



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-GCM**

Institute on Globalization,  
Culture and Mobility

# Conference: Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change

11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015

The feminisation of migration is one of the most significant social patterns to have emerged in the course of the last century. Too often, female migrants occupy vulnerable positions in their host societies, engaging in domestic work, sex work and other unregulated sectors. Despite being so vulnerable and despite established patterns of exploitation, the numbers of women who choose to migrate is rising. This conference focuses on this phenomenon, in order to better understand why and how migration may offer routes to empowerment to women. Specific areas of focus include the extent to which migration offers women new sociocultural horizons as they move between different regions of the world, while also considering links between mobilities and mobilisations through for example, digital mobilities and mobilisations of women and ideas. This conference will address issues including female agency, diasporas and transnationalism, labour and decent work, processes of identity construction, the sociocultural reconstruction of home, work and urban spaces and policy responses to female mobilities. It will put academic research into dialogue with debates in the United Nations that address gender discrimination and the role of female migrants in development agendas. In addition to keynote lectures and panel presentations, the conference will feature events that engage with artistic representations of the themes.

## Keynote Speakers

Professor Maggie O'Neill (Durham University)

Professor of Criminology in the School of Applied Social Sciences and Fellow of the Wolfson Research Institute for Health and Wellbeing

Dr. Maria Jaschok (University of Oxford)

Director, International Gender Studies Centre, Lady Margaret Hall

Professor Christiane Timmerman (University of Antwerp)

Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center of Migration and Intercultural Studies (CeMIS)

Professor Maria Paradiso (University of Sannio)

Professor of Geography and Planning

## Thematic Areas

1. Multi-lateral Policy Engagement on Gender and Mobility
2. Women, Diasporas and Transnationalism
3. Narratives and Visual Representation of Female Mobility
4. Gender, Migrant Labour and Empowerment
5. Legal Discourses on Gender and Migration

**For your information:**

UNU-GCM is pleased to welcome you to this conference on Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change. All participants should be aware that:

- Filming and photography will be taking place during the event. The photographs and videos produced may be used in the public dissemination of the work of UNU-GCM.
- This is an academic conference. As such, the opinions expressed and discussions arising represent personal opinions and not those of UNU-GCM. UNU-GCM asks that all contributions be responsible and substantiated by research.

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## CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June

9:00-9:30 Registration

9:45-10:00 Welcome and Opening Addresses, *Hammar skjöld Room*

10:00- 11:00 Keynote Presentation 1, *Hammar skjöld Room*

*Women, Well-being and Community: Enacting and Building Cultural Citizenship Using Participatory Arts and Participatory Action Research (PAR) with Women Seeking Asylum and Refuge*, Professor Maggie O'Neill, Durham University

11:00-11:30 Coffee

11:30- 13:15 Parallel Sessions 1

*Hammar skjöld Room* Panel 1: Multi-lateral Policy Engagement on Gender & Mobility  
*Thant Room* Panel 2: Transnational Families

13:15 Group Photograph

13:30-15:00 Lunch

15:00-16:30 Parallel Sessions 2

*Hammar skjöld Room* Panel 3: Narratives of Female Mobility  
*Thant Room* Panel 4: Legal Discourses on Female Migration

16:30- 17:00 Coffee

17:00-18:00 Keynote Presentation 2, *Hammar skjöld Room*

*Sources of Authority of Female Leadership in Islam – Female ahong and qingzhen nüsi (Women's Mosques) in China*, Dr. Maria Jaschok, University of Oxford

18:15 Transportation by bus to Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB) in the city center

19:00 *Women of the World: Home and Work in Barcelona* Event at CCCB

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

9:30- 10:30 Keynote Presentation 3, *Hammar skjöld Room*

*Dynamics in Female Migration and Integration. A Case Study from Belgium*, Professor  
Christiane Timmerman, University of Antwerp

10:30-11:00 Coffee

11:00- 13:00 Parallel Sessions 3

*Hammar skjöld Room* Panel 5: Diaspora and Socio-cultural Change

*Thant Room* Panel 6: Female Mobility, Agency and Empowerment

13:00- 13:30 Launch of *Women of the World: Home and Work in Barcelona* Photograph Exhibit

13:30- 15:00 Lunch

15:00- 16:00 Keynote Presentation 4, *Hammar skjöld Room*

*Emotional Geographies of Female Mobilities and Agency in the Mediterranean: Explorative  
Narratives from Muslim Migrant Women in an Italian Case Study*, Professor Maria Paradiso,  
University of Sannio

16:00- 17:45 Parallel Sessions 4

*Hammar skjöld Room* Panel 7: (Dis)empowering Labour: Gender, Migration and Decent Work

*Thant Room* Panel 8: Visual Representations of Female Mobility

17:45-18:00 Coffee

18:00- 19:00 Screening of *Becky's Journey* and Q&A with Director Sine Plambech

19:00 End of Conference, Optional Tour of Sant Pau Modernist Site

## Summaries of Thematic Areas and Panels

### Thematic Area 1: Multi-lateral Policy Engagement on Gender and Mobility

This panel brings together experts working on gender and mobility from different UN agencies and other international bodies, in order to consider frameworks that work towards the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular that of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The panel will bring together perspectives from a range of international and multilateral organisations that share priorities in the formation of policies relating to female mobility. Issues under discussion will include questions of advocacy, the responsibilities of home and host societies, risks faced by women migrants, such as trafficking, and the steps needed in policy formation to ensure dignity and well-being.

Panel 1: Multi-lateral Policy Engagement on Gender and Mobility

*Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 11:30-13:15, Hammarskjöld Room*

Chair: Parvati Nair, UNU-GCM

- *Making Claims on Duty Bearers: Migrant Women Workers' Advocacy and Organising Strategies*  
Sarah Gammage, UN Women (USA)
- *Women in Trafficking in Persons; Results from the UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*  
Fabrizio Sarrica, United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (Austria)
- *Migration, Gender and Social Inclusion in India*, Marina Faetanini, UNESCO (India)
- *Metropolis* (Title and speakers TBC)

### Thematic Area 2: Women, Diasporas and Transnationalism

In the light of UN discussions on the role of women in the world, these panels gather contributions from researchers who investigate whether migration can offer ways to empower women and, consequently, whether women migrants are able to influence sociocultural change in countries of origin and countries of residence. The research findings in this area are of great importance to policy-makers in order to understand what role women play and how policy-making could adjust to further empower women in diverse societies. The panel relates to existing debates on the role of women on a variety of research questions, including women diasporas, the gender-related aspect of prejudice towards immigrants, women diasporas as promoters of socio-cultural change in countries of origin and of destination, women migrants and those left behind, health issues related to women migrants, the role of women migrants for sustainable development.

Panel 2: Transnational Families

*Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 11:30-13:15, Thant Room*

Chair: Valeria Bello, UNU-GCM

- *Discourses and Practices about Marriage, Gender and Sexuality. Mothers and Daughters between Morocco and Italy*, Giulia D’Odorico, University of Padua (Italy)
- *The Struggles and Strategies of Syrian Refugee Women in the Context of Displacement in Egypt*, Nourhan Abdel Aziz, American University in Cairo (Egypt)
- *The Feminization of Migration from Moldova and the Implications for Children “Left Behind”* Michaela Vanore, Maastricht Graduate School of Governance/ UNU-MERIT (The Netherlands)

Panel 5: Diaspora and Socio-cultural Change

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 11:00-13:00, Hammarskjöld Room

Chair: Isolina Ballesteros, City University of New York (USA)

- *Internally Displaced Women in Ayacucho: Their Key Role in Peacebuilding and Social Reconstruction* Eva Gracia Cordoba and Juncal Fdez-Garayzábal, Comillas Pontifical University (Spain)
- *Community Activism among Black Young Women in Portugal: Daily Engagements towards Citizenship and Social Cohesion*, Rosana Albuquerque, Universidade Aberta (Portugal)
- *The Experience of Women Diasporas: Integration, Civil Society Participation and Socio-cultural Change* Valeria Bello, UNU-GCM
- *Afghan Women in Germany betwixt Border Crossing, Media Coverage and Gender Shifting(s)*, Diana Sherzada, Ludwig Maximillians University (Germany)

### **Thematic Area 3: Narratives and Visual Representations of Female Mobility**

These panels focus on narratives and cultural media as modes of representation through which the gendered experiences of mobility and change are articulated. Through such efforts, often shaped in and through migration, the subjects extend the established contours of their own agency and so reconfigure locales and contexts. Furthermore, the narrative acts that women engage in, as well as the cultural representations that center upon female experiences of mobility, often pave the way for revised configurations of gender, identity and power. The papers here all explore, therefore, the idea that engagement with narratives and with cultural production can lead to a transformation of the status quo. For women, who have historically been under-represented, (self-)representation and the narrative act can be ways of making sense of mobility and socio-cultural change, as well as of redefining gender and identity.

