University, the Netherlands. He chairs the European Communication Research and Education (ECREA) Diaspora, Migration and the Media section. Recently, he coedited the Sage Handbook of Media and Migration and journal special issues on "Forced Migration and Digital Connectivity" for Social Media + Society and "Connected Migrants" for Popular Communication. His next monograph is titled Digital Migration (Sage, 2021).

Claudia Lintner

Title:
"Being (co-)present: The role of connectivity in the context of refugees"

Abstract:
This paper gives insights into how the personal and public spheres of asylum seeking interrelate when discussing connectivity. In doing so, the author discusses the following research questions: How is connectivity embedded in refugees and asylum seekers' everyday practices? And in which ways does this personal dimension interact with the public (structural level), given their increased presence in public spaces? In order to respond to the research questions, a qualitative-ethnographic approach was chosen in order to avoid a media-centric analysis. As the results show, the meaning of the Internet is based on the agency of asylum seekers given restricted access to public spaces and social support offline. Thus, the results reveal that both Internet access and experiences of transnationalism/displacement constitute and configure connectivity. Following this line of argument, connectivity widely compensates for the spaces of action, spaces of learning, spaces of interaction and spaces for information that are missing offline. However, as the results show that it is crucial to focus not only on the individual benefit of ICT in refugees' trajectories but also on questions related to access and affordability capabilities. In line with this, the notion of motility lays bare the inequalities that are the result of an unequal access to a means of mobility/immobility by dramatically intensifying the civil stratification system. as the mapping and analyses of the data show, public connectivity provided by public Wi-Fi hotspots has changed from a human right into an instrument of power that has imposed new inequalities and new exclusion forms, allowing only those who can afford it, free access to Wi-Fi, discriminating against those at the bottom of the civic stratification system.

Biography:
Claudia Lintner is Junior Professor of Sociology at the Faculty of Education, Free University of Bolzano (Italy). Her research interests focus on the concrete border experiences of refugees, the understanding of agency as a relational process, the digitalization in the refugee context as well as policies and practices of exclusion. Currently Claudia Lintner coordinating (PI) Digital border experiences of refugees: Understanding the use of ICT in the context of forced migration at the Brenner border- Italy (DIBO), a cooperation between the Free University of Bolzano (Italy- Internal

research fund CRC 2019), the University of Innsbruck (Austria) and the Technical University of Munich (Germany).

Tetyana Lokot

Chair: SESSION 1.1 *Patterns and practices of transnational involvement in homeland politics among the Ukrainian Diaspora*

Biography:
Tanya (Tetyana) Lokot is Associate Professor in Digital Media and Society at the School of Communications. She researches protest and digital media in Ukraine and Russia, as well as internet freedom, censorship and internet governance in Eastern Europe. Her book, *Beyond the Protest Square Digital Media and Augmented Dissent*, was published in March 2021. She is currently PI (Project Coordinator) on the MEDIATIZED EU project (H2020-SC6-TRANSFORMATIONS-2020 GA no: 101004534).

Maria Rosa Lorini

Title:
Can ICTs solutions meet the needs of vulnerable migrants?

Abstract:
The intervention will focus on the importance of intermediaries to advocate for and support voiceless and vulnerable migrants, especially those working in the gig economy such as Uber drivers, who are often left without a safety net and their rights neglected. Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated and brought to light some of the inequalities that affect the life of the migrants. Intermediaries tried to rectify some unjust decisions while the social media gave space to the debate and to spread some positive results and recommendations1.
The presentation will include some results of a larger study conducted in South Africa with refugees. The research focused on the use of ICTs among the refugees community and tried to enquire about the feeling of belongingness from the migrants' perspective2. While it is easy to analyse the type of applications and devices used by migrants, it is less simple to question and understand feelings and emotions. If mobile phones in particular are supporting newcomers in finding practical solutions and maintaining or strengthening relationships, is it possible for migrants to develop a sense of belonging in a new country through the use of technology?
The intervention will try to critically reflect over the potential of ICTs and tackle the following issues while engaging the participants in a discussion over them:
- Do the refugees feel a sense of belonging in the new country?
- Can ICTs (social media, applications, old and new technological solutions) support migrants to achieve a sense of belonging in the host country?
- Are we, academic researchers and practitioners, potential intermediaries?

Biography:
Driven, innovative and network-oriented researcher, project management practitioner and motivated volunteer with over 15 years' experience in several African countries aiming at socio-economic development and communities' empowerment. Drove numerous hands-on programmes in underserved urban areas in South Africa while pursuing her Ph.D. and previously as project manager for International Organisations. She holds a master degree in International Political Sciences and one in Human Rights and Conflict Management. Her research focus is on Co-Creation projects for Social Development and Collective Empowerment through Information and Communication Technologies, working with self-help groups of women, young artists and migrants. She is member of MIDEQ, digital technologies and inequality group.

Anita Lucchesi

Chair: SESSION 5.2 *The Internet as Migrant Milieu*

Biography:
Anita Lucchesi holds a PhD in History from the University of Luxembourg (UNILU, 2020) and a Master's degree in Comparative History from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (PPGHC/UFRJ, 2014), where she also completed a BA in History (2011). In her PhD, she investigated the theory and methods of digital history at the intersection with public history, discussing the epistemological issues emerging from what she defines as "hermeneutics of practice." The research took place through a case study of immigration memories in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The thesis, *For a New Hermeneutics of Practice in Digital Public History: Thinkering with memorecord.uni.lu*, developed at the *Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History*(C²DH), with support from the Luxembourg National Research Fund, was nominated for the Excellent Thesis award of the UNILU's School of Doctoral Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences. Lucchesi is a member of the Present Time Study Group, linked to the History Department of the Federal University of Sergipe (GET/UFS). Among other affiliations, she is part of the Brazilian Network of Public History and is also a member of the steering committee of the International Federation of Public History. She dedicates himself to research in the area of Digital History, Public History, History of Present Time and Compared History, with emphasis on the interface between digital technologies, memory studies, migration history, teaching and scientific dissemination of history.

Fungai Machirori

Title:
"Exploring consecration and cultural capital within the African digital cosmopolitan field"

Abstract:
Scholars have expressed a need to reconceptualise cosmopolitanism from the perspective of coloniality and within the context of the modern world; what Mignolo (2000) refers to as critical cosmopolitanism. Digital cosmopolitanism, by extension, is 'the power of the internet to engage with the other and shape new networks of solidarity' (Ponzanesi 2020, p. 4).

I define the African digital cosmopolitanism sphere as a discursive space at the nexus of African

digitality and critical African cosmopolitanism, which is informed by – and in turn informs – various influential fields wherein African actors accrue cultural capital to relate and represent African cosmopolitan experiences. I see the African digital cosmopolitanism sphere as constituted of Africa-focused digital media platforms (acclaimed websites and blogs), influential digital platforms hosting Africa-themed content (eg. TEDx Euston), public social media channels (Twitter and Instagram) and key influencers.

Using a case study approach and field theory, I have tentatively mapped out this African digital cosmopolitan sphere as a field in order to assess what forms of (pre-existing and/or non-digital) cultural capital appear to be pivotal to actors' emergence and consecration within the African digital cosmopolitan field, and into other fields of critical African cosmopolitanism.

My results so far suggest that there is significant correlation between certain fields (such as journalism and activism), and individual influence within the African digital cosmopolitan field. Most significantly, it would appear that consecration within the African literary field conveys important cultural capital within the African digital cosmopolitan field as many important influencers within this sphere – such as authors Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Tsitsi Dangarembga – have been able to convert their literary capital into digital capital, and further their areas of influence into other fields such as activism. This brings with it further considerations about critical African cosmopolitanism as what Pahl (2016) references as a double-consciousness formed at the nexus between privilege and exclusion.

Biography:
Fungai is a researcher and writer who is interested in how online spaces can be used to develop new narratives, counternarratives and concepts around African cosmopolitanism. Previously, Fungai has worked with a range of feminist and digital rights organisations including Just Associates and Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and is founder of Her Zimbabwe, an award-winning digital platform and organisation, which explored Zimbabwean women's online storytelling and activism. She is a previous Tow-Knight Fellow in Entrepreneurial Journalism at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York and a former Visiting Researcher in feminist digital activism at the Five Colleges Women's Research Center in Massachusetts. She is currently studying towards her PhD, which looks at African digital cosmopolitanism, at the University of Technology Sydney.

Vasiliki Makrygianni

Chair: SESSION 8.4 *Mobility*

Title:
"Mobile Cyborgs: subverting the myth of the 'other' en route to Europe through everyday digital practices"

Abstract:
The research on the use of ICTs and digital technologies from migrants that trying to reach and settle in Europe is rapidly growing (Gillespie et al. 2016, Latonero and Kift 2018, Dekker et al. 2018, Smets et al. 2019). This paper investigates the ways these human-machine assemblages reconfigure

migration and shape the contemporary 'Mobile Cyborg'. Drawing on Donna Haraway's famous Cyborg personage and its provocative actions against various constrains, the paper rethinks the Cyborg in an era of intense mobility, proposes the term 'Mobile Cyborg' and explores the interaction between the human and the non-human in the context of contemporary migration. Moreover, it discusses the ways migrants as digital cyborgs (Lupton 2012) of different age, gender, sexuality and ethnicity are (re)configured by the use of digital technologies.

While various technologies linked with detention, border mechanisms and surveillance infrastructures are employed to constrain human mobility, the Mobile Cyborgs challenge nation state sovereignty, form digital communities of solidarity and reconfigure the dominant personage of the migrant. This research intends to broaden the understandings on contemporary migration and widen the discussion on vulnerability and the emergence of resistance practices.

The presentation is based on field research conducted in Greece during the period 2016-2019 within the 'DIGINAUTS' research project. The paper suggests that through mobility, everyday digital practices and the use of social media, Mobile Cyborgs constitute an irony for the nation state regimes while they question issues of citizenship, subvert the myth of the exiled, deny their fate as victims and blur dominant borderlines.

Biography:
Vasiliki Makrygianni has a background in Architecture Engineering and Urbanism. Her PhD thesis focuses on global/world cities and migrants' emancipatory and innovative practices. She has been a researcher at the interdisciplinary project DIGINAUTS (ITU)(2018-2020) where she investigated the digital practices of migrants on arrival sites and en-route to Europe. She has been part of the 'Technologies in Practice Research Group' (ITU), the 'Democratic Digital Spaces' group in the Center for Digital Welfare (ITU) and the STS-MIGTEC network which works at the intersection of science and technology studies (STS) and critical migration. Primary research areas include critical urban theory, feminist methodologies and theory of intersectionality and migration studies. Current research interests focus on Science and Technology Studies (STS), digital space and social media and feminist technoscience.

Sara Marino

Title:
"People say that Facebook is dying, but not for refugees". Comparing digital performances of exile through an analysis of social media use among Syrian refugees in London"

Abstract:
This paper reflects on how mobile technologies and social media platforms constitute a space where traumatic experiences of exile can be 'performed', narrated and contested by refugees. In arguing that not all refugees describe everyday technology use in positive or enthusiastic terms, I intend to offer a more realistic understanding of the different ways in which digital togetherness plays out and in turns affects the maintenance of transnational lives, the development of emotional bonds and the circulation of digital intimacy. As my research suggests, while technologies hold a crucial role for migrants' sense of community and belonging to multiple spaces of affection, on the other hand we need to pay more attention to how digital infrastructures work in concert with more conventional webs of support, both during the journey to Europe and more crucially upon arrival. In this respect, I am here particularly interested in the role that technologies play as repositories of memories, and

how they can simultaneously act as stress mitigation devices through the enactment of co-presence (Marino, 2020; 2017; Baldassar et al., 2016) and as painful reminders of displacement. In doing so, I intend to critically contextualize and possibly further complicate the role of digitally-mediated experiences in contexts of exile, by calling into question the very notion of performance from a political, visual and symbolic points of view.

Biography:
Sara Marino is Senior Lecturer in Communications and Media at London College of Communication, University of the Arts London. Her research focuses on the social, cultural and political implications of everyday practices of connectivity among European and non-European migrants, and how these ultimately shape diasporic identity and community formation. Her recent book "Mediating the Refugee Crisis. Digital Solidarity, Humanitarian Technologies and Border Regimes" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020) critically explores the evolution of migration governance in Europe through the lens of technological mediation and asks in what ways communication technologies have contributed to the strengthening of Fortress Europe, while providing opportunities for resistance among migrants, activists and solidarity groups.

Leah Jing McIntosh

Title:
"*Comic Sans: A DIY Intervention in Contemporary Australian Comics*"

Abstract:
Racism permeates Australian cultural industries, and the Australian comics sector is far from immune. In one of the most recent anthologies of Australian artists, kuš's comics volume *š! #37* 'Down Down Under' (2019), which self-describes as 'a very diverse crowd of people with important stories to tell', only four of the twenty-five artists are people of colour. The cover features the Aboriginal flag, framed by the lines 'always was, always will be', yet no Indigenous artists were published in the anthology itself.
This paper will consider how the serialised Australian comics anthology *Comic Sans* (2018-19) challenged the sector's refusal to acknowledge diverse talent in the Australian comics' scene. Founded and edited by comics artist Rachel Ang and myself, *Comic Sans* sought to commission and work with talented artists of colour. Supported through crowd-funding, the series consisted of four zines, sent to subscribers over two years. Out of these twenty-five commissions, there was a distinct tendency towards autographics; artists often chose to articulate their experiences of unease and dislocation, using the comics medium to explore diasporic identities within an Australian context. This paper will gesture towards resonances between the *Comic Sans* comics, and consider *Comic Sans* as both creative intervention and community project.

Biography:
Leah Jing McIntosh is a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at the University of Melbourne, and the founding editor of *Liminal*, a platform that highlights the accomplishments of talented Asian-Australians. Since 2017, *Liminal* has published over 160 interviews with Asian-Australian creatives, alongside newly commissioned art and writing. From 2018-19, Leah published *Comic Sans*, a serialised comics anthology featuring artists of colour, and in 2020, she edited *Collisions: Fictions of*

the Future (Pantera Press), an anthology of fiction by Australian writers of colour. Her graduate work considers the possibilities held within diasporic self-representation in American literature.

Bruno Meeus

Title:
"Reflections on a digital mapping and exhibition of arrival infrastructures during a covid pandemic"

Abstract:
See co-author Luce Beeckmans

Biography:
Bruno Meeus is project coordinator of the focus area Migration and Societal Change at Utrecht University (until March 2021), project manager of the H2020 research project 'ReROOT: arrival infrastructures as sites of integration for recent newcomers' at KU Leuven (from April 2021) and Visiting Professor in Geography at Ghent University. He is interested in the socio-material complexes which make migration possible.

Fran Meissner

Chair: SESSION 8.3 *Borders, Securities & Insecurities*

Biography:
Fran Meissner's main research interest is focused on contemporary urban social configurations and how - in times of datafication - these are transformed through international migration. She is an Assistant Professor in Critical Geodata Studies and Geodata Ethics at the University of Twente. Before starting at Twente Fran was an Assistant Professor of Urban Studies at the University of Leiden. She has previously held a highly competetive Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowship at the TU Delft. Fran is still affiliated to the TU Delft and is a long term research partner at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, where she completed her PhD work as a Doctoral Research Fellow.

Melis Mevsimler

Title:
"Second-generation British-Somali Women: The Translocal Nexus of London and Global Diaspora"

Abstract:
Drawing upon ethnographic investigation, this article analyses the digital media practices of second-generation British Somali women who live in London. It addresses the dynamic relationships between digital media and diasporic identity formation by focusing on how second-generation British-Somali articulate their diasporic urban and transnational identities via youth-oriented online cultural spaces. It demonstrates that they use the internet and social media platforms to position themselves as urban

dwellers in London and members of the global Somali diaspora at the same time. In this context, the author proposes that these young women's digital practices create a translocal nexus that intertwines urban and transnational social fields in line with their gendered and generation-specific experiences and aspirations. Through this translocal nexus, these young women produce multi-layered identities and negotiate their multiple belongings with a youth-oriented perspective and style in a digitally interconnected world.

Biography:
Melis Mevsimler is a PhD candidate in the Department of Media and Culture Studies at Utrecht University. She is currently pursuing her doctoral research project as part of the ERC Project *Digital Crossings in Europe: Gender, diaspora and belonging*. She is the young scholar representative of the 'Diaspora, migration and the media' section of ECREA (European Communication Research and Education Association). Her research project aims to understand how migrant women who live in London construct and perform diasporic identities by using digital media technologies. She has co-authored the book review of *Mediating Migration* by Radha S. Hegde (2017) and the article *Diaspora and mapping methodologies: tracing transnational digital connections with 'mattering maps*' (2019).

Eva Midden

Chair: SESSION 3.5 *Religion and Transition*

Biography:
Eva Midden is Assistant Professor in Gender Studies at the Media and Culture Studies Department, Utrecht University. She was involved in the European Research Project 'MIGNET' to which she conducted research on migration, gender and religious practices in new media. Midden's current research focuses on gender, religion and national identity in the context of conversion to Islam. Her general research interests include feminist theory, (post)secular(ism), multiculturalism, agency, intersectionality, whiteness and media analysis. Her recent publica- tions include the volume *Transformations of religion and the public sphere: Postsecular pub- lics*, co-edited with Rosi Braidotti, Bolette Blaagaard and Tobijn de Graauw, and the article 'Rethinking Dutchness: Learning from the intersections between religion, gender and national identity after conversion to Islam' published in *Social Compass* (2018).

Sanja Milivojevic

Title:
"Crossing "roborders": Digital frontier technologies and mobility of illegalised non-citizens"

Abstract:
Border security and regulating mobility have been at the forefront of state intervention for over three decades. Apparent failure in traditional border control measures prompted the quest for 'more sophisticated, flexible, and mobile devices of tracking, filtration, and exclusion' (Vukov and Sheller, 2013: 225). Separating kinetic elites from kinetic underclass has been fortified through series of interventions in border management that include technological advancements deployed at the border and beyond (Neal, 2009; Milivojevic, 2013; Wilson, 2014; Sandvik, 2016; Milivojevic, 2021).

Welcome to the era of "roborders", where digital frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence and autonomous (and potentially armed) mobile robots reign. Justified by countering crime such as smuggling or human trafficking, and the need to "govern" mobility, these interventions enclose surveillance from the sky and dataveillance in countries of origin and transit. At the same time, technology has been increasingly used by people on the move to enable their mobility projects (Tazzioli 2017; Mezzadra 2017; Zijlstra and Liempt 2017).

This paper looks into the current and likely interventions and strategies that aim to limit and enable mobility of illegalised non-citizens that stem from four emerging digital frontier technologies: artificial intelligence, the Internet of things, autonomous mobile robots and distributed ledger technology (blockchain). Using criminological lens, I chart and theorise their likely impact on people on the move and new border regimes in both Global South and Global North. I also ask the key question: who is benefiting from it all?

Biography:
Sanja Milivojevic is a Research Fellow in Criminology at La Trobe University, Melbourne, and Associate Director of Border Criminologies at Oxford University. Sanja holds LL.B. and LL.M. from Belgrade University's Law School, Serbia, and a PhD from Monash University, Australia. Her research interests are borders, mobility, human trafficking, modern slavery, security technologies, surveillance, gender and victimisation, and international criminal justice and human rights. Sanja is a recipient of Australian and international research grants and was NSW representative at the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology's Committee of Management. She was a visiting scholar at Oxford University, University of Oslo, University of Belgrade, and the University of Zagreb, as well as a Public Interest Law Fellow at Columbia University's Law School in New York. Sanja has published six books and over 60 publications in English and Serbian. Her latest book, Crime and punishment in the future Internet: Digital frontier technologies and criminology in the twenty-first century, is published by Routledge (2021).

Claudia Minchilli

Title:
"Localizing diasporic digital media practices: social stratification and community making among Somali women living in Rome"

Abstract:
In this article, I inquire into the relationship between digital media practices, community making and forms of social stratification among Somali women living in Rome. Drawing on a critical approach to the study of 'digital diaspora', I use theories of 'field' and 'capitals' as analytical tools to examine the impact of different positionings assumed by Somali women within the local community on forms of diasporic networking through digital means. The relationality between offline and online reality is exposed, unpacking women's positioning and roles through an intersectional approach sensitive to age, class, literacy and gender dynamics. This reveals internal fractures or forms of solidarity shaping the landscape of the local field of Somali digital diaspora.

Biography:
Claudia Minchilli is a PhD candidate in the Media and Culture department of the Humanities Faculty at Utrecht University. Her academic interests focus on the fields of migration, gender and digital media studies. She is working on the ERC consolidator project *Digital Crossings in Europe: Gender, Diaspora and Belonging* coordinated by Prof. Sandra Ponzanesi. Her research focuses on exploring the relationship between digital media practices and local intra-diasporic dynamics of women with a Somali, Romanian or Turkish background living in Rome. More specifically, she investigates how digital media usage and networking is connected to migrants' social capital and in the articulation of social hierarchies and forms of solidarity within local diasporic communities.

Dalila Missero

Title:
"Latin-American Women Watching Films: Transnational Media Consumption and Everyday Negotiations of Proximity and Belonging"

Abstract:
The proposed paper explores the role of film and audio-visual consumption in migrant's transnational lives by discussing the preliminary findings of my project on Latin-American women's everyday uses of cinema and television. The study is based on the analysis of 35 in-depth interviews with an inter-generational group of participants based in Milan and Barcelona, from different countries and backgrounds. The discussions focus on habits, opinions and preferences in media consumption to investigate their role in negotiating and reflecting ideas on migration, belonging and gender identity.

This presentation concentrates on two significant examples of transnational media consumption that are emerging from the interviews: the experiences of cinema-going and watching television during the visits in the country of origin; the uses of the internet (i.e. streaming platforms, YouTube) to watch contents from the Latin-American region in Milan and Barcelona. These examples reveal that the consumption of films and television programs – especially from the country of origin and with friends and family overseas – nurtures existent transnational networks while prompts complex material experiences of bodily and affective presence. Drawing my analysis from the notions of 'cultural' and 'critical proximity' (La Pastina and Straubhaar, 2005; Georgiou, 2012), which refer to transnational patterns of circulation and reception of media, these case studies aim to highlight the complex interplay of proximity and belonging in migrant women everyday lives.

Biography:
Dalila Missero is a postdoctoral Research Fellow at the School of Arts, at Oxford Brookes University, where she is working on a project on Latin-American women's media memories. She has received her PhD in Visual, Performing and Media Arts at the University of Bologna and has published essays on gender, sexuality and cinema in the Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies, Feminist Media Histories, About Gender. In parallel with her new project, she is also completing her first monograph "Italian Women and Cinema: The Making of a Feminist Film Culture" for Edinburgh University Press.

CONNECTING_
EUROPE

Mihaela Mocanu

Title:
"The Young Romanian Intention to Migrate in the Pandemic Era"

Abstract:
See co-author Anca-Diana Bibiri

Biography:
Mihaela Mocanu is a scientific researcher at the Department of Interdisciplinary Research in Social Sciences and Humanities, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, Romania. Her research interests are in semiotics, philosophy of language, sociolinguistics, and cultural identity. She is the author of more than 30 studies in the field of humanities, the author of two volumes and co-author of 5 other volumes in the field.

Melissa Moralli

Title:
"In-between narratives: reflections on multiple layers of invisibility of migration"

Abstract:
See co-author Paola Parmiggiani

Biography:
Melissa Moralli is Research Fellow at the Department of Sociology and Business Law, University of Bologna. She is visiting scholar at CRISES (Montréal), IPK (New York University) and CRISES Redifined (Finland). Her research interests are social innovation, migration and creative methodologies. She is researcher in the European projects "Atlas of Transitions" and "Welcoming Spaces".

Nicoleta-Florina Moraru

Title: "Developing human capital across borders: case studies of female migrants-entrepreneurs"

Abstract:
This paper explores several case studies of female migrants-entrepreneurs who managed to set up their business ventures using their social capital developed online and grow their business by using the Internet and social media platforms. The study investigates the role of home-based social media networks in increasing company awareness, website traffic and business expantion. Using digital ethnography data and qualitative interviews, the author concludes that in many cases entrepreneurial activities of female migrants go beyond traditionally prescribed ethnic business niche, tend to develop

transnational scope and often establish new standard for female freedom and emancipation in the country of origin.

