



MOSAICS



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Conference: Migration and Displacement in Contemporary Africa

On 30 May 2017, UNU-GCM held a conference on *Migration and Displacement in Contemporary Africa*, at the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site in Barcelona. The conference shed light on the diverse dimensions and experiences of migration and forced displacement within contemporary Africa, and from Africa to other regions. It brought together scholars who examined this from different disciplinary perspectives, and who situated these displacements in a broader geopolitical context, while addressing the multi-level governance of migration. They also drew upon field-based research to challenge dominant narratives that circulate in policy and media debates on themes such as smuggling, xenophobia and gender, giving space to understanding the aspirations and agency of migrants. The conference also featured a screening of film excerpts from the *Dadaab Stories* project, and concluded with a keynote lecture by Dr. Nicholas Van Hear on 'Imagining Refugia', in which he suggested alternative ways of thinking about global mobility outside of the current international migration regime. UNU-GCM thanks all stakeholders, speakers and participants for their important and timely contributions and insights.

Launch of New Policy Report Series

UNU-GCM is pleased to announce the launch of a new policy report series on *Migration and Crises*. The first three reports are now available on the UNU-GCM [website](#): 'Europe and the Mediterranean Crises: Trapped Between Prejudice and Solidarity' by Research Fellow Valeria Bello; 'Cities as Humanitarian Actors in Contexts of Displacement' by Research Fellow Megha Amrith; and 'Un/Masking Narratives: An Alternative Account of Horn of Africa Migration' by former GCM Research Consultant Samson Bezabeh. The series examines the human costs of crises that have forced people to move, and the new instabilities and vulnerabilities that are introduced, such as increasing prejudice and discrimination towards migrants and refugees. It also considers the role of local governance, grassroots initiatives and migrants' own strategies in addressing these challenges. Further titles in this series are forthcoming.

Lecture by Research Fellow Valeria Bello at UNICRI

On May 24 2017, Research Fellow Valeria Bello travelled to Turin, Italy to give a lecture entitled 'The Lack of Interculturalism: Prejudice and Processes of Radicalisation'. The lecture was part of a training course on international criminal law and global threats to peace and security organised by UNICRI – United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

Visiting Researchers at UNU-GCM

UNU-GCM is pleased to welcome two new Visiting Researchers, Drago Župarić-Ilijić and Doerte Weig, who will be developing research projects under the Institute's research programme on Migration and Crises. Drago Župarić-Ilijić is working on a project examining transnational solidarity practices in response to humanitarian crises in the Balkan context. He is a sociologist and research associate at the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies in Zagreb, Croatia. Doerte Weig is working on a project about how the physicality of movement relates to intercultural policies and urban transformation. She is an Associate Researcher at the Research Centre on Interculturalism, Migration and Minorities at the Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven, Belgium.

Interns from IBEI at UNU-GCM

UNU-GCM is pleased to continue its internship programme in partnership with the *Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals* (IBEI). We thank Emily Boyce and Luoyi Zhou for their contributions during their internships from April – May 2017, and are pleased to welcome Laia Albareda and Nadia Meeran as interns for the June – July 2017 period.

United Nations University
Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility
Sant Manuel Pavilion, Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site
c/ Sant Antoni Maria Claret, 167
08025 Barcelona, Spain
Email: communications.gcm@unu.edu
Web: gcm.unu.edu



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