Panel 3: Narratives of Female Mobility

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 15:00-16:30, Hammarskjöld Room

Chair: Dominika Gasiorowski, Queen Mary University of London

- *Liminal Spaces and Moving Subjects in a Context of Crisis: Gender, Emotions and Agentic Transnational Cultural Production in Eastern European Migration to Greece*, Anastasia Christou, Middlesex University (UK)
- *New Narratives of the Mediterranean: the woman gaze*, Federica Frediani, Università della Svizzera italiana (Switzerland)
- *Home-Work: The Gender Politic of Urban Immigrant Relocation*, Parvati Nair, UNU-GCM

#### Panel 8: Visual Representation of Female Mobility

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 16:00-17:45, Thant Room

Chair: Parvati Nair, UNU-GCM

- *Female Transnational Migrations and Diasporas in European "Immigration Cinema"*, Isolina Ballesteros, City University of New York (USA)
- *Between Borders and Desires. Artists in the Contemporary Mediterranean*, Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio, University of Barcelona (Spain)
- *The Body of Evidence: Maya Goded's Photography of Sex-Workers in Mexico*, Dominika Gasiorowski, Queen Mary University of London

### **Thematic Area 4: Gender, Migrant Labour and Empowerment**

This thematic area examines the relationship between gender, migration and empowerment. Female migrants often find themselves in precarious conditions of life and work; their labour is often stigmatised, poorly valued and vulnerable to exploitation; yet migration may also provide a space for migrants to pursue their aspirations and seek avenues for empowerment in the face of entrenched racialised and gendered stereotypes. This section examines firstly how female migrants might be agents in contesting normative discourses on gender relations, in offering opportunities for new solidarities and engendering change in different contexts. It also explores the limits to empowerment and the persistence of gendered forms of vulnerability. Secondly, it considers experiences of labour in a range of precarious and 'feminised' sectors of global and regional labour markets. It focuses on migrants employed in domestic, care and cleaning work in private homes and institutional settings, exploring ethnographic understandings of labour; labour conditions and professional identities; and the political economy of care, intimacy and affective labour.

#### Panel 6: Female Mobility, Agency and Empowerment

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 11:00-13:00, Thant Room

Chair: Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio, University of Barcelona (Spain)

- *Status Beyond Labour: The Empowerment of Filipina Women in Barcelona*, Megha Amrith, UNU-GCM

- *Intersections between Gender, 'Home' and Activism among Women's Organizations on the Myanmar-Thailand Border*, Annabelle Wilkins, Queen Mary University of London (UK)
- *The Gendered Burden of Poverty: Unravelling the Relationship between Women, Family, and Economics in Cambodia*, Brandais York, University of Melbourne (Australia)
- *Migration, Stigma and Empowerment: Former Global Factory Workers Negotiating New Identities in Sri Lanka's Villages*, Sandya Hewamanne, University of Essex (UK)

#### Panel 7: (Dis) Empowering Labour: Gender, Migration and Decent Work

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 16:00-17:45, Hammarskjöld Room

Chair: Megha Amrith, UNU-GCM

- *Emotions in Care Work: a Worker's Best Asset or Biggest Threat?*, Nina Sahraoui, London Metropolitan University (UK)
- *Professionalization: A Way for Empowerment? Learning from Domestic and Care Workers' Experiences in Madrid and Paris*, Paloma Moré, Research University Institute Ortega y Gasset (Spain)
- *Global Maids: Au Pair Mobility as a (New) Form of Vulnerability and Exploitation* David Muñoz Rodríguez, Antonio Santos Ortega, and Emma Gómez Nicolau, University of Valencia (Spain)

#### Thematic Area 5: Legal Discourses on Gender and Migration

This panel examines, from an academic perspective, legal and policy discourses on gender and migration. It considers questions of justice, regional frameworks for rights and citizenship, and normative discourses that impact on nationality and citizenship policies, drawing upon cases from different parts of the world. In particular, it includes discussions of who the beneficiaries of free movement rules are, questions of forced-displacement and how naturalization laws are connected with gender discrimination.

#### Panel 4: Legal Discourses on Gender and Migration

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 15:00-16:30, Thant Room

Chair: Lorenzo Gabrielli, Pompeu Fabra University

- *Who are the "Virtuous" Taiwanese Women? Surveillance, Survival and Law*, Yi-Chien Chen, Shih Hsin University (Taiwan)
- *Forced Displacement, Transitional Justice and Women's Empowerment*, Marta Gil, University of Valencia (Spain)
- *Women, Work and EU Citizenship*, Sandra Mantu, Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands)



## Alphabetical List of Contributors with Abstracts and Biographies

**Nourhan Abdel Aziz**, American University in Cairo (Egypt)

*Changing Homes, Changing Roles: The Struggles and Strategies of Syrian Refugee Women in the Context of Displacement in Egypt*

Refugees from Syria constitute the largest refugee flow in the Middle East and North Africa region since the escalation of the conflict in 2011. In certain cases, women and children were compelled to leave Syria without the head of the family due to various restrictions and challenges. In other instances, Syrian women were divorced or separated once displaced. A significant number of Syrian women in Egypt fall in these two categories. As a result, it is significant to shed light on the experiences of single, divorced, and separated Syrian women who are not only facing the challenges of displacement but also experience the changes of their roles in the household.

This paper examines the role of Syrian women who are the primary care-takers of their households. Firstly, the paper examines the socio-economic difficulties faced by Syrian women in Egypt. This includes an examination of the major livelihood issues such as employment, education, and healthcare. Secondly, the paper exposes the most common forms of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) that Syrian women are subjected to in Egypt. It is significant to address SGBV due to the fact that it is one of the most widespread human rights violations among displaced communities. Thirdly, the paper concludes with an analysis of the coping strategies employed by Syrian refugee women to provide for their families' needs. All three objectives will aim at contextualizing the feminization of the refugee experience in Egypt as more women are becoming the main providers for their families.

**Nourhan Abdel Aziz** is a researcher in the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies in the American University in Cairo (AUC) whose main areas of research interest and experience are on migration and refugee policies and practices, irregular migration, and refugee protection and livelihoods. She received her B.A in political science, with a double specialization in political economy and international law, and her M.A in Migration and Refugee Studies from AUC and is currently finishing her L.L.M. Her current projects focus on irregular migration in Africa, Europe, and the GCC.

**Rosana Albuquerque**, Universidade Aberta (Portugal)

*Community Activism among Black Young Women in Portugal: a Daily Engagement towards Citizenship and Social Cohesion*

In this paper I intend to discuss how community activism among black young women, descendent of African immigrants, is a daily practice of weaving solidarities, resisting discrimination and striving for full citizenship in Portuguese society. My research collected life stories of young women and men assuming leader positions in youth, immigrant or descendants associations. Life trajectories did not reveal gender differences regarding catalyst factors for activism, but make clear that women play an irreplaceable role as community leaders fuelling social change. Activism and associational life are a

kind of ‘schools of citizenship’, as they empower young people to strive for their rights, encourage female leaderships in society and foster informal learning on politics and democracy.

By analysing young women’s narratives and trajectories, we can observe that the main motivation to become involved in community activism is to tackle discrimination and social disadvantages of everyday life, by developing their own civic informally structured projects or joining in formal associations. Activism is a strategy to resist structural constraints, such as racialized sexism and inequality reproduction, felt ‘under the skin’, and damaging their ‘body and soul’. Activism is based on strong ties and bonding social capital, collective and community-centered values, and trust on democratic institutions and political action. Thus, we must consider ethnic ties and a sense of belonging around migrant background and blackness as stimuli to engage in civic projects and intentional claims for equality and full citizenship, while also contribute to promote equity and social cohesion in Portuguese society, as a whole.

**Rosana Albuquerque** holds a Degree in Social Policy, a Master in Intercultural Relations and a PhD in Sociology. She is lecturer of Sociology and Social Policy at the Department of Social Sciences and Management of Universidade Aberta, in Portugal, and a researcher at the Research Centre on Migration and Intercultural Relations, at the same university. She has done research about associations, social movements and political participation, focusing on immigrants and their descendants, with a gender sensitive approach. As a volunteer, she collaborates with NGOs such as SOS Racismo and ACEP in training activities on anti-racism, human rights and intercultural education.

**Megha Amrith, UNU-GCM**

*Status Beyond Labour: The Empowerment of Filipina Women in Barcelona*

This paper addresses the empowerment of Filipina migrant women in Barcelona. Based on in-depth interviews in the Raval neighbourhood, this paper explores the central role that Filipina migrant women play in facilitating the establishment of their family networks in the city and in securing a sense personal, familial and community wellbeing. A commonly heard narrative is that, given the gendered characterisation of the domestic work sector, it is easier for migrant women to find work. Many have college degrees, yet arrive with a reluctant readiness to perform domestic work as a route to building an independent life abroad. The fact that the majority perform domestic work also serves as an ‘equaliser’, reducing divisions based on labour. Migrant women are aware of their labour rights and are able to exercise them. In contrast to experiences of migrant domestic workers in other destinations, they are able to assure dignity in their conditions of life and work in Barcelona, thus fostering a wider sense of empowerment. Women hold numerous positions of status and leadership within the Filipino and urban communities in which they are embedded. Many volunteer in associational life, participate in transnational solidarity networks and advocate for rights to the city. Others participate in wider intercultural initiatives in Barcelona. Alongside stories of hard work, struggle, misrecognition and familial or community politics, there is ultimately recognition that migration opens routes to transformation and wellbeing.