The paper also attracts attention to barriers for entrepreneurship activities for refugees. Female refugees are a particularly vulnerable group as they experience less favorable integration outcomes in the labor market than other groups of female migrants due to the long processing time of asylum applications. Moreover, OECD findings suggest that 45% of refugees in Europe are female and the majority of them experience difficulties in finding jobs but also do not have any formal support when start their independent business. Informal digital networks emerge as the only network of information.

Biography:
Nicoleta-Florina Moraru graduated from Bucharest State University and is doing her PhD at Peoples' Friendship University of Russia. She teachers at the School of Humanitarian and Social Studies and takes part in the activities of the Migration Research Group.

Oksana Morgunova

Chair: SESSION 8.1 *Migrants' Digital Connections from the Sending Countries' Perspective*

Biography:
Dr Morgunova Oksana, reader at the University of Peoples' Friendship (Moscow). She worked on a number of EU projects related to digital communication and migration such as MIG@Net, Digital Diasporas, Young Migrants in Post-Referendum Scotland.

Pierluigi Musarò

Chair: SESSION 6.2 *Digital Corridors for Transnational Belonging*

Title:
"The role of Gambian journalists in shaping narratives about Europe: agenda, dissemination channels and communication strategies"

Abstract:
See co-author Valentina Cappi

Biography:
Pierluigi Musarò is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Department of Sociology and Business Law, University of Bologna, where he leads modules such as 'Humanitarian Communication' and 'Media and Security'. He is Visiting Fellow at the LSE, Research Fellow at the Institute for Public Knowledge - NYU, and at Monash University.

Luiz Guilherme Natalio de Mello

Title:
"Technology as an Enabler or Barrier of Migrant Caravans: A Systematic Review of Migrant Caravans in Central America"

Abstract:
Since 2018, environmental disasters in the Northern Triangle of Central America fuelled migrant caravans towards the Mexico-US border. This phenomenon has inspired several studies on this topic, with some exploring how migrant experiences are changing and becoming increasingly digitalised, and the links between digital technologies and migrant caravans. Yet, no study to date has attempted to systematically review this new literature that can have great implications for emergent fields of research and policy areas. This paper aims to address a gap in the recent literature on migrant caravans in order to shed light on a timely topic with growing interest, particularly given the projections for the increase of environmental migrants in the region.
It does so by conducting a systematic review that examines the state of knowledge and trends in the peer-reviewed literature on the intersections between migrant caravans and digital technologies across Portuguese, Spanish and English language sources. It also conceptualises all migration caravans to date. Preliminary findings suggest the role of digital technologies for migrant caravans can be, on one hand, as enablers from a bottom-up perspective of migrants and civil society for the purposes of communication, activism and public opinion. On another hand, digital technologies can also act as deterrents of caravans from a top-down view of governance, policy interventions, or surveillance. These findings can contribute to providing new directions for a nascent field in migration research while informing more effective migration policy.

Biography:
Luiz Guilherme completed a Specialization degree in Tax Law and a LL.B from the Pontifical Catholic University of Parana. His research seeks to analyze how environmental degradation can influence human mobility and the links between social security and disasters. His fields of interest include Latin American Studies, Southeast Asian Studies, Environmental Sociology and Sociology of Disasters.

Maksim Ni

Title:
"Migrants' Facebook communities as interaction ritual chains"

Abstract:
Today, social networks such as Facebook allow creating groups for interaction that unite people with common interests who may not necessarily be acquainted. The metaphor of 'community' is widely used in the special literature to analyze such phenomena. However, the classical social theory community presupposes dense ties, shared identity/solidarity, and a particular geographical location often absent in online milieu. In our presentation, we use Randall Collins' micro-sociological theory to re-conceptualize 'community' for studying migrants' online interactions on Facebook. According to Collins' theoretical framework, a community is constituted by 'interaction rituals chains'. This

framework is applied to the study of solidarities in two Russian-speaking Facebook groups. One unites labor migrants from CIS countries in South Korea. The other connects labor migrants from Central Asia in Russia.

In the South Korean case, pragmatic and emotionally charged interactions are focused on the job search. Dishonest mediators who deceive migrants became a powerful negative sacred symbol in online discussions. In the Russian case, the online group was designed as a platform for legal assistance to migrants. Two groups of users can be distinguished here: migrants and human rights activists. In most cases, emotionally charged interactions are focused on discussions of discrimination against migrants. Thus, the vulnerable migrant is the main symbol of solidarity. However, cultural capital differences between migrants and activists prevent the emergence of common solidarity, even when participants share common emotions towards the same group symbol.

Biography:
Maxim Leonidovich Nee (MA in Sociology) is a Researcher at the International Research Laboratory "Transnationalism and Migration Processes: Comparative and Institutional Analysis", St. Petersburg State University, Russia. Maxim's research interests embrace transnational migration, ethnographic methods in sociological research, and ethnomethodology and membership categorization analysis. His recent publications in peer-reviewed journals include "Beyond Nations and Nationalities: Discussing the Variety of Migrants' Identifications in Russian Social Media" (co-author: N.D. Tregubova, 2020), "Transnationalism Online: Exploring Migration Processes with Large Data Sets" (co-authors: V. S. Starikov and A. I. Ivanova, 2018), "Interactional Lenses for Contemporary Migration Studies: The Case of the "Cosmopolitan Sociability" Concept" (co-author: P. P. Lysitsyn).

Gina Netto

Title:
"Resilience, Smartphone Use And Language And Literacy Among Urban Refugees In The Global South"

Abstract:
The formidable challenges faced by urban refugees in the Global South have received considerable attention, calling for new approaches to support the resilience of these individuals. Although there has been growing critical interest in understandings of resilience and the role of digital technology in enabling refugees to navigate their new surroundings, little attention has been paid to the influence of language and literacy in the use of such technology. We synthesise theorising of resilience in migration studies, Bourdieu's (1991) theories on habitus, linguistic capital and the symbolic power of language, and Chiswick and Miller's (2001) model of language acquisition to develop a conceptual framework for examining refugees' use of smartphones in multilinguistic terrains. Application of this framework to data collected from participatory workshops with fifty-four Rohingya refugees in an urban area in Malaysia revealed varying degrees of digital literacy, linguistic capital and literacy in three main languages: the Rohingya language which individuals bring with them, Bahasa Malaysia, the national language of Malaysia, and English, which is widely spoken in the country. These literacies are influenced by inequalities in exposure to dominant languages, education and incentives to acquire these languages as well as access to smartphones, and significantly shape the resilience

strategies that individuals employ through using these devices. We argue that urgent attention must be paid to the role of language and literacy in the use of digital technology in diverse contexts of the Global South to support the resilience of individuals, including through the design of new digital solutions.

Biography:
Following a PhD in Applied Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh in 1995, I embarked on a research career which examined the experiences of migrant and ethnic minority communities in relation to a wide range of public services. In 2007, I took up a lectureship at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, where I am currently a Reader in International and Forced Migration. My main research interests fall into five main areas: inequalities in access and use of a wide range of public services, including housing, health, social care services and the arts; differential migrant participation in the labour market, the ways in which migrants adapt to their changing contexts; and the responses of government, civil society and other actors to increasingly diverse communities. Most recently, I have led studies on intersectionality theory; the acquisition of dominant languages in destination countries and migrants' use of digital technology. I have worked with a wide range of organisations, including the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the EU-funded International Centre for Migration Policy Development, various government committees and refugee and migrant organisations. I am a member of the Scottish Government's COVId-19 and Ethnicity Expert Reference Group and its Labour Market Strategy Group.

Anh Nguyen Austen

Title: "Representation and Belonging for Vietnamese Australian Refugees in Museums and Digital Diaspora"

Abstract:
It has been almost fifty years since the end of the Vietnam War though the experiences of those children who were forced to flee after the conflict and how they developed as adults are not fully known. The research examines the memories of Vietnamese child refugees who resettled in Australia, and the continuation of their life and connection to global digital diaspora of Vietnamese refugees on Facebook. Through an analysis of the oral histories of Vietnamese adults who entered Australia as children and Facebook Vietnamese refugee community postings of former Vietnamese refugees in digital diaspora, the research provides insight into the memories of forced migrant childhoods and histories, as well as the complexities of national and transnational identity and belonging in digital diaspora.
This paper, within the larger scope of that research, will focus on an analysis of refugee self-representation in oral histories national museum collection, and transnational Facebook posts about Vietnamese refugees as a part of the global digital diaspora. The paper argues that migrants can empower themselves with social media to self-curate histories that are beyond the reach of institutionalised structures such as museums. Based on this particular analysis of how Vietnamese refugees are represented in Australian museums, how Vietnamese refugee artists have contributed and challenged these representations, and how Vietnamese refugees on Facebook have self-curated their histories, it demonstrates a migrant

group's command of the internet that critically informs and questions conceptions of representation of refugee experiences in institutionalised and constituent spaces of the global digital diaspora.

Biography:
Anh Nguyen Austen is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences at Australian Catholic University and Research Associate with Melbourne Museum. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College, Harvard Divinity, and completed her PhD at the University of Melbourne. She worked for native title land rights for Indigenous in Melbourne, legal aid in Boston, and HIV/AIDS research in Nigeria. Her forthcoming book is about Vietnamese refugees in Australia and the global digital diaspora.

Dang Nguyen

Title:
"The Internet as Non-Biomedical Milieu: Production of Alternative Health Techno-Social Spaces and the Vietnamese Diaspora"

Abstract:
This paper describes how spatial understandings of the internet (i.e. the internet is a 'space') enable the persistence of marginalised medical practices. By tracing different accounts of the internet as space among practitioners and followers of *diện chẩn* – an emergent Vietnamese unregulated therapeutic method – I show how the logic of space circumscribes an alternative techno-social site for marginalised medical practices, transforms the private experience of being alone with technology into being-in-space, spiritualises the internet as a conduit of healing power, and mediates transnational health mobility among the Vietnamese diaspora. As such, the internet can be understood as non-biomedical milieu – a field of determination that conjoins heterogenous interventions on health-related eventualities outside of structured and institutionalised biomedical practices.

This *in vivo* conceptualization of the internet is analytically useful in two aspects. Firstly, it offers a narrative to account for the digital performance of contested health knowledge on the internet as digital objects produced and encoded within their associated milieu. This narrative is distinct from that of a 'post-truth' society constantly engaging in 'information warfare' to combat against 'truth decay' – which has become mainstream in Western discourse about mis/disinformation. Secondly, it provides a framework in which digital objects are not reduced to their informational properties as either accurate or inaccurate. As such, it offers a point of convergence against the bifurcation of information as abstract and technology as concrete. A spatial conceptualisation highlights how techno-social interrelations produce different spaces of multiplicity which constitute a favourable milieu for medical practices outside biomedical institutions.

Biography:
Dang Nguyen (Nguyễn Hồng Hải Đăng in her native Vietnamese) is a doctoral candidate at the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne. She was also a 2019-2020 Fox Fellow at Yale University. She holds a Master of Science in Social Science of the Internet from University of Oxford, where she was a Chevening scholar. Dang's research interests broadly concern the following topics: digital communication, social studies of technology, internet studies, health informatics, and history of medicine.

Hien Nguyen

Title:"Ageing in the digital era and transnational mobility: perceptions and experiences of Vietnamese migrant parents"

Abstract:
The nexus of ageing, new media and transnational mobility has been recently examined in extensive literature review on migration and family studies (Baldassar, 2016; Baldassar, Nedelcu, Merla, & Wilding, 2016; Baldassar, Wilding, Boccagni, & Merla, 2017; Madianou & Miller, 2012; Millard, Baldassar, & Wilding, 2018; Näre, Walsh, & Baldassar, 2017). What highlighted in these research agendas is the crucial role of new media and information and communication technologies (ICTs) in providing extraordinary opportunities for both (older) migrants and (older) non-migrants to stay in touch with their social support networks despite geographical distance. New media and ICTs have been facilitating the configuration and maintenance of distant and virtual care, distant kin and kin-like relations, and, in particular, constructing migrant belonging, reducing nostalgia and preserving identity for older migrants by linking them to cultural practices, news, and images of their homeland (Wilding & Baldassar, 2018).

With an aim to examine migrant belonging, identity and transnational intimacy in the perceptions and ageing experiences of Vietnamese migrant parents in the digital era and transnational mobility, this paper employs the concepts of polymedia (Madianou & Miller, 2012), digital kinning (Baldassar & Wilding, 2020), and digital homing (Baldassar, Stevens, & Wilding, 2021). The notion of polymedia refers to 'an emerging environment of communicative opportunities' and 'an environment of affordances' (Madianou & Miller, 2012, p. pp. 170) that enable interpersonal communication at a distance between migrants and their left-behind families. Meanwhile, digital kinning is termed as 'the processes of engagement with new technologies for the purpose of maintaining support networks to sustain social support and connections, maintain cultural identity, and protect social identity' (Baldassar & Wilding, 2020, p. pp. 319). Digital homing is associated with 'consuming homeland media accessed through the Internet for pleasure and to satisfy and sustain one's cultural identity' (Baldassar et al., 2021).

The scrutiny of migrant beloning, identity and transnational intimacy in this paper undergoes three main themes: (i) challenges faced by Vietnamese parents in their ageing in a foreign land; (ii) perceptions of new media and ICTs in Vietnamese parents' everyday lives; (iii) the processes of engaging with polymedia to practise digital kinning and digital homing for developing and sustaining migrant belonging, identity and transnational intimacy. In the third theme, a more detailed analysis

is emphasized on migrant parents' use of machine-assisted translation tools to address language barriers, their use of social media as mediating sites to connect their distant kins and social support networks, and their consumption of digital news, images and cultural posts to update themselves to what happen in the home and host country as well as around the world in their mother tongue language.

Note: The data used for this paper is adopted from the PhD project 'Growing older overseas: How older Vietnam-born people are experiencing ageing and aged care in Australia' conducted by Hien Thi Nguyen, a PhD candidate at the University of Western Australia. The PhD research project is linked to the Ageing and New Media ARC Project led by Prof Loretta Baldassar and Raelene Wilding. The PhD research applied ethnographic interviews and participant observation with both Vietnamese migrant parents and their adult migrant children in Australia. In total, 42 participants (10 parent visitors; 12 parent migrants and 20 adult migrant children) participated in the research in the 12 months of 2020

Biography:
Hien Thi Nguyen is a PhD candidate in the Anthropology and Sociology Discipline at School of Social Sciences, UWA. Hien is undertaking a PhD research project "Growing older overseas: How older Vietnam-born People are experiencing ageing and aged care in Australia". Her research focuses include ageing, migration, gender and ICTs. Email: thihien.nguyen@research.uwa.edu.au

Herve Nicolle

Title:
"Technology in disrupting existing inequalities among refugees in Kenya amidst COVID-19"

Abstract:
While the Refugee Act (2016) provides refugees in Kenya with the right to move and earn a living, the same law restricts free movement. Economic activities both inside and outside the camps are restricted by the encampment policy, which basically bars refugees from securing meaningful employment. Based on an assessment conducted by Samuel Hall in 2020, this brief note highlights how refugees in Kenya have embraced technology in navigating existing inequalities amidst COVID-19. Specific case studies from Nairobi, Kakuma and Dadaab captured refugee voices on the reality of COVID-19, mobilisation around refugee right to work, including existing digital barriers and opportunities. In Dadaab the Norwegian Refugee Council has employed a digital marketplace as a coping strategy for businesses that are unable to access other markets. Through the platform, Nyota Farsamo, a group of Somali refugees that ventures in handmade home décor items and other hand-crafted products have been able to sell and interact with online buyers. Before the pandemic, most refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab depended on Community Technology Access centres to get access to computers and the internet. However, the centres were closed for several months as a way of preventing infection and transmission of Coronavirus. Kakuma Ventures, a refugee led social enterprise has put in place an infrastructure to set WiFi spots in selected camp zones with the goal of helping refugees build businesses. Beyond the COVID-19 response initiatives, refugee led associations have stepped up mobilization around right to work and right to free movement.

Biography:
Founder, Director & Resilience Pillar Lead, Samuel Hall - Herve leads the economic unit at Samuel Hall with research centered on innovation, livelihoods, and employment in urban and rural settings, with a focus on intersectional vulnerabilities in contexts affected by migration and displacement.

Silvia Almenara Niebla

Chair: SESSION 1.3 *Doing Family & Homemaking*

Biography:
Silvia Almenara Niebla is a Post-doc researcher in "REEL BORDERS" ERC Starting Grant at Vrije Universiteit Brussel. She has a PhD on Gender Studies at Universidad de La Laguna (2020); MSc in International Relations and African Studies, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (2013); and a BA in Political Science, Universidad Complutense de Madrid (2012).

Kaarina Nikunen

Title:
"Undocumented and datafied: precarious digital life, affective tactics and politics of care"

Abstract:
This paper discusses digital everyday life of the undocumented migrants living in Finland. Based on multi method research with 17 migrants, the paper discusses the ways in which datafication affects and is experienced by people in precarious life situations.
To be able to understand the complex, affective and intimate workings of datafication, it is necessary to move from political economy view to everyday experiences among people who often remain invisible in public but are subjected to and depended on multiple data-driven services and practices (Hedge 2019; Ponzanesi 2019; Latonero & Kift 2018). Datafication (van Dijck 2014) is considered here as a complex phenomenon, simultaneously abstract and mundane, intertwined in the everyday life as a form of intimacy, as the 'air that we breath' (Berlant 1998). Among the undocumented migrants, datafication is responded to with various everyday tactics including multiple social media profiles, restrictive use and chosen invisibility. These tactics are often complex, contradictory and demand fair amount of affective labour. In addition, material conditions become dominant illustrated in uncertainty of connection, concern over chargers, costs and locations, and struggles for the right to be connected when in custody or faced by the police. Importantly however, digital infrastructures provide not only a sense of fear and concern but also a lifeline to imagine better lives, maintaining relationships and creating new ones (Leurs 2019; Twigt 2018).
The research approach is discussed in terms of politics of care: multiple methods with diaries, interviews and workshops combined with reciprocality and help. While these methods are driven by politics of care, we also address their risks and limitations.

Biography:
Kaarina Nikunen is Professor of Media and Communication research at Tampere University Finland. Her areas of expertise include digital culture, datafication, migration, emotions and affectivity, solidarity and social justice. She is the author of Media Solidarities: Emotions, Power and Justice in the Digital Age (Sage, 2019) and editor of Media in Motion: Cultural Complexity and Migration in the Nordic Region (Routledge 2011, co-editor E. Eide). Her current research project investigates intimacy and inequalities in data driven culture (IDA). Her previous research has explored emotional structures and dynamics of the rise of anti-immigrant and racism on social media with the combination of computational, qualitative and ethnographic methods. She has conducted ethnographic research on European refugee politics in the Mediterranean coast, in Southern Italy.

Jessica Northey

Title:
"Migration and social transformation: Algerian Diaspora Responses to COVID-19"

Abstract:
See co-author Latefa Narriman Guemar

Biography:
Jessica Northey has been a researcher at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations since 2014 and was Director of Postgraduate Research from 2018-2020. She gained her PhD from the European University Institute, Florence, studying relations between the EU and Algerian charitable associations. Through extensive fieldwork, she examined the impact of external funding on their work and role in political life and this was published as a book "Civil Society in Algeria" in 2018 by I.B.Tauris. As a researcher, Jessica is interested in the work of charities and local activists in different political systems and their potential to contribute to reform.

Alexandra Novitskaya

Title:
""If what you said about police brutality [in your asylum statement] is true, you can never be against BLM": Negotiations of white privilege and anti-racist solidarity in online communities of post-Soviet LGBTQ immigrants"

Abstract:
How do LGBTQ individuals who arrive in the United States from Russia and other post-Soviet countries (former Soviet Union) to apply for political asylum on the grounds of sexuality and/or gender identity or expression respond to existing racialized hierarchies in the U.S.? This presentation introduces a virtual ethnography of social media forums used by members of the post- Soviet LGBTQ immigrant community in the U.S. It focuses on the opinions around race and racism expressed by Russian-speaking LGBTQ immigrants online in 2017–2020, and particularly on the "flame wars" generated in response to the Trump Administration anti-asylum policies and racial justice protests which followed the 2020 murder of George Floyd. It analyzes the following positions post-Soviet LGBTQ migrants take regarding race and racialization in the U.S.: 1) identification with power (white

supremacy); 2) willful refusal, or inability to accept the reality of structural racisms in the U.S.; and 3) anti-racist solidarity borne out of a recognition of white privilege the post-Soviet diaspora is afforded in America. The presentation contributes to the existing scholarship on post-Soviet diasporas, juxtaposing this new research with previous representations of Russian-speaking immigrants - queer and straight alike - as always conservative, right-leaning, nationalist, and racist. Specifically, the experience of homophobic police brutality some LGBTQ asylum-seekers had in their countries of origin, compounded by their precarious status as asylum-seekers and a strong political identification with the radical queer activism in the U.S. allows for a production of new forms of political subjectivities and new forms of imagined immigrant belongings.

Biography:
Alexandra Novitskaya is a PhD Candidate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Stony Brook University (USA), and a 2021 Research Associate at the Virtual Open Research Laboratory at the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research interests are queer migration and asylum, post-Soviet sexualities, and transnational LGBTQ and feminist activism. Her recent publications include "Sexual Citizens in Exile: State-Sponsored Homophobia and Post-Soviet LGBTQ Migration LGBTQ Migration" (The Russian Review, 2021) and "Patriotism, Sentiment, and Male Hysteria: Putin's Masculinity Politics and the Persecution of Non-heterosexual Russians" (NORMA: International Journal for Masculinity Studies, 2017). She is completing her dissertation about post-Soviet LGBTQ immigrants in the United States.

Michel O'Brien

Title:
"Narrativizing un-arrival: digital narratives by asylum seekers in the Pacific"

Abstract:
This paper examines autographic digital interventions by refugees and asylum seekers in Australia and Malaysia that explore the condition of "unarrival"-- the absence of an official designation of having "arrived" or ineligibility for the legal category of refugee, such as when individual are held in detention centres and subjected to indefinite detention processes in Australia, or, in the case of Malaysia, where the legal status of "refugee" does not exist, and individuals not recognized by the UNHCR live in uncertain status. This paper specifically looks at examples like the digital art of Vietnamese-Australian graphic artist Matt Huynh, who documents his family's experiences in a Malaysian refugee camp and connects this Australia's current exclusion of asylum seekers; Parastoo Theatre, a theatre company run by Afghan refugees in Malaysia which asks Malaysian audiences to participate in performances alongside asylum seekers which are then uploaded online; and the interdisciplinary work of Kurdish singer-songwriter and artist Farhad Bandeh and his animated music video Smiling Boy, which was developed while Banesh was held in the Melbourne Immigrant Transfer Accommodation. While these works play a vital role in terms of representation and visibility of these experiences, they are also often shared via social media with other asylum seekers who face similar conditions of unarrival, and who develop their own works motivated by these interventions. As Australia and Malaysia continue to share between them their tactics for protracting the official arrival of forced migrants, these digital autographics and their dissemination online thus allows individuals to capture their own experiences while countering exclusion of these narratives in both states.

Biography:
M. O'Brien is an Assistant Professor in the English Department at Central Washington University on ancestral Yakama Nation land. Their work focuses on Asian North American and Asian diasporic literatures and theory, multiculturalism, comparative raciality, and transpacific studies. They are currently completing a manuscript that examines connections between forced migration and constructions of race in Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, and Australia. Their research can be found in *Postcolonial Text, New Global Studies, The Comparatist, and Antipodes*.

