



MOSAICS



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

The monthly newsletter of the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM)

ISSUE 20

DECEMBER 2014

Research Seminar: The Displacement of Minorities in Syria and Iraq

On December 10th 2014, UNU-GCM Visiting Researcher, Talha Jalal, gave a research seminar at the Institute on 'The Displacement of Minorities in Syria and Iraq: Implications for Human Security'. The seminar focussed on a regional context in which violence and the displacement of minorities are concerns that straddle multiple borders. It highlighted the limitations of the concept of human security, as it is used in international policy frameworks, to address this situation and made a case for adopting the idea of cultural security: the freedom to negotiate individual and collective identities. The lively debate that followed reflected the timely relevance of this topic in the current period of conflict and displacement in Syria and Iraq

Research Seminar: Continuity and Rupture in the Memory of Migration

UNU-GCM Visiting Researcher, Knut Graw, gave a research seminar on 'Continuity and Rupture in the Memory of Migration: A West African Trajectory', held in the Institute on December 10th 2014. The seminar addressed two striking features in public debates on West and North African migration to Europe since the late 1980s: the anonymity of migrants and the dehistoricization of migration processes. The paper challenged these tendencies by focussing on an individual narrative of a migrant to reflect upon the importance of voice in studies of migration. A thought-provoking debate followed, engaging with the points raised on representation and on the limitations of current methodological practices in qualitative research.

Article by UNU-GCM Researcher: The Business of Migration Control

A new article by UNU-GCM Research Fellow, Tendayi Bloom, on '[The Business of Migration Control: Delegating Migration Control to Private Actors](#)', is now available on the *Global Policy* journal's website. The article examines how the delegation of migration control functions to private companies is largely unregulated and that the policy implications are not well understood. The lines of responsibility and accountability, but also liability, for decisions being made and for force used are not always clear. This most seriously affects vulnerable migrants and potential migrants. The article argues that informed international policy debate is needed in this area.

Profile: Alex Lazarowicz, Research Assistant

Alex Lazarowicz joined UNU-GCM as a Research Assistant in October 2014 and will contribute a report on mobilities in the Mediterranean after the Arab uprisings, co-authored with the UNU Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS). He is an EU migration policy analyst, with experience in Brussels working at the European Policy Centre and at the Polish Permanent Representation to the EU during Poland's Presidency of the EU. He holds a Masters degree in International Studies and Diplomacy from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Profile: Knut Graw, Visiting Researcher

Knut Graw joined UNU-GCM as a Visiting Researcher in October 2014, and is contributing to the Institute's work on migration and culture with his expertise on the dynamics of migration and globalization between Senegal and Spain. He is an anthropologist at the University of Leuven at the Institute for Anthropological Research in Africa (IARA). He specializes in the study of migration in the African-European borderzone, combining an interest in phenomenological anthropology with research on globalization and migration processes. His work investigates the question of voice in the practice and study of migration.

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