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Vision

The United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM) aims to become a pre-eminent research centre focusing on globalization, culture and mobility through the lens of migration and media. It will engage in rigorous research in these areas, sharing knowledge and good practice with a broad range of groups, collectives and actors within and beyond the academy. Its commitments will be at local and global levels, whereby it will seek to bridge gaps in discourses and practices, so as to work towards the goals of the United Nations with regard to development, global partnership, sustainability and justice.

Mission

The United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM) aims to contribute to good governance, cultural diversity, democracy and human rights through a better understanding of cultural mobility and diversity in the context of globalization. It focuses on the major cultural and social phenomena of migration and media as hallmarks of the era of globalization. The institute fosters cutting-edge research in these areas at global and local levels through the lens of key cultural concepts, such as borders, gender and transnational connections. UNU-GCM aims thereby also to support the priorities of the United Nations with regard to its Member States, in particular those of gender equality, dignity and security for migrants and the notion of development as global partnership.
Message from the Chair of the Advisory Board

I would like to begin by going beyond the information that you will find in these pages and conveying the admiration shared by those of us who have witnessed the consolidation of this institute, in a short period of time, as a centre of reference for matters relating to culture, mobility and globalization, focusing on the migrations and mobility of the men and women who make up our world. The Institute is now a very important partner of the international family of institutions working on migration and mobility, and contributing to provide knowledge to policy makers.

Mobility and people movements are constitutive elements of our reality that penetrate and transform the latter. This has always been so, but the context of globalization adds a new intensity, and its impact is more visible than ever. The terms migration and refugee echo ever louder in our social and cultural relations and our political life. Understanding and correctly assessing these echoes, the reality that we deal with, is essential if we are to generate public policies and multilevel actions capable of triggering a more inclusive dynamic, to define a world more capable of inter-relationships, to establish mechanisms of governance that can lessen the problems and suffering that accompany mobility, and to maximise the potential that has emerged from migrations and exchanges throughout our shared history.

In this last year, we have witnessed one of the most dramatic humanitarian crises that the Euro-Mediterranean region has ever experienced. We need immediate and determined action to deal with its effects on displaced people, refugees and migrants, and an international response in the medium and long terms. Mobility, migration and the international protection of people who require protection continue to feature in the international political agenda, at times tragically, as we have seen. In this past year, the Sustainable Development Goals have been revised and the international community has come together to work on human mobility in this context. I reiterate my sincere acknowledgement of the valuable work carried out by the men and women who, under the direction of Professor Parvati Nair, are collaborating to endow our governments, regional and international organizations and the UN family with knowledge and scientific evidence, in a field that is so sensitive for us all. I am confident that the institutions that make this possible will continue to contribute to the institute so that it may continue to develop its worthy work from Barcelona, bringing to the latter a Mediterranean vision that guarantees a special contribution to the goal of improving the lives of men and women on the move, and thus our own and that of our planet.

Anna Terrón Cusí
Chair of the Advisory Board
Rector’s Message

The United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM) is the youngest to date of UNU Institutes, having been inaugurated in September 2013. With the generous support of the Kingdom of Spain, in particular the Ministry of External Affairs and Cooperation, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport and the Generalitat of Catalonia, it has the privilege of carrying out its work in the unique and very beautiful location of the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site in Barcelona.

UNU-GCM has prioritized creating a research profile that meets UNU’s overarching goals of addressing the formation of policy as well as contributing to academic research of a cutting-edge quality. Research is channeled in both directions in ways that are mutually complementary. The institute’s focus on global issues relating to mobility and migration lends itself well to this double aim, in that UNU-GCM engages closely with knowledge transfer across institutional boundaries. The team at UNU-GCM is small but dedicated. Their efforts, together with the institute’s role as coordinator of the UNU Migration Network, have meant that UNU-GCM has gained a place early on for UNU in the Global Migration Group, a high level forum that focuses specifically on this topic within the United Nations and in collaboration with the International Organization of Migration and the World Bank. Work is currently underway on migration in the 2030 Agenda. As such, this institute is making good headway in directions that harness it to the work and research needs of the United Nations system.