Abiona Oladoyin

Title:
"Technologies towards Accountability? Data-driven protection contexts and communication with people seeking refugee protection in Jordan"

Abstract:
See co-author Emily Edwards

Biography:
Abiona Oladoyin earned her first and second degrees in English Studies from Adekunle Ajasin University Ondo State and University of Port Harcourt respectively, both in Nigeria. In the 2016/17 academic session, she was at Yale University, New Haven on a ten-month United States sponsored Fulbright Cultural Exchange program. She is presently a graduate student in the Popular Culture program at Bowling Green State University where she is working on contextualizing the debates on female sexualization in the hip hop genre with focus on the Nigerian scene. As a budding feminist and communication consultant, her interest lies in contextualizing and exploring the framework of socio- cultural, political and economic inequalities, especially in mass media. In addition, in this era of big data, she explores how identities take shape and changes across different digital spaces.

Domitilla Olivieri

Chair: Keynote Nicholas de Genova

Biography:
Domitilla Olivieri is Assistant Professor at the Department of Media and Culture Studies at Utrecht University. Her research and teaching are in the field of documentary film, gender and postcolonial studies, visual anthropology and media and cultural studies. Her recent publications include the article 'Diasporic proximities: spaces of "home" in European docu- mentary' in *Transnational Cinemas* and the special issue of *Feminist Media Studies* entitled 'Affective encounters: Tools of interruption for activist media practices'. Her latest work focuses on documentary practices, times and spaces of the everyday, discourses around 'truth' and 'fake', the politics of othering and mediated encounters and rhythm in (documentary) media.

David Ongenaert

Chair: SESSION 4.4 *Humanitarianism*

Biography:
David Ongenaert holds a master's degree in Communication Sciences (graduated in 2015 with magna cum laude) and a master after master degree in Conflict and Development (graduated in 2016 with magna cum laude). After following several additional English and social science courses, David started in October 2017 as a FWO PhD fellow under supervision of Prof. Dr. Stijn Joye. Currently, he is a member of the Centre for Cinema and Media Studies (CIMS), the Center for Journalism Studies (CJS), the Center for Persuasive Communication (CEPEC) and the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR). His research project investigates international refugee organizations' public communication strategies towards refugee crises by exploring processes of production, content and audience reception. This project is deeply embedded in the academic fields of mediated humanitarianism, distant suffering and strategic non-profit communication.

Barbara Orth

Title:
"Global Care Chains Reloaded? Research Strategies for Investigating Migrant Workers' Experiences on Digital Care Platforms"

Abstract:
While there is an established literature on global care chains and transnational diasporas, migration scholars have so far paid comparatively little attention to the rise of digital platforms as new labour intermediaries in domestic services. Care, however, is a fast-growing sector of the gig economy. It warrants our attention because it is both an important new social infrastructure of urban life as well as a game-changer for the working conditions of migrant workers. Care platforms enter the sector offering a wide range of household-related services including cooking, cleaning, grocery shopping, and companionship for the elderly. As care workers labour in individual homes and are spatially dispersed, they are notoriously difficult to reach for both labour organisers and researchers. As a result, very little is known about how migrants employed in this sector experience the gigification of their work. My doctoral project aims to address this gap and develops new strategies to engage care gig workers in Berlin by drawing on research methods from feminist geography and critical migration studies. The talk presents the field access strategies I employ as well as first insights from the field. It progresses in three steps. First, I will briefly outline what is known about feminised care platforms and how they differ from the largely male-dominated sectors of the gig economy such as ride hailing and food delivery. Compared to other gig workers such as delivery riders and drivers, who, at least temporarily, gather at central passenger and food pick-up points, care gig workers do not meet each other through their work. Researchers and organizers, I argue, can look to the insights of those working with undocumented migrants for developing effective research designs. Second, I present my own strategies for engaging care gig workers. And lastly, I share preliminary insights from my ongoing fieldwork.

Biography:
Barbara Orth is a Research Associate and Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Geography at Free University (FU) Berlin. Her doctoral work explores the reorganisation of care labour through the rise of digital labour platforms. Prior to joining FU, Barbara conducted research projects on queer support structures in Berlin's labour market for the Senate Department of Justice as well as on labour market access for refugees and asylum seekers in collaboration with the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW). Barbara has several years of professional experience in the nonprofit sector working with migrants. Barbara holds a B.A. in International Relations (University of East Anglia) and an M.Sc. in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (University of Oxford).

Idil Osman

Title:
"Illuminating gendered and postcolonial contexts within Somali diaspora digital practice"

Abstract:
In this opening talk Osman will explore the work of French-Algerian sociologist Abdelmalek Sayad who theorised how the cost of migration needs to be understood in much more than economic terms for migrants. There is this deep-seated complexity as a 'double absence', a process in which the immigrant into a new country is also an emigrant of his/her homeland (Sayad 2004). Nowhere does this ring more true than with the Somali diaspora. They have maintained intimate and close connections with their homeland and feel a strong sense of duty to provide financial, human and social support to their counterparts in the homeland whilst striving for recognition in their hostlands. The Somali diaspora is instrumental in the development and service delivery in their home country, creation of business networks with neighbouring countries and the Gulf states, and creating telecommunication networks and media outlets (Osman 2017). Somali diaspora have also returned with their human and social capital and have always been an active element in the equation of state building and the restructuring of the political system.

Biography:
Idil Osman is a global media and communications academic previously based at the Development Studies Department of SOAS, she's now a Lecturer in Media and Communication at the School of Media, Communication and Sociology at the University of Leicester. She has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications that focus on media, conflict, development and migration, including her most recent book, *Media, diaspora and the Somali conflict* (2017) and *Somalis in Europe: Stories from the Somali diaspora* (2011). She is based at the Department for Development Studies at SOAS.

Jared Owuor

Title:
"Technology in disrupting existing inequalities among refugees in Kenya amidst COVID-19"

Abstract:
See co-author Herve Nicolle

Biography:
Regional Operations Officer, Samuel Hall - Jared leads Samuel Hall's research operations in Africa and supports the development of research methodologies and tools with a focus on emerging technologies and their impact on refugee support services and systems.

Raffaella Pagogna

Title:
"Exploring the impact of ICTs and Transnational Communication on migration imaginaries and aspirations in Harar, Ethiopia"

Abstract:
Contemporary migration processes are characterised by a mobility paradox: on the one hand there is increased reach and accessibility of communication, media and transport technologies exposing many people around the world to very idealized images of wealth and prosperity and visions of the good life elsewhere. Whereas on the other hand, the vast majority of people in the global south, especially the African continent, are excluded from circuits of legal mobility, because of deepening marginalisation and restrictive mobility regimes. Growing access to different sources of information, and recently, the access to social media to easily share images from migration destinations and to connect with peers, tend to increase the aspiration to migrate.
The proposed paper examines the factors shaping aspirations to migrate and the role of information and communication technologies in Harar, Ethiopia. Harar City, located in the Harari Regional State, presents an interesting case to study migration aspirations since it is a hub for internal and international migration and has a considerable population living abroad. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork carried out between October and December 2019 in Harar this paper seeks to analyse potential migrants' temporal and spatial horizons of expectations and possibilities, and how these horizons are linked to their digital practices. Hence, the paper seeks to address this issue by focusing on the digital dimension of migration infrastructure in place and linking it with local migration aspirations. Drawing on fieldnotes and interviews with government officials, NGOs, city dwellers and return migrants, as well as on scientific literature I will explore how migration imaginaries are influenced by everyday digital practices and the wider digital infrastructure and how these shape the local perceptions and discourses on migration.

Biography:
Raffaella is studying for her PhD at the department for Geography and Regional Research at the University of Vienna and a research associate in the H2020 project AGRUMIG - Migration Governance and Agricultural and Rural change. Previously she worked for an NGO counselling asylum seekers in Austria. She conducts research on migration aspirations and their embeddedness in migration infrastructures in Ethiopia and Europe. She has gained fieldwork experience in Ethiopia, Italy and Austria.

<u>Monika Palmberger</u>

Title:
"Building Belonging and Enacting (Digital) Citizenship Through Everyday Care Practices"

Abstract:
Based on ethnographic research in Vienna and using narrative interviews and "digital diaries" as key research methods, this paper explores how refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq enact citizenship through care practices, in geographical proximity and across distances. Of particular interest is the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in performing care roles, in the new place of residence and when maintaining care relations with family members who remain in the home country or who have fled elsewhere. In the new place of residence, in Vienna, such care practices – often relying on ICTs – involve engagement with municipal bureaucracies, social services and educational institutions. In the case of care across distances, ICTs – with their possibilities and limitations – are adopted for ongoing informal care relations and emotional support. Thereby refugees navigate care and border regimes and build forms of belonging and citizenry.
Central to the investigation in this paper of both – care near and far – are discussions around "doing family" (Madianou 2017) that are closely entangled with practices of "doing citizenship" (Pratesi 2018) and "enacting citizenship digitally" (Couldry et al. 2014). Here I investigate the forming of political subjectivities and the related creative potential to transform social realities. Thereby this paper brings into conversation discussions from the field of migration studies, and in particular digital migration studies (Leurs and Ponzanesi 2018), with those around citizenship and digital citizenship.

Biography:
Monika Palmberger holds a PhD from the University of Oxford (2011). Currently she is a senior research fellow and lecturer at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna and a research fellow at the Interculturalism, Migration and Minorities Research Centre der Universität Leuven.

She is PI of the research project "REFUGEeICT – Multi-local Care and the Use of Information and Communication Technologies Among Refugees" funded by the Austrian Science Fund. Her work focuses on digital anthropology/ethnography, (forced) migration, memory and generation.

Monika Palmberger is author of the book How Generations Remember: Conflicting Histories and Shared Memories in Post-War Bosnia and Herzegovina (Palgrave Macmillan 2016) and coeditor of Care across Distance: Ethnographic Explorations of Aging and Migration (Berghahn 2018) and coeditor of Memories on the Move: Experiencing Mobility, Rethinking the Past (Palgrave Macmillan 2016).

CONNECTING_EUROPE

Giovanna Palutan

Title:
"A thick digital environment. Case studies from Italy"

Abstract:
The present contribution stems from an ongoing ethnographical research on food practices of hospitality toward refugees carried out in urban public spaces: such research, due to the constraints imposed by the lockdown prevention measures of the COVID 19 pandemic, is facing the necessity to put under question the methodological tools as well as the research setting initially identified. Given the necessity of rephrasing part of the project by resorting on digital domains, we feel the need to raise crucial questions such as: what kind of connections can be highlighted between the online and offline environment of the research? How can digital devices allow all subjects involved to be active part in the construction of relations? How can food be shared in a context where the physical presence is substituted by the digital presence? Finally, looking at ethnography as the result of an encounter, we like to investigate the ways by which the digital domains could be fertile terrain for the "self-consciously cross-cultural engagements" (Faier – Rofel 2014: 364) that are at stake in the relational processes that take place in the field. We will try to address these questions by drawing on a digital cooking workshop started by refugee women hosted in the town of Padua (Italy), and on an entrepreneurial restoration activity started by some Afghan refugees in the same town.

Biography:
Giovanna Palutan (PhD, Università di Genova, Italy) is a cultural anthropologist with 15 years'experience in migrants and refugees related themes regarding public space, citizenship, food practices, identity construction. A member of the research group FOR (Food and Refugees) rooted at the University of Padua, she is involved in the HERA funded FOOD2GATHER project as postdoc researcher, doing fieldwork on food practices in hospitality centres and informal urban camps through the lens of agency and digital ethnography. She has disseminated her research in national and international publications.

Qiuping Pan

Title:
"We Trade via WeChat: The Rise and Demise of Micro Transnational Digital Entrepreneurship Among Chinese Australians"

Abstract:
Chinese immigrants' use of WeChat, the most popular social media in China, is often a politicised topic in Australia, involving speculations about how China has allegedly used WeChat to exert political influence over Chinese Australians. Speculations aside, little empirical knowledge do we have regarding the real-life implications of immigrants' use of social media rooted in their home country. Seeking to contribute to this knowledge gap, this research focuses on the interplay between Chinese immigrants' digital practices and their entrepreneurial practices. To this end, this research

draws upon longitudinal ethnographic observations of the Chinese communities in Australia since 2016. As this research finds out, WeChat has been utilised by individual Chinese Australians, particularly women, as an important platform for small-scale transnational e-commerce targeting at the enlarging middle-class consumers in China. This research highlights and elaborates two prominent features of this type of micro entrepreneurial model (also known as daigou as put in Chinese). First is genderedness, as manifested in the prominence of female Chinese entrepreneurs in this business. Second is transnational embeddedness, as reflected by how the rise and demise of the daigou business has been closely intertwined with the fast socio-economic development of China. This research bolsters the emerging scholarship that examines immigrants' digital practices beyond politics and locates their digital engagement where it has been—at the heart of immigrants' everyday social and economic lives.

Biography:
Qiuping Pan holds a PhD from the University of Melbourne and has been doing longitudinal empirical research of contemporary Chinese immigration to Australia and Chinese community organisations. Her research speaks to the opportunities and challenges associated with accelerated transnational mobility for the lived experiences and social practices of individuals and migrant communities, social diversity and inclusion, nation-building processes, as well as global linkages. She is now working as a post-doctoral research fellow at the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Melbourne. Her work has been published in the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies (JEMS) and Journal of Chinese Overseas as well as in several migration-themed books as book chapters. She also serves as a reviewer of journals such as JEMS, Ethnic and Racial Studies, and International Migration Review.

Wisnique Panier

Title:
"The attachment of Haitians in the diaspora with Haiti: Transnationalism and participation in radio debate programs"

Abstract:
This proposal focuses on the participation of the Haitians of the diaspora, in public debates that take place in radio stations based locally in Haiti from a transnational perspective of international migration. I am interested in the interventions of Haitian diaspora leaders in radio debates, including concerns, positions, topics addressed in the programmed and conditions conducive to their participation. Beyond its singularity, both qualitative and quantitative, the Haitian case is of great interest from the point of view of research on the political participation of diasporas and, more generally, on the media in the age of globalization. We are interested in three fundamental aspects of this study. These include the composition of the Haitian public, the impact of new media on political participation and identity.
This study is part of a transnational perspective of international migration. Transnationalism is a new approach to international migration studies. The transnational approach refers to the way in which the researcher examines the phenomenon of migration and transnationalism serves to rather name the phenomenon of reality. We also use the concepts of a system applied to the media and public

space from a contemporary perspective. Methodologically, we prioritize a qualitative analysis based on observation and maintenance data. Our corpus consists of empirical data collected in three ways: first, using a grid, we observe the interventions of Haitians in the diaspora in 5 radio broadcasts over a period of three months.

Biography:
Wisnique Panier is currently An Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations (UN) in New York. He is a doctoral candidate in public communication in the Department of Information and Communication at the Faculty of Letters at Laval University in Quebec. His research focuses on the transformation of the Haitian radio system, on changes in relations between the players in the system. He is also interested in the attachment of Haitians in the diaspora to the media in their home countries. He is a founding member and director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies on Haitian Media (CEIMH) and a member of the Research Commission of Laval University. He is also a member of the Journalism Mutation Research Group (GRMJ) led by its research director Jean Charron. He is the author of several scientific publications in well-known journals and several books including the ethics of the media in the face of the power of money: the case of Haiti and France.

Paola Parmiggiani

Title:
"In-between narratives: reflections on multiple layers of invisibility of migration"

Abstract:
Representations of migration are often characterized by a dichotomous vision that moves on a spectacular-invisible continuum. On the one hand, we find the spectacle of migration, often supported by populism, which feeds on migration to support a nationalism based on defending borders against invading enemies and depicts migration as a crisis. On the other hand, we find the invisibility of those who are reduced to mere numerical data, to dehumanizing graphs and tables. However, the invisibility of migration is particularly evident for specific forms of migration, such as climate migrants or the presence of migrants in EU rural areas and regionalization strategies.
Drawing upon the first results of two European projects (#ClimateOfChange and Welcoming Spaces) the aim of this contribution is twofold. Firstly, it will present an analysis of digital representations as well as invisibilities of climate change-induced migrants, who are not legally recognized and excluded from institutional political debates, and migrants in shrinking regions, under-narrated by discourses that mainly focus on urban environments. Secondly, it will reflect upon how the modalities through which these specific aspects of migration are discussed and framed in digital media discourses are likely to translate into public pressures, which, in turn, tend to affect policy decisions. Hence, the mediatized invisibility of climate migrants and migrants in shrinking regions is also reflected by the lack of policies that recognize, on the one hand, the justification of asylum due to environmental reasons and, on the other, the contribution of migrants in the development of marginal regions.

Biography:
Paola Parmiggiani is Full Professor in Sociology of Cultural and Communicative Processes and a member of Ces.Co.Com. (Research Center on Communication and Sustainable Consumption) at the

University of Bologna. Her main research interests are responsible consumption, processes of civic engagement, and social and humanitarian communication.

Antonella Patteri

Title:
"Connecting Lives: Transient Migrants in Calais"

Abstract:
"When everybody sees the bus people just come over and then two minutes later you hear all the beeps, the phones beeping all at the same time, and people will start calling, saying Hello, you will hear lots of people calling home".
(Aid Worker, Calais)

Drawing on my fieldwork conducted in Calais in August 2018, this paper considers the Refugee Info Bus volunteer initiative which provides mobile network and beams Wi-Fi to transient migrants scattered in the area. The Refugee Info Bus project was founded in 2016, at the time where the Calais 'Jungle' camp was still a reality in Northern France. At the very beginning of the project, an old horsebox was converted into a mobile office and Wi-Fi hotspot. When the 'Jungle' camp was evicted, the organisation needed to have a constant internet service that was reliable in order to reach everyone, disseminate vital information, and develop formative projects. The BUS today continues to operate in these areas where it is parked up near migrants' settlements, which extends from forests to parking spaces. The fact that this service functions as a mobile lifeline is explicative of the idea that digital networks are fundamental not only for keeping migrants in contact with people in countries of origin, but also with those who live in zones of transit, particularly because in Calais there is no longer a centralised camp. Migrants dispersal has made it extremely hard to build a community and the absence and impossibility to form an enduring community is a key aspect. With this in mind, this paper aims to map migrants' affective digital practices by integrating my field research with the idea of viapolitics (Walters, 2015) and mobile commons (Papadopoulos, Tsianos, 2013) in order to bring to the fore a more exhaustive reading of migrants' struggles through their digital connections, in alliance with aid workers.

Biography:
I am a PhD researcher in Politics at Birkbeck College, University of London. My research focuses on the bio-political borders of the European Union, the relation between the politics of care and control, security, resistances, migration and art. In my research, I also focus on migrants' digital bordering, their datification (the virtualization of their identity) and their affective digital practices (which resist/reinvent bordering). As such, I am particularly interested in exploring not only migrant othered subject-formation but also how transnational lives mediate and affirm their migratory experience politically: What does it mean to act politically when people are formally deprived of their political agency? What is the role that digital media play in shaping a new understanding of everyday communities (belonging vs being-with)? Why it is also a question of reframing migrants' agency (acting vs connecting)?

Carmen Pereyra

Title:
"Striving for agency in a migratory project for Germans in Paraguay: conspiracy theories and right-wing populism in the digital media"

Abstract:
At the end of 2017, a couple of Austrians started building up a settlement, projected to allocate up to 20,000 inhabitants in an area of 16km2 in a rural region of Paraguay. Under the motto "Freedom through migration" they offer "the freedom to create what one's own soul or the human being as a spiritual creator strives for". Through a website and mainly a YouTube channel, the couple weekly promotes the community and show the progress made. The narratives they employ to summon people to participate incorporate exclusionary anti-Muslim sentiments and other arguments of the so-called "New" European right, combined with typical imaginaries of lifestyle migrants. Moreover, to reach a wider audience, they participate in a series of interviews on an "alternative" YouTube channel, known for disseminating conspiracy theories and esoteric material. By conducting a digital ethnography, I mapped out how those elements combined and delved into the reasons for such entanglement. Drawing on diverse sociological sources, I argue that at the core of the migratory project, and the reason that brings these three narratives together, is the need for constructing meaning that is resistant to the meaning-eroding forces of modernity, as well as the promise of getting individual agency back. Uncertainty about the future leads many people to look for answers on the Internet. There they find responses that only deepen their uncertainties. Simultaneously, those who operate the conspiracy broadcasting channels announce to their viewers that the information "is out there", and that they must decide for themselves what is the truth. In this context, digital media plays a crucial role; not only bringing like-minded people together and helping them create "imagined communities", but also providing a platform that serves the modern need for self-design, and creates thus a sense of agency.

Biography:
I am Carmen Pereyra, a 35-year-old Argentinian. I studied Literature and Literary Criticism at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). For seven years, I worked in politics with a focus on public culture and human rights at the City Parliament. As part of my work, I participated in various congresses on Art in Public Space in Latin America and published three articles, which you can find in my Academia profile. In 2017, I came to Leipzig to study for a Master in Anthropology. In the course of my studies, I focused my interest on narrative production as a means to affect meaning-making processes. This article is part of a thesis that is still in progress. Currently, I work as a research assistant at the project "ReDICo: Researching Digital Interculturality Co-Operatively", funded by BMBF (German Federal Ministry for Education and Research) and based at Jena University.

Katrien Pype

Chair: SESSION 3.1 *Digital entrepreneurship*

Biography:
Katrien Pype is Associate Professor (BOF) with the Institute for Anthropological Research in Africa (KU Leuven University). Her main research interests are in popular culture and technology, in particular entertainment, communication and cultural performances. She currently guides a team working on technology cultures in urban DR Congo and beyond (1960-present), in which 3 doctoral and 1 postdoctoral scholar and herself produce ethnographies of medical, energy and communication cultures in Kinshasa (DR Congo), Kikwit (DR Congo) and Nakuru (Kenya).

Lisa Marie Perez Sosa

Title:
"A Homing Journey: Notions of Home during the COVID-19 pandemic"

Abstract:
From March 2020 until today, the media and the governments have bombarded society with the phrase 'Stay at home', the most common recommendation to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The constant uncritical use of the term 'home' brought up several questions and became an invitation to re-think: What is home? How does it feel? And how is it built up? Home is primarily related to everyday life experiences, which involves different temporalities, spaces, and settings. However, in western society, the heteronormative model of 'home' has come to be the lens that informs and molds the experience of home remaining as a preferred model that neglects space for differences. Therefore, the present article shows how notions of home among the current LGBTQI+ Erasmus Mundus master students have been shaped during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research is relevant for understanding migrants' everyday life as a unique domain that provides multiple meanings of home that might disrupt its fixed and heteronormative notion.

This study uses a qualitative approach based on photovoice methods, in-depth interviews, and focus groups. The results show how the COVID-19 pandemic created a new space for the LGBTQI+ students to understand and review how they lived their sexual orientation during their home experience with themselves and their families. This brought reflections about the body, placing it as an active agent that creates new sites of attachments. The COVID-19 pandemic also deconstructed the usual romanticized and positive connotation of home by adding a constant feeling of fear and discomfort, limiting their homing options as wanted. Finally, due to the COVID-19 measures, memories became a way to recreate and bring up home-like elements from the past lacking in the present. In this way, they tried to seek a sense of home by adding and subtracting symbolic meanings to objects, places, relationships, and memories.

Biography:
Lisa Marie Perez Sosa is a master student on Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR). She conducted research at Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg, Germany. She previously studied International Relations at Universidad de Monterrey, Mexico. (UDEM) Her work experience revolves

around topics of integration, migration, culture of legality, sense of belonging and interculturality.

Simone Pfeifer

Title:
"In/visible Images of Mobility: Sociality and Analogue-Digital Materiality in Personal Archives of Transnational Migration"

Abstract:
Based on multi-sited media ethnography with Senegalese in Berlin, Dakar and 'online', this paper explores portrait images, wedding albums, and Facebook images as personal migrant archives. Examining the particular temporalities and the analogue-digital materialites of the images, unfolds their relevance for the construction of transnational sociality of Senegalese in Berlin and Dakar. By addressing distinct audiences, the archives of migration are purposefully made (in)visible by their owners, creating gendered and generational "intimate publics". Foregrounding the notion of the active personal migrant archive, this contribution sees the archive as an aspiration and in conversation with the present of living apart from socially close persons.

