



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-GCM**

Institute on Globalization,  
Culture and Mobility

1<sup>ST</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY MIGRATION NETWORK

*“International Migration and Current Challenges:  
Transforming the Debate on Human Mobility”*

*United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility*

Barcelona, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016

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## Concept Note

The United Nations University, Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM) is pleased to announce the first conference of the UNU Migration Network. The theme of “International Migration and Current Challenges: Transforming the Debate on Human Mobility” is a crucial contemporary topic, connected to key concerns of our world, including, among others, human and international security, sustainable development and gender issues. As a consequence, questions arising in the field of international migration provoke discussions among a variety of experts, stakeholders and citizens on how to better deal with human mobility. This conference aims to provide the audience with an interdisciplinary and multifaceted analysis of these dynamics.

In the recently approved “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, for the first time, the United Nations overtly recognize the need to facilitate migration across the world. Goal 10, “Reduce inequality within and among countries”, points to an increased focus on migration and the awareness of the need for better governance of migration through target 10.7 “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”.

From the securitization of migration and the integration of migrants to environmental and conflict induced migrations, population movements are phenomena that are widely debated. The language used is often an intensely disputed issue, posing challenges concerning what definitions and concepts are more appropriate and legitimate. On the one hand, terms such as refugees, asylum-seekers, internally and internationally displaced people, undocumented migrants, migrants with irregular status, migrants and second-generation migrants, are not all quite the same. Yet, they all share, even if to different degrees, vulnerabilities that depend on mobility, the moment of leaving home and the known for the unknown, with the consequent anxieties this always involves. These concepts identify diverse situations, whose differences are

important to acknowledge in order to recognize migrants' rights and fair instruments to manage the complexity of matters concerned. On the other hand, widespread concepts used in public discourse and speeches themselves reveal approaches to migration which are not always respectful of human rights, human beings and the dignity they must enjoy in every moment of their existence, be this either flight from war or from man-made or natural disasters, or simply the search for better life opportunities.

Starting from three thematic areas of concern, International Migration and Human Security, Gender Perspectives in Migration and Migration and Sustainable Development, researchers of the UNU Migration Network will present their core findings and exchange their knowledge, expertise and views about approaches and terminologies in the field of migration. The aim is to give both stakeholders and experts, along with all those interested in the topic, a wide range of outlooks in order to contribute to developing new understandings and strategies to deal with future challenges in the field of international migration.

## Conference Schedule

REGISTRATION

09.00-09.30

WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESSES

09.45-10.15

Governments' Representatives (TBC)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

10.15-11.00

***“Sealed Lips, Sealed Borders: Contemporary Human Mobility and the Imperative of Language”***

Parvati Nair, Director, UNU-GCM

COFFEE

11.00-11.30

THEMATIC AREA 1: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND HUMAN SECURITY

11.30-13.00

Chair: Megha Amrith, Research Fellow, UNU-GCM

>> ***“Prejudice and the Securitization of Migration as Global Security Threats”***,  
Valeria Bello, Research Fellow, UNU-GCM

>> ***“Have European Union Mobility Partnerships been Obliterated in Turbulent Mediterranean Waters?”***, Stephen Kingah, Research Fellow, UNU-CRIS

>> ***“Diasporas and Peace: What Role for Development Cooperation?”***, Nora Jasmin Ragab, Research Fellow, UNU-MERIT

>> ***“Promoting Human Security and Minimizing Conflict Associated with Forced Migration in the Pacific Region”***, Cosmin Corendea, Research Fellow, UNU-EHS

>> ***“Displacement and the Elderly: towards an Age-sensitive Approach to Durable Solutions”***, Ana Mosneaga, Research Fellow, UNU-AIS and Michaella Vanore, Research Fellow, UNU-MERIT

THEMATIC AREA 2: GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN MIGRATION

15.00-16.30

Chair: Melissa Siegel, Senior Research Fellow, UNU-MERIT

>> ***“Labour and Agency: Female Migrants in the Care Sector”***, Megha Amrith, Research Fellow, UNU-GCM

>> ***“Nigerian Women Migrant Sex-workers, Humanitarianism and International Human Rights Law: Contesting Visions”***, Aishih Wehbe Herrera, Visiting Research Fellow, UNU-GCM