**Megha Amrith** is a Research Fellow at the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM). She holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of

Cambridge and has thematic interests in migration, cultural diversity, citizenship, labour, cities and civil society activism. She is currently working on projects that examine the inclusion of low-income migrants in cities, and the experiences of female migrant labour in domestic and care work sectors. She has conducted ethnographic fieldwork with migrants in a number of cities, including Singapore, Manila, São Paulo, Mumbai and Barcelona.

**Isolina Ballesteros**, City University of New York (USA)

*Female Transnational Migrations and Diasporas in European “Immigration Cinema”*

Female immigration to the European Union has increased exponentially since the 1980s, yet political and media discourses consistently depict female immigrants as dependent, economically passive subjects, often contextualized solely in terms of family reunification, domestic service, and sexual work. Sociologists have shown that the existing literature on immigration ignores the contributions of immigrant women to the development of a future workforce and that their limited representation within mass media reduces significantly their impact on policy making.

In order to bridge the gap between women and the media, an increasing number of female (and some male) filmmakers have become engaged with the issue of immigration in an attempt to give voice to female immigrants, counteract their social invisibility and media indifference, and generate strategies of positive self-representation. In my presentation I will expose some of the commonalities found in immigration films made by European filmmakers. Regardless of nationality or ethnicity, they share similar concerns and representation patterns: they emphasize female immigrants’ agency, survival strategies, mechanisms of identity construction, and integration into the receiving society over exit-less instances of subordination and domination. Their characters’ growth is always contingent on the construction of affective links with other women, whether they are immigrants or natives, and the formation and upholding of female communities and associations. I argue that what these women filmmakers add to “immigration cinema” is a gendered perspective that is still lacking in most media representations of female migration.

**Isolina Ballesteros** is Associate Professor at the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature and the Film Studies Program of Baruch College, and the Graduate Center of CUNY. Her teaching focuses on Modern Peninsular Studies (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century literature and film), Comparative Literature and Spanish and European film. She is the author of three books: *Escritura femenina y discurso autobiográfico en la nueva novela española* (1994), *Cine (Ins)urgente: textos filmicos y contextos culturales de la España postfranquista* (2001), and *Immigration Cinema in the New Europe* (2015).

**Valeria Bello**, UNU-GCM

*The Experience of Women Diasporas: Integration, Civil Society Participation and Socio-cultural Change*

This paper aims to understand the contribution of immigrant women associations to socio-cultural change both through transnational activities and through their involvement in the collective action of civil society in the host country. In the light of UN discussions on the role of women in the world, this work investigates whether women diasporas are empowered by the Country system in order to be able to establish social networks and capitals to influence socio-cultural change and thus play a relevant role in the world. It relates to the academic debate on Immigrant Diasporas in International Relations and investigates through documents analysis, in-depth interviews and ethnographic research the cases of Women's Immigrant Associations in Catalunya, such as "Asociación de Mujeres Inmigrantes subsaharianas (ADIS)" and "Asociación Cultural Educativa Social y Operativa de Mujeres Pakistaníes (ACESOP)". From the findings it is clear that contribution to the civil society of the host country depends, to a great extent, on the personal attributes of women leaders, which can then affect positively the socio-cultural change in both homelands and host countries.

**Valeria Bello** is a Political Sociologist who has taught and published in the fields of Sociology, International Relations and Political Science. Her main research interests concern the role of both identity and non-state actors in the area of migration and interethnic relations, as well as in the area of international and human security. She is the main editor of the book "A Global Security Triangle: European, African and Asian Interactions" (Routledge, 2010, with Belachew Gebrewold) and co-editor of the book "Civil Society and International Governance: The Role of Non-State Actors in the EU, Africa, Asia and Middle East" (Routledge, 2011, with David Armstrong et al.).

**Yi-Chien Chen J.S.D.**, Shih Hsin University (Taiwan)

*Who are the "Virtuous" Taiwanese Women? Surveillance, Survival and Law*

This project intends to draw together public discourses around "Foreign Brides", sexuality and nation-building with a discussion of the law as an institution in which "virtuous" Taiwanese women are shaped and actively produced.

A recent case has caught both scholarly and societal attention when the Ministry of the Interior of Taiwan revoked the Taiwanese nationality of a Vietnamese woman who had been naturalized, due to her adulterous behavior in her previous marriage, though there was no criminal charge or record. One requirement for naturalization is that "he/she behaves decently and has no records of crime". Within five years after naturalization, the naturalization can be withdrawn/revokes if the requirement is found not conformed. In a word, this woman of Vietnamese origin is no longer Taiwanese because she did not behave decently. The NGOs advocated to amend the law to delete such phrases as "behaves decently" but in vain.

Sex, love, marriage, migration, and feminism are some aspects of the changing gender relations that shape people's lives in the Asia Pacific region, especially in Taiwan. This project further explores the current global and national narratives of Southeast Asian women in Taiwan and locates its research focuses also on nationality law and practices in Taiwan. The author wishes to propose a Nationality law and cultural reform aiming at achieving a more realistic, open-defined, diverse imagination of Taiwan Republic of China) as a Nation far different from China (People's Republic of China).

**Yi-Chien Chen** is the chair of the Awakening Foundation, a 33-year old Taiwanese feminist organization, and works as Associate Professor in the graduate institute of Gender Studies in Shih Hsin University in Taipei. Her research interests focus on gender and law and comparative law and culture studies, including sex, love and law, LGBTIQ rights topics.

Yi-Chien has LL.M. degrees both from Heidelberg University, Germany and Cornell Law School, USA. She received her J.S.D. (Doctor of Science of Law) degree in 2001 from Cornell Law School and returned to Taiwan in 2002.

**Anastasia Christou**, Middlesex University (UK)

*Liminal Spaces and Moving Subjects in a Context of Crisis: Gender, Emotions and Agentic Transnational Cultural Production in Eastern European Migration to Greece*

Based on a “Gendered Histories of Resilience and Resistance: Eastern European Women’s Narratives of Mobility and Survival” Oral History Project, a narrative ethnography of Albanian, Bulgarian, Romanian and Polish migrant women living in Greece, the paper explores life stories, memories and experiences, in both ancestral homelands as well as country of settlement, in order to examine the intersections of gender and identity in how the recollection of socialist pasts informs the understanding of living present but also future capitalist lives.

The post-socialist imagination is both a fascinating and a contested one. It is a story of ordinary people in mundane circumstances who led lives that remain extraordinary as we still encounter silences, gaps and voids in the rendering of such histories. Precisely, it is ‘his/stories’ that we often come across as women’s livelihoods and agencies are not always made readily available, yet, they are stories of strength, resilience, endurance and empowerment.

The paper gives voice to such fascinating stories while developing core theorizations of gender, citizenship and social justice in unpacking the past into the present. Through captivating narratives by women in their 30s, 40s and 50s grown up in Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland, the study is an empirically grounded and theoretically illuminating account of processes of democratization, marketization, globalization and migration in how gendered representations of citizenship can highlight the complexities of social and cultural histories of the nation.

The analysis explores the messiness of ordinary lives that account for how global historical transformations of Eastern and Southern Europe are filtered through the lived experience of im/mobilities.

**Anastasia Christou** is Associate Professor of Sociology, member of the Social Policy Research Centre and the FemGenSex research network at Middlesex University. Anastasia has engaged in multi-sited, multi-method and comparative ethnographic research in the United States, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Cyprus, and recently in Iceland. Anastasia has widely published research on issues of diasporas, migration and return migration; the second generation and ethnicity; space and place; transnationalism

and identity; culture and memory; gender and feminism; home and belonging; emotion and narrativity; ageing/youth mobilities, care, trauma, 'race'/racisms and intersectionalities, embodiment, sexualities, motherhood/mothering. 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*, distributed by *Harvard University Press* (2014).

**Eva Gracia Cordoba**, Comillas Pontifical University (Spain)

*Internally Displaced Women in Ayacucho: Their Key Role in Peacebuilding and Social Reconstruction.*  
(with Juncal Fdez-Garayábal)

In conflict situations, the ecological model proposed by Bronfenbrenner is broken, given that the interaction between individuals and their context through economic, social and psychological factors is rendered impossible.

Such was the case in Ayacucho (Peru). Twenty years of conflict between the armed forces and Shining Path resulted in large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who were forced to resettle in different parts of the country, in areas where their participation both in the labour market and the political sphere are prevented. This is especially the case for women, who on the one hand became head of households due to the disappearance of men, and on the other hand saw their rights violated due to war crimes.

Several interviews carried out in Ayacucho in 2013 reveal the role of women during conflict, and also give an insight into the current situation of internally displaced females in the area. Based on a human rights perspective, the aim of analysing the aforementioned interviews is to identify gaps and flaws regarding the treatment given to the situation of Ayacuchan female IDPs. The fact that they are, for instance, not considered to be war victims already depicts the way in which social structures are not being treated in a comprehensive manner.