Biography:
Simone Pfeifer is a Social and Cultural Anthropologist with a focus on Visual and Media Anthropology. She currently works as a postdoctoral researcher in the research project "Jihadism on the Internet: Images and Videos, their Appropriation and Dissemination" at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz.
She holds a master's in Visual Anthropology from the University of Manchester and earned a master's and her PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Cologne. Her dissertation on social media practices and transnational everyday life of Senegalese in Berlin and Dakar has recently been published in German (Social Media im transnationalen Alltag, transcript 2020). In her postdoctoral research, she focuses on everyday life of Muslims in Germany, and gender specific and affective dimensions in the appropriation of Islamic videos and images in Social Media.

Sandra Ponzanesi

Chair: Keynote Paul Gilroy, Round Table and SESSION 2.1 *Somali Diaspora and Digital Practices of Belonging*

Title:
"The multi-sitedness of Somali diasporic belonging: comparative notes on Somali migrant women's digital practices"

Abstract:
See co-author Donya Alinejad

Biography:
Sandra Ponzanesi is Professor of Media, Gender and Postcolonial Studies, Department of Media and Culture Studies at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. She has published widely in the field of

postcolonial feminist theory, cinema studies, digital media and migration. Among her recent publications are *Postcolonial Intellectuals in Europe* (2018), *Postcolonial Transitions in Europe* (2016), *The Postcolonial Cultural Industry* (Palgrave, 2014), *Gender, Globalisation and Violence* (2014) and *Postcolonial Cinema Studies* (Routledge, 2012). She has also guest edited several special issues on Postcolonial Europe, Digital Migration and Transnational Cinema Studies. She is project leader of the ERC project "Digital Crossings in Europe: Gender, Diaspora and Belonging" CONNECTINGEUROPE.

Hannah Pool

Title:
"Communicating a New Life. The influence of social media portrayal on expected remittances"

Abstract:
Research on remittances increasingly encompasses not only money sent by migrants to family members but also social remittances. Social remittances are norms, ideas, and values transmitted and conveyed through the transnational realm. Social media have arguably become the most decisive transfer of social remittances. Uploaded and shared lifestyle portrayals circulate imageries and imaginations of life abroad.

Concerning everyday use of social media performativity by newly-arrived migrants, this paper focuses on the creation of expectations. Thus, this paper traces the question of how social and financial remittances influence, shape, and reinforce each other. This paper argues that social remittances in the form of images, messages, and lifestyle representation via social media from the country of destination affect the imaginary of life abroad among family members in the country of origin. Moreover, these imaginaries further affect expectations of financial remittances.

Drawing on 11 months of multi-sites ethnography along the undocumented migration trajectory from Afghanistan to Germany and 66 semi-structured interviews, this paper asks how the portrayal of the route and life in the destination create a collective imaginary of life abroad and formulate expectations of monetary rewards. Therein, family members both in Iran and Afghanistan as well as in Germany reflect upon their personal social media usages, and their interpretation of family members' lives abroad.

Biography:
Hannah Pool is a doctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies Cologne and was a visiting scholar at Columbia University, NYC. She researches undocumented migration trajectories and conducted research on forced migration in Iran, Turkey, Greece, and Bosnia. Hannah studied at St Andrews University, Teheran University, and Dresden University.

Anzhela Popyk

Title:
"Digital divide during the COVID-19 pandemic. A case of immigrant schoolchildren in Poland"

Abstract:
As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic the whole world experienced great changes in professional and everyday lives. Due to the coronavirus spread, most of the public and private institutions were closed since early spring. This was not an exception in Poland, where on March 12, 2020 the Minister of Education announced the shutdown of all educational institutions, followed by the country's lockdown since March 20th. Consequently, about 4.6 million schoolchildren in Poland, among whom about 53 000 are immigrant children, had realized their school duties though distance learning for three months.
Remote education revealed multiple social and educational inequalities (Dietrich, 2020; xxx), based on the family (dis)integration and (lack)support (Gratz and Lipps, 2020; Doyle, 2020; Parczewska, 2020), families' socio-economic status (Bol, 2020; Robinson et al. 2020),
This study employs the concept of digital divide and digital capital (Ragnedda and Ruiu, 2017; Ragnedda, 2018) to study the dynamics of educational and social setbacks of immigrant school children in Poland in times of the COVID-19 schools' shutdown. This paper is based on the child-centered qualitative research, which includes 20 interviews with immigrant children, 19 interviews with their parents and 10 interviews with teachers, conducted during the first COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.
This research paper contributes to the studies on the digital capital inequalities, experienced during the pandemic schools' shutdown, that can exacerbate the educational gaps of migrant schoolchildren in Poland. Specifically, we focus on how the first and the second levels of digital divide, in correlation to the social, cultural and economic capitals (Bourdieu, 1986) of migrant children, their parents and teachers (institutions) endorse the third level of digital divide, namely benefits and life-chances of migrant children.

Biography:
Anzhela Popyk is a PhD student at the University of SWPS in Warsaw, Poland. Besides, Anzhela is a researcher in the Youth Research Center of the University SWPS, and Centre for Migration Research of Warsaw University. In her PhD thesis, Anzhela Popyk aims to study the transnational transitions of migrant children in Poland through analysing the main socialization agents, namely family, school, peers, media and diaspora. The study was conducted during the lockdown in Spring 2020, when school children were having the remote education. The research investigates, in part, the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on the migrant families lives, particularity change of the life, family and communication practices.
Apart from that, Anzhela is interested how the contemporary media use facilitates the transnational transitions of migrant children in Poland, and affects the social, educational and digital inequalities.

<u>Viviana Premazzi</u>

Chair: SESSION 5.3 Covid-19

Title:
"Far From Home. Emotional transnationalism online and offline during Covid19"

Abstract:
Coronavirus has spread all over the world and the entire planet has been in lockdown. Living abroad, far from "home" in those days for many migrants have been extremely hard. Worried about their beloved ones' health and safety, worried about their own health and safety, worried because of the uncertainty of the global situation and of the possibility of travelling back "home" when and if needed.

The feeling of loss and the sense of grief that many migrants experienced following their geographical relocation can be unbearable in times like these (Kessler 2019; 2020). It is a physical and symbolic loss and may require years to be resolved while it can produce depression in the individual in between the two countries, the country of origin and the host country. Technologies and the digital practices have proven to be of great help, to help to feel closer, to find new resources and also to develop innovative and creative ways to do something and give their contributions to the people and the place they left behind.

The paper will present the results of the research "Far From Home", carried out between March and October 2020. Through interviews to migrants and key informants, the paper will discuss practices of emotional transnationalism, the emotional challenges of living abroad during the pandemic and the online and offline resources that migrants found, discovered or rediscovered that helped them to face these uncertain times. The paper will also provide insights on how mental wellness and emotions have to be considered in relocation plans for and by migrants and their families, at the workplace and by the society at large.

Biography:
Senior Lecturer in Equality at the Place of Work, Gender and social policy and Cultural Intelligence at the University of Malta.
Founder of Global Mindset Development, a company offering training and services in intercultural management, cultural relocation support and diversity, equity and inclusion.
She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology of Migration, an MA in Intercultural and Interreligious Conflicts Management and she is Accredited Lecturer in Intercultural Management by Hofstede Insights.
Previously, Viviana worked as Academic Manager, Researcher and Consultant for universities, research institutes, corporations and not-for-profit organizations in Europe, North America, Africa and the Middle East. Her aim is always bridging research with practise and fieldwork.

Ela Przybylo

Title:
"Queer Diasporic Intermediality"

Abstract:
Centring the powerful protest art piece "Rainbow Mary" ("Tęczowa Madonna") by Elżbieta Podleśna, this piece considers the intermediality of recent Polish queer and feminist protests. Recent Polish protests have been hugely powerful because they have provided fluid crossovers between so-called online sharing, posting, and mobilizing, and in-person, on the street action and protest. As a Polish-Canadian scholar working from North America, "Rainbow Mary" is known to me only through social media, and yet the image's presence on social media has had the affective capacity to mobilize my anger and sorrow as a Polish queer, and has even motivated me to attend small-scale protests against Polish homophobia, transphobia, and sexism in Canada. While, according to Elżbieta Podleśna herself, "Rainbow Mary" existed in its originally planted locations around the city of Płock for merely a day's period of time, the image continues to haunt the internet over a year from when it was posted (Podleśna 2018). This is all to say that "Rainbow Mary" could not exist in the same way it does, and certainly the image could not have reached me as a scholar currently based in North America, had it not been for its intermediality. My paper argues that Polish feminist and queer protest art, and specifically Podleśna's "Rainbow Mary," partakes in intermedial disindienfication, drawing on José Esteban Muñoz, remaking national symbols so that they better serve LGBTQ+ people.

Biography:
Ela Przybyło is Assistant Professor in English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Illinois State University. She is the author of Asexual Erotics: Intimate Readings of Compulsory Sexuality (Ohio State University Press, 2019), editor of On the Politics of Ugliness (Palgrave, 2018), and author of many peer-reviewed articles and chapters including in such journals as Feminist Formations, GLQ, and Radical Teacher. Her current work explores motivations behind homophobia and transphobia in Poland with a focus on building queer and feminist genealogies of resistance.

Christopher Pullen

Title:
"Queer Asylum Seekers Online and the UK Lockdown: Media Literacy, Authenticity and Co-presence"

Abstract:
The advent of the Covid-19 lockdown in the United Kingdom, has led queer asylum seekers to become increasingly isolated, impacting further on their already established senses of abjection. With decreased access to help care community physical space, queer asylum seekers who have engaged with LGBT help groups, mental health charities and religious organisations have now become reliant on online communication. Media literacy for asylum seekers and NGO help managers has become more central in defining communication skills, and life chances.

This paper explores the formative findings of a British Academy funded research project that has

revealed new psychological pressures for asylum seekers and NGO managers when using online technology. It becomes a substitute for face to face interactions for help care providers, and increasing a means for immigration authorities to assess individuals. Contextualising Sara Ahmed's (2012) work on cultural inclusivity and Jasbir Puar's (2002) work on 'queer space', this paper examines how NGO help group managers and asylum seekers are learning new online skills while developing their media literacy, seeming to offer equality and inclusivity.

The shift to online may be necessary in times of lockdown, however for queer asylum seekers who are doubly abject as alien and queer, it has never been more important for managers and decision makers to understand the limits of the virtual media presence. Online presence alone does not easily convey the humanity of the individual or necessarily stimulate an empathetic environment. Being present within a shared physical space is an important factor in order to convey authenticity and believability, to parties that may assess your needs, or make life changing decisions concerning your future. Empathy and trust may be experienced through presence or co-presence with others, not simply media representation, however vivid or immediate.

Biography:
Christopher Pullen is associate professor in media and inclusivity at Bournemouth University. He has published widely in the areas of sexuality and the media. His recent publications include the books Pedro Zamora Sexuality and AIDS Education: The Autobiographical and The Real World (Cambria Press, 2016) and Heroism, Celebrity and Therapy in Nurse Jackie (Routledge, 2018), and the articles 'Queer Youth Refugees and the Pursuit of the Happy Object: Documentary, Technology and Vulnerability' in Youth, Sexuality and Sexual Citizenship (2018) edited by P. Aggleton, R. Cover, D. Marshall and M. L. Rasmussen, plus ''Undocuqueer' movement and DREAMers: activist online space and the affective queer body' (co-authord with Ieuan Franklin) in Interactions: Studies in Communication & Culture (2021). He is currently working (with Ieuan Franklin) on a British Academy funded research project that focuses on LGBTQ refugees and engagements with NGO help providers, within regional areas of the UK.

Mufsin Puthan Purayil

Title:
"A Tale of Mediated Ties: Digital Job Search and Social Capital among the Mappila Emigrants of Southern India"

Abstract:
This paper attempts to critically analyse digital technology's role in the migration to a heavily brokered destination: the India-Gulf migration corridor. Various studies have shown that digital technologies can greatly support disadvantaged groups' mobility and adaptation needs. Such opportunities include connecting individuals from these populations to different networks –majorly through social media applications – to access new labour market information and resources. Drawing from an ethnographic study on job search and mobility strategies of a leading emigrant community – the Mappilas of southern India – we argue that digital technologies alone do not help (prospective) migrants secure the crucial labour market information and help, rather useful information and successful migration in a heavily brokered destination require a strong (offline) social capital. While the prospective migrants utilise social media – most actively Facebook and

WhatsApp – to share job-related information and thereby build a 'social media social capital,' the presence of unscrupulous middlemen and recruitment agencies in the India-Gulf migration corridor necessitate cross-checking the validity and veracity of the available information. The research findings suggest that Mappila migrants cross-verify such information with face-to-face social ties (traditional social capital) and thereby avoid getting into, to invoke Biao's terminology, the 'intermediary trap'. The information secured through digital technologies facilitates successful job search and mobility only when it is qualified by traditional social capital – mediated by one's strong ties that are in a position to verify the information secured online. We thus argue that the implications of technologies on economic migration should be understood as much within the influence of digital media as within the context of existing social relations. Moreover, the use of technology in the job search and mobility practices have received scant attention in the migration scholarship in India. The paper also attempts to bridge this gap.

Biography:
Mufsin Puthan Purayil is a Doctoral candidate at the Public Policy and Management Group, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, India. He holds an integrated Master's in Sociology and MPhil in Planning & Development. His PhD research explores the nuances of labour migration from India to the Persian Gulf. The ethnographic study primarily looks at information flow, job search, and mobility strategies of a highly successful emigrant community in the Southern part of India - viz the Mappilas. As part of studying migration strategies, his research looks into how (prospective) migrants utilise digital media to secure job-related information and help. Recently, he has been a DAAD funded exchange scholar to the Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS), University of Gottingen, Germany. His research interest includes migration, social networks, STS, and South Asian politics. His work has appeared in 'Global Change, Peace & Security', 'Sociological Bulletin' (forthcoming), 'Decision', and 'The Diplomat'

Olayombo Raji-Oyelade

Title:
"Technologies towards Accountability? Data-driven protection contexts and communication with people seeking refugee protection in Jordan"

Abstract:
See co-author Emily Edwards

Biography:
Olayombo Raji-Oyelade holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in English from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. She is currently rounding up a second Master's degree in the Literary and Textual Studies program from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, where she works with the University Writing Program to teach first-year composition writing. Over the space of eight years as a literature student and a budding scholar, Olayombo's research has focused on postcolonial studies and transnational discourses. The experiences she has gathered as a Black woman in Africa and as a Black woman in the diaspora have served as the bedrock to many areas that she has explored in her works. For her Master's thesis, she interrogates the Afropolitan subject in an integrative and inventive way, covering related fields of literature, culture, new media and the digital space to

discuss the conflict of "self" that the African migrant is confronted with. In the nearest future, Olayombo plans to enroll in a PhD program that will position her as an academic and an intellectual.

Jessica Retis

Title:
"British Latinidad/es: Diasporic Formations and Narratives of Belonging amongst Latin Americans in London"

Abstract:
This proposal presents findings of a larger project that discusses how networks of solidarity and local struggles are played out, enacted, negotiated and experienced in different spatial spheres, whether this be migration routes into London, work spaces, diasporic media spaces or the urban (Román and Retis 2020). The project examines narratives of migration, relocation and belonging by diasporic Latin American communities in London. We capture the narratives through which Latin Americans in London recognise themselves as such in diasporic and transnational spaces. We argue that transnational networks of solidarity and local struggles are facilitating renewed sense of belongingness and claims to the city. In this contribution we present a preliminary attempt to map Latin American digital diasporas, with a focus on social media practices in local campaigns against gentrification.

Based on semi-structured interviews, observation and participatory observation practices our research project seeks to understand narratives about British Latinidad/es. We argue that British Latinidad/es include in a rather fraught way, tensions between the Latin American and Ibero-American assertions for self-definition and identification. We are witnessing a tension between a sense of British Latinidad that self-defines against European heritage, and that which invokes its European heritage via the auto-proclamation of an Ibero-American identity. British Latinidad/es are heterogeneous, invoke a complex and contested sense of shared histories and are fraught with political and strategic tensions. In the British context, we propose that Latinidad/es invoke new forms of belongingness beyond and against old colonial powers. We argue that feelings of detachment, ambiguity and of not belonging are equally important for how we are to understand identity formation and the experience of British Latinidad/es.

Biography:
Jessica Retis is Associate Professor in the School of Journalism and Director of the Master's in Bilingual Journalism at the University of Arizona. She is affiliated faculty with the Center for Latin American Studies and the Human Rights Practice Program at UA. Retis holds a Major in Communications (University of Lima, Peru), a Masters in Latin American Studies (National Autonomous University of Mexico) and a Ph.D. in Contemporary Latin America (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain). She has three decades of teaching experience in the United States, Spain and Mexico. Her areas of research include Latin America, international migration, diasporas and transnational communities; cultural industries; ethnic media; diversity and the media; Latino media in Europe, North America and Asia; bilingual journalism, journalism studies, and journalism education. She is co-author of Narratives of Migration, Relocation and Belonging: Latin Americans in London (Palgrave, 2020) and co-editor of The Handbook of Diasporas, Media and Culture (Willey, 2019).

Jose Guillermo Ricalde Perez

Title:
"A Homing Journey: Notions of Home during the COVID-19 pandemic"

Abstract:
From March 2020 until today, the media and the governments have bombarded society with the phrase 'Stay at home', the most common recommendation to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The constant uncritical use of the term 'home' brought up several questions and became an invitation to re-think: What is home? How does it feel? And how is it built up? Home is primarily related to everyday life experiences, which involves different temporalities, spaces, and settings. However, in western society, the heteronormative model of 'home' has come to be the lens that informs and molds the experience of home remaining as a preferred model that neglects space for differences. Therefore, the present article shows how notions of home among the current LGBTQI+ Erasmus Mundus master students have been shaped during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research is relevant for understanding migrants' everyday life as a unique domain that provides multiple meanings of home that might disrupt its fixed and heteronormative notion.

This study uses a qualitative approach based on photovoice methods, in-depth interviews, and focus groups. The results show how the COVID-19 pandemic created a new space for the LGBTQI+ students to understand and review how they lived their sexual orientation during their home experience with themselves and their families. This brought reflections about the body, placing it as an active agent that creates new sites of attachments. The COVID-19 pandemic also deconstructed the usual romanticized and positive connotation of home by adding a constant feeling of fear and discomfort, limiting their homing options as wanted. Finally, due to the COVID-19 measures, memories became a way to recreate and bring up home-like elements from the past lacking in the present. In this way, they tried to seek a sense of home by adding and subtracting symbolic meanings to objects, places, relationships, and memories.

Biography:
Jose Guillermo Ricalde Perez is a current student from the European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR). He holds a bachelor's degree in Law and a master's degree in Human Rights and the Rights of Native Peoples, in which he focused primarily on intercultural mediation and alternative legal processes for ethnic groups. He has also worked on the topics of gender equality and LGBTIQ+ rights within NGOs and government institutions in Mexico.

Viviane Riegel

Title:
"Identity Negotiation and Cosmopolitanism in Social Media: The Case of London and Sao Paulo migrant communities"

Abstract:
This research aims to examine the role of social media in building cosmopolitan dispositions of individuals living across borders, by comparing the experiences of migrants'' communities in London and São Paulo. These two cities offer a representation of the contrasts between one global city in the Global North, London and one in the Global South, São Paulo. Specifically, it aims to expose how social media enables cosmopolitan dispositions for the two cities ''migrants' migrants' communities. In order to discuss the process of social practices in the production and negotiation of identities, we analyze how migrants living in these cities use the social media Facebook for the development of local networks in support of migrants, as well as for training digital skills, and for producing visibility of their identities. Our analyses adds a different perspective from the Central, Western and Northern ones, based on the concept of peripheral cosmopolitanism. Our discussion addresses perspectives of 'vernacular 'cosmopolitanism' and 'cosmopolitanism of 'liberation' (Georgiou 2008, 2013), of valorization of cultural identities of migrants groups, as well as of dispositions from an ethical and political perspective to openness and recognition of migrants within the local society. The methodology was based first on in-depth interviews, conducted in 2017 , with 20 migrants of different nationalities in each city, selected randomly through the contact with migrants'' groups, both in social media and in social organizations. The second step was based on the interviewees' use of media interfaces. Comparing our study to the analysis developed by Georgiou (2008, 2013), we found that the practices of these migrants communities on Facebook - developing relationship, communication, information and culture - are initially connected to a search for proximity with similar people, both from the same country of origin and with individuals living common experiences of migration in the city.

Biographies:
Viviane Riegel is a researcher at ESPM, São Paulo. Her main interests of research are globalization, consumption and culture. Her recent work is related to migration and young people. Her main publications are: Riegel, V. (2020) Media coverage of the Anthropocene in the social sciences and environmental humanities In: Sklair, L. (dir.) The Anthropocene in Global Media.1 ed.Oxon: Routledge. Riegel, V. (2020) Digital communication in the making of cosmopolitan spaces by São Paulo's immigrants. Journal of Multicultural Discourses. Riegel, V. (2020) The reproduction of luxury in global cities: analysis of São Paulo´s spaces, and its project of a cosmopolitan city. HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory.; Cicchelli, V.; Octobre, S.; Riegel, V. (eds.) (2019) Aesthetic cosmopolitanism and global culture. Brill publisher; Cicchelli, V.; Octobre, S.; Riegel, V.; Katz-Gerro, T.; Handy, F. (2018) A tale of three cities: Aesthetico-cultural cosmopolitanism as a new capital among youth in Paris, São Paulo, and Seoul. Journal of Consumer Culture; Riegel, V. (2018) Global Brands and Cosmopolitanism: Building Cosmopolitan Attitudes Through Global Consumers in São Paulo. In: Emontspool, j. Woodward, I. (eds). Cosmopolitanism, Markets and Consumption: A Critical Global Perspective.1 ed.: Palgrave Macmillan.

Patria Roman-Velazquez

Title:
"British Latinidad/es: Diasporic Formations and Narratives of Belonging amongst Latin Americans in London"

Abstract:
See co-author Jessica Retis

Biography:
Patria Román-Velázquez is a Senior Lecturer in the Institute for Media and Creative Industries at Loughborough University London. Patria is a sociology and communication specialist with an interest in urban communication, migrant and ethnic economies and urban regeneration. Her research is framed around theories of globalisation, cities, place and identity mainly through ethnographic research with Latin Americans in London. Her current research interrogates the impact of urban regeneration and urban planning policy frameworks for London's migrant and ethnic economies. Patria is the author of the book The Making of Latin London: Salsa Music, Place and Identity (1999); co-author of Narratives of migration, relocation and belonging: Latin Americans in London (2020); and has published articles in a number of journals and edited collections. She is also founder and Chair of Trustees at Latin Elephant, CIO. A charity that works with migrant and ethnic groups, and Latin Americans in particular, to increase inclusion, engagement and participation in processes of urban change in London.

Boris Ružić

Title:
"Irregularized Migration and Digital Media: A Subject Caught in the Web"

Abstract:
Recent migrations in the Balkans (2015) have reiterated at least a two-sided perspective on the representational power of images. Images of migrants were either instrumentalized in depicting a certain threat to the nation-state (Sassken, 1992) or were used – more seldomly – as evidence for reports of mistreatment and violation of human rights (i.e. Border Violence Monitoring Network). My paper is based in the field of visual studies and aims at providing a countervisual (Mirzoeff) approach to images of the migrants by emphasizing the importance of images not made of them, but those made by them. More specifically, the aim is to further elucidate self-representational practices as intersubjective and as a way of epistemic and affective reframing the dominant narrative found in media today which seldomly enacts a "subjective" point-of-view. By sharing fragmented and personal images made by migrants and uploaded on Facebook, the aim is to use them as a more viable (but also multifaceted) narrative of recent migrations in the vicinity.
I will present two hypotheses that aim at explaining the lack of self-representational visuality of migrants in the media: the first is that the lack of subjective accounts is a well-established strategy of prohibition of identification with the suffering of the victim. Building on established psychological research, I claim that the appearance of migrants as unrecognizable masses leads to the perpetuation of populist discourses of fear and threat of the unknown. Through countervisual and

self-representational approach, I will demonstrate the possibilities of public, but unseen spaces such as borders, to serve as a means of subjectivation and individualization of migrants. The second hypothesis is that the usual notion of biopolitics as argued by Foucault (1990) and Hardt and Negri (2005) should be advanced taking into account Mbembe's notion of necropolitics who explains it as the management and regulation of life from the perspective of a production and regulation of death.