>> ***“Outsiders within? Learning from Latin American Migrant Women doing Feminisms in Barcelona”***, Cecilia Gordano Peile, Visiting Research Fellow, UNU-GCM

>> ***“Female Immigrants’ Associational Participation as City-level ‘Acts of Citizenship’ ”***, Janina Pescinski, Junior Research Fellow, UNU-GCM

COFFEE

16.30-17.00

THEMATIC AREA 2: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

17.00-18.30

Chair: Valeria Bello, Research Fellow, UNU-GCM

>> ***“The Nexus between Migration and Corruption”***, Melissa Siegel, Senior Research Fellow, UNU-MERIT

>> ***“A Multi-dimensional and Multi-level Approach to Integration and Transnationalism”***, Özge Bilgili, Research Fellow, UNU-MERIT

>> ***“Policy and Institutional Coherence for Migration and Development”***, Elaine McGregor, Research Fellow, UNU-MERIT

>> ***“Irregular Migration and Transit: An Overview”***, Katie Kuschminder,  
Research Fellow, UNU-MERIT

CONCLUDING REMARKS AND END OF CONFERENCE

18.30-19.00

Parvati Nair, Director, UNU-GCM

**For your information:**

UNU-GCM is pleased to welcome you to this conference on “International Migration and Future Challenges: How Our World is Transforming”. All participants should be aware that:

- Filming and photography could be taking place during the event. The photographs and videos produced may be used in the public dissemination of the work of UNU-GCM.
- This is an academic conference. As such, the opinions expressed and discussions arising represent personal opinions and not those of UNU-GCM. UNU-GCM asks that all contributions be responsible and substantiated by research.

## **Alphabetical List of Contributors with Abstracts and Biographies**

**MEGHA AMRITH**  
UNU-GCM

### ***“Labour and Agency: Female Migrants in the Care Sector”***

This paper will consider the economy of care and intimacy within which many female migrants are employed in the global labour market, ensuring the well-being of individuals and families worldwide while also pursuing their own goals for economic and social empowerment. It will examine the situations of migrant women employed in nursing, caregiving in private homes, and intimate labour, demonstrating the different understandings that women have of their labour in each area of work and how labour in this sector continues to be stigmatised, poorly valued and exploited. It also examines positive examples of empowerment and agency. While each type of labour within the care sector has distinct policy challenges, there are also overlaps and ambiguities between them. This paper will indicate how policy-makers can better address the needs of female migrant workers within the often-invisible economies of care and intimacy.

**Megha Amrith** is a Research Fellow at the United Nations University, Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM). She holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Cambridge. Her research interests are at the intersection of urban anthropology and migration studies, and she works on themes such as cultural diversity, citizenship, gender and migrant labour, and the role of urban civil society movements in processes of migrant inclusion. She is interested in interdisciplinary and transregional approaches to the study of migration and has conducted fieldwork in Singapore, Manila, São Paulo, Mumbai and Barcelona.



**VALERIA BELLO**  
UNU-GCM

***“Prejudice and the Securitization of Migration as Global Security Threats”***

International Migration has become a security concern in current times. Changes that have occurred in the International System from the end of the Cold War have entailed increased mobility across the globe, instability in particular sensitive regions and consequent conflicts across the world. This has involved more insecurity in various areas and rises in international migration. Through evidence from data on international migration and other macro-economic variables, the changes in the International System and in the Welfare State System in Europe will be connected to the increase of life insecurity and questions and complaints concerning migrants as perceived threats in host societies and the further securitization of migration. The paper will finally show how the securitization of migration increases prejudiced attitudes towards migrants and that the exclusion from life opportunities can develop into sources of different types of radicalism, for instance fascism and Islamic fundamentalism, which mutually reinforce each other.

**Valeria Bello**, a Political Sociologist (PhD 2007, University of Florence) who has taught and published in the fields of Sociology, International Relations and Political Science, is a Research Fellow at the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM) since December 2012. Previously, she was “Marie Curie” Intra-European Research Fellow at the Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals (Spain). She has also worked as Assistant Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (2003-2009) and Assistant Professor (2005-2009) at the University of Trento (Italy).