The slow active participation of these women in daily political processes has resulted in a faulty reconstruction of Ayacuchan society, given that the peace process has been far from inclusive and has forgotten about the rights and obligations of determined social sectors.

**Eva Gracia Córdoba** is a social integrator and social worker with experience in social intervention through her work in several organizations. Nowadays, she is studying for a MSc in International Cooperation for Development in Comillas Pontifical University. Also, she is collaborating at the Institute of Development and Cooperation of Complutense University and at the Institute for the Studies on Migrations of Comillas Pontifical University. She has participated in several studies on migrations and her main area of research is based on the role of women in the Ayacucho society after the conflict.

**Tatiana Diniz**, UNU-GCM

*Women of the World: Home and Work in Barcelona*



**Giulia D’Odorico**, University of Padua (Italy)

*Discourses and Practices about Marriage, Gender and Sexuality. Mothers and Daughters between Morocco and Italy.*

This contribution is based on the main results of my PhD research project. It explores the processes of construction of gender and sexuality among two generations of women of Moroccan origin living in Italy - pairs of mothers and daughters. Furthermore, it illustrates the ongoing transformations of family structures and dynamics within the framework of globalized migrations. The research is based on 29 biographical narratives that have been collected through in-depth interviews and participant observation in Italy and Morocco between February 2012 and September 2013. This study stands at the crossroads between family and migration studies (Kofman 2004; Grillo 2008; Palriwala, Uberoi 2008; Kraler et al. 2011) with the aim of contributing to a shift in the methodological and theoretical frame usually adopted to interpret family discourses and practices of migrants and their descendants. Most of the research tends to adopt exclusively "nation-based" lenses (Levitt, Glick Schiller 2004; Anthias 2009) without considering the complexity of social positions and positionings that all subjects, including researchers, face in the current global context. Thus, this study adopts a "translocal" approach as developed by Floya Anthias (2002; 2008). In this paper I will cast light on one of the major institutions lying within the gender and sexual structures and helping to reproduce them - marriage. I will illustrate the changes in marriage markets, with particular attention to the meanings attributed to partner selection and marriage strategies without losing view of some other aspects of marriage life such as sexual intimacy before and after marriage.

**Giulia D’Odorico** graduated in International and Diplomatic Studies at the University of Trieste, completed a master in Governance and Development at the University of Antwerp and a PhD in Social Sciences at the University of Padua. Her main areas of interest and expertise cover Gender, Gender-based Violence, Development and Migration. She gained significant professional experience in these areas while working at Amnesty International in Brussels, the UNDP in Quito, the University of Padua. At the moment, she is conducting a research on Chinese migrations in Italy, with a focus on the life stories of Chinese workers in the textile and leather sectors.

**Marina Faetanini**, UNESCO (India)

*Migration, Gender and Social Inclusion in India*

Internal migration in India accounts for a large population currently estimated at approximately 400 million, or nearly 30 percent of the total population. These figures are indeed staggering when compared with estimates of Indian emigrants, i.e. 11.4 million. The constraints faced by seasonal migrants in particular (estimated at 100 million) are many – lack of formal residency rights; lack of identity proof; lack of political representation; inadequate housing; low pay, insecure or hazardous work; extreme vulnerability of women and children to trafficking and sexual exploitation; exclusion from state-provided services and entitlements such as health and education; inability to access banking facilities;

and discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, class or gender. Being constantly on the move, migrants, of which nearly 70 percent are women, lose access to social security benefits linked to the residence, falling through the cracks of development policies and programmes focused on settled populations. The underlying assumptions of a majority of city officials and local authorities are that inhospitable and harsh cities are the best deterrent to migration flow. The Internal Migration in India Initiative (IMII) was therefore launched in 2011 to address the multiplicity of challenges faced by migrants, men, women and children, and support their social inclusion in the economic, social, political and cultural life of the country, using a three-legged approach combining research, policy and advocacy. The informal network created under the IMII has been recently transformed into a new web-portal titled Gender, Youth and Migration (GYM) which functions as a sub-community of practice of the United Nations Solution Exchange Gender Community on gender, youth and migration in India (<http://www.solutionexchange-un-gen-gym.net>).

**Marina Faetanini** has headed the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) since 2007 at the UNESCO New Delhi Office, where she has developed a new programme of activities focusing on social protection, urban poverty, the right to the city, social inclusion and internal migration, using a three-legged approach, combining research, policy and advocacy. She has published policy briefs, training manuals - *Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India (2013)*; *Internal Migration: A Manual for Community Radio Stations (2015)* - as well as several videos and films, such as *Breaking Silence (2013)*; *Floating People Building Blocks (2014)*; *Changing Climate Moving People (2014)*.

Prior to joining UNESCO in 2003, Marina Faetanini worked on climate change related issues (WWF-France) and as a diplomat at the United Nations (NYC) and at the Council of Europe (1992-1999). She graduated from the *Ecole Normale Supérieure* of Saint-Cloud, France (ENS) in *Lettres et Sciences Humaines* (Humanities) in 1983 and holds a D.E.A (equivalent to M.A.) in Romance Studies from the University of *La Sorbonne Nouvelle*, Paris, France (1987).

**Juncal Fdez-Garayzábal**, Comillas Pontifical University (Spain)  
*Internally Displaced Women in Ayacucho: Their Key Role in Peacebuilding and Social Reconstruction.*  
(with Eva Gracia Cordoba)

**Juncal Fdez-Garayzábal** has MSc in International Cooperation for Development and in European Democracy and Legitimacy. She is currently also a PhD candidate at Comillas Pontifical University (Madrid, Spain). Her fields of study include forced migrations, organised crime, conflicts and security, knowledge she has combined with field experiences in different countries. She has participated in several international conferences, focusing on the political, social and economic consequences of human trafficking. Moreover, she has collaborated with different research institutes at a national (Institute for the Studies on Migrations of Comillas Pontifical University) and international level (The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies – HCSS).

**Federica Frediani**, Università della Svizzera italiana (Switzerland)  
*New Narratives of the Mediterranean: the Women Gaze*



The Mediterranean undergoes continuous transformation. Women, who often represent a powerful driving force of change, contribute in a crucial way to this transformation. Nevertheless, the World Economic Forum Gender Gap Report 2014 has brought to light that the majority of Mediterranean countries are still far from reaching gender equality. The new and unstable configurations of the present-day Mediterranean impose the necessity of new maps and new narratives. The recourse to old categories describing such a variable and unpredictable reality is inadequate both at the theoretical and practical levels.

The aim of this proposal is to illustrate that new narratives and new maps are already present in the works of some women artists, directors and writers (for instance Mona Hatoum, Karin Albou, Assia Djebar).

The presentation focuses on theoretical aspects and on the analysis of some works that in different ways represent and predict the complexity of the Mediterranean reality.

**Federica Frediani** is researcher and lecturer at the Laboratorio for Mediterranean Studies of the Università della Svizzera italiana. She obtained an M.A. in Literature at the University of Siena (1997), where she achieved a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature (2005). Her interests are focused on travel literature and women's travel, on the representations and images of the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean cities. She also carries out research with the Department of Comparative Languages, Literature and Cultures at the University of Bergamo. She is author *Go Out. Women travel writings: from the mythical paradigms to the orientalist images* (2007) and she co-edited *Space Signs Words. Paths of Italian Women Traveller* (2012). She edited the volume *Mediterranean city between Myth and Reality* (2014).

**Sarah Gammage**, UN Women (USA)

*Making Claims on Duty Bearers: Migrant Women Workers' Advocacy and Organizing Strategies*

This article analyses migrant women workers' advocacy and organizing to make claims on duty bearers to improve the terms and conditions of their employment in host and home countries. The article draws on EC-funded research supported by UN Women in Mexico, Moldova and the Philippines and highlights other examples of migrant women's organization and advocacy to make strategic claims on duty bearers.

The increasingly complex nature of migration and international labour recruitment has far-reaching implications for governments in sending, receiving and transit countries as they define policies and programmes to manage and control migration. Migrant women's organizing and advocacy strategies directed at improving the terms and conditions of employment is emblematic of their ability to exercise voice and wrest agency from within these processes and to engage duty bearers nationally and internationally in designing labour and migration policy and programmes. Across the globe groups of migrant women have organized to make claims on duty-bearers and strategically leverage partnerships to improve the terms and conditions of employment. This article looks at the multiple forms of

resistance and the multiple sites of claims-making by migrant women to achieve these ends. We focus specifically on the use of CEDAW General Recommendation 26 and Convention 189 on decent work for domestic workers. We deconstruct a number of experiences using these instruments to examine what has worked and where as part of an anatomy of success for future claims-making by migrant women's organizations and advocates.

**Sarah Gammage** is a Policy Advisor working with UN WOMEN in New York. Previously she worked for the sub-regional office of the ILO in Chile. She has written academic and policy research articles on gender and trade, poverty, labour markets, migration and environment. She has a PhD in Development Economics from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague and a Master's degree in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has worked with and for a number of international and multilateral organizations and is an active member of the International Association for Feminist Economics.