Biography:
Boris Ružić, PhD, is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Cultural Studies, University of Rijeka, Croatia. He holds four courses engaged with film studies and visual culture. His scientific interests lie at the intersection of politics of emancipation, (amateur) moving image, migrations and the digital media. Published various scientific articles in books and journals, as well as a book in co-authorship regarding film and media analysis.

Lilia Sablina

Title:
Mobilizing "everyday": the role of online ethnic networks in minority radicalization

Abstract:
This talk intends to answer the question of how everyday engagement with online "ethnic" networks might shape the way how minority and diaspora members perceive and co-produce ethnic boundaries, thus leading to mobilization and potential "radicalization" along with these mobilizing (or "strong") ties. It argues that online platforms can function as self-organized political communities that can reproduce mobilizing rhetoric and create a shared homogenized discourse with commonly acceptable discriminatory stigma. By applying a networked approach to the study of minority mobilization, this paper intends to shed light on individual pathways to radicalization, as well as scrutinise a bottom-up perspective on nationhood construction practices that are common in cyberspace among minority/diaspora members.

From the empirical perspective, this paper considers how the spreadability of discriminatory and often Islamophobic attitudes took place among the Russian-language platforms in Germany. This paper investigates the anti-refugee mobilization of the Russian-speaking minority members in Germany, that from 2015 have started expressing their anti-refugee position in the form of rallies and rising voting support for the right-wing populist party Alternative für Deutschland (AfD). Based on the netnographic analysis of the three online groups – forum "Germany in Russian" with more than one million participants, Odnoklassniki group "Russian Germans stand for the AfD" and several Telegram chats; this paper argues that in 2015-2018 the Russian-language social networking sites (SNS) have become the major platforms for reproducing the user-generated reflections on right-wing populism and Islamophobia. Due to perceived privacy, minimal censorship, and immediate reaction from other users, these SNS have mirrored offline mobilization. Online conversations in forums and chats have been often amplified by the popularity of authoritarian propaganda of the Russian government, which, since Russian involvement in the Syrian conflict in 2015, tends to portray refugees as marginal, illegal, and uneducated, or the spread of bots—fake social media accounts that aim at addressing the specific topics of discussions. The mobilization along the lines of these online networks later led its users to manifest their positioning on the streets, and even engage with violence against the newcomers. Thus, this paper investigates, for the first time, the

reasons behind the online right-wing populist activity of Russian-speaking residents in Germany.

Biography:
Lilia Sablina is a PhD candidate at the Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations at the Central European University (CEU) (Hungary, Austria). Her research interests include the study of the role that cyberspace plays in co- and re-constructing the practices of nationhood; networked approach to ethnic mobilization, and everyday practices of the Russian-language minority members in Germany. In 2018 she organized a conference "Nations in Cyberspace" that took place at the Nationalism studies program at CEU. She is also an author of several publications in the field of nationalism studies; among the recent ones (on which the proposed talk is partly based on), is "We Should Stop the Islamisation of Europe!": Islamophobia and Right-Wing Radicalism of the Russian-Speaking Internet Users in Germany" (2019) published in the Nationalities Papers.

Carolina Sánchez-Palencia

Title:
"Googling while Muslim: Digital Anxieties in Kamila Shamsie's Home Fire (2017)"

Abstract:
GWM (Googling while Muslim), the acronym coined by one of the protagonists in Kamila Shamsie's Home Fire (2017), attests to the stigmatizing surveillance of Muslims navigating the online world in a context of Islamophobia and paranoid counter-terror politics. By adopting an intersectional perspective in line with Midden and Ponzanesi (2013), this paper explores the extent to which the digital sphere (in its different expressions) positions our contemporary identities along the axes of gender, ethnicity, class and religion in ways that are simultaneously emancipatory and oppressive. I address Shamsie's novel as an example of how the digital has reshaped the literary to illustrate our globalized transnational condition, one in which the online and the offline worlds evidence the tensions between "connection and isolation, homogeneity and fragmentation, exposure and concealment" (Sudjic 2021). Shamsie unfolds a complex social media cacophony including Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Whatsapp, Skype and FaceTime messages to emphasize the possibilities of transcending narrative, cultural and geographical boundaries, but also, paradoxically enough, to denounce the failure and unreliability of communication in the post-9/11 times of religious and political radicalization. If –following the author's own statement-- we are to interpret Home Fire as a postcolonial take on Sophocles' Antigone, I analyse this cacophony as a modern/digital version of the Greek tragedy's chorus providing moral public comment on the characters' actions gone viral. I contend that, through her use of "e-pistolarity" (Jolly 2011), Shamsie challenges our perceptions of temporality, embodiment, spatiality, and sociality while contesting orientalist and patriarchal definitions of the Muslim "other".

Biography:
Carolina Sánchez-Palencia is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of English and American Literature at the University of Seville where she teaches undergraduate and postgraduate units and supervises PhD students. Her main areas of interest are Gender Studies, Postcolonial Criticism, Body Theory and Contemporary Literatures in English having published extensively on Modernist and Postmodernist authors. Sánchez-Palencia is a founding member of SIEMUS (Seminario Interdisciplinar de Estudios

de la Mujer Universidad de Sevilla) and currently belongs to the research group "Escritoras y Escrituras" (HUM-753). Both in her teaching and research practice she engages in digital networking to participate in national and European projects (Queer Temporalities in Anglo-American Culture PGC2018-095393-B-100 ongoing to 2022). Her experience in the field of Digital Humanities has led her to the Literature Advisory Group of ProQuest where she collaborates in the development of research tools and resources for faculty and students.

İlke Şanlıer Yüksel

Title:
"How digital space empower refugees and asylum seekers? Examples on accessing health services from a rights-based perspective"

Abstract:
Summer of 2015 has witnessed refugees crossing from Turkey towards Europe through the Aegean and the Mediterranean Sea collectively creating a moral panic as well. Since then, the passage of refugees sparked a bilateral discussion on the use of digital technologies. On one side of the debate, there were border closures, the raising of walls and digital surveillance, and on the other, new forms of communication or tools that gave refugees on the move the ability to find their way, connect and survive, forming the backbone of the transnational networks. Biometric technologies, digital borders and technological surveillance are now at the centre of migration control. Therefore, the inclusion of digital tools, automation and artificial intelligence in the migration control mechanisms, that will decide who deserves to cross borders and who does not imprison migration and asylum regimes within the politics of securitization. However, the novel research agenda on the use of digital technologies from a rights-based perspective clearly shows that these technologies empower the very agency of migrants. In this paper, I will provide the examples of how connected refugees utilize these technologies to overcome information precarity with a specific focus on health-related issues, both at local and transnational levels, based on empirical data collected in Adana, Turkey through in-depth interviews. I talk about a wide repertoire of practices ranging from the translation application used to explain the health problem to a physician who does not speak his/her language in any hospital, to developing a 3D printer that can produce prostheses for children living in Hatay who lost their limbs during the war. To this end, I will discuss how digital technologies help to overcome the precarious conditions and fragmented situations of refugees with an emphasis on local adaptations, resilience and local level of integration strategies.

Biography:
İlke Şanlıer Yüksel is an associate professor in the School of Communications and serves as the Director of Migration and Development Research Center (MIGCU) at Çukurova University. She got her BA degree from Sociology Department at Boğaziçi University and a PhD degree from Communication program at Anadolu University. She served as a researcher for "Transnational Migration in Transition: Transformative Characteristics of Temporary Mobility of People (EURA-NET)" (EU FP7) project for the Turkish team. She is the co-investigator for Topological Atlas: Mapping Contemporary Borders (H2020-ERC) and external expert for Global Asylum Governance and European Union's Role (ASILE) project (H2020). Her research mainly focuses on the sociology of migration. She works on media's role in diasporic cultures and also interested in transnational politics through mediated settings, visual culture and media ethnography. She has a long experience

in field research and ethnographic research on migrants. Her current interests also include local cinema history.

Johnatan Santos

Title:
"The UNHCR's Strategies in Implementing New Technologies for Displaced Communities"

Abstract:
The number of internally displaced people (IDP) is rising and have become an important issue of the migration management agenda in the 21 century. In the past years, a growing number of initiatives have been developed to provide Internet access to displaced people. The initiatives have been financed by both public and private sector actors. The UNHCR has also worked towards the implementation of several strategies to secure the rights of migrants and refugees. The UNHCR's Connectivity for Refugees and NetHope projects are aimed at developing accessibility of communication. However, there is still "a persistent gap between idealized visions of what digital connectivity could achieve (globally) and evidence about how new connectivities are used in specific contexts" (Smart et al., 2016).
This paper assesses the UNHCR's future-focused approach to migrants' connectivity. The presentation charters the ways how IDPs find gateways to access the Internet, what UNHCR' s mandate of protection means in a digital space. The paper investigates how specific technologies and tools can reduce or exacerbate inequalities to inform and shape future efforts in providing connectivity to IDPs in a safe, adapted, and dignified manner.

Biography:
Johnatan Santos is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Peoples' Friendship of Russia and currently works as a teaching assistant at the Department of Theory and History of International Relations at the University. Johnatan is a member of the Research Cluster on Environmentally-Induced Displaced People (NEPDA/UEPB), and the Peace Research, Conflict and Critical Security Studies (PCECS) Research Group.

Francisca Sassetti

Title:
Tech for good? Understanding the negative implications of migrant technology (1)
"Technology as an Enabler or Barrier of Migrant Caravans: A Systematic Review of Migrant Caravans in Central America" (2)

Abstract:
Migration journeys and processes have become mediated by technology as encapsulated by expressions such as "appification of migration". Many argue that technology can become a tool in promoting security, protection, support, and knowledge sharing amongst migrant populations.

There is a growing body of literature on migrant technology, yet not as comprehensive as the quantity of migrant technology including artificial intelligence (AI) tools being deployed every day with the aim of supporting migrants around the world.5 Naturally, this opens a new set of opportunities but also challenges for migrants beyond persisting barriers regarding the access, use and adoption of such technologies. Recent reports have emerged highlighting the surveillance and oppression of migrants from using these technologies, pointing to the importance of discussing the impacts of introducing them.6

This presentation will aim to critically discuss the opportunities and risks of migrant technology, especially those aimed at supporting the role of migration intermediaries, focusing on the implications of digital technology for the privacy, fairness and security of migrants. It will also shed a light on different approaches to conceptualise these impacts and ground innovation, including normative, ethical and human rights-based approaches.

This presentation will aim to engage participants in the discussion of the following:

- What are the implications for the use of digital technology by migrant populations?
- What ways can these technologies be held accountable for any harms for migrants?
- Do the risks of deploying such technologies outweigh the opportunities?
- Do we need more migrant apps, more regulation, or both? (abstract 1)

Since 2018, environmental disasters in the Northern Triangle of Central America fuelled migrant caravans towards the Mexico-US border. This phenomenon has inspired several studies on this topic, with some exploring how migrant experiences are changing and becoming increasingly digitalised, and the links between digital technologies and migrant caravans. Yet, no study to date has attempted to systematically review this new literature that can have great implications for emergent fields of research and policy areas. This paper aims to address a gap in the recent literature on migrant caravans in order to shed light on a timely topic with growing interest, particularly given the projections for the increase of environmental migrants in the region.

It does so by conducting a systematic review that examines the state of knowledge and trends in the peer-reviewed literature on the intersections between migrant caravans and digital technologies across Portuguese, Spanish and English language sources. It also conceptualises all migration caravans to date. Preliminary findings suggest the role of digital technologies for migrant caravans can be, on one hand, as enablers from a bottom-up perspective of migrants and civil society for the purposes of communication, activism and public opinion. On another hand, digital technologies can also act as deterrents of caravans from a top-down view of governance, policy interventions, or surveillance. These findings can contribute to providing new directions for a nascent field in migration research while informing more effective migration policy. (abstract 2)

Biography:
Francisca is a passionate and driven researcher working at the intersection of human rights, migration and technology, interested in the use of ICTs to empower the most vulnerable in society through participatory approaches. She worked for several advocacy and humanitarian organisations, using evidence to inform UN, national and corporate policy and practice in the field of anti-trafficking and modern slavery. She is a research analyst at Walk Free, the producer of the Global Slavery Index. Previously, she worked on the Migrant Tech lab at the United Nations University Institute in Macau on the project Apprise, a multi-stakeholder intervention using digital technology for identifying victims of human trafficking and forced labour among migrant populations in South

Asia. Francisca is currently pursuing a PhD in Management at Royal Holloway, UNESCO Chair for ICT4D and MIDEQ, having obtained her master's from the London School of Economics and bachelor's from the University of Lisbon.

Özlem Savaş

Title:
"Affective digital culture of new migration from Turkey"

Abstract:
Due to the escalating political oppression and turmoil in Turkey, a growing number of people – mostly students, academics, artists, and journalists - are leaving the country and settling around the globe, especially in Germany. They express, circulate, and archive the lived and felt experiences of political oppression, migration, and relocation across digital media spaces, public events, and artistic and literary works, mainly through first-person narratives and performances. This paper focuses on digital media spaces and practices that communicate collective, public, and political emotions of new migration from Turkey and explores how they serve for shaping and reshaping subjectivities, belongings, and relationships. Underpinned by my three years ethnographic research on digital media spaces, public events, and artistic projects that have been created by people who recently left Turkey and settled in Berlin, this paper addresses emotional practices across digital spaces as part of a broader affective cultural sphere that has been formed through the individual and collective practices of exposing experiences of difficult times. In this paper, I will firstly discuss how digital media spaces that are invested with the lived and felt experiences of political oppression, migration, and relocation serve as intimate spaces of belonging and relating to the others by revealing and reshaping a shared history. Secondly, I will explore how this affective digital culture opens up possibilities for affinities and collaborations both within and beyond the context of new migration from Turkey.

Biography:
Özlem Savaş, Phil, is Einstein Fellow at the Berlin Institute of Empirical Integration and Migration Research at Humboldt University of Berlin. Previously, she worked as Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication and Design at Bilkent University and held research fellowships at The Brandenburg Center for Media Studies and the University of Konstanz. She carried out and published ethnographic research on diasporic aesthetics and politics of the everyday and on social media practices of self and lifestyle. Her current ethnographic research, titled "Digital spaces of new migrants from Turkey: Collectivities, affinities, and affective politics," focuses on the affective culture of the recent migration from Turkey and explores potentialities of exilic emotions in collective, public, and political spheres.

Donatella Schmidt

Title:
"A thick digital environment. Case studies from Italy"

Abstract:
See co-author Giovanna Palutan

Biography:
Donatella Schmidt, (PhD, Indiana University, USA 1991, post-doc Universitè de Paris X), Research professor at the University of Padua, is a cultural anthropologist with 20 years' experience in indigenous, migrants and refugees related themes regarding citizenship, political participation, identity construction through the lens of mobility and agency. She started the research group FOR (Food and Refugees) rooted at the University of Padua, and she is involved in the HERA funded FOOD2GATHER project as PI. She is part of the Guarani network located in Brazil, and she founded a research unit aimed to study the devotion to Saint Anthony of Padua in contemporary settings. She analyzed the social movement called *Femen* by means of the gender and performative perspective. She has published both nationally and internationally.

Estrella Sendra

Title:
"Facebook as a Virtual Festival Space for Rooted Cosmopolitans: A Case Study of the Festival International de Folklore et de Percussion in Louga (Senegal)"

Abstract:
In the twenty first century, an increasing body of literature has addressed the influence of digital media in migration (Madianou & Miller, 2012; Dekker & Engbersen, 2014, among others). These studies focus on the informational exchanges on digital media, suggesting that these platforms facilitate the decision and experience of migration. However, very few studies have explored the emotional dimension of the use of social media in relation to migration. This paper seeks to engage in such quest, examining mediated experiences of transnational co-presence between people abroad and in the place of origin. It specifically looks at the emotional engagement and use of Facebook during the Festival International de Folklore et de Percussion (FESFOP), in Louga, a rural region in the north of Senegal historically shaped by migration (Sall et al., 2010). It examines the ways in which feelings of belonging to the homeland are expressed by the use of Facebook during the festival. Based on immersive ethnographic research, this paper suggests that the widespread use of Facebook during the festival forges a virtual festival space, mediated by technology, where the focus is not the festival programme, but the participation in the festival as an emotional form of connecting to the idea of home. Facebook allows the participation in the festival to those who are not physically present, but in the cosmopolitan diaspora. It operates as a bridge between the hometown and the diaspora through different emotional forms of engagement. The festival becomes an arena for the expression of different kinds of feelings related to the homeland. It contributes to the forging of identities as "rooted cosmopolitans", that is, as citizens of the world who feel, at the same time, rooted in a particular place with a connection through birth, love, friendship or further symbolic experiences (Appiah, 2005: 214).

Biography:
Estrella Sendra is a scholar, teacher, filmmaker, journalist and festival organiser, currently working as Senior Teaching Fellow in Film and Screen Studies at SOAS, University of London; and as Teaching Fellow in Global Media Industries, at Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton.

CONNECTING_
EUROPE

Migration has featured her research and practice from a very early stage. In 2011, she directed Témoignagnes de l'autre côte, a documentary film on migration from Senegal to Spain that was followed by a second part co-directed with a Senegalese journalist Mariama Badji, Témoignages… "waa Suñu Gaal" (2016). This practice was both research-led and led to research on digital media, screen media and migration. Publications include 'Displacement and the Quest for Identity in Alain Gomis's Cinema', in Black Camera: An International Film Journal. Across her PhD research and further publications, she have been looking at the links between the local and the international, and explored forms of rooted cosmopolitanism, particularly in the cultural scene.

Wegahtabrhan Kiros Sereke

Title:
"Digital self-help initiatives as instances of negotiating integration and migrant belonging: A case study of Eritrean forced migrants in Switzerland"

Abstract:
Numerous migration research addresses digital media use in the early stages of refuge, information seeking in the context of integration (e.g., Yin 2013, p. 3; Ogunyemi 2015; Theemling 2013; Bernal 2006). It has also been shown that diasporic groups use online spaces to maintain transnational connections and political involvement in the countries of origin and new home countries (Lee, 2012). However, group online organising for the purpose of furthering integration has not been addressed. We demonstrate how Eritrean refugees settled long term in Switzerland, the largest non-European migrant group in the country, use digital media as tools of self-help to further their integration. We studied two virtual communities created by Eritrean refugees in Switzerland, "Eri-zoom" and "Timerti nabra ebeyet" through participant observation, interviews and content analysis of recordings over a period of one and a half year. We demonstrate how they use online space to openly discuss and learn strategies of responding to racism they experience in their daily lives, cultural conflicts and challenges to their integration endeavours as well as stresses related to transitional lifestyles. These online spaces also help to overcome challenges created by divisive political ideologies. Our theoretical and empirical discussion is based on extensive data of 65 in-depth interviews, ethnographic observations and recordings of online meetings. Preliminary findings show that prejudice, perception, and othering experiences impede processes of integration and a sense of belonging as well as animate local and oppositional forms of belonging.

Findings show that the participants discuss a variety of different issues such as searching for jobs, raising their children in the context of dual cultural environment, sharing information to improve their language skills, skills to interact with host communities, overcoming trauma and etc.

Biography:
Wegi a PhD Candidate at the Institute for Public Communication, Università della Svizzera italiana (Switzerland). Most recently, she worked as a consultant for the Belgian think-tank Europe External Programme with Africa (EEPA), a centre of expertise on EU's foreign policy towards Africa. She obtained a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Law and another LLM in International Dispute Settlement from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva and from the University of Geneva (MIDS), respectively.

Philipp Seuferling

Title:
"Histories of humanitarian technophilia: How imaginaries of media technologies have shaped migration infrastructures"

Abstract:
Contemporary migration infrastructures commonly reflect imaginaries of technological solutionism. Fantasies of efficient ordering, administrating and limiting of refugee bodies in space and time through migration infrastructures are distinctive, but not novel as they draw on long historical lineages. Drawing on examinations of archival data we present a case-study on post-World-War-II refugee encampments. By highlighting the deeply historical role of media in migration governance, i.e. the act of mediation through technological infrastructuring, we seek to bring together the fields of migration studies and media studies. We argue that this cross-fertilization helps to historically untangle power dimensions, inherent workings, as well as human experiences imbued in the tech-based management of migration "crises". Uncovering historical underpinnings of digitalized asylum regimes through the prism of media infrastructures, and socio-technical imaginaries surrounding them, points at continuities and genealogies of managing people in time and space, reaching into technologies of colonial and fascist projects. We thus seek to explore the assumptions that drive the build-up of migration and media infrastructures: How are migrants, camps, media and their infrastructural interrelations imagined? Which cultural horizons are reflected in technologies, e.g. which functions are imagined for whom, and how are utilitarian ideas about humanitarianism and migration control embedded?

Biography:
Philipp Seuferling is a PhD student at the Department for Media and Communication, Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden. In his PhD project he researches media practices in refugee camps in Germany after 1945, historically exploring the roles of media technologies in contexts of forced migration. His general research interests are media and migration, media history, memory studies and media technologies.

Nishant Shah

Title:
"Rule 34: Of porn, dating, and affective belonging"

Abstract:
The figure of the migrant is often a hyper-sexualised one. The male migrant is painted as a predatory invader, the female migrant as promiscuous and sexually available. The ideas of 'dirty' and 'dangerous' outsiders often translate into the reception and perception of migrants in their host societies. At the same time, not enough attention is paid to their libidinal practices of desire and dating. Studies of everyday migrant practices do not necessarily look at digital porn, streaming services, and sexual dating that are a central part of digital landscapes. A lack of focus on this perpetuates the bind of being a hyper-sexualised body with very little understanding of desire and affect. This paper draws upon three stories: One from a CAO refugee camp in the Netherlands using

PornHub as a means of claiming geography, one from a community in China deploying Tinder to bypass government censorship, and a historical analysis of how India-Middle East migrant practices started the 'bit cinema' soft porn genre as a way of cultural expression of modernity. In drawing from these three stories, the paper proposes to think about porn and dating sites as essential part of the affective assemblage of belonging and negotiating identities for migrants. Within this assemblage, it makes a distinction between performative and affective sites and proposes that studying libidinal and sexual digital practices of migrant bodies might offer a more nuanced understanding of how individual and collective identities are expressed outside the more regulated and gentrified social media sites.

Biography:
Nishant Shah is a feminist, humanist, technologist who work at examining infrastructures, collectivity, and subjectivity in the digital turn. He is currently the vice-president Research at ArtEZ University of the Arts, The Netherlands, a knowledge partner for the global art-technology Digital Earth Fellowship with Hivos, and a mentor on the Feminist Internet Research Network, with the Association of Progressive Communication. His new book, 'Really Fake' is coming out with the Minnesota University Press in fall 2020.

Haiyue (Fiona) Shan

Title:
"Mothering in the digital diaspora: Middling transnationalism among Chinese migrant mothers in the Netherlands"

Abstract:
Migrant mothers in general face multiple disruptions to their social networks and identities during both the migration process and transition to motherhood. Digital media communication, including social media Apps and digital platforms, presents an opportunity responding to these challenges and provides a public space debating on parenting related concerns. Since the release of WeChat in 2012, globally we have witnessed flourishing Chinese diasporic activities and it allows Chinese migrants worldwide to not only maintain the closeness with previous networks, but also enhance the intergenerational relationships especially in the values of childrearing. This article explores the notion of mothering and practices through the social media strategies they used among 42 middle-class Chinese migrant mothers living in the Netherlands. Through the daily utilization of social media and specialized childrearing platforms, we can understand how migrant mothers compensate the insufficient support from previous networks in China and establish new connections digitally to reduce social isolation and empower motherhood. It addresses the need for changing discourses of migrant mothering to highlight their strengths and struggles through online social networks. The narratives of these mothers could also give us a glimpse of the emergence of a new globally mobile middle class in transnational families. Despite these developments, this study also discusses the insufficient and misplaced connections of their networks in China which have higher chances resulting in negative experiences of motherhood, anxiety and other mental health problems.