UNU-GCM is also engaged in close collaborations with academic entities and think tanks in Spain and elsewhere. Its location in Barcelona, a capital city of the Mediterranean, lends itself extremely well to the study of culture and migration in light of the Mediterranean’s own long history of mobility and diversity. With excellent support from its hosts, and in the ideal setting of the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, UNU-GCM is set on a path for growth.

David M. Malone
Rector
Director’s message

As questions of migration and refuge reached unprecedented levels of global attention in 2015, the work of UNU-GCM gained in relevance and timeliness. UNU-GCM’s research focus on culture and mobility in the context of globalization addresses major global debates and issues surrounding migration. With this in mind, our areas of research have been selected in line with key social and cultural issues across a variety of migratory contexts. In 2015, we carried through a plan of work on the second research program on Statelessness and Transcontinental Migration and launched a multi-faceted research program on Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-Cultural Change. We have engaged in a series of collaborations with entities and researchers in Spain and have presented our work at global forums, such as the annual Coordination Meeting on Migration held at the UN Secretariat. Highlights of the year also included our two-day international conference and our Annual Guest Lecture by Professor Judith Butler.

We have in place a regular system and rhythm of publications, whereby we target readership and outreach in forums that are both scholarly and related to the formation of policy. UNU-GCM’s role as coordinator of the UNU Migration Network has further enabled very engaged membership for UNU within the Global Migration Group, with involvement in 2015 at both support and working levels. This provides the context within which to harness our research to the overarching frame of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda.

On a more local front, UNU-GCM has enjoyed the privilege of being part of a vibrant community of international organizations at the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site. Barcelona provides UNU-GCM with a vantage location from which to study questions related to migration and development. With ongoing support from our hosts, we look forward to continuing our work and contributing in useful ways to the production and dissemination of knowledge on culture and mobility in Barcelona, Spain and more globally.

Parvati Nair
Director
About UNU-GCM

Our Hosts

UNU-GCM is hosted by the Kingdom of Spain. More precisely, in 2015, UNU-GCM was hosted by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, the Ministry of External Affairs and Cooperation, the Generalitat of Catalonia and the City Council of Barcelona. In 2015, UNU-GCM drew on funds granted to UNU by these institutions for developing its research. We are grateful to all our hosts for making our work possible.

Location

UNU-GCM is located in the Sant Manuel Pavilion of the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site. As a major modernist site in the world, designed by the architect Lluis Domènech i Montaner, it was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1997. Constructed between 1902 and 1930, the 12 pavilions that form the site housed the Santa Creu i Sant Pau Hospital for nearly a century, one of the most modern hospitals of its time. In 2009, the working hospital was shifted in order to facilitate the rehabilitation of the historic site. This constitutes one of Europe’s major heritage restoration projects.

The Sant Manuel Pavilion was built in 1925 under the direction of Pere Domènech i Roura, the son of Lluis Domènech i Montaner, who took over the project following his father’s death. This Pavilion once housed services in general and gastric surgery, has been rehabilitated to enable new forms of usage and also to recover its artistic and heritage value. Víctor Argentí, the architect in charge of the restoration, has put emphasis on the...
recovery of the original dimensions of this building with its surface area of 2,300 m². Thanks to this process, and with financial support from the European Fund for Regional Development (FEDER), the Sant Manuel Pavilion is now a functional building, reflecting its heritage value and also equipped with the utmost consideration for energy efficiency and sustainability.

About UNU

The United Nations University shall be an international community of scholars, engaged in research, postgraduate training and dissemination of knowledge in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. — UNU Charter, I.1

The United Nations University (UNU) is a global think tank and research/teaching organization, founded in 1975 as an autonomous organ of the United Nations General Assembly. Headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, UNU operates as a global network of research and teaching institutes and programs, with a presence today in more than a dozen countries worldwide. The mission of UNU is to contribute — through collaborative research and postgraduate education, dissemination of knowledge and advisory services — to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. In its role as a think tank, UNU provides knowledge-based policy advice to the United Nations system and to UN Member States. For more information, visit unu.edu/about/unu.

