



MOSAICS



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

ISSUE 25

MAY 2015

Registration Open: Conference on Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change, June 11th- 12th 2015

Registration for our conference on 'Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change', to be held on June 11th- 12th in Barcelona, is now open. This conference will examine topics such as 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. In addition to keynote lectures by leading scholars of gender and mobility and panel presentations on a range of topics, the conference will feature a photographic exhibition, a collaborative event with the *Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona* (CCCB) and a collaboration with the media platform *openDemocracy*. Further details on how to register can be found on the [UNU-GCM website](#).

Lecture by Dr. Syed Nomanul Haq in collaboration with Casa Asia

On May 27th, UNU-GCM was pleased to collaborate with Casa Asia to organise "Who Dances with Amir Khusro? The Alternative Path of South Asian Sufism – Its Glories and its Pitfalls", a lecture by Dr. Syed Nomanul Haq, Professor at the Institute of Business Administration in Karachi, Pakistan and General Editor of the *Studies in Islamic Philosophy* series of Oxford University Press. Dr. Haq offered a textured lecture on the nuanced distinction between Sufism as a doctrine with a characteristic spiritual orientation, and as a popular practice expressed in a complex and colourful devotional culture. South Asian Sufism has promoted inclusivity, pluralism and intercultural exchanges; but as popular practice, Sufism has a darker side that has given rise to many competing Sufi groups in Pakistan, some of them highly militant. His thought-provoking lecture was followed by a lively exchange with the audience.

Seminar series on undocumented migrants, refugees and security

On May 29th 2015, David Passarelli, UNU-GCM Honorary Associate Research Fellow and Chief of Staff at the UNU Office of the Rector, and Christian Kaunert, Visiting Researcher at UNU-GCM, Jean Monnet Chair and Professor of International Politics at the University of Dundee, presented their respective research projects in a joint seminar. David Passarelli presented on the 'Public Framing of Obligation: Interpretations of Irregular Migrant Rights in Public Discourse', while Christian Kaunert gave a paper on 'Refugees, Security and the European Union', co-authored with Sarah Léonard (Visiting Researcher at UNU-GCM and Senior Lecturer in Politics at the University of Dundee). The afternoon seminar allowed for a timely and relevant debate on policies and discourses relating to irregular migration and refugees. The previous day, John D. Occhipinti, Professor of Political Science at Canisius College, shared his reflections on responses to migration in a seminar entitled 'An American Perspective on European Identity Politics'.

Participation in workshop on 'Urban Governance for Health'

UNU-GCM Research Fellow, Megha Amrith, was pleased to participate in a workshop on the 'Urban Governance for Health', held in Nairobi on May 19th - 20th 2015. The workshop was organised by the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH) and the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC). Megha Amrith gave a presentation on the 'Health and Wellbeing of Urban Migrants'. The workshop brought together a range of interdisciplinary researchers, including a number from different UNU Institutes, practitioners and civil society representatives. The workshop adopted a particular focus on health and wellbeing in cities of the Global South. UNU-GCM looks forward to continued work in this important field in the light of current processes to shape the New Urban Agenda.

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