Biography:
Fiona Shan, a passionate scholar in Sociology and Medical anthropology and a sensitive observer in the field. Currently she's in her third-year PhD in Vrije University Amsterdam focusing on

experiences of postpartum depression among Chinese migrant mother in Dutch context. Her research interests are Chinese migration study, motherhood and parenting, reproductive culture, maternal mental health and patient-maternity care providers' relations. Previously she worked as researcher for topics as suicide notes analysis and early alert system on social media and suicide prevention in Hong Kong.

Priya Sharma

Title:
"Safety on Social Media: the SADD space and queer and womxn British South Asian Instagrammers"

Abstract:
Critiques of neoliberal digital identity work, whilst illuminating, often overlook the motivations of everyday digital users, especially those from diaspora communities who fall outside of heteronormative formations. Through the conception of the South Asian Digital Diaspora (SADD) space, this paper argues that an in-depth interview approach to digital cultural production and engagement, framed within postcolonial and feminist concepts of diaspora is one of the most effective ways to analyse the digital engagements of queer and womxn British South Asian Instagrammers. Throughout this paper, particular attention is paid to the issue of safety on Instagram; I investigate how participants are policed online, how self-censoring content occurs so as to not upset family or community and the ways in which participants negotiate the public and private functions of Instagram as a way to protect themselves online. The SADD space is an approach that encourages self-reflexive narratives in order to give agency to those who create and engage within social media as a way to make visible that which is often invisible within the digital spaces themselves.

Biography:
Priya Sharma is a Stuart Hall PhD Scholar in the Department of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London. She is also the Digital Engagement Fellow for The Sociological Review. Her research interests include emerging cultural identity, digital aesthetics, digital cultural production and the intersections between religion, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and class amongst the South Asian diaspora.

Maryna Shevtsova

Title:
"Russians are Coming: On Podcasting, Languages, Migrant Belonging, and Queer Identities in Virtual Spaces"

Abstract:
More than thirty years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian language is still largely spoken on the territory of the former Soviet republics, in some of them even against the background of flourishing nationalisms. Gradually, however, national languages have been carving more and more space for themselves, in some places in more natural and in others in more state-imposed ways. For example, for many people, speaking Ukrainian in post-Euromaidan Ukraine became a

matter of principal and expression of a political stand. Similarly, the national language is often preserved within migrant communities, sometimes even with more vigor. Unlike their heterosexual counterparts, LGBTQ migrants from post-Soviet countries often face the need to choose the community based on their queer part of identity rather than on ethnicity or nationality. Thus, it is not surprising that Russian-speaking LGBTQ communities formed in the US, Germany, the UK, Canada, and other states are more welcoming for LGBTQ people. What happens, however, when one's national and queer identities intersect and challenge each other? This work focuses on queer podcasting as a form of self-expression and identity-forming. Focusing on two queer podcasts created by LGBTQ migrants from Russia, Ukraine, and Estonia, it explores how queer identities are formed in virtual spaces, how the existence of such spaces challenges the authors' national self, and what role class and intimacy play within this discourse.

Biography:
Maryna Shevtsova is a Senior Research Fellow at the Regional Centre for Conflictology and Applied Social Research, Dnipro, Ukraine. She was a Swedish Institute Postdoctoral Fellow at the Gender Studies Department at the University of Lund. She got her Ph.D. in Political Science from Humboldt University, Germany, and MA in Gender Studies from Central European University, Hungary. In 2018–2019, she was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Florida, USA. Her most recent publications include *LGBTI Politics and Value Change in Ukraine and Turkey: Exporting Europe?* (forthcoming with Routledge in 2021), and edited volumes *LGBTQ+ Activism in Central and Eastern Europe. Resistance, Representation, and Identity* (with Radzhana Buyantueva, Palgrave Macmillan 2019), and *LGBTI Asylum Seekers and Refugees from a Legal and Political Perspective: Persecution, Asylum, and Integration* (with Arzu Guler and Deniz Venturi, Springer, 2019).

Anindita Shome

Title:
"South Asian Diaspora Women and Virtual Spaces of Support: Countering Gender Violence in the Diaspora"

Abstract:
The South Asian diaspora remains a unique and heterogenous diasporic community that has been formed out of colonial and postcolonial migratory trends from the South Asian region to the rest of the world. The lived experiences of South Asian diasporan women vary in several ways from how the South Asian diaspora men experience migration and the diaspora. The gendered experiences of the South Asian diasporan women and the presence of gender-based violence are still prevalent in the diaspora. With the dawn of the virtual world, individuals and communities have been constructing and reconstructing their identities in newer ways. The South Asian diasporic women, similarly, have been utilising their online presence for voicing their opinions, narrating their gendered diasporic experiences, recounting the contributions of past South Asian diaspora women, and, most importantly, speaking against the gender violence found in several instances in South Asian diaspora communities. The virtual networks of South Asian Diaspora women play a significant part in raising awareness against gender violence in their communities.

This paper would consider how virtual spaces, such as Twitter and blogs, are being utilised by the

South Asian Diasporan women to form support networks against gender violence, to disseminate information for present and potential victims, and provide help and support networks. The online presence of South Asian Women's Diaspora Organizations complements their crucial work in offline spaces in making communities aware against gender-violence, in making the youth well-informed and involve them in helping construct gender-equal spaces, and so on. This paper would also attempt to understand how South Asian Diasporan women reconstruct their diasporic and transational identities online through these virtual spaces of support and activism. An intersectional approach would be employed to study these virtual spaces at the intersections of gender, race, and ethnicity.

Biography:
Anindita Shome is a Ph.D. Candidate at the UGC Centre for the Study of Indian Diaspora, University of Hyderabad, India. Her research interests lie in the literary and socio-cultural aspects of the South Asian migration and diaspora. She takes a keen interest in the areas of Youth Studies, Digital Humanities, and Transnational Studies. She can be reached at anindita1089@gmail.com.

Sergei Shubin

Title:
"Rethinking the relationship between language and migration"

Abstract:
New theorizations of language as mobile, hybrid, and constructed have highlighted the ways in which migration is named, portrayed, and betrayed in communicative practices. New meanings and grammars are developed through the mobility and mutability of digital codes, and elements of different languages are assembled to make visible different identities and contexts in migration. However, the growing interest in globalised language tends to focus mainly on the intentional construction of meaning and knowledge while paying less attention to all sorts of strangeness that emerge in migration. This paper re-envisages the relationship between language and migration in an attempt to express difference and multiplicity in known and unknown migration practices. Drawing on post-structuralist thinking, it goes beyond formalised linguistic definitions of migration, which use the logic of tracing and reproduction to the exclusion of diverse ambulant lifestyles. It expresses migration as transformation, transmission of intensities, development of new connections and the making of new unintended uses of existing communication structures. The paper concludes with theoretically informed observations about the possibilities of alternative approaches to expressing and understanding migration.

Biography:
Sergei Shubin is a Professor in Human Geography and Director of the Centre for Migration Policy Research (CMPR) at Swansea University, UK. His research interests are in poverty, mobility and inequality. He is the author of several peer-reviewed publications on migration and poverty in Europe, South America and Asia. In the last 9 years, he secured £1.8 mn in research funding to Swansea University, including European Commission's Horizon2020 award for research on Perceptions of migration flows in Europe, UK government (ESRC) award for research on social security of migrants in Scotland, Newton Fund award for poverty alleviation in Bangladesh and India, and UK government (ESPA) funding for inter-disciplinary research for poverty alleviation in the

Amazon. Apart from academic publications, he produced three exhibitions, four short films, multi-lingual children's storybook to publicise the empirical and conceptual insights into the migrant experiences and provide inter-disciplinary responses to international migration challenges.

Cansu Nur Simsek

Title:
"Performing the Escape: Path Out (2017)"

Abstract:
In this paper, I will explore Abdullah Karam's autobiographical adventure game, Path Out (2017), in which the players experience his journey from Syria during the Arab civil war. I aim to find out how the game as a medium works to create a collective history for migration. I claim that by referring Mary Flanagan's concept of critical play, Path Out (2017) is a critical game design which draws attention to how a digital game can engage important social issues, in this case, the migration, and war, to reflect an identity of a civil and young person during the wartime.

I will critically analyze in-game interventions of Karam via previously recorded video comments in which he gives information and comments on practices of a culture, traditions of a community, and everyday life in a special time and place. Because I would argue that in-game video commentaries work as archival documents of gameplay and have the significance of being documentations for the future. Drawing on James Newman, the function of not-playing in Path Out (2017) helps to create "archetypical archival documents of gameplay". Accordingly, I argue that the game becomes a self-representation vehicle for migrants through these video recordings.

Throughout the paper, I will ask how can this game be called an alternative method of documenting real-life events? What is the experience of the players in such critical gameplay? What kind of empathy that the game urges for its players in terms of the experience of mobility while being in an immobile gaming position? For the answers to these questions, I will make a close reading and analyze the formal and narrative structure of the game by using my observations and experiences as a player.

Biography:
Cansu Nur Simsek, 1993, born and risen in Istanbul, Turkey. Currently lives and works in Dallas, Texas, USA. Her educational background includes an undergraduate degree in Visual Communication Design and a Master's degree in Communication Studies at Kadir Has University. Now, she is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Arts, Technology and Emerging Communication at The University of Texas at Dallas. She is the co-founder of the FOLT Space (https://folt.space/). She is also an exhibition coordinator and a curator in BLOK art space since 2015. She works as an independent curator, freelance art writer, and designer. Her academic interests are participatory media, visual arts, visual culture studies, curatorial studies, critical heritage.

Viktor Sinitsyn

Title:
""Remember where you come from!" Moral remittances and Digital control over Uzbek students in Germany"

Abstract:
Despite the geographical distance to their home community, many Uzbek students in Germany feel much more controlled by their family members than ever before. Against this context, this paper explores why and how Uzbek families exert control over their children and siblings through digital media and how they resist this pressure. It also raises the question of which images of "Europe" are negotiated in digital encounters and discusses the gender-related dimensions of this.

This paper argues that daily practices of blogging and social media management are significant, and sometimes the only way for migrant students to establish, justify and spread their moral attitudes in the eyes of their home community. It contributes to the study of social remittances in post-socialist countries by revealing the subtle processes of "scaling up" (Levitt & Lamba-Nieves', 2011:19) multicultural values on the micro-level of personal social media accounts as a specific discursive arenas.

The findings are based on an analysis of qualitative interviews, conducted with female migrants from Tashkent and Samarkand (Uzbekistan), who are currently completing their pre-bachelor "Studienkolleg" in Koethen and Berlin (Germany). The analysis will be conducted with help of conceptual and methodological apparatus of Sociology of Knowledge approach to Discourse (SKAD), which "links arguments from the social constructionist tradition, following Berger and Luckmann, with assumptions based in symbolic interactionism, hermeneutic sociology of knowledge, and the concepts of Michel Foucalt" (Keller R., 2011:43).

Biography:
Currently, I am working at the Laboratory of Urban Sociology at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow and an exchange Erasmus+ student at Free University, Berlin. I participate in the study of residential mobility as a member of research laboratory in HSE, while simultaneously writing papers based on my previous field studies. In my master thesis, I study how visually impaired people experience Moscow urban environment after a large-scale reconstruction that aimed to create an inclusive and friendly city.
My interest in the field of digital media and migration appeared from the university courses on Digital ethnography (in Moscow) and Migration and Postsocialism transformation (Berlin). Having the unique opportunity to immerse myself in theoretical and methodological debate, while simultaneously accessing the biography stories of migrants in Germany, whom I met due to an exchange semester, I want to contribute the field of postsocialism migration studies and try myself in the European academic community.

Kevin Smets

Chair: SESSION 7.4 *Mediated Diasporas*

Biography:
Kevin Smets is Research Professor in Media and Culture at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium. He the PI of the ERC Starting Grant funded project "REEL BORDERS". He obtained his PhD in Film Studies and Visual Culture from the University of Antwerp (2013) and was a visiting fellow at, among others, Bilgi University Istanbul, SOAS (London) and the University of Oxford. He is the vice-chair of the Diaspora, Migration and the Media section of the European Communication Research & Education Association. His research focuses on relations between media, diaspora, conflict and migration in European, Turkish and Middle Eastern contexts. At Vrije Universiteit Brussel, he teaches on visual culture, media and cultural theories and film studies.

Anna Smoliarova

Title:
"Pride and prejudice: attitudes of Russian-speaking Instagram bloggers from 20 countries towards their host and home countries during COVID-19 outbreak"

Abstract:
Recently, there has been an increasing interest in migrants' communicative connectivity (Hepp et al., 2012; Leurs & Smets, 2019; Ponzanesi, 2020). Social media help filling "in the social void experienced when migrating to a different country" (Kok & Rogers 2017; Diminescu et al. 2010). Internet users with a migration background create their own public spaces running blogs and thus converting cultural capital not recognized by the host country (Morgunova, 2012). With thousands of followers, these bloggers become nodes in the information flows within digital diasporas and their networked discussions about home and host societies. In this paper, I explore the attitudes towards the host and home countries that were expressed by Russian speaking Instagram bloggers.
Russian-speaking bloggers with a migration background actively use Instagram to spread their experience and create a supportive translocal community online. Previous research has shown that Russian-speaking bloggers with a migration background covering COVID-19 in 2020 served as fact-checkers and news curators for their audiences (Smoliarova et al. forthcoming). Bloggers from 20 countries also organized a global exchange of information about pandemic with unique hashtags as a globally spread contributive action (Bodrunova 2020). For the current study, the dataset included posts published by participants of this exchange in 2020.
The findings suggest that the share of posts containing evaluation of a national government or an emotional expression towards residents differs not only between bloggers but also between countries. Bloggers also criticized the national governments of their home countries – Russia, Belarus or Ukraine, as well as residents of these countries for violating WHO's recommendations and spreading rumors. These findings contribute to the understanding of how discourses of belonging were changing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as of emergency communication in digital diasporas.

Biography:
Anna Smoliarova, PhD, associate professor, Dept. of International Journalism, St. Petersburg State University, Russia. Research interests: global public, media and migration, mass-self communication. Head of the research projects: "Transformation of migrants' media repertoires as an adaptation strategy" (2020 – 2021) and "Media consumption among Russian-speaking immigrants" (2018 – 2019) funded by Russian Presidential Grant for Young PhD Scientists); head of the research project "Transformation of foreign Russian-language journalism in national media systems" (2014 – 2015).

Mélodine Sommier

Chair: SESSION 5.4 Politics of Care

Biography:
Mélodine Sommier works as an Assistant Professor in Intercultural Communication at the department of Media and Communication at Erasmus University. She received her Ph.D from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland with her work on representations of secularism as part of the French national imaginary in newspaper textsOpent extern.Mélodine's research interests cover a variety of themes related to intercultural communication, media representations, race/racism and intercultural education. Within the field of intercultural communication, Mélodine's work concentrates on the use of culture as a discursive and an interactional resource. She mostly relies on critical and discursive approaches to examine the (re)production of cultural realities and overlaps between local, national and transnational dimensionsOpent extern. Overall, Mélodine is particularly interested in the conflation of culture with dimensions such as gender, race and religion, and outcomes regarding the production of difference. Mélodine is co-founder and co-chair of the Temporary Working Group on Intercultural Communication & DiversityOpent extern (ICD) within the Netherlands-Flanders Communication Association (NeFCA). She is also vice-chair of the International and Intercultural Communication divisionOpent extern (IIC) within the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA).

Griet Steel

Chair: SESSION 3.1 *Digital entrepreneurship*

Biography:
Griet Steel is Assistant Professor at the Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning, Utrecht University. Her research focusses on the multifaceted linkages between migration and digital entrepreneurship, land governance and urban transformations in different cities across the globe. She has a specific research interest in the way human mobility and the increased access to new information and communication technologies have shaped entrepreneurial practices and urban development processes in the Global South.

Marc Steinberg

Title:
"Platforms have a hardware history"

Abstract:
This talk will reflect on the rich lineages of platform thinking to show that the platform is first and foremost a managerial concept, steeped in a history of hardware manufacture, and deeply tied to changing efforts of extracting labour and profit. These theoretical lineages are pivotal, I will suggest, in order to conceptualize platformization of migration in relation to on-demand business logic.

Biography:
Marc Steinberg is an Associate Professor of film studies at Concordia University.

Catriona Stevens

Title:
"Digital anticipation: facilitating the pre-emptive futures of PRC Chinese grandparenting migrants to Australia"

Abstract:
In this paper we contrast the digital homing and digital kinning practices of two cohorts of Chinese transnational grandparents in Australia from two generations. Our case studies demonstrate that these digital practices form an integral part of the ability to anticipate ageing futures. This 'digital anticipation' not only helps to safeguard and affirm social and cultural identities that are often at risk as people age in migrant settings, but also provides the potential to imagine either a future return to China that involves physical separation from children and grandchildren, or, conversely, a future lived in Australia while still maintaining connection and participating digitally in affective economies that extend beyond the nuclear family to encompass siblings, friends and lifelong workmates. Here the role of facilitated digital access is highlighted as a form of care that can be provided by younger generations.

Biography:
Catriona Stevens is a Forrest Prospect Fellow in the School of Social Sciences, University of Western Australia. She recently completed her PhD in Anthropology and Sociology at UWA, an ethnography of recent trade-skilled migration to Perth titled 'Unlikely settlers in exceptional times' that explores how social class shapes opportunities, choices, and trajectories through the migration process. Cat was a Research Associate on the ARC-funded 'Ageing, Migration and New Media' project led by Baldassar and Wilding, on which this paper is based. She is now Manager, Research Engagement at the UWA SAGE Lab (Social Care and Ageing Living Lab) where her research addresses ageing and migration and the transnational lives and mediated communication practices of the aged care migrant workforce.

Julia Stier

Title:
"The Role of Smartphones and Social Media in the Production of a Collective Imaginary about Migration in Senegal"

Abstract:
Smartphones have become an important device for migrants to keep up their transnational networks. Especially social media is used to communicate with people in the country of origin and to represent their life as migrants. These virtual representations, particularly images and videos, influence collective imaginaries about migration in the society. An imaginary is a meaning-system that is used by people to make sense of the world. Imaginaries about migration influence the relations of migrants with their families and friends in the country of origin. This article examines the implications of migrants' auto-representations through smartphones and social media in the production of a collective imaginary about migration by looking at the West African country Senegal. Senegal has a long migratory history with Europe that is strongly shaped by its colonial past and an ongoing migration to Europe but also to countries in the Global South. Migratory imaginaries are historically rooted in society but also constantly changing through communication and susceptible to migrants' auto-representations. The analysis is based on 41 semi-structured interviews conducted in Senegal's capital Dakar and the Casamance region with family members and friends of migrants, returned migrants and experts. The article argues that smartphones and social media play a crucial role in shaping the transnational relations between migrants and their families and friends in the country of origin, not only on a personal level but also concerning remittances and the transfer of knowledge and information.

Biography:
Julia Stier is a research fellow in the TRANSMIT project at the department of Migration, Integration and Transnationalization at the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) and a PhD student at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. She conducts research on West African migration, in particular on Senegalese and Gambian migrants in the countries of origin and destination. Her focus is on the perception of migrants' lives by their respective families and friends in the countries of origin and on the migrants' communication about the living situation abroad. She is interested in the production and reproduction of collective imaginaries about migration and their implications on migrants' and refugees' lives. She has field work experience in Senegal, The Gambia, Germany and Italy.

Nicole Stremlau

Title:
"Social Media, Mobile Phones, and Migration in Africa: A Review of the Evidence"

Abstract:
The role of new technologies, including mobile phones and social media, in migration moved to the fore during the European migrant crisis in 2015. Images of Syrians fleeing civil war, along with Iraqis

and Afghans, guided by their mobile phones became common in the international media. While much has been made about the importance of mobile phones for migrants, including by humanitarian organizations, what evidence do we have about the role such technologies have in migration? And for African migrants in particular? This paper uses a semi-systematic approach to evaluate the strength of the evidence around the use (or not) of mobile phones and social media in the migratory pathways of Africans primarily to Europe. This includes detailed systematic database searches, submissions from experts such as academics and practitioners, as well as the use of snowball citation searches. We argue that given the intensity of the claims affirming the role of new technologies in migration, the evidence remains surprisingly anecdotal and weak. In short, the use of mobile phones, and social media, on migratory pathways cannot be generalized and further investigation is urgently required to better determine whether, and how, such technologies are shaping and transforming migration in the ways so frequently argued.

Biography:
Nicole Stremlau is Head of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies' Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy at the University of Oxford and she is Research Professor in the Humanities at the University of Johannesburg. She currently leads a European Research Council project on Social Media and Conflict with a focus on Africa. Recent books include: Media, Conflict and the State in Africa (Cambridge University Press 2018); Speech and Society in Turbulent Times (ed with M Price) (Cambridge University Press 2018); and UNESCO's World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development, with I Gagliardone and M Price (UNESCO 2018).

Moé Suzuki

Title:
"Empathy and the everyday in 'Clouds Over Sidra': forging 'human' connections with refugees through virtual reality films"

Abstract:
The United Nations (UN), non-governmental organisations, and technology companies have enthusiastically adopted virtual reality (VR) technology as a transformative tool that forges 'human' connections across borders, generates empathy towards refugees, and spurs people in the Global North to take action on the issue of displacement. Chris Milk, CEO of a VR production company, has even described VR as "the ultimate empathy machine", and the UN has coined the term "humanitarian empathy". Such claims position VR as a technology that allows those who may not otherwise know what it is like to be or to live as a refugee to 'step into their shoes' and 'feel like you are actually there', thus connecting with refugees on a more 'human' level.

This paper provides a critical discussion of such claims by analysing 'Clouds Over Sidra' (2017), the UN's first-ever VR film about a day in the life of Sidra, a 12-year-old Syrian refugee girl living in Za'atari camp in Jordan. Given its focus on the everyday life of Sidra in the refugee camp, as well as its highly-publicised release, the film is a fruitful case study for exploring the political and ethical implications of applications of VR technology on displacement. How might we destabilise the oft-unquestioned assumption that one can or even should claim to know what it is like to live as a refugee through a VR film? How is the construction of the everyday in 'Clouds Over Sidra' used to forge a connection between the user—often in the Global North—and refugees? I argue that the

ways in which VR is being used and framed may depoliticise the issue of displacement, and that simplistic understandings of experience and knowledge at the basis of VR applications distract from questions of power that structure displacement and experiences of refugees.

Biography:
Moé Suzuki is a PhD Candidate in Politics at the University of East Anglia. Their research looks at how ideas about 'humanity' manifest through the figure of the 'refugee' in virtual reality films. This research builds on and critiques their Master's thesis, which discussed the performance of 'humanity' and corporeal protests by refugees. Moé's research interests include migration, displacement, decolonial theories, feminist theories, technology, and emotions.

Cæcilie Svop Jensen

Title:
"Autonomizing conflict: Online political mobilization among Turkish and Kurdish diasporas in Denmark"

Abstract:
This study investigates the online political mobilization of Kurdish and Turkish diasporas in Denmark from a peace and conflict perspective. It focuses on processes of conflict transportation and, more specifically, conflict autonomization. The study uses digital ethnography as an entry point for data collection and investigates different diaspora organizations' online presence, although the focus is non-media centric. It is the aim of the study to investigate how the Kurdish/Turkish conflict is reflected in the mobilization of Kurdish and Turkish diasporas in Denmark. The use of digital ethnography enables a look at the discourses, strategies and patterns of mobilization of physically situated diasporas who operate in online spaces, and as such is a fruitful approach to the study of diasporas in general. Studies on diasporas in online spaces, often frame online activity of diasporas as examples of long-distance nationalism or as practices removed from on-the-ground reality. This study understands the online activity of diasporas as very much intertwined with the everyday aspects of diaspora mobilization and as such sheds light on offline diaspora behavior as well. Furthermore, the study finds that political mobilization among diasporas should not be understood as simple processes of long-distance nationalism, but rather as influenced and shaped by a variety of factors related both to home and host country contexts as well as other transnational ties. Looking at conflict autonomization allows for an analysis of diaspora mobilization that is nuanced and leaves space for discovering processes that are not necessarily related to conflict in the country of origin.

