Attendance at several key events in Mexico

Senior researcher Dr. Francisco Cos-Montiel participated in the Healthy Women, Healthy Economies meeting in Mexico City on November 15, organized by MERCK and Funsalud. He also participated in the international seminar: Beyond the walls: Socio-legal challenges of contemporary mobilities in Tijuana, on November 16 and 17, which was organized by the IIJ-UNAM and Migräre.

UNU-GCM’s Annual Guest Lecture, delivered by Pietro Bartolo

On November 18, Dr. Pietro Bartolo delivered the UNU-GCM’s 2017 Annual Guest Lecture, entitled, ‘Let’s not think of them as clandestine migrants.’ This powerful lecture reminded attendees of the desperate situation many migrants face, along with the urgent need for an improved response that respects human rights and dignity. The evening also included a poetry reading of three specially commissioned works by the poet, Dominic Hand. There was additionally the opportunity to explore a photography project, as part of the continuing UNU-GCM project, ‘Hopeful Journeys’ with images by the visual anthropologist, Tatiana Diniz.

Global Forum for Migration and Development, Friends of the Forum

On November 22, in Geneva, UNU-GCM’s Director, Prof. Dr. Parvati Nair, delivered a statement at the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) Friends of the Forum event on behalf of the Rector Dr. David M. Malone in his capacity as Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG). In the statement, the Chair of the GMG reiterated commitment to support the work of the GFMD and outlined the work of the GMG in 2017, a key year when inputs from the GMG served to support consultations between Member States on a global compact to be agreed in 2018 on safe, orderly and regular migration.

Presenting the UNU-GCM ‘Migration & Crises’ project at the Migration Network Conference

The UNU-GCM research team attended the UNU Migration Network Conference on November 22, in Maastricht, The Netherlands, where they presented the research findings of the project “Migration and Crises.” This project sheds light on the important ways through which different non-state actors contribute to, either constructing or deconstructing, migration as a crisis. Valeria Bello examined the role of reception centres’ management in the securitization of migration. Janina Pescinski discussed the criminalization of humanitarian assistance to migrants. Bavo Stevens analyzed how NGOs help urban refugees to navigate experiences of involuntary immobility in Bangkok.

UNU-GCM signs a funding agreement with the Government of Chihuahua, Mexico

On November 23, Senior Researcher Dr. Francisco Cos-Montiel, on behalf of UNU-GCM, signed a funding agreement with the Government of Chihuahua represented by the Institute of Women of the Government of Chihuahua for the UNU-GCM project Migration, Gender and the Future of Maquila work in the Northern border of Chihuahua, Mexico. The two-year research project will commence in January 2018. The project is designed to help prevent thousands of workers – many of whom are women and migrants – from losing their jobs due to increased automation, as technology transforms industries in Chihuahua.

UNU-GCM welcomes Ottavia to the team!

Ottavia Ampuero Villagran joined the UNU-GCM team in November as the new Facilities and Administrative Intern. She hit the ground running as she helped prepare for the Annual Guest Lecture. Ottavia recently graduated from a Masters in International Security (with an emphasis on human rights and private military and security companies), after having completed a Bachelor’s Degree in International Relations.