**Dominika Gasiorowski**, Queen Mary University of London (UK)

*The Body of Evidence: Maya Goded's Photography of Sex-Workers in Mexico*

Maya Goded is one of the most renowned contemporary Mexican photographers. Her documentary work on prostitution in Mexico, which spans nearly two decades, evidences a hidden phenomenon revealing an exploitative gendered undercurrent within Mexican society. The work shows a community in flux and a vibrant and sinister commercial underworld, populated by women who migrate in and out of Mexico's red-light districts called *zonas de tolerancia*. Through a close analysis of several images from Goded's vast body of work on prostitution, a connection will be forged between representations of individual stories of empowerment or suffering and the established social patterns of exploiting female migrants. This will help to show how their vulnerability and their agency are played out in different regions of the country, particularly in the capital and along the US border. The images' potential for empowerment as well as exploitation will be considered within the frame of their subjects' internal displacement. The main goal of this examination is to tease out the ethical intricacies of representing and looking at images of migrant sex workers with a particular focus on how their bodies fit within the borders of Mexico and within the established patterns of female exploitation.

**Dominika Gasiorowski** recently successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled *Representing Mexican Otherness: Subalternity in Maya Goded's Socially Engaged Photodocumentary*, which she completed at Queen Mary University of London under the supervision of Professor Parvati Nair. After obtaining a BA in Hispanic Studies from Queen Mary University of London, she completed her MPhil degree in European Literature and Culture at King's College, University of Cambridge. Her research interests include Latin American cultural studies and visual culture, as well as critical theory, particularly in relation to concepts of gender, race, identity, violence and difference.

**Marta Gil**, University of Valencia (Spain)

*Forced Displacement, Transitional Justice and Women's Empowerment*

The fields of forced displacement and transitional justice have remained disconnected. My contribution associates these two issues from a gendered perspective. All conflicts have an immense human cost. One of the principal problems is the situation of displaced people, asylum seekers and refugees. According to the UNHCR Global Trends Report, 51.2 million people were displaced at the end of 2013. Women and girls in conflict-affected settings face an enormous risk of being victims of human trafficking and sex labour. Other problems include: forced marriage (sometimes families think that they may protect young girls from sexual violence this way); discriminatory gender-based norms; or lack of basic services for women and their families (usually are women who take care of the elderly or the children).

Another focus of injustice is the vulnerability of civil rights during forced displacement situations. Often, there are preexisting inequalities: women lack citizenship rights, so this involves more difficulties in accessing identity documents, asylum, and so on. Similarly, they experience legal and civil injustices regarding birth, death, marriage, divorce, property rights, etc.

Transitional justice measures can be a valuable tool in order to ensure an adequate engagement of displaced women in designing justice processes. Giving suitable hearing to marginalized voices can subvert the role of women from passive victims to right bearers and active citizens in its own right. Enhancing women's participation and leadership in displaced settings is crucial. Transitional justice has a transformative potential to address gender-based violations, but also to fight deeper structural disparities and injustices.

**Marta Gil** earned her Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy from the University of Barcelona. After that, she moved to the University of Valencia, where she studied for a Master's degree in Ethics and Democracy. During her doctoral studies she developed research in several topics related to Political Philosophy and Democracy. She earned a Ph.D with a thesis about Martha Nussbaum and the role of emotions in public life. She has been a visiting researcher at Oxford University and at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin. Currently, she is developing research in the field of Transitional Justice in the University of Valencia and the Centro Internacional Toledo para la Paz.

**Sandya Hewamanne**, University of Essex (UK)

*Migration, Stigma and Empowerment: Former Global Factory Workers Negotiating New Identities in Sri Lanka's Villages*

This paper explores how former migrant global factory workers negotiate new identities in villages as new brides, mothers and daughters-in-law after 5-6 years of employment in an urban Free Trade Zone. I argue that their performances of self-discipline and disavowal of transgressive knowledges allow them to make use of the limited social economic, and political spaces available while gradually reshaping local understandings about the good daughter-in-law. Combining their FTZ earnings and other forms of capital many become successful local entrepreneurs who provide part time work for local women, even while daily managing the stigma of migration. This creative manipulation of varied forms of capital -- symbolic, social and monetary -- is one of the reasons behind new social status markers and novel forms of disparities among groups of people within villages. Analyzing non-migrant and migrant narratives of

entrepreneurship the paper argue that the migration to work in global factories is the differentiating factor between success and failure.

**Sandya Hewamanne** is a Cultural Anthropologist specializing in gender and sexuality studies, Economic Anthropology and Anthropology of Globalization and Development. She is the author of *Stitching Identities in a Free Trade Zone: Gender and Politics in Sri Lanka* (University of Pennsylvania Press: 2008). She has also published peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Ethnology*, *Ethnography*, *Social Text*, *Identities*, *Feminist Studies*, *Cultural Dynamics* and *Anthropology of Work Review*. She is currently finishing her second manuscript titled “Manipulating Capital: Sri Lanka’s Former Global Factory Workers Negotiating New Identities.” She teaches Anthropology at the University of Essex, United Kingdom and is a visiting scholar at Cornell University, USA.

**Maria Jaschok**, University of Oxford (UK)

*Sources of Authority of Female Leadership in Islam – Female ahong and qingzhen nüsi (Women’s Mosques) in China*

The main factors which have contributed to the enduring longevity of female *ahong*-led women’s own mosques in predominantly, but not exclusively so, Hui Muslim communities in central China, lie in the historical needs of a besieged Chinese Muslim Diaspora for women’s active participation in a collective project of Islamic revival and Muslim survival. Developments over time led from learned women’s *ad hoc* roles as religious instructors of girls and women, guided by fathers and husbands, to the institutionalisation of female leadership in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in both teaching and ritual guidance. From the earliest beginnings, the active role of women was controversial and, as on-going internal dissension in the Chinese Muslim Sunni community over the concept of *bid’a* (principle of innovation in Islam) demonstrates, women’s public visibility in organized Islam remains divisive. It is argued that despite on-going tensions over legitimacy of Muslim women’s own traditions of worship, education and congregation, their continued existence owes much to a growing assertion of a *Chinese* Muslim identity within the *ummah* as well as to strategic alliance at the local level with Communist Party/State officials, conferring authority to female *ahong*-led women’s mosques by legal and administrative means.

**Maria Jaschok** is a Research Fellow and Director of International Gender Studies Centre at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford. She obtained her PhD from SOAS, University of London. Her areas of research interest are in religion, gender and agency; gendered constructions of memory; feminist ethnographic and collaborative practice; marginality and identity. Long years of research collaboration with the Chinese Hui Muslim sociologist of religion Shui Jingjun have produced numerous journal articles and book chapters on the history and anthropology of China’s uniquely female-gendered Islamic spaces. Their current fieldwork concerns the significance of sound, silence and voice in the culture of Hui women’s mosques. Among recent book publications, *Women, Religion and Space*, co-authored with Shui Jingjun (Routledge, 2011) and *The History of Women’s Mosques in Chinese Islam: A Mosque of Their Own*, co-authored with Shui Jingjun (Curzon, 2000/2002, Chinese edition) provide a comprehensive introduction to China’s female-led women’s mosques. Given the scarcity of historical scholarship in this area of work, apart from consultation of Chinese-language (published and private)

source materials as well as of Western-language secondary literature, the most important basis for reconstruction of the history of Chinese Muslim women have been oral history and fieldwork in China.

**Sandra Mantu**, Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands)  
*Women, Work and EU citizenship*

EU citizens are entitled to move and reside freely in another Member State irrespective of their engagement in economic activities but their rights remain contingent on them having sufficient resources not to become an unreasonable burden on the welfare system of the host Member State. EU citizens who move as workers enjoy better rights and better protection in comparison with economically inactive mobile citizens, a fact that led authors to describe EU citizenship as ‘market citizenship’. The manner in which EU citizenship and the rules adopted in secondary legislation to give it affect reflect gender issues is relatively understudied in EU law scholarship. Although the legal definition of EU citizenship is formulated in a general fashion, the initial beneficiaries of free movement rules were understood to be men in their capacity as workers, begging questions as to the position of women in relation to the market as the epitome of EU integration. More recently, EU case law suggests that the time has come to examine EU citizenship as a gendered legal status in order to analyze the intersectionality of gender, work and citizenship in the construction and application of the legal status of EU citizenship. This paper seeks to understand how the legal rules on EU citizenship and their interpretation by the European Court of Justice shape, influence and/or constrain the capacity of women EU citizens to make use of their EU citizenship rights.

**Sandra Mantu** is researcher at the Centre for Migration Law, Radboud University Nijmegen. In 2014, Sandra defended her PhD thesis that dealt with the legal rules and practices of citizenship deprivation in a selection of EU states. She has been involved in several EU funded projects looking at the legal aspects of EU citizenship and migration. She has co-edited a volume on labour migration (E. Guild and S. Mantu, 2011, *Constructing and Imagining Labour Migration: Perspectives of Control from Five Continents*, Ashgate). Her latest research interests concern the nexus of work, time and EU citizenship.

**Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio**, University of Barcelona (Spain)  
*Between Borders and Desires: Artists in the Contemporary Mediterranean.*

There are several stories of borders and desires, boundaries and hopes, which are placed, sometimes hidden and veiled, under the relentless flow of the Mediterranean waters. The plural, diverse and intercultural language of art constitutes the key to access these stories and the way to discover other narratives and perspectives. People lost in mobility; subjectivities and identities that live the border, the language and the translation as a permanent status of being here and elsewhere; stories of journeys, transits and migrations; metaphors of sufferings, privations and wars; attempts to belong to, and struggles to escape from, are some of the issues narrated by the artists and that will be analysed in the research. The paper wants to address these subjects throughout images, words and narrations, questioning the aesthetical and cognitive role of art, as well as the role of female artists as generators of alternative narratives. The paper focuses on artists that are looking for other experiences, emotions,

breaths and desires, to catch, share, interpret and narrate. The artistic practices of women like, among others, Gülsün Karamustafa, Emily Jacir, Zineb Sedira, Bouchra Khalili, Lamia Joreige, Rima Maroun and Mona Hatoum, will help us to reveal those hidden stories caught in between the hardness of borders and the sensitivity of desires.

**Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio**, PhD, University of Barcelona, is a faculty member at Transart Institute (NY-Berlin) and was Post-Doctoral Visiting Researcher at United Nations University - Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility. His lines of investigation involve the subjects of intercultural processes, globalization and mobility in contemporary art and cultural policies, the cultural interactions in the Mediterranean and the cultural cooperation between Asia and Europe. As an art critic and independent curator he writes extensively for several international magazines.

**Paloma Moré**, Research University Institute Ortega y Gasset (Spain)

*Professionalization: A Way for Empowerment? Learning from Domestic and Care Workers' Experiences in Madrid and Paris*

This paper is part of PhD research and addresses the experiences of migrant women working in domestic and/or care work, in private homes and/or institutional settings, in Madrid and Paris. The aim is to discuss if social mobility through professionalization may be a way for labour empowerment. The paper argues that empowerment is a complex process, which connects agency and ethics with the institutional contexts. The aim is to grasp how even in a context of political economy of care, which neglects the importance and complexity of caring, these workers are able to develop a positive sense of labour identity through their so-called "dirty work".

This paper adopts the intersectional approach and the ethics of care as theoretical tools to understand the narratives and the sense of identity of domestic and care workers, in different contexts and workplaces, but being at the intersection of gender, ethnicity, class, and immigration status.

The empirical basis is cross-national qualitative fieldwork conducted in 2012-2014 within the elderly care sector in Madrid and Paris. The empirical data draws on 83 in-depth interviews with workers and key informants; and on an ethnographic experience shadowing workers during their daily routines and following the activities of a care-domestic workers' organization.

**Paloma Moré** has a background in Sociology and Journalism, and submitted her PhD on International Migration and Social Integration at the Research University Institute Ortega y Gasset, in Spain. Her PhD has been funded (2011-2015) by the FPI-Scholarship program of the Complutense University of Madrid. She is interested in the links between labour, gender, international migration. Her PhD is a cross-national research that focuses on the labour trajectories, working conditions, and identities in elderly care in Spain and France. Since 2009 she is member of the Research Group Charles Babbage in Social Sciences of Work.

**Parvati Nair**, UNU-GCM



### *Home-Work: The Gender Politic of Urban Immigrant Relocation*

Based on the *Women of the World: Home and Work in Barcelona* project (to be exhibited at the Sant Pau Art Nouveau site and available via the website of UNU-GCM: [gcm.unu.edu](http://gcm.unu.edu)), this paper examines processes of relocation engaged in by the subjects who took part. My focus here is on the ways in which, for female immigrants, the private and the public, the home and the world, the familiar and the strange become intertwined, as they seek to build, or re-build, their lives in new contexts. Processes of migration, relocation, gender adaptations and cultural hybridization become the modes through which a gendered politic of relocation, understood as strategies through which to negotiate new terrains, is shaped. In turn, this gendered politic contributes to the weave of the city, confirming the modern metropolis as a fluid site of cultural uncertainties and possibilities, where the uprootings of globalization and its inherent mobilities are witnessed in the everyday.

Central to the ideas explored in this paper is the notion of the unhomey. I shall make reference here to Homi Bhabha's reworking of Freud's concept of the *unheimlich*, as also to the ways in which the idea of the unhomey forces an implication between private and public spheres, most especially in contexts of mobility. Such an implication immediately impacts at multiple levels – the subjective, the collective, the social, and the urban, overturning demarcations between natives and immigrants, self and other. In turn, the city propagates itself on this dynamic of the unhomey.

**Parvati Nair** directs the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility. She is also Professor of Hispanic, Cultural and Migration Studies at Queen Mary, University of London, where she directed the Centre for the Study of Migration. Her research is in Cultural Studies, with a particular interest in theories and representations of migration, mobility, urban spaces, displacement, ethnicity and gender. She writes mainly on photography, film and music in these contexts and relies on an interdisciplinary approach that includes fieldwork. She is the founder and Principal Editor of *Crossings: Journal of Migration and Culture*. Her publications include the co-edited books *Migration Across Boundaries: Linking Research to Practice and Experience* (co-edited with Tendayi Bloom, forthcoming in July 2015 from Ashgate Publishing), *Hispanic and Lusophone Women Filmmakers* (2013, co-edited with Julian Gutiérrez Albilla and published by Manchester University Press), and *Gender and Spanish Cinema* (2006, co-edited with Steven Marsh and published by Berg). She has authored *Configuring Community: Theories, Narratives and Practices of Community Identities in Contemporary Spain* (2004, MHRA), *Rumbo al norte: inmigración y movimientos culturales entre el Magreb y España* (2006, Edicions Bellaterra) and *A Different Light: The Photography of Sebastião Salgado* (2011, Duke University Press).

**Emma Gómez Nicolau**, University of Valencia (Spain)

*Global Maids: Au Pair Mobility as a (New) Form of Vulnerability and Exploitation* (with David Muñoz Rodríguez and Antonio Santos Ortega)

Au pair mobility, originally conceived as a form of cultural exchange, conceals forms of paid work without a clear legal basis, which is developed mainly by young women from with higher education. Although no reliable data are available, some evidence seems to point to an increase of this type of

mobility (for instance the website “Aupair-world” has more than two million registered users). For middle-class families, this program has become a way to outsource housework, getting cheap and very flexible care work. Possible situations of abuse led the European Parliament to request a report, which stated that there are clear cases of abuse. In this paper, first, through the theoretical approach, we describe how, in a context where the vital precariousness is increasing, the dominant liberal discourses on human capital and cosmopolitanism prescribe as desirable mobility in order to increase the employability. Second, by analysing in-depth interviews, we approach the experiences and representations of women who were employed as au pairs. The results highlight the use of this program to address the absence of labour expectations. This use, forced by the socioeconomic situation, outlined a scenario that intensifies the pressure felt by the au pairs. Everyday relationships with the families favour the emergence and maintenance of forms of exploitation, hidden under the guise of pseudo-family ties, where the exchanges are guided by the logic of reciprocity and emotional rewards.

**Emma Gomez Nicolau** is a PhD of sociology and graduated in journalism. Her research interests are feminisms, communication, gender violence and social movements.

**Maggie O’Neill**, Durham University (UK)

*Women, Well-being and Community: Enacting and Building Cultural Citizenship Using Participatory Arts and Participatory Action Research (PAR) with Women Seeking Asylum and Refuge.*

Committed to exploring democratic ways of doing research with migrant women and taking up the theme of ‘enacting citizenship’ for theory and practice, this paper draws upon a participatory arts-based research project with women seeking asylum in the North East of England. Together we developed a participatory arts and participatory action research project that focused upon well-being and community in order to: better understand women’s experiences of living in the North East; challenge and change sexual and social inequalities; stimulate high quality research and art; and impact upon policy and praxis. In sharing some of the images and narratives created by women participants that offer multi-sensory, dialogic and visual routes to understanding, this paper suggests that arts-based methodologies, including walking biographies, might counter exclusionary processes and practices, generate greater knowledge and understanding of women’s resources in building and performing cultural citizenship; and deliver on social justice by facilitating a radical democratic imaginary.

**Maggie O’Neill** is Professor in Applied Social Sciences and co-directs the Centre for Sex, Gender and Sexualities at Durham University. She Chairs the ESA Research Network 3 ‘Biographical Perspectives on European Societies’. Recent publications include: *Advances in Biographical Methods: creative applications* (Routledge) edited with Brian Roberts and Andrew Sparkes ; *Asylum, Migration and Community* (Policy Press); a special section on the *Slow University* in Forum for Qualitative Research and with photographer John Perivolaris ‘A sense of belonging: walking with Thaeer through migration, memories and space’ in *Crossings: Journal of Migration & Culture Volume 5*.