Biography:
Cæcilie Svop Jensen is an MA student with the Master Programme in Peace, Mediation and Conflict Research at Tampere Peace Research Institute in Finland. She is currently writing her master thesis as part of the research project 'Diasporas and transportation of homeland conflicts: Inter-group dynamics and host-country responses'. She holds a BA in Peace and Conflict Studies from Malmö University.

Lukasz Szulc

Chair: SESSION 2.3 *Queer migrants and digital Practices*

Title:
"Gender Diversity across Digital Media and Between Cultural Contexts: Nonbinary Poles in the UK and their Gender Disidentifications"

Abstract:
The 21st century has seen the emergence of new practices of gender diversity that eschew a rigid gender binary and proliferate new gender labels, including "nonbinary," "genderfluid," and "agender." Digital media have played a crucial role in this process as the new labels often originate and become popular in online social networks. Academic discussions on digital gender diversity suggest that the new labels either resist or reproduce the dominant gender ideology. I contribute to these discussions by challenging the subversion versus hegemony dichotomy, and by demonstrating a wide spectrum of practices of gender diversity across digital media and between cultural contexts. I build on my recent two-year research project into identities, migration experiences, and social media uses of Polish LGBTQs in the UK, which includes nearly 900 survey responses and 30 in-depth interviews. For this paper, I draw on six interviews with those participants who identified outside the gender binary. Employing the concept of disidentification, I update the concept to include increasingly digital societies and new gender practices, challenge the dichotomous thinking about digital gender diversity, and stress the importance of cultural and media contexts for understanding how gender diversity is being practiced in everyday life. My focus on nonbinary migrants also helps to bring up the issue of context, particularly cultural and linguistic specificity, which is largely absent from the current literature on digital gender diversity, dominated by research embedded in English-language countries.

Biography:
Lukasz Szulc is a Lecturer in Digital Media and Society in the Department of Sociological Studies at the University of Sheffield and co-chair of the LGBTQ Studies Interest Group in the International Communication Association. His interests include cultural and critical studies of media and identity at the intersections of gender, sexuality and transnationalism. Lukasz has recently published the report *Queer #PolesinUK: Identity, Migration and Social Media* (2019) and the book *Transnational Homosexuals in Communist Poland: Cross-Border Flows in Gay and Lesbian Magazines* (2018). He has published articles in such journals as *New Media & Society*, *Social Media + Society* and *Sexualities*. He tweets @LukaszSzulc.

Martina Tazzioli

Title:
"Extractive humanitarianism: digital technologies, participatory detention and refugees' digital labour"

Abstract:
This presentation interrogates the political economy of labour and the modes of value extraction which are at play in refugee governmentality. It advances the notion of "extractive humanitarianism" to designate the central role played by data extraction and knowledge extraction operations in refugee governmentality. The talk focuses on Cash Assistance Programme for asylum seekers to data extraction activities in refugee camps in Greece, and explores the labour economies at stake there. It proposes to complement migration studies literature on labour and critical security studies works on digital technologies with feminist political theories on unpaid labour. It moves on by analysing multiple data extraction processes which are at stake in refugee humanitarianism. The second part focuses on knowledge extraction operations and on the digital unpaid labour that asylum seekers are nudged to do in refugee camps and hotspots in the name of their own good. In so doing, it argues, asylum seekers are asked to participate to their own confinement, that is to mechanisms of "participatory detention".

Biography:
Martina Tazzioli is Lecturer in Politics & Technology at Goldsmiths. She is the author of The Making of Migration. The biopoltics of mobility at Europe's borders (Sage, 2020), Spaces of Governmentality: Autonomous Migration and the Arab Uprisings (2015) and co-author with Glenda Garelli of Tunisia as a Revolutionised Space of Migration (2016). She is co-editor of Foucault and the History of our Present (2015) and Foucault and the Making of Subjects (2016). Her new book manuscript is entitled "Border abolitionism: migration containment and the genealogies of struggles and rescue" (Manchester University Press). She is on the editorial board of journal Radical Philosophy.

Helene Fiane Teigen

Title:
"Digitalizing foodscapes" - Thoughts about the dynamic construction of hybrid spaces between private and public"

Abstract:
FOOD2GATHER considers public space as the arena (both in time and place) where citizens and citizens to be, humans and non-humans, meet, act and create social relationships. This means that the project planned never to limit the concept of public space to physical or geographical boundaries or to predetermined typologies. Although digital tools have been a central part of the constitution of both foodscapes and the public space through social interactions, the pandemic situation of 2020 offered a particular view of how space "becomes" public. The closing down of physical public spaces during the pandemic meant that local social initiatives and their relative foodscapes had to adapt. This presentation, based on a case study with ethnographic fieldwork in Oslo, Norway, will open towards a discussion upon what is public in a given space, reflecting about the potential private-public hybridization. It will see how young migrants connect digitally with their social and material worlds, with focus on food, people and things, that is to say all human and non-human beings foodscapes build on. We refer to a Norwegian case study where a project combining food and employment of migrant youth had to temporarily close down and consider how their activities could be transferred to an online space.

Biography:
Helene Fiane Teigen (PhD candidate, Oslo Metropolitan University) is working on digital everyday life. In FOOD2GATHER, she is focusing on people's engagement with digital services and infrastructures related to foodscapes.

Eda Elif Tibet

Title:
"Coming of (digital) Age: Affective Multimodalities of Care and Postcolonial Connectivities Among Transnational Refugee Youth Diasporas"

Abstract:
Unaccompanied minors, a group identified to be vulnerable and at-risk, step into adulthood in a climate of crisis talks to be often associated with being and becoming a risk to their hosting societies. As the current media and policy discourses distract the attention from examining how state policies produce more vulnerabilities restricting claims to seek for asylum, still little is known on these young asylum-seekers' social-emotional and intellectual life-worlds as they come of age. This paper sheds light on how former unaccompanied asylum-seeking youth learn to cope with hostility, systematic violence, precarity and oppression once they enter adulthood and leave state care protection in Turkey, after turning 18. Engaging through a multi modal and multi-sited digital ethnography the paper illuminates on how unexpected skills and often-traumatic experiences provide the youth with varied survival strategies in four different life trajectories after leaving state care shelter; from deportation, to resettlement (USA), to reaching Europe on one's own and to remain in Turkey. The paper engages with Homi Bhabha's theory of third space (1995) and Sandra Ponzanesi's longitudinal work on digitally mapping connectivity. Inspired from the pedagogies of Freire and Spivak; the refugee youth are spotlighted in their own representations and media mediations as the paper zooms into their lived experiences transitioning from youth to adulthood. The paper hence develops its own methodology called Affective Multimodalities in looking at care and Postcolonial connectivities among transnational refugee youth diasporas whom once met in Turkey at a state care shelter and now are scattered living all around the world but are still connected. This paper thus addresses the paradoxes and existential dilemma in which former unaccompanied asylum seeking youth find themselves in, as they 'come of age' in a digital climate of global lockdown and sealed borders.

Biography:
Eda Elif Tibet is a post-doctoral researcher at the Critical Sustainability Unit of the Institute of Geography at the University of Bern. She works at the interface of mobility justice, visual and multi modal anthropology.

Ida Tolgensbakk

Title:
"The digital neighbourhood"

Abstract:
The online world creates multiple places. Some are copies, substitutes or versions of the social and physical world we live in offline: Facebook groups for neighbourhood associations, Twitter hashtags for marking your presence in a pub or a gym centre. Other online spaces are independent entities, removed from the geographical world and building their appeal on this removal – such as international interest-based online forums. However, the geographical world moves with us also in these spaces, if not through anything else, so through the barriers we build online between languages. Nonetheless, we continue to use terms and concepts about these spaces that bring location and place to mind. Rather than the virtual and the cyber, our belonging to online groups are marked by the lingo that surround them, such as *nettsted* (Norwegian for website, literally web place). This paper will discuss the relationship between online and offline spaces, with examples from the most geographically defined of all groups, migrants: those whose existence are built on the fact that they are from somewhere and have come to somewhere else. Functioning as a home away from home, the multitude of Facebook groups and other online communities set up to cater to the migrant's need for information, belonging – and familiar foodstuffs – speaks to the importance of place on the seemingly placeless online world.

Biography:
Ida Tolgensbakk (Senior Researcher, Oslo Metropolitan University) is a cultural historian working with migrant history, digital culture, childlore and food studies. Her PhD was on young Swedish labour migrants moving to Oslo, the capital of Norway, and included fieldwork on a Facebook group. Recent publications include: Krasteva, McDonnell, Tolgensbakk (2019). Mobile young individuals: subjective experiences of migration and return. Hvinden, Bjørn; O'Reilly, Jacqueline; Schoyen, Mi Ah; Hyggen, Christer (Ed.). *Negotiating Early Job Insecurity Well-being, Scarring and Resilience of European Youth*. 8. p. 161-181. Edward Elgar Publishing. Tolgensbakk (2018). Street food as an ethnic border Kebab as a symbol of home among young Swedish migrants in Oslo. Anthropology of food . Vol. 12.

Mary Tomsic

Title:
"Instagram Refugeedom: Hashtags and Childhood Photos"

Abstract:
In 2017, Instagram described itself as 'a fun and quirky way to share your life with friends through a series of pictures'. The process they see users following is explained as 'Snap a photo with your mobile phone, then choose a filter to transform the image into a memory to keep around forever. We're building Instagram to allow you to experience moments in your friends' lives through pictures as they happen. We imagine a world more connected through photos.' The Instagram posts by users that I have examined have reversed this Instagram process. Instead, physical objects and photographs have been digitised, some assembled as collages and narrated with written text and symbols through Instagram.

In this paper, I will focus on how individuals who were displaced children have used photographs of themselves as children in the digital public space of Instagram, reveal the changing yet ongoing nature of refugeedom. While legal and formal definition of refugees hold considerable power and influence, this paper will show how being a child refugee is a constant part of these people's lives

but one that holds different status and meanings at different times, and is an element of both everyday life and social media representations. Political elements of self-representation are evident in the ways that these individuals have used vernacular expression in the form of hashtags such as #iamarefugee #iwasarefugee #refugee #iamaboatperson.

Biography:
Mary Tomsic is a cultural historian and a Research Fellow in the Centre for Refugees, Migration, and Humanitarian Studies. She is the author of *Beyond the Silver Screen: A History of Women, Filmmaking and Film Culture in Australia 1920-1990* (Melbourne University Press, 2017). Her current research project is on visual representations of child refugees and examines how histories of forced migration are presented through visual records created for, by and about children. Her interest in online spaces and digital methodologies includes collaboratively hosting Wikipedia edit-a-thons, research about Instagram published in the edited collection *Visualising Human Rights* (UWA Publishing, 2018), as well as working with young people with a refugee background to create digital stories.

Daniella Trimboli

Chair: SESSION 5.1 Archives and Autographics

Title:
"Toxic bodies and Muslim zombies: diasporic intimacy in Australian-based comic zines"

Abstract:
Much research has been carried out on the discursive dehumanisation of non-Anglo Celtic migrants to Australia—especially refugees and asylum seekers. However, this discourse also has an affective dimension that, in Sara Ahmed's terms, 'sticks', impressing upon non-white migrants at a corporeal level. Depictions of self and Other in comic zines such as *Where Do I Belong?* by Silent Army, *Villawood: Notes from a Detention Centre* by Safdar Ahmed, and various online and analogue migrant zine collections, clearly demonstrate the ways in which the body is implicated in narratives about migration and asylum. This paper argues that the comic zine medium also allows for 'something else' to surface; namely, an excess with an interruptive rhythm. This excess is posited here as a type of 'diasporic intimacy' (Boym 2009)—a dystopic and unsuspecting affective force that disrupts the temporal and spatial rhythms of everyday life. The ephemeral element that some digital autographics entail adds further potential for these intimate disruptions to occur. By harnessing diasporic intimacies, the comic zines discussed here redeploy sticky and toxic discourses about migration and asylum, creating space for the migrant body to resist and reassemble.

Biography:
Daniella Trimboli is a postdoctoral research fellow in Cultural Studies at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University, Australia. Daniella has worked as a Research Fellow at the Research Unit in Public Cultures at The University of Melbourne and has taught in Cultural Studies and Australian Studies at The University of Melbourne and Flinders University respectively. She is an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Intercultural Studies* and the author of *Mediating Multiculturalism: Digital Storytelling and the Everyday Ethnic* (Anthem Press, 2020).

Daniella's research operates at the intersection of multiculturalism studies, critical race theory, and artistic practices, and frequently involves ethnographic action research with diasporic communities.

Anna Tsalapatanis

Title:
"Social Media, Mobile Phones, and Migration in Africa: A Review of the Evidence"

Abstract:
See co-author Nicole Stremlau

Biography:
Dr Anna Tsalapatanis is a Postdoctoral Researcher working on the Supporting Online Justice Project which is funded by the ESRC. Anna received her PhD in Sociology from the Australian National University and a Masters' Degree in South Eastern European Studies from the University of Athens. Her research interests include migration studies, citizenship as status, procedural justice, bureaucracy and identity. Anna has a strong background in Cultural Studies, Diaspora, Migration and European Studies and has taught in the fields of Anthropology, Sociology, Migration and Globalisation Studies. She is a co-editor of a book in the BSA *Sociological Futures* Book Series entitled *Social Beings, Future Belongings: Reimagining the Social.*

Mirjam Twigt

Title:
"Technologies towards Accountability? Data-driven protection contexts and communication with people seeking refugee protection in Jordan"

Abstract:
Digital connectivity can provide additional spaces and means for navigating migrant's lives. But digital practices also interact with and can simultaneously exacerbate migrants' precarious circumstances as these relate to one's (il)legalised or temporary status and intersect with characteristics and values around nationalism, gender, class, etc. In this paper, I discuss two chapters of my forthcoming monograph. It draws upon ethnographic research to explore how experiences of prolonged legal uncertainty among Iraqi nationals, registered as refugees with UNHCR Jordan, are mediated.

Offline and online material, social and embodied experiences of transnational intimacy and sustained hope coincide with sense-making of global neo-colonial and capitalist entanglements and inequalities, bordering practices and (anti-Muslim/Middle Eastern/Arab/refugee) othering processes. This complexity contrasts with the experimental technology-use in humanitarian governance and their tendency to reduce stories into numbers.

Here I discuss how UN's digitisation in Middle Eastern refugee management has resulted in a data-driven refugee protection, based on hierarchies of vulnerability rather than on rights of refuge and refugee rights. Despite ample evidence that technologies such as AI-driven assessments and

biometric classification often map into persisting inequalities, in humanitarian operations the presumption that they would somehow produce more 'objective' outcomes or to provide simple solutions for issues that are political prevails. I draw on the accounts of 'people of concern' of and humanitarian communication regarding these digital practices to show that the claim that these efforts contribute to 'transparency' should equally contested.

Biography:
I study how refugees and other migrants residing in prolonged precarious conditions of legal and social uncertainty make sense of and navigate their situated and digitally connected lives. My approach is ethnographic, as I am interested in how technological changes play out in the everyday experience of people seeking refuge. The findings of my PhD research and postdoctoral research are to be published in my forthcoming monograph (2022) which considers the social and subjective roles of communication technologies in everyday experiences in Iraqi urban refugee households residing in Amman, Jordan

I am currently at deployed as postdoctoral research fellow at the REF-ARAB Project (https://www.jus.uio.no/smr/english/research/projects/ref-arab/) at the University of Oslo. For this position I seek to further understand what the move towards technologies in humanitarian assistance means for the rights and mobility for people who sought refuge in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) and its implications for legal aid practices.

Audris Umel

Title:
"Filipino migrants in Germany and their (ironic) space-time constructions of their home and host societies in Facebook"

Abstract:
Developing on Peeren's (2006) chronotopic approach to diaspora, this study explores the ways migrant communities negotiate diasporic chronotopes, or timespace constructions of their homeland and host society, given the emergence and increased relevance of new media platforms and technologies. Based on focused group discussions and digital ethnography with Filipino migrants in Germany, I examine the role of Facebook, especially its group platform, in their diasporic community life. Using a combined ethnography and discursive psychological analysis, findings illustrate how the Filipino migrants in Germany appropriate Facebook to re-enact and challenge communal timespace organizations especially originating from home, not just with members in Germany and co-ethnics back home, but also with members of the host society and co-ethnics across Europe. Additionally, Facebook facilitates the emergence and interaction of seemingly contrasting spatio-temporal realities and constructions—what I propose be called 'irony chronotopes'—that traverse and impact both offline and online dimensions of migrant relations, not just with their communities in Germany but also with their country of origin. Being able to capture such spatio-temporal interplays of migrant realities facilitated by new media provides a more nuanced and dialogical view into migrants' shared experiences, looks beyond the communication role that new media such as Facebook play therein, and contributes to the 'temporal turn' in migration studies.

Biography:
Audris Umel is a doctoral fellow and member of Field C: Changing Lives in Changing Socio- Cultural Contexts at the Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS). She finished her bachelor and master's degrees at the Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines. She lectured in the Psychology department of the same university from 2012 until coming to BIGSSS to work towards a PhD degree.

As a scholar, she endeavors to produce both theoretical and applied research especially relevant to her country and the Asia–Pacific region. Her research interests focus on social and political issues, particularly faced by minority groups and elaborated within media and public spheres. Her approach is informed by, but not limited to, theories of social representations, positioning, and discourse, mixed methods, computational social science methods, digital ethnography and new media approaches. Her PhD project now centers on the topics of social media and migration.

Sanna Valtonen

Title:
"Undocumented and datafied: precarious digital life, affective tactics and politics of care"

Abstract:
See co-author Kaarina Nikunen

Biography:
Sanna Valtonen is a researcher at Tampere University. She works in IDA, a project, that investigates the impact of data-driven culture on every day practices, intimacy and vulnerabilities focusing on the digital lives of asylum seekers and undocumented. Earlier she has studied the impact of everyday social networks on media use and meaning making and different forms of inequalities and otherness constructed in both media content and media use. Last years she has been working with asylum seekeers and undocumented people as an advocacy expert and committed herself to human rights activism helping undocumented legalize their recidence. She currently chairs Support for Asylum Seekers and is a board member of Finland's national network against racism.

Jenny-Louise Van der Aa

Title:
"Informal education as a nexus of change: Blommaert's unfinished business in education"

Abstract:
In a recent interview, Jan Blommaert (2020) contends "that there is a new learning environment that might support the learning environment in schools but is very often seen as negative to it, as the enemy of learning sort of". When migrants are using their smart phones, in which they write a whole lot, it is often seen by 'integration' agents as anti-learning, while they learn tremendously. These

new technologies have also brought new forms of literacy into our societies. Traditionally, literacy is a thing that is acquired from above. So we as researchers would basically be the agents of literacy, teaching the young generation how to be literate. "All these new technologies have reversed that now. We have to learn from the younger generation, how these new forms of literacy operate". And here is the interesting thing: most of these e-literacies, e.g. how to be successful on Instagram, need to be acquired informally in an extremely dense and extremely organized informal learning environment. So they have learning opportunities that we often miss. Blommaert further argues that we need to look at learning as everything we acquire, really everything, in terms of knowledge and skills throughout life, including the bad stuff. So all of that is learning and it is the fundamental processes of learning that are changing now, and we need take a look at that. In this paper, I take a look at Blommaert's evolving views on informality in education, particularly as it pertains to migrants and newcomers; and I sketch some programmatic lines which follow from his vision on education as a locus for understanding change in migrants' lives.

Blommaert, J. & J. Van der Aa. (2020). Jan Blommaert on education: Teaching, research and activism. Working Papers in Urban Language and Literacies 278.

Biography:
Jenny-Louise Van der Aa is post-doctoral researcher at the University of Leuven, where she is involved in a project on unlocking newcomers' repertoires in (in)formal learning environments. She is further interested in language and poverty; the epistemology of change in informal education and issues in gender and sexuality. She also teaches in the program Minorities and Multilingualism at the University of Groningen.

Ilse van Liempt

Chair: SESSION 4.3 *Belonging/Affect*

Title:
"Urban belonging in a climate of suspicion. Refugee and asylum youth's everyday experiences in the urban fabric of Amsterdam"

Abstract:
The presence of refugees has been strongly problematized in European immigration debates in 2015-2017. Politicians and policy makers framed it as a "problem" or "refugee crisis" (Bojadžijev and Mezzadra, 2015). They strongly problematized the numbers, although it has repeatedly been argued that this is rather a crisis of lacking (political) solidarity then of numbers as the latter pale in comparison with the number of refugees in countries outside Europe or other people entering Europe (Bojadžijev and Mezzadra, 2015; Crawley, 2016). This narrative of "migration crisis" was used to exclude certain categories of migrants. These negative connotations have found its way into domestic media in which refugees are being portrayed as threats or risks given their different cultural backgrounds, potential economic needs and/or health or crime concerns (Siegel and Nagy, 2018). Refugees are decoupled from their historical and familial biographies in simplistic and dehumanizing way when they are discussed in the media. It is within this climate of suspicion that asylum seekers arrive in their destination country and try to rebuild their homes, struggle with their feelings of belonging and give meaning to their everyday lives. In this paper, we present the results of a media analysis that focuses on how newly arrived refugees in Amsterdam in 2015-2017 have

been represented. We look at both national as well as local press in order to show how local discourses may challenge or strengthen negative frames at the national and global level. We add to this refugee's own experiences in the city by drawing upon participatory research amongst young refugees and asylum seekers in Amsterdam. We discuss how the local and the national discourse impacts their everyday experiences and how it influences their home-making processes and senses of belonging within the urban fabric of Amsterdam.

Biography:
Ilse van Liempt is an assistant professor in urban geography and qualitative research at the Human Geography and Planning department Utrecht University, Research Leader of the UU wide Focus Area Migration and Societal Change and Program Director of the Research Master Urban and Economic Geography. Previously she worked at the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES) in Amsterdam where she conducted her PhD, at the Sussex Center for Migration Research (SCMR) where she did her postdoctoral research. Ilse has published widely on irregular migration, refugee migration, gender, public space, diversity and processes of in – and exclusion.

Gerwin van Schie

Chair: SESSION 2.5 *Data*

Biography:
Gerwin van Schie is a PhD candidate at Utrecht University. He's a researcher of the NWO-funded project "Datafication of Race and Ethnicity in the Netherlands: Investigating Practices, Politics and Appropriation of Governmental Open Data". In his research Van Schie focusses on the way Dutch immigrant populations are 'datafied' by various societal institutions. Dutch governmental classifications are based on immigrants' former nationality and that of their parents and often relate to the colonial history of the Netherlands or their country of birth. Van Schie critically investigates bias and injustice caused by the data, system, and practices of applications based on CBS statistics by employing a critical data studies approach with a postcolonial perspective.

Mariangela Veikou

Title:
"Digitally Translated Politics: Everyday Forms Of Political Membership And Acts Of Citizenship"

Abstract:
This article analyses the digital governmentality of migration. It shows how digital infrastructures translate migrants and refugees' identities and therefore lives in European societies. It focuses on migrants and refugees who seek recognition as long term residents, participants and not yet citizens in urban or rural destinations areas. Drawing on fieldwork in such locations, the discussion sets out to investigate what kind of options migrants are faced with in the receiving societies to settle and make a life, and whether digital infrastructures , enhance or restrict – with all the in between dimensions- recognition and prospects for just and equal participation. It also documents and analyses the conditions and requirements for recognition by examining the digital framing of migrants that takes place during their initial registration to state civil registries in ready set cultural

categories. A new digital order which performs translation of migrant and refugees' identities informs the present study, contextualizing it within wider systems of migration, integration and their governmentality and representation. This discussion will present a set of examples showcasing occasions when migrant and refugee recognition is pursued through digital encounters and, via fieldwork findings, shows how this recognition is often granted conditionally with implications for persistent inequalities and cultural hierarchies.