UNU-GCM

UNU-GCM focuses on the inter-related research areas of globalization, culture and mobility. Research programs focus on key aspects of these areas, with a specific focus on questions related to migration and media as twin facets of mobility in contemporary culture. UNU-GCM considers migration, understood as the movement of peoples and cultures, and media, understood as diverse and increased modes of communication via technological and other means, to be two important social processes that are occurring globally. UNU-GCM aims to contribute to
a better understanding of these processes, so as to assist with the formation of policy at regional, national and international levels that promotes good governance, cultural diversity, democracy and human rights.

In order to achieve our aims, UNU-GCM calls upon interdisciplinary research approaches and methodologies. UNU-GCM also places emphasis on ensuring that its research outputs address diverse audiences, including academia, policy formation and a wider informed readership. Our work draws on lived experiences and is evidence-based. We further engage through events, activities and publications with civil society, NGOs and other officials working on issues relating to culture and mobility.

The team at UNU-GCM reflects our shared goals. Research Fellows come from diverse disciplinary backgrounds with different areas of expertise and work closely together on our selected lines of research. UNU-GCM also calls on the expertise of Visiting Researchers, who spend fixed periods of time in residency at UNU-GCM, and on that of research consultants. UNU-GCM also runs an internship program, thus offering valuable experience to young researchers. In addition, we welcome and actively seek out collaborations with academic and other entities engaged in areas of work that relate to our own.

Advisory Board

UNU-GCM’s Advisory Board is chaired by Mrs. Anna Terrón Cusí. Other Board members in 2015 were Sally Khalifa Issac (Cairo University, Egypt), Salam Kawakibi (Arab Reform Initiative), Francisco Aldecoa Luzárraga (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain) and Catherine Wihtol de Wenden (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France). The Board meets annually and the Rector and Director are ex-oficio members.
Research Programmes in 2015

In 2015, UNU-GCM completed its planned program of work on Statelessness and Trans-continental Migration. This research line focused on a range of issues related to the well-being and recognition of people who traverse continents devoid of citizenship. Issues related to refugees remain crucially unanswered in debates and policies surrounding migration. In the wake of acknowledgement within the academy that it is not always possible to isolate refugees from migrants, this project analysed a range of contexts where dignity and human rights are compromised through the absence of legal and political recognition. By focusing on situations of extreme vulnerability and on lives lived on the borderline, this research project sought to articulate and address urgent needs with regard to the stateless migrants.

Work also continued on the research programme on Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change. The feminization 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 number of women who choose to migrate is rising. This research programme focuses on this phenomenon, in order to better understand why and how migration may offer routes to empowerment to women.

All research programmes at UNU-GCM include a series of events and activities aimed at exploring and sharing knowledge on the topic or themes concerned. UNU-GCM also aims to include a wide variety of participants in its activities. As such, research activities at UNU-GCM in 2015 ranged from open forums, to seminars, to cultural collaborations, and a two-day international conference. In 2015, UNU-GCM also collaborated with the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB), the public libraries of the Barcelona region, and the global media platform openDemocracy.

As with all our research programmes, UNU-GCM focuses its energies on ensuring that its research is accessible to policy-makers, as well as to academics and a more general informed public. We aim for scholarly publications of a high standard. From each research line we also produce a series of policy reports and briefs that engage closely with issues relevant to the program and to ongoing debates within the United Nations system and among its Member States.

Summary of Research Findings in RP1, RP2 and RP3

The first research programme on Migration, Media and Intercultural Dialogue examined mobility in the context of cultural diversity and difference. The research conducted within this programme offered critical insights into current global intercultural dialogue initiatives. Based on research findings, its key recommendation is to view intercultural dialogue and exchange as fluid and dynamic, in contrast to concepts that examine ‘culture’ and ‘civilizations’ in divisive or static terms. Different forms of media were also analysed and findings indicated how the media offers new spaces for cultural representation and the potential to improve public perceptions of migration and cultural diversity.