**Antonio Santos Ortega**, University of Valencia (Spain)



*Global Maids: Au Pair Mobility as a (New) Form of Vulnerability and Exploitation* (with David Muñoz Rodríguez and Emma Gómez Nicolau, see Nicolau for abstract)

**Antonio Santos Ortega** is a PhD and lecturer of sociology. He has conducted research on youth unemployment, job insecurity and integration processes of migrants. He currently coordinates the review *Arxius de Ciències Socials*.

**Maria Paradiso, University of Sannio (Italy)**

*Emotional Geographies of Female Mobilities and Agency in the Mediterranean: Explorative Narratives from Muslim Migrant Women in an Italian Case Study.*

The presentation focuses on migrant residents and citizenship identities and agency behaviour, and how these are shaped by emotional and relational experiences of *being* women in Muslim communities in Italy.

In this paper, an exploratory case for further research steps, I explore the residentiality narratives of women from North African countries in Italy and examine how lifeworlds are shaped in their community by values, social codes and interactions with the hosting places, people and own community members. Specifically I address their geography of emotions highlighted as a result of the interplay of the spatial and social boundaries which form their daily mobility and practices and the embodied troubles or opportunities of their condition of gendered not privileged migrants. I am interested in the condition of Muslim women in migrants community as a result of being detached from native place and encountering ‘difference’ event still asked to perpetuate traditional habits in Muslim observant family. The condition of migrants women is a main factor in coping with difference in contemporary Western life and have many implications for a better society.

Acknowledgement: This presentation relates to research project on going under Mediterranean changing relationships: global change, networks and border openings MEDCHANGe (FP7 IRSES- Marie Curie)

**Maria Paradiso**, born in Naples (Italy), 1966, is a Doctor in Political Geography (University of Trieste, Sorbonne and other Consortiated), Professor of Geography and Planning at the University of Sannio in Benevento (Italy), Member Academia Europaea Social Sciences Committee, she is founder and the first Chair of the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission ‘Mediterranean Basin’. She has served as Vice Chair of the IGU Commission ‘Geography of Information Society’ till 2012 and has been contributing since 2001 to the development nationally and internationally of this new field of research in Geography with an interdisciplinary perspective. Currently she is Primary Coordinator of FP7 People Marie Curie IRSES MEDCHANGe – Euromediterranean changing relationships 612639, a research and mobility Euromediterranean partnerships with nine Universities from Europe, North Africa, Middle East. Maria got teaching, conference, and research invitations by several Universities and Academies from all over the world such as the University of Bordeaux Montaigne, Lexington University, Sorbonne Paris, University of Toulouse, Le Havre, the National University of Seoul, University of Tokyo and Waseda, University of Ankara, Istanbul, Hassan II Mohammed Casablanca, Cadi Ayyad Marrakesh, CERES Tunis, Israeli Academy of Science and University of Cape Town. Her main interest now is the

exploration of changes in the Mediterranean relationships through narratives of people in mobilities across the Mediterranean and the better understanding of cultural dialogue and human development.

**Sine Plambech**, Danish Institute for International Studies (Denmark)

*Becky's Journey (2014)*

This film is about Becky, a 26-year-old Nigerian woman who made two attempts to go to Europe to sell sex. The first time she was intercepted with counterfeit documents in the airport in Lagos, Nigeria, by immigration authorities. This made her decide to begin a deadly journey through the Sahara desert hoping to embark on a smuggler boat bound for Italy. The film is about migration, sex work and human trafficking seen from the perspective of Becky. We meet Becky as she contemplates what to do next. The film has been screened or is selected for screenings at a number of film festivals around the world, including the Copenhagen International Sex Worker Film Festival (2014) (*Opening film*) and Just Gather Film Festival March 2015 (Edinburgh).

**Sine Plambech** is a social anthropologist and filmmaker. She is currently a post-Doc research fellow at the Danish Institute for International Studies and a previous research fellow at Columbia University in New York. She works in Nigeria on the topic of deportation of Nigerian sex workers from the EU, and among Nigerians selling sex in the streets of Copenhagen. She also works in Thailand on sex work and marriage migration of Thai women to the EU.

*Becky's Journey* is her fifth film. Her other films on marriage migration, sex work migration and humanitarianism have won several awards, screened at numerous festivals and sold to national television broadcasters in most European countries. *Becky's Journey* is her latest film and selected for several film festivals.

**David Muñoz Rodríguez**, University of Valencia (Spain)

*Global Maids: Au Pair Mobility as a (New) Form of Vulnerability and Exploitation* (with Antonio Santos Ortega and Emma Gómez Nicolau, see Nicolau for abstract)

**David Muñoz Rodríguez** is a sociologist and M.A. in Sociology of Public Policies. Currently is he is a PhD student (FPU program). His research interests are mobility of young university students, biographical precariousness and social vulnerability.

**Nina Sahraoui**, London Metropolitan University (UK)

*Emotions in Care Work: a Worker's Best Asset or Biggest Threat?*

This paper analyses migrant care workers' discourses around emotional labour in London, Paris and Madrid. It is based upon 84 semi-structured interviews conducted in these three cities with care workers employed in private residential and domiciliary care. The underlying conceptualisation of care as an extension of women's domestic work created a gendered sector that is characterised by precarious

employment terms and working conditions. Moreover, the articulation of migration, employment and social care regimes, underpinned by the neoliberal dynamics of market extension and consumer choice, fostered the growth of for-profit care providers that rely on a migrant workforce. Against this background, this paper analyses how emotional labour is rendered invisible. This paper argues that commitment, love and attachment play a particular role in building up care workers' occupational identity, dignity and pride. The 'ethics of care' that emerges from respondents' discourses enters in this regard in contradiction with professionalization attempts that teach detachment and deem emotional commitment unprofessional. The paper further argues that the dominant professional norms reflect gendered conceptualisations of what constitutes work and fail to acknowledge the centrality of emotional labour. Building upon this analysis, the paper calls for an extension of the concept of 'emotional labour' in order to address theoretically the complexity of care workers' narratives in which they are active agents performing emotional labour, in which they portray a use of emotions and attachment that render the work bearable and finally, in which they account for the emotional distress that their interactions with residents can trigger.

**Nina Sahraoui** studied at the Institute of Political Science in Paris and graduated in International Affairs. She worked for two years as Project Officer in the Rabat School of Governance and Economics in Morocco. Nina is now a Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher and PhD candidate at London Metropolitan University. Her doctoral research focuses on migrant workers' experiences in elder care in London, Paris and Madrid. Her research interests revolve around a gendered political economy analysis of the articulation of employment, care and migration regimes.

**Fabrizio Sarrica**, United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (Austria)

*Women in Trafficking in Persons; Results from the UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*

Since the year 2006, UNODC has published four Global Reports on Trafficking in Persons, the latest published in November 2014. UNODC is currently working on the next edition of the Report that will focus on trafficking, migration and diasporas.

The Global Reports reported about the criminal exploitation in forced labour and sexual exploitation of women, domestically and internationally. About 70 per cent of detected victims of trafficking around the world are females. Females are clearly trafficked for sexual exploitation. At the same time, women and girls in large number are also exploited in forced labour, as 35% of all detected victims of trafficking for forced labour are females. The share of adult women among total victims detected has decreased since 2004. However, this is partially offset by the increased share of young girls, passing from 10 per cent to 21 per cent since 2004.

The Global Report pointed at the role of the women not as traffickers. Data for the period 2010 to 2012 indicate that traffickers are mostly men but the share of suspected and convicted female offenders (38 per cent) is distinctively high, especially when compared to the female offending rates in other types of crime (about 18 per cent). In the different editions of the Report, UNODC has explored the reasons and the roles women have in the exploitation of other women.

**Fabrizio Sarrica** is a Research Officer for the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons Unit of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Mr. Sarrica holds a PhD in Criminology, a Master degree in Economics and International Relation and a University degree in Economics. Mr. Sarrica has been working as a researcher for UNODC since the year 2002. In this role, he has conducted research and assessments on corruption, organized crime, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons in different parts of the world. He is the co-author of four UNODC Global Reports on Trafficking in Persons.

**Diana Sherzada**, Ludwig Maximillians University (Germany)

*Afghan Women in Germany betwixt Border Crossing, Media Coverage and Gender Shifting(s)*

As the anthropologist Lila Abu-Lughod raised up her doubts about the images of Muslim and especially Afghan women that are offered in the West she felt the urge to question: “Do muslim women (really) need saving?” (2003; 2013) In drawing attention to the media figurations campaigning on human/women’s rights and the prevailing politics of violence, she marked out that women in Afghanistan have long been portrayed as passive victims awaiting liberation from the West.

Many actors still foster this monodirectional view on gender, agency and ethnicity. While casually referring to shrouded figures and signs as the “battleflag of burqa” (Toynbee 2002) they fail to explain the fluidities of Afghan women’s identities in the Afghan Diaspora. In drawing them out alongside iconographic symbols of oppression they dismiss the many challenges members of the Afghan diaspora have to face traversing cultural and biographical processes, gender orders and social relations. Nearby one year past 9/11, Lawanga told me she feels unseen by the German majority society and simultaneously irritated amongst the Afghan community because of shifting gender and family relations since living abroad and residing in Germany. Her words marked out her very special reaching out for new and radical ways of looking at (orfor) gender identity as she explained: “In Germany one has to be male and female!”