Biography:
Mariangela Veikou's work has a background in Social & Political Sciences and Anthropology. She is a researcher at the VSNU Digital Society Research Agenda on the theme of Citizenship and Democracy . Her main research interests lie in the governance and rhetoric on migration and asylum in Europe, meanings of citizenship, cultural diversity and integration with a recent focus on the digital dynamics in society.

Matt Voigt

Title:
"How refugees maintain belonging through online privacy practices"

Abstract:
This paper uses digital anthropology to explore how refugees manage online privacy to maintain belonging in new local and established distant relationships. It is drawn from pre-pandemic research involving ethnographic interviews with 23 refugees and other persons from countries in conflict, most of whom were from Syria and based in the UK's East Midlands. Although participants left their homes in part to escape danger, they often also narrated key migratory decisions in terms of pursuing long-term personal goals for self-actualization, employment and family. Amid immense changes in their lives, they actively controlled their public-facing personas to negotiate social distance, maintain existing relationships, and preserve safety for themselves and their families. For some time after arrival, this usually involved adding minimal content to their broadly-visible Facebook accounts while extensively using messaging services like WhatsApp geared toward small-group and individuated communication. The civic attainment of asylum materially enables refugees to pursue personal, 'private' goals through granting legal, formal access to work rights and other benefits. As they became more settled in Europe, the refugees interviewed increasingly used social media with their local lives and self-actualization in mind, creating semi-public personas that incorporated norms of both places to support belonging in their 'close' and 'far' lives without compromising either. Theoretically, I contrast insights about participants' privacy practices and ideas with current digital privacy discussions, which often imagine an idealized, 'private citizen,' a head of household with a high level of control of his or her private space and public image.

Biography:
Matt Voigts earned a mulit-disciplinary PhD in Digital Economy Research / Anthropology from the University of Nottingham. His research interests include privacy, migration, digital media and film viewership. His post-doctoral work has included contributions to grant applications at University of Nottingham's Rights Lab and Trilateral Research. At the latter he managed Dissemination & Communication activities for H2020 projects NO-FEAR and GEARING. He previously conducted

fieldwork on atheist summer camps in the American South and DVD piracy in China, and has worked as a journalist and marketing writer.

Sofiya Voytiv

Title:
"Politicization of diasporic organizational network during the armed conflict in the "homeland"

Abstract:
Using social network analysis and interviews, I focus on the mechanisms of decision-making to initiate a collaboration between different Ukrainian, Russian and conflict-generated diasporic organizations during 2013-2016 in Sweden. I define politicization through the processes of clustering and polarization and argue that it is useful to focus on triadic relationships within such network. I develop a model of the diasporic collaboration network politicization and find that investigating the evolution of the collaborations of diasporic organizations through network analysis contributes to the understanding of politicization mechanisms in the diaspora setting during an armed conflict in the "homeland". I argue that the appearance of a new, highly politicized, conflict-generated node brings more change to the network than the aligning of the pre-existing diasporic organizations in conjunction with the development of the conflict "back home".

Biography:
Sofiya Voytiv holds a PhD in sociology (Stockholm University, 2020) and is a DIASCON Project Researcher at the Tampere Peace Research Institute (Tampere University, Finland). She writes on patterns of conflict deterritorialization and diaspora formation during unravelling conflicts in the "homeland". Additionally, she is a researcher at the Institute for Future Studies (Stockholm, Sweden) where she does research on elite networks and gender. She is interested in mixed-methods approach and computational social science. Her publications include: 'Conflict reterritorialisation: Shifting group boundaries in the diaspora during the armed conflict in the 'homeland'', *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*, 2020; 'Ukrainian and Russian organizations in Sweden and the conflict "back home"', *Connections*, 2019.

Shireen Walton

Chair: SESSION 3.2 *Mobile Belongings: Digital Everyday Life and the Question(s) of Citizenship*

Title:
"Smartphones, migration, and belongings: digital everyday life in the city and beyond"

Abstract:
Based on 16 months of ethnographic research in Milan, Italy studying ageing, migration and mobilities, and smartphones, this paper critically explores practices and narratives of identity and belonging, and care and communication in the city and beyond, including transnationally online. The paper critically considers how people from diverse backgrounds and with specific experiences of migration, from countries including Egypt and Afghanistan, engage with digital technologies in everyday life and 'smart' practices from below (Pype 2017). Questions(s) of citizenship (social,

digital, legal), belonging, and inclusion and exclusion are explored through the experiences of individuals, families and communities. The smartphone is brought into anthropological focus (Miller et al forthcoming 2021) as conveying and producing complex practices, negotiations and entanglements of people, places and things, within and across spaces of belonging.

From social media chats and groups, to photo-sharing, apps, and online communities, the smartphone is critically explored as a technology of everyday life and the life course; linked to social relationships, work, health and care, and journeys of multiple types and scales. Drawing on select case studies, the paper critically reflects on the role of smartphones vis-à-vis citizenship and belonging, while contributing to ongoing conversations about digital everyday life and communications in the city (Georgiou 2013, Lane 2019), and care and communication - in physical proximity and at a distance - amid diverse experiences of migration (Madianou and Miller 2012, Pols 2012, Ahlin 2020).

Biography:
Shireen Walton is a lecturer in anthropology at Goldsmiths, University of London. Her research focuses on visual cultures and digital technologies, migration and mobilities, and ageing and care with a focus on digital-visual ethnography. She was a postdoctoral research fellow at UCL Anthropology between 2017–2020 as part of the ERC-funded project, 'The Anthropology of Smartphones and Smart Ageing' (ASSA). Prior to this she was a teaching fellow in material and visual culture at UCL Anthropology (2016–2017). She received her PhD in 2016 from the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford, with a thesis on popular digital photography in/of Iran. Her forthcoming monograph *Ageing with Smartphones in Urban Italy: Care and Community in Milan and Beyond* will be published in 2021 with UCL Press as part of the ASSA book series.

Karen Waltorp

Title:
"Diasporic articulations in a digital media ecology: The case of Farkhunda seen through the analytics of Stuart Hall"

Abstract: Co-authored with **Sama Sadat Ben Haddou**
In this paper we discuss the political communication among members of the Afghan diaspora in Denmark, and what social media platforms afford in this regard. We start from a specific event; the killing of the woman Farkhunda Malikzada, falsely accused of having burned the Quran in Kabul in 2015. We ask how the media – old and new - figure in this horrific case: both in the circulation of videos of the events filmed and shared on smartphones, the subsequent journalistic covering, and civil society demonstrations and protests mobilized in large part through digital media. With an (auto)ethnographic approach, we combine fieldwork and interviews across generations with aggregated twitter data across larger numbers and across countries. Both authors are members of a Women's Film Collective counting four members who fled Afghanistan as young children, and one Danish anthropologist and filmmaker. The Film Collective grew out of the research project ARTlife: Articulations of Life among Afghans in Denmark, and experiments with how to articulate one's everyday life, position and dreams in alternative ways vis à vis the dominant media narratives and coverage of Afghan women

in Western media. Stuart Hall captures with his use of the term 'diaspora' a way of forging an identity in a globalized world - as a 'composite habitus', assembling various belongings and parts in its composition. With articulations theory, Hall suggested to look at how various elements align, and various actors with overlapping stakes attach themselves to each other (momentarily). This helps us analyze the current situation and/in new digital landscapes. With the case of Farkhunda, we focus on how gender politics is invoked by various stakeholders and for various ends across Afghanistan and in diaspora, and look at what this case allows us to see about digital media, diaspora and new articulations of belongings.

Biography:
Karen Waltorp is associate professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen. She is the author of 'Why Muslim Women and Smartphones: Mirror Images' (Routledge 2020) and has published on digital media, migration and gender in both anthropological and media and communication journals. She has been a visiting scholar at University of California, Berkeley (2016), Digital Ethnography Research Centre, RMIT (2018) and Emerging Technologies Lab, Monash University (2020)

Xinyu Promio Wang

Title:
"Transnationalism in what sense? The negotiation of belonging among Chinese digital diasporas in Japan"

Abstract:
In the context where digital diaspora studies in the Asian context remains largely missing from the mainstream discussion, this paper looks at the role digital media play in shaping the notion of belonging among Chinese digital diasporas in Japan. The objective is to respond to a general question of how the notion of 'homeland', as a key factor in the formation of diasporic belonging and agency, is constructed and interpreted by migrants through their daily appropriation of variant forms of digital media.

The rationale for me to focus on this particular migrant population is twofold. First, the Sino-Japanese relations are deeply characterised by historical discourses, leading to a complex perception of the other among their respective populations. Second, while being a de-facto immigration country, Japan emphasises a cultural nationalist discourse of racial homogeneity, accompanied with a denial to institutionally incorporate migrants in its policy frameworks. In this context, focusing on Chinese migrants in Japan through the lens of digital media allows us to understand the intersectionality among the spatiality of belonging, national and political identification, and the multiple poles of historical and political identities.

In this paper, the analysis is based on in-depth interviews I conducted with Chinese migrants in Japan between May 2018 to April 2020, including 55 face-to-face and six video interviews, covering five types of migration schemes, namely student, entrepreneur, investor, skilled worker and spouse of Japanese citizens.

Preliminary findings indicate that while they actively maintain a connection with the homeland, the

CONNECTING_EUROPE

host country and a digitally constructed transnational community, Chinese digital diasporas' self-positioning among these social fields can be seen as a strategic negotiation process, in which they actively use digital media as a medium so to perform a belonging that best represent their personal interests in a particular moment or context. In this way, their notions of belonging are divided between multiple temporal and spatial poles, reflect their ideals of diasporic lives that are informed by and then reproduced through their appropriation of digital media.

Biography:
Xinyu Promio Wang is a PhD in International Relations candidate at the Graduate School of Asian-Pacific Studies, Waseda University. His research includes the critical analysis of the identity performance of international migrants, with particular attention to Chinese immigrants in Japan. His main research interests lie in the analysis of migrants' transnational socio-cultural practices.

Xin was awarded his BEng with Honours from University of Liverpool, a MSc in development studies from the London School of Economics, a MSc in migration studies from the London School of Economics, and worked as an assistant lecturer in Sociology at the Hunan Institute of Engineering before arriving at Waseda University to pursue his Ph.D. degree.

His most recent publication is: Xinyu Promio Wang (2020). Chinese Migrants' Sense of Belonging in Japan: Between Digital and Physical Spaces. Migration Research Series No. 61. Geneva: International Organization for Migration, pp.1-13.

Natasha Webster

Chair: SESSION 7.1 *Migrant Digital Food Practices*

Title:
"Digitalizing Authenticity for IRL: Immigrants supplying home-made food via apps in the gig economy"

Abstract:
See co-author Qian Zhang

Biography:
Natasha Webster is a researcher at the Department of Human Geography at Stockholm University. She is interested in gender, migration and work(ing)-life practices. Natasha's current research focuses on feminist economic geography by exploring the role of women-led entrepreneurship and gig-work in migration and integration. Natasha is currently co-editing a special issue for Globalizations on transnational migrant entrepreneurs. Natasha is a Book Review Editor for Emotion, Space and Society and is part of the editorial board for Digital Geography and Society.

Raelene Wilding

Title:
"Digital anticipation: facilitating the pre-emptive futures of PRC Chinese grandparenting migrants to Australia" (1)
"Ageing in the digital era and transnational mobility: perceptions and experiences of Vietnamese migrant parents" (2)

Abstract:
See co-author Catriona Stevens (1) and Hien Nguyen (2)

Biography:
Raelene Wilding is an Associate Professor in the Sociology Discipline at School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University. Raelene is also a leading international expert in ageing, migration, social and cultural and innovative communication technologies. Recently, she is collaborating with Loretta to co-lead the ARC Discovery Project on Ageing and New Media. Email: R.Wilding@latrobe.edu.au

Catherina Wilson

Title:
"Refugee machinga on Dar es Salaam's digital pavements. Navigating immobilization through social media commerce in urban Tanzania"

Abstract:
See co-author Mira Demirdirek

Biography:
Catherina Wilson works as a lecturer and post-doctoral researcher at the Institute for History, Leiden University. She is currently involved in TRAFIG, a project that looks at mobility and connectivity as solutions to protracted displacement amongst Congolese refugees in urban Tanzania and The Netherlands. Her interests include mobility, urban culture, youth and refugee studies in Central and East Africa.

Saskia Witteborn

Title of Keynote:
Transgressive Speech – Digital Surveillance and the Limits of Diasporic Communication

Abstract:
This talk explores socio-technological conditions shaping migration and the role of transgressive communication and surveillance technologies in diasporic formations. In particular, the discussion examines transgressive communication practices by those who desire to be mobile. Transgressive speech occurs in verbal, visual, written and digital modes of communication and intervenes into

existing bodies of knowledge. Transgressive communication reveals the premises and limits of a political and cultural code, including the premises and conditions for communication itself. Based on ethnographic fieldwork, the talk highlights transgressive practices linked to place and identity and how those practices question received logics of cultural communication, social participation and mobility. The talk addresses the consequences of transgressive speech and how surveillance technologies structure the everyday life of people who seek mobility, thereby shaping transnational migration and diasporic interactions.

Biography:
Saskia Witteborn is Associate Professor in the School of Journalism and Communication at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). She specializes in transnational migration and technologies and has worked with migrants in the United States, Europe, and East Asia. She researches the political economy of mobility, technology and forced migration, data privacy, and how artificial intelligence structures migration. Her research has appeared in leading journals and in edited collections. She is co-editor of the SAGE Handbook of Media and Migration (2019).

Veronika Zablotsky

Title:
"Beyond Humanity: Refugee Resistance in Moria 2.0"

Abstract:
"We read and hear that we have to live like animals in these camps, but we think it is not true. We studied the laws to protect animals in Europe and we found out they have more rights than we do."
– "Christmas Greeting from Moria II," December 2020

Taking Hannah Arendt's political thought as a conceptual point of departure, this paper asks how refugees in the infamous Kara Tepe camp – hastily erected as an emergency site in the aftermath of the September 2020 destruction of the Moria Reception and Identification Centre on Lesvos – deploy mobile technology to "take exception from the exception" (Bargu 2017) and actualize the human capacity to act in the face of being reduced to "mere existence" under the dehumanizing circumstances of state-sanctioned abandonment to the elements. According to Arendt, the "right to have rights" derives not from the "abstract nakedness of being human and nothing but human" (Arendt 1998, 296) but from belonging to a "social texture" in which one "established for themselves a distinct place in the world" (293), in which one's actions mattered, and in which one's opinions were significant. While exposed to administrative violence, and effectively being denied the most basic protections, refugee activists in Kara Tepe drafted an open letter – translated in nine languages and addressed to all "Europeans," in general, as well as the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, in particular – in which they demanded to be granted "the simple rights animals have." By naming their dehumanizing treatment in this shocking way, and identifying the responsible parties, they exposed the humanitarian rhetoric of a "shared humanity" as a cover up for politically calculated non-enforcement. Thus, the letter boldly asserts the refugees' agential capacity to improve their own situation – "if you let us" – as equal "partners" in fixing up "their" camp, that is, despite attempts to reduce them to mere biological life. This paper will think through the radical gesture of "Christmas Greeting from Moria II" and analyze how its circulation via social media platforms, NGO websites, and leftist blogs mobilized entangled digital and material

infrastructures of solidarity to not only confront the dehumanization of refugees at Kara Tepe, as a cynical replay of already abysmal conditions at Moria, but also to indict the very category of humanity as an empty signifier that obscures the "elementary entanglement" (Da Silva 2016) of normative European identity, implied to be Christian and white (Wynter 2003), and the exposure of racialized others to extralegal death-worlds beyond its fortified bounds (Mbembe 2003).

Biography:
Veronika Zablotsky is currently affiliated as an Andrew W. Mellon Sawyer Seminar Postdoctoral Fellow at the Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy at the University of California, Los Angeles. Beginning in April 2021, she will join the Department of Philosophy at Freie Universität Berlin as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Berlin University Alliance Project Consortium "Transforming Solidarities." Her scholarship explores questions of self-determination, agency, and emancipation at the intersections of political theory, postcolonial studies, transnational diaspora studies, and critical border and migration studies. She is currently working on her first single-authored book, titled "Postcoloniality Displaced," a multi-method study which traces how postcolonial imaginaries of self-determination in the Armenian diaspora emerged in response to forced displacement between colonial South Asia, Jim Crow North America, and the post-Ottoman Middle East. In 2019, she co-founded the Critical Armenian Studies Collective at Duke University Press. She completed her Ph.D. in Feminist Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz with notations in Critical Race & Ethnic Studies, Politics, and History of Consciousness.

Hong Zeng

Title:
"Representing Her Trajectory: Women, Migration, and Data Visualization"

Abstract:
This article draws on the experiential and analytical routes of the creator-author's participatory data visualization project. Presented in web form, Her Trajectory (2020-21) [https://hertrajectory.com/] visually represents the migratory trajectories of women by overlaying their movement onto a map of the world alongside personal objects that express their cultural identities. These routes of migrations are visualized alongside the women's own narratives regarding the objects. Feminist geography has problematized the entrenched allegory of mother/land that registers the nostalgia for men who have left home, for it not only disembodies "Mum/Woman" but also leaves the embodied experiences of women migrants unexamined. Responding to this feminist critique, the project focuses on women migrants and highlights an object chosen by each women that which serves in the affective communication of their migration stories. New media scholarship have pointed out that the mainstream geo-spatial data visualizations may contribute to the othering of migrants due to the way they represent the migrants as data, which reinforces the trope of migrant-as-problem. In contrast, this project experiments with alternative data aesthetics to represent the women's migration narrative in a purposefully humanizing way. To explore a counter-aesthetics, the project was created in collaboration with women migrants and it adopts participatory approaches to collect data, which include the places these women have lived, and over what time frames, their ascribed identities, choice of personal objects, and most importantly, their own narratives about the objects. I demonstrate that using participatory data visualization vis-a-vis women's migration enables engaged readings of cultural geography as situated knowledge, while at the same time cultivating the

affective connections among creator-author, women migrants, and viewers.

Biography:
Zeng Hong is a lecturer and postdoctoral fellow at the School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong. Her research interest in the field of digital media and migration is Migrant visualization. She publishes articles in Continuum, Journal of Visual Art Practice, and Asian Cinema. She is also a curator and the 2020 Yale-China Arts Fellow.

Qian Zhang

Title:
"Digitalizing Authenticity for IRL: Immigrants supplying home-made food via apps in the gig economy"

Abstract:
Digital platforms compete to market new ideas, lifestyles, and experiences around food for urban citizens. The platformization of food is closely linked to the emergence of the gig economy where a large pool of flexible labours, especially women and immigrants, are able to work on food, often at home and as small-scale entrepreneurs. Earlier food cultural studies have shown that interrelated social categories work in complex ways to construct discourses and material reality of food, yet an intersectional perspective is largely missing in studying platformization of food. Scrutinizing 'authenticity' – a notion frequently used by platforms in promoting consumption experiences – our case studies a food app 'Yummy' through which chefs sell and deliver home-made food in a large Swedish city. This paper unpacks racialized and gendered narratives and practices behind the making of 'authentic food'. Tensions and contradictions unfold along several dimensions, largely between the ways that the gig company and workers stage (narrate, envision and marketize) authentic food based on gender and ethnic norms, and the ways that they strive yet, with frequent compromises and negotiations, of authenticity in preparing and delivering food in gendered and racialized physical spaces. Digital spaces are both sites of performing sanctioned forms of authenticity while hiding the realities of food production. The app and social media amplify narratives of authentic food through procuring racialized and gendered bodies thus, authenticity is mutually produced through food made by and through the workers' labour in digital and physical spaces.

Biography:
Qian Zhang, PhD, is a human geographer at Uppsala University and Stockholm University. She specializes in migration, environmental politics, and critical geography. Zhang has considerable experience working in large research projects and communicating research results in multiple forms and different languages. Her recent studies focus on exploring new processes and experiences of migration embedded in a constellation of technology development, changing forms of economy, and transforming welfare states.

CONNECTING_
EUROPE

Sophie Zinser

Title:
NGOs as Infomediaries: Opportunities for Technology Interventions in the Migrant Domestic Worker-NGO Relationship in Hong Kong

Abstract:
This study explores how non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Hong Kong use information and communication technologies (ICTs) to support migrant domestic workers (MDWs).
ICTsare increasingly being used to as an intermediary to improve communication between NGOs and MDWs. Through these tools, organizations can empower workers to dismantle information and power asymmetries within exploitative employer-employee relationships.7 Critically, this includes bridging gaps in understanding and enforcing MDWs' legal rights.8 To cope with challenges posed by COVID-19 and beyond, there is urgent need to understand how NGOs and CSOs can better use technology to support MDWs access information or services Hong Kong.
This study identifies critical patterns of access and technology use for MDWs in Hong Kong, advocating for a preventative, rather than remediation-focused approach to combatting forced labour in Hong Kong's MDW sector. The study also aims to understand how MDWs currently use digital technology to access services in Hong Kong. It suggests four concrete recommendations towards combatting forced labour for MDWs in Hong Kong: developing a single centralized privacy preserving data repository of MDW employment agency contracts and loan agreements, link ICT solutions to current communication pathways for MDWs, better understand MDWs pre-arrival tech literacy, and launch separate but mandatory online pre-arrival trainings for MDWs and their employers.

Biography:
Sophie Zinser is a researcher on forced labour and migration currently based in Hong Kong. She completed the below study with the United Nations University in Macau's Principal Research Fellow, Hannah Thinyane. A former Fulbright Scholar in Amman, Jordan and Schwarzman Scholar with a Masters in Global Affairs from Tsinghua University, Sophie has worked for five years on policy across the Middle East and Asia with both United Nations and grassroots organizations. She is currently an Academic Fellow at Chatham House with their Asia-Pacific and Middle East-North Africa Programmes.

Franka Zlatic

Title:
"Counter-mapping: Complementing migration narratives"

Abstract:
As ethnography's central aspect is to portray and interpret other people's stories (Russel Bernard, 2006), sometimes it is hard to say whose story is it. Including visual narratives as part of methodology puts the ownership back to participants' hands, however, using visual methodology cannot be used independently of other methods. Rather, they complement narratives by paying

significant "attention to visual aspects of culture" (Pink, 2007:21).

In the context of migration and its visual representation, "[b]orders are far more than just physical demarcations, more than lines represented on the maps" (Campos-Delgado, 2017:184). I want to explore how can those borders be represented in a way that does not include a physical line on the geographical map, as traditionally practiced within human geography. Counter-mapping, as an alternative to more traditional forms of mapping, "has the potential to create […] representations of territory and the practices in it "(Campos-Delgado 2018:490).

This paper will introduce the method of counter-mapping and how it fits into the migration related research when tailored according to research's requisites. Due to recent policies implemented related to the coronavirus outbreak, all methods used in my research have been conducted in an online setting, including the cognitive mapping.

Online qualitative methods, such as this one, include drawing practices from ethnography, sociology and anthropology that "design studies that build new understandings from verbal, text, and visual data collected in online interviews" (Salmons, 2015:126), which some authors call virtual or digital ethnography (Beneito-Montagut, 2001; Hine, 2000).

Relying on preliminary data collected thus far for my doctoral research, I will show practical examples of how counter-mapping therefore seems like an appropriate approach to follow multi-sited and multilocal/translocal view to this research's methodology and how "[t]ransmigrants' counter-maps portray stories, events and scenarios that are hidden in the state-centric representation" (Campos-Delgado 2018:500).

Biography:

Franka holds a BA and an MA in Cultural Studies from the University of Rijeka, Croatia. Her interest lies in migration studies and the impact transnationalism has on migrants' lives. Her current research as a PhD student at the University of Nottingham, UK wants to examine potential liminal identities in first generation individual migrants in the UK, acknowledging the simultaneous presence of both their home and host countries. The aim of the research is to create portraits of individual migrants, relying on Vertovec's (2007) concept of super-diversity and locate these portraits within a bigger picture of translocal and transnational spaces. She was granted a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship for Research Excellence (EU). Franka currently teaches seminars for two undergraduate modules within the School of Sociology and Social policy at the University of Nottingham.