The second research programme on Statelessness and Transcontinental Migration focused on situations of extreme vulnerability, migrant exploitation and on lives lived on the borderline. The research provided a critical examination of operating concepts in international policy arenas such as statelessness and human security, considering how specific understandings of these terms affect those who lack legal and political recognition. It also found that the involvement of private sector actors in border management accentuates the vulnerability of stateless persons. Other research findings indicated that a combination of institutional and civil society initiatives, operating at different scales, enable vulnerable migrants access to their rights and to basic services, and that new media might offer novel coping strategies.
The third research programme on Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change highlighted the empowerment that women experience through migration, as well as the numerous contributions they make to the urban social fabric. These include building and reinforcing networks, acting as cultural mediators, bringing vision and entrepreneurship to their places of relocation, and personal and social enhancement through gaining new cultural perspectives and understandings. Female migrant workers continue to experience vulnerabilities and forms of exploitation in often-invisible sectors of the labour market, including domestic and care work. At the same time, migrant women are themselves active agents in the process of ensuring decent and dignified working conditions, through their collaboration with civil society movements, migrant associations and local government. Immigrant women’s ability to integrate into the labour market in countries of residence appears to be a driving force of socio-cultural change in their families. Extremely strong and well-educated women can become leaders of female immigrants’ associations, which can serve a forum for political participation and positively affect socio-cultural change within both immigrants groups and host societies. Migrant women play key roles in securing a sense of personal, familial and community wellbeing in the city, and as such, migration can be a transformative and empowering experience.

Policy reports for all three research programmes are listed in Annex 1 of this report and can be found on the UNU-GCM website: http://gcm.unu.edu/publications/policy-reports

Visiting Researchers

The year began for UNU-GCM with residencies in the programme on Statelessness and Transcontinental Migration. Dr. Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio studied representations of experiences of migration and mobility through the lens of contemporary visual arts. Dr. Sarah Leonard and Prof. Christian Kaunert, both of the University of Dundee, worked on European Union asylum policy.

In the programme on Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change, Dr. Aishih Webhe Herrera completed a project on Nigerian women migrant sex-workers, humanitarianism and international human rights law, and Dr. Cecilia Gordano Peile conducted research on Latin American migrant women’s feminisms in Barcelona.

Internships

In 2015, UNU-GCM welcomed six interns, including three from our partnership with the Barcelona Institute for International Studies (IBEI), each for a period of twelve weeks. Each intern was mentored by a Research Fellow and offered a structured program of work that gave them the opportunity to develop a good understanding of the United Nations, of UNU-GCM’s work on Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change and of academic and policy-related debates in this area. The interns were also guided through a research process that led to published policy reports and online articles.
Collaborations

UNU Migration Network

In 2015 UNU-GCM continued to act as the coordinating point of the UNU Migration Network (migration.unu.edu). The UNU Migration Network is a research platform across Institutes of the UNU that shares expertise on migration. It has been formed from the premise that migration is a major phenomenon of the twenty-first century, with impact at local and global levels. The UNU Migration Network includes all those UNU Institutes working on the topic of migration with the aim of examining in depth the needs of people who find themselves in the particular situation of migrancy from different disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Migration can enrich societies, but it can also give rise to challenges for both individuals involved in the migration process and governments and non-governmental organizations with stakes in the process. The UNU Migration Network analyzes and informs on all these aspects.

As a collaborative initiative, the mission of the UNU Migration Network is to support the sharing of knowledge and research practices; to find links between supposedly different approaches to the study of migration, such as those between environmental causes for migration and economic consequences; to inform policy on matters related to human security; to promote comparative regional perspectives on migration; to consider patterns of internal migration; and to jointly influence governments or regions. It also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals and to UNU’s role as a policy-influencing body. It further acts as a vehicle for good initiatives and local practice to be discussed more widely. It offers a forum for the development of new synergies between UNU’s Institutes in order to both create and spread cutting-edge research.
Global Migration Group (the GMG)

In 2015, UNU-GCM continued to represent UNU at the Global Migration Group (the GMG), after leading UNU’s entry into the GMG in 2014. The GMG is an inter-agency group bringing together heads of agencies to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. The GMG is particularly concerned with improving the overall effectiveness of its members and other stakeholders in capitalizing upon the opportunities and responding to the challenges presented by international migration. Throughout 2015, UNU-GCM was involved with the GMG at both working and support levels.