Invoking an ethnographic outlook, my approach is to reach out the nexus of migration, female agency and gender identity amongst an Afghan diaspora community in Germany. Across the subjectivities of body experience and place-making the scale of the transnational multilayered regiments of border crossing(s), subjectivities and gender identity politics have to be recognized throughout case studies that have been gathered since 1996.

**Diana Sherzada** studied Social and Cultural Anthropology, Studies of Religion and Philosophy at the Ludwig-Maximillians-University in Munich (M.A.2003). Her PhD thesis “Afghan Women in Germany betwixt gender shifting and border crossing” focuses on female agency and gender identity amongst an Afghan diaspora community in Germany and was accompanied by Iranian Studies and Sociology. Her research interests on Postcolonial Studies, Subjectivity and Identity, Gender and Migration follow the scale of the transnational multilayered regiments of border crossing(s), subjectivities and gender identity politics and are currently focused on South Asia and Europe.

**Christiane Timmerman**, University of Antwerp (Belgium)

*Dynamics in Female Migration and Integration. A Case Study from Belgium.*

In this contribution I want to focus on the central position of social change in understanding gendered migration dynamics. Gender transitions at several levels (macro, meso and micro) in both the region of origin and destination (Belgium) structure the migration processes of men and women. A second important element that has to be taken into consideration is a longitudinal perspective, where migration and integration are no longer considered as sequential distinct phases, but as one migration career. From this perspective, we can analyze how gender identities (but also identities related to the legal status and social class) change over time (before and after migration; over time in Belgium) and on several life domains (labor and family). In this respect, identities are approached as social constructions, shaped and modified in interaction with the direct surroundings and the broader transnational context.

**Christiane Timmerman** holds a MA in Psychology and a MaNaMa and a PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology (University of Leuven). Currently, she is a fulltime research professor (ZAP-BOF) in charge of the Centre for Migration and Intercultural Studies (CeMIS), University of Antwerp.

She coordinates (coordinated) several large scale (inter)national research projects: The FP7 - project EUMAGINE 'Imagining Europe the Outside' (2010 – 2013), the FP7- project RESLEU 'Reducing Early School Leaving in Europe' (2013 – 2018), the IWT – project BET YOU (2009 – 2012) on school careers of youngsters with and without an immigration background; the BELSPO – project FEMIGRIN (2009 – 2011) on female migration and integration. She is also one of the supervisors of the Policy Centre on Civic Integration (2012 – 2015) which focuses on integration dynamics in Flanders from an interdisciplinary perspective. Christiane Timmerman is also supervisor of a substantial amount of PhD research projects. She teaches Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Migration and Integration at University of Antwerp.

**Michaella Vanore**, Maastricht Graduate School of Governance/ UNU-MERIT (The Netherlands)

*The Feminisation of Migration from Moldova and the Implications for Children 'Left Behind'*

Within transnational family studies, a growing body of literature has investigated how children in spatially-separated families function given the absence of their migrant kin, chiefly parents. Much of this literature has explored the potential consequences of parental migration for different aspects of child well-being, including psychological health. In some countries, the study of the 'left behind' has occurred against a backdrop of negative public discourses about (female) migration.

Using Moldova as a case study, the links between gendered mobility patterns and the potential consequences for children who remain in the home country following parental migration are explored. Using data collected in 2011/12, this paper uses binary and multinomial logit regression models to predict the migration propensities of men and women. Analyses reveal that while Moldovan women are significantly *less* likely to migrate than men, they do have much higher odds of migrating to a country beyond the Commonwealth of Independent States, and certain factors (i.e. divorce) corresponded to

higher migration odds among women but not men. The selectivity of certain kinds of individuals into migration is likely to carry implications for the well-being of children ‘left behind’.

Secondly, the psychosocial health of children with migrant parents is compared to that of children without migrant parents using probit models. The results find that maternal migration is not significantly associated with worse child psychosocial health outcomes, whereas the paternal migration increased the probability that boys expressed worse emotional symptoms and conduct problems. These results suggest that the distinctly gendered nature of migration can carry different consequences for children ‘left behind’ and that assumptions about the deleterious effects of female migration for children should be more critically examined.

**Michaella Vanore** (PhD expected 2015) is a research fellow at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance/UNU-MERIT, where she has worked on a series of research projects related to migration and development for the past five years. In the course of her work at the School of Governance, Michaella has worked on projects commissioned and funded by the European Commission, IOM, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, OxfamNovib, UNICEF, UNDEF, and Dutch entrepreneurial development bank (FMO). Within these projects Michaella has gained competence in analysing the intersection between migration and development, migration and family, and migration and gender. Michaella’s own research interests focus on the potential consequences of migration for the well-being of children remaining in the home country, the feminization of migration, migration and health, and diaspora studies.

**Annabelle Wilkins**, Queen Mary, University of London (UK)

*Intersections between Gender, ‘Home’ and Activism among Women’s Organizations on the Myanmar-Thailand border*

This paper examines the intersections between gender, activism and ‘home’ among migrant women on the Thailand-Myanmar border. Drawing upon ethnographic research conducted within a non-governmental women’s organization in Northern Thailand, the paper demonstrates that on their frequently perilous journeys across the border, women gain access to skills, knowledge and social networks that enable them to influence socio-cultural change within their communities. This paper is framed within critical geographies of home, mobility and border studies, and extends previous research on migrant women’s activism in the Thailand-Myanmar borderlands. First, the paper addresses the strategies developed by women in order to negotiate State regulation, and the multiple tensions that exist between their pursuit of political recognition and the precarious conditions of life on the border, particularly for women of irregular migration status. Second, the paper considers the ways in which the porous, liminal space of the border is utilized by migrant women as a resource in their campaigns. I propose that women’s activism on the Thailand-Myanmar border disrupts understandings of home, (forced) migration and gender. Through their collaborative work across borders, women gain new perspectives on gender and nation and are empowered to contest traditional discourses on the position of women in Myanmar. The paper concludes with a discussion of how migrant women activists are leading socio-cultural change in their communities, influencing the region’s shifting political landscape.



**Annabelle Wilkins** is a PhD candidate in the School of Geography at Queen Mary, University of London. Her current research examines relationships between home, work and the city for Vietnamese migrants in East London, and she has previously conducted ethnographic research on the Thailand-Myanmar border. Her research interests include gender, mobility and Southeast Asian studies, and she has collaborated with museums, non-governmental and community organizations.

**Brandais York**, University of Melbourne (Australia)

*The Gendered Burden of Poverty: Unravelling the Relationship between Women, Family, and Economics in Cambodia*

In the three decades that have passed since Pol Pot's brutal rule of Cambodia, the contours of life have been drastically reshaped by social, political, and economic developments. One of these has been the rise of the female-headed household, which has seen a drastic shift in the roles women now assume in modern Cambodian society. Perhaps most visible has been the important position females now hold within the Cambodian labour sector, particularly in the migrant labour industry. This paper will describe how while women have become increasingly vital to Cambodia's rapidly growing economy, the traditional role of Khmer women in society remains prescribed in the conservative tradition of ChhapSrey (the sister's law). The code of the ChhapSrey reflects the Theravada Buddhism belief that women hold a lower status than men, and includes details on how a woman should behave within the family, especially in relation to her husband. Under the code, a Khmer woman is expected to do whatever is necessary to support the financial wellbeing of her family, mandating that all work ultimately be done in service to her husband and family. This paper will argue that for the modern Cambodian woman, the synonymous relationship of marriage, family, and income has created a situation in which she bears the full burden of poverty. This relationship has created an undefined and blurred relationship between consent and coercion within the economic market, the consequence of which has been a predictable rise in the vulnerability of women – particularly for those that choose the route of migration.

**Brandais York** holds an MA in Public Policy and International Affairs from The American University of Paris ('11), and an MSc in Global Migration from University College London ('12). She worked as a researcher on labor migration, development, and gender for a local NGO in Phnom Penh for three years before relocating to Melbourne to pursue her PhD in Law. Brandais expects to complete her dissertation on International Marriage Migration in 2017.

### **List of Participating Institutions**

American University in Cairo (Egypt)  
Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (Spain)  
City University of New York (USA)  
Comillas Pontifical University (Spain)  
Danish Institute for International Studies (Denmark)  
Durham University (UK)  
London Metropolitan University (UK)  
Ludwig Maximilians University (Germany)  
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance/ UNU-MERIT (The Netherlands)  
Middlesex University (UK)  
Pompeu Fabra University (Spain)  
Queen Mary, University of London (UK)  
Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands)  
Research University Institute Ortega y Gasset (Spain)  
Shih Hsin University (Taiwan)  
UN Women (USA)  
UNESCO (India)  
United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (Austria)  
United Nations University- GCM (Spain)  
Universidade Aberta (Portugal)  
Università della Svizzera italiana (Switzerland)  
University of Antwerp (Belgium)  
University of Barcelona (Spain)  
University of Essex (UK)  
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University of Padua (Italy)  
University of Sannio (Italy)  
University of Valencia (Spain)