Cities of Welcome/Cities of Transit Conference, July 14-15

On July 14-15, UNU-GCM hosted a conference on ‘Cities of Welcome/Cities of Transit’ at the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site in Barcelona, jointly organised with openDemocracy and the School of Law at Queen Mary University of London. It was a timely conference looking at the ways in which the arrival and transit of refugees is currently shaping urban environments across Europe, and generating various forms of solidarity and welcome, as well as tension and violence. The conference opened with framing addresses from the Barcelona City Council, highlighting some key initiatives that have been set up in the city for migrants and refugees. Subsequent panels in interactive formats then brought together a wide range of people and organisations - from civil society organisations, activists, legal scholars, academics in the humanities and social sciences, as well as local policy makers working closely with these issues from different perspectives. The conference enabled knowledge exchange and featured vibrant discussions. It also included a photo exhibition ‘Refuge in the City’ by Tatiana Diniz, and a screening of ‘Welcome to Italy’ by filmmaker Dagmawi Yimer. Short video interviews with conference participants can be found on the openDemocracy Facebook page, while UNU-GCM will launch a conference report in the autumn summarising key discussions and findings.

UNU-GCM Annual Report 2015

UNU-GCM is glad to announce the publication of our 2015 Annual Report, which details our research, collaborations, events and publications over the course of the past year. As GCM Director Parvati Nair highlights in the report, questions of migration and refuge reached unprecedented levels of global attention in 2015. UNU-GCM’s research focus on culture and mobility in the context of globalization addresses major global debates surrounding migration. Our areas of research have been selected in line with key social and cultural issues across a variety of migratory contexts. We look forward to continuing our work and contributing in useful ways to the production and dissemination of knowledge on these themes.

Participation in 14th EASA Conference, Milan

UNU-GCM Research Fellow Megha Amrith presented her research in a panel entitled ‘Moving Southeast Asia: Circulations, Mobilities, and their Contemporary Entanglements’ at the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) biennial conference, which took place from July 20-23 2016. The conference was held at the University of Milano-Bicocca, with panels addressing key societal challenges under the theme ‘Anthropological legacies and human futures’.

Save the Date: Noam Chomsky Lecture, November 5th 2016

UNU-GCM is pleased to announce that Professor Noam Chomsky will give our 2016 Annual Guest lecture on Saturday, November 5th 2016 in Barcelona. Professor Chomsky will give a lecture entitled ‘Crisis of Immigration’, considering the cultural, moral and political realities of current immigration crises. Noam Chomsky is an American linguist, philosopher, cognitive scientist, historian, logician, social critic and globally influential activist, widely known as the father of modern linguistics. He is one of the most widely quoted intellectuals living today and is the author of over 100 books on topics such as linguistics, war, politics and mass media. Professor Chomsky holds a PhD in linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania; he joined the faculty at MIT in 1955 and was appointed full professor in 1961. Details about the time and location, as well as registration, to be announced. Watch this space on our website!