The GMG was established by the United Nations Secretary-General in early 2006 in response to a recommendation of the Global Commission on International Migration for the establishment of a high-level inter-institutional group of agencies involved in migration-related activities. The GMG was created by building on an existing inter-agency group with a more limited membership, the Geneva Migration Group, which was established in April 2003. At present, the Group is comprised of 18 entities. Apart from sustaining the inter-agency cooperation in the field of international migration, the Group also contributes to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), an intergovernmental process that emerged after the General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006.

External Collaborations

In 2015, UNU-GCM welcomed the opportunity for a series of rich collaborations with universities in Spain and elsewhere, with other agencies of the United Nations and with think tanks in Barcelona.

Notable amongst these was a continued collaboration with UNITAR that led to UNU-GCM authoring a policy brief for the second Global Mayoral Forum on Cities and Migration that was held in Quito in November 2015. UNU-GCM also collaborated with the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona ( CCCB) as part of our two-day international conference and to host our Annual Guest Lecture. UNU-GCM also collaborated with Casa Asia on two occasions to organize a public lecture and round table discussion. Other collaborations that took place in 2015 included a touring photographic exhibition in the public libraries of the Barcelona region.
UNU-GCM in the Media

UNU-GCM welcomed the chance to expand on its research in the mainstream media in 2015. Researchers at UNU-GCM wrote widely in the online magazine Our World as well as for the online media platform openDemocracy. UNU-GCM was also featured in the mainstream media via interviews with the Director, as well as with speakers from the international conference on Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change held on June 11th and 12th 2015.

Media Articles in 2015


Women of the World: Networks and Local Associations, openDemocracy, 8 June 2015.
Women of the World: Prejudices and Stereotypes, openDemocracy, 8 June 2015.

Media Articles in 2014

Press Articles

“Una exposició retrata la vida de les dones immigrants a Barcelona”, Bonart, 3 June 2015.
“Sant Pau acoge una exposición de fotos sobre mujeres migrantes en Barcelona”, La Vanguardia.com, 10 June 2015.
“Sant Pau acoge una exposición de fotos sobre mujeres migrantes en Barcelona”, Abc.es, 10 June 2015.
“Una exposició retrata la vida de les dones immigrants a Barcelona”, Aldia.cat, 10 June 2015.
“Una exposició retrata la vida de les dones immigrants a Barcelona”, NousCatalans.com, 11 June 2015.
Nota de agenda en la web Time Out Barcelona, 12 June 2015.
“Ningú hauria d’arriscar la vida en una barca o dins un camió”, Entrevista con Parvati Nair, El Punt Avui, 7 September 2015.


Radio
Entrevista con Parvati Nair, ONDA Cero - Julia Otero en la Onda, 11 June 2015.
Nota de agenda en CatRàdio - Solidaris, 13 June 2015.
Entrevista en estudio con Christiane Timmerman, CatRàdio - El Matí de Catalunya Ràdio, 24 June 2015.
Entrevista con Parvati Nair, RNE - Tolerancia Cero, 25 June 2015.

Television
Conexión en directo, BTV - Connexió Barcelona, 10 June 2015.
Reportaje de la exposición con declaraciones de testimonios: Deepti Golani y Tatiana Diniz, TVE Catalunya - L’informatiu, 27 June 2015.

“Universal”, Entrevista con Parvati Nair, Tot un món, TV3, 8 November 2015.

Annex 1. Policy Reports

Series 1: Migration, Media and Intercultural Dialogue

01/01

01/02

01/03
01/04

01/05

01/06

01/07

01/08
Bello, Valeria (2013) Intercultural Dialogue or Intercultural Soliloquies?

01/09
Bloom, Tendayi (2013) Understanding global intercultural dialogue initiatives within the logic of state-based multiculturalism.

01/10

Series 2: Statelessness and Transcontinental Migration

02/01
Bloom, Tendayi (2013) Problematizing the Conventions on Statelessness.

02/02

02/03

02/04
02/05
Bello, Valeria (2014) Transnationalism and New Media: Transcontinental Migrants and Interconnectivity of Cultures.

02/06
Amrith, Megha (2014) Ambiguities in the Categories of Migration.

02/07

02/08

02/09

Series 3: Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change

03/01

03/02
Bloom, Tendayi (2015) Is the Domestic Workers Convention a Triumph for Female Migrant Agency?

03/03

03/04
Neyts, Kate (2015) Key Issues of Female Migration, Urban Relocation and Remaking Home.

03/05

03/06
Policy Briefs


Annex 2. Refereed Publications

Books (Edited) and Special Issues

Bello, Valeria, Bloom, Tendayi and Amrith, Megha (eds) (forthcoming 2016) Interculturalism in Times of Crisis, Special Issue in International Migration.


Bloom, Tendayi and Tonkiss, Katherine (eds) (December 2015), Theorising Noncitizenship, Special Issue in Citizenship Studies.

Scholarly Articles


Bello, Valeria (forthcoming 2016) ‘Interculturalism as a New Framework to reduce Prejudice in Times of Crisis in European Countries’ in Bello, Valeria, Bloom, Tendayi and Amrith, Megha (eds) Interculturalism in Times of Crisis, Special Issue in International Migration.


Book Chapters


Annex 3. Other Publications

Interns’ Publications

2015


2014


Annex 4. UNU-GCM Events in 2015

28 January 2015
The Impact of R2P on Sovereignty, Research Seminar by Dr. Stelios Stavridis
Dr. Stelios Stavridis (ARAID Senior Research Fellow, University of Zaragoza and Honorary Associate Research Fellow, UNU-GCM) gave a seminar on how the emerging principle of Responsibility to Protect challenges principles of national sovereignty, non-interference and the inviolability of borders. His presentation raised many important questions, using current and recent events in Libya and Syria as illustrations.

19 February 2015
Open Forum on the Domestic Workers Convention: Is the 2011 Domestic Workers Convention a victory for migrant women?
The Open Forum brought together a group of experts to discuss the impact of the Domestic Workers Convention on female migrants. Sharing the roundtable were: the CEO of a company matching domestic workers with employers; a representative from the General Workers Union with a background in supporting migrant worker rights; a Venezuelan domestic worker in Barcelona; and the Director of the ILO office in Spain. From their own perspectives, the speakers considered how the Convention could ensure decent work in a sector that is often undervalued.

15 April 2015
Tracing Knowledge: Mobility, Borders and Visual Arts, Research Seminar by Dr. Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio
Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio, Visiting Researcher at UNU-GCM from January to April 2015, gave a research seminar exploring narratives and representations of experiences of migration and mobility through the lens of contemporary visual arts. The seminar reflected upon the capacity of contemporary visual arts to create alternative visions and modes of knowledge in relation to experiences of mobility and border representations. Based on an analysis of specific art projects, selected as case studies, the presentation focused on concepts, terms, meanings and feelings, which move away from mainstream narratives and open up other flows of knowledge.
27 May 2015
An American Perspective on European Identity Politics: Security implications for the EU and US, Research Seminar by Dr. John D. Occhipinti
Dr. John D. Occhipinti, Professor of Political Science, Canisius College, Buffalo, New York, USA, explored three dimensions of identity politics and their relationship to internal security: nationalism, migration and radicalization. A lively discussion with attendees followed.

27 May 2015
Who dances with Amir Khusro? The alternative path of South Asian Sufism – its glories and its pitfalls, Lecture by Dr. Syed Nomanul Haq
UNU-GCM was pleased to collaborate with Casa Asia to organise this 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. His thought-provoking lecture was followed by a lively exchange with the audience.

28 May 2015
Joint Research Seminar by David Passarelli and Prof. Christian Kaunert
David Passarelli, UNU-GCM Honorary Associate Research Fellow and Chief of Staff at the UNU Office of the Rector, presented on the ‘Public Framing of Obligation: Interpretations of Irregular Migrant Rights in Public Discourse’. Christian Kaunert, Visiting Researcher at UNU-GCM, Jean Monnet Chair and Professor of International Politics at the University of Dundee, 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 seminar allowed for a timely and relevant debate on policies and discourses relating to irregular migration and refugees.
11 June 2015

**The New Barcelonians: Migration, Work and Family in the City**
UNU-GCM and the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB) held an event on which brought the Women of the World project and its findings to a wider public in Barcelona. This public event opened with lecture by Professor Maggie O’Neill of Durham University and was followed by a round table discussion with three women who participated in the project.

11-12 June 2015

**Conference on Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change**
The international conference hosted by UNU-GCM on ‘Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change’ examined topics such as female agency, diasporas and transnationalism, labour, processes of identity construction, the sociocultural reconstruction of home, work and urban spaces and policy responses to female mobilies. It put academic research into dialogue with debates in the United Nations that address gender discrimination and female migration. The stimulating discussions among conference participants, who came from a number of institutions around the world, brought together a diversity of perspectives and experiences. The conference also included side-events that engaged with artistic and visual representations of the key themes.
12 June 2015

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

The photo exhibition Women of the World: Home and Work in Barcelona was inaugurated at the Sant Rafael Pavilion of the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, where it was displayed until 31 August. The exhibition features photographs and stories of sixteen immigrant women living and working in Barcelona. Led by UNU-GCM Director, Parvati Nair, with oral interviews and photography by UNU-GCM researcher Tatiana Diniz, the project combines oral history with documentary photography. By focusing on a range of immigrant women of diverse ethnicities, ages, social classes, educational levels, occupations and professional backgrounds, Women of the World explores the overlaps and contrasts between home, work and the city for first generation female immigrants.

23 October 2015

**Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations**

Barcelona celebrated the 70th anniversary of the United Nations with an event at the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site. The event was organised in collaboration with the four UN offices operating at the site: UNU-GCM, WHO Barcelona Office for Health Systems Strengthening (WHO/Europe), UN-HABITAT’s City Resilience Profiling Programme (UN-HABITAT/CRPP) and Global Water Operators Partnerships Alliance Secretariat (UN-HABITAT/GWOPA). It featured the participation of government representatives, civil society leaders and the Directors of the four UN agencies, as well as a concert of world music. The Sant Pau Art Nouveau site was then illuminated in UN blue with a projection of the UN logo as part of the UN’s “Turn the World Blue” initiative.
5 November 2015
**Bodies That Still Matter: Annual Guest Lecture by Judith Butler**
UNU-GCM was greatly honoured to welcome Judith Butler, Maxine Elliot Professor in the Department of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley. Butler delivered a lecture entitled Bodies That Still Matter, focusing on the concepts of gender performativity, precarity and migration. UNU-GCM was pleased to collaborate with the Centre de Cultura Contemporànea de Barcelona (CCCB) to organize this event.

6 November 2015
**Seminar with Judith Butler**
The UNU-GCM team had the privilege to co-organise and participate in an academic seminar with Judith Butler, hosted by the Centre de Cultura Contemporànea de Barcelona (CCCB). GCM Director Parvati Nair offered a paper engaging with Butler’s work on mobility and grievability, and Butler addressed several migration-related topics in the discussion.

11 November 2015
**Migrant Women in Catalonia: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering All Women and Girls**
Members of the UNU-GCM team presented their work in this seminar as part of a conference entitled ‘Connecting Actors for Sustainable Development in the Context of the United Nations 2030 Agenda’, which took place at the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site in Barcelona.
26 November 2015

**Immigration and Political Participation: experiences in Barcelona**

UNU-GCM organised a roundtable event in collaboration with Casa Asia on the topic of immigrant political participation in Barcelona. Several representatives and members of Asian communities in Barcelona participated in this lively roundtable and discussion, sharing their wide-ranging experiences of political participation and activism.

**Throughout 2015**

**Exhibition: ‘Portraits of Denial and Desire’ by John Halaka**

‘Portraits of Denial & Desire’ is a multidisciplinary project on photographic narrative of Palestinian refugees by John Halaka. This exhibition, co-organized by UNU-GCM in cooperation with the Barcelona Provincial Council Network of Municipal Libraries (led by the Gerència de Serveis de Biblioteques de la Diputació de Barcelona), moved between a number of libraries within the network, ensuring that Halaka’s powerful photographic narratives reached a wide public. The exhibition was initially hosted by Tasneem Gallery in Barcelona and was first launched in conjunction with UNU-GCM’s conference on Statelessness and Transcontinental Migration in July 2014.