She mainly works at themes such as prejudice, extremism and the securitization of migration. She is generally interested in how the dynamics of identity formation change as a consequence of globalization and mobility. Her research interests also concern the role of non-state actors in the areas of migration, interethnic and international relations and human security.

**ÖZGE BİLGİLİ**  
UNU-MERIT

***“Integration and Transnationalism for Understanding Subjective Reintegration”***

In integration, social cohesion and transnationalism research, we emphasize that migrants’ experiences in the destination country are intertwined with their relationships with friends and family in their origin country and other localities, their wishes for their homeland and their local culture, traditions and values. Consequently, we bring integration and social cohesion research and policy making a step further by applying a holistic approach that embraces the new realities and dynamics of immigrant lives that potentially take place within multi-sited multi-layered transnational social fields that simultaneously encompass migrants and non-migrants, both sending and receiving communities as well as other connected communities or organisations. In this present paper, we focus on the topic of subjective reintegration from a transnational perspective. Recent research has demonstrated that both objective and subjective indicators are important in understanding return migrants reintegration. To date, no known systematic comprehensive quantitative research regarding the components and influencing factors of subjective reintegration has been conducted. In this paper, we contribute to this research gap by first, developing a multi-dimensional measurement of subjective reintegration. Second, using a unique dataset from Ethiopia, we explore three categories of influencing variables on subjective reintegration: the role of gender, transnational migration experiences, and the conditions upon return. We find that women have significantly worse perceptions of their situation upon return than men. We also find that feeling integrated while abroad, being able to save money and voluntariness of return are important determinants of positive perception upon return.

**Özge Bilgili** is a Post-doctoral Researcher on transnationalism (funded by MACIMIDE) and the theme leader of Integration, Social Cohesion and

Transnationalism research at Maastricht Graduate School of Governance and United Nations University - MERIT. Her current research focuses on integration and transnationalism debates in the EU context as well as economic remittances, diaspora engagement and return migration in the non-EU migrant sending countries. She has also worked as an evaluation researcher for the MIPEX 2015: Integration Policies, Who Benefits? Project in partnership with MPG and CIDOB. She coordinated the evaluation research and wrote extensively on impact evaluation studies on integration policy outcomes in 7 policy dimensions, in 18 migrant receiving countries. She also worked as a migration and integration Policy Expert for the INTERACT Project (MPI and EUI) (2014) where she worked on the role of subnational authorities and international city-to-city partnerships on immigrant integration.

**COSMIN CORENDEA**  
UNU-EHS

***“Promoting Human Security and Minimizing Conflict Associated with Forced Migration in the Pacific Region”***

This paper highlights the main findings of a joint research project between UNU-GCM and UNU-EHS on conflicts emerging as consequences of climate-induced migration in the Pacific region. The research project responded to the Pacific Forum Regional Security Committee’s request to undertake research and develop policy recommendations on the security implications of climate change induced migration. The project’s findings help to understand both the main human security challenges that climate induced migrants face when settling in receiving countries and communities and the major reasons for tensions or conflict. In this light, it formulates seven policy recommendations to better manage environmentally induced migration in the region and to successfully integrate those migrants who are forced to move to different Pacific islands because of climate change.

**Cosmin Corendea** (S.J.D. GGU, LL.M. (hon.) STU) works as Associate Academic Officer/Legal Expert at UNU-EHS. He is acting as focal point for legal issues associated with environmental degradation and adverse effects of climate change, such as institutional vulnerabilities and adaptation, climate equity, climate justice, human rights, forced migration, etc. His research interests lie in conceptual and comparative frameworks of legal perceptions of environmental vulnerabilities, resilience and sustainable development impacts with distinct and positive reflection in policy making. Best known for initiating and developing the concept of ‘international hybrid law’ in 2007 – a legal research tool which uses human rights, environmental and refugee/migration law in climate change-related case analysis – his experience includes field research in the Pacific, Europe and Asia, and consultancies for different universities, organizations and United Nations agencies. He is currently operating several key projects on: organizational development and cooperation (UNCCD); climate-legal policy development (World Bank/LJD, GEO6); and academic outreach (UPEACE, Univ. of Bonn School of Law).

**CECILIA GORDANO PEILE**  
UNU-GCM

***“Outsiders within? Learning from Latin American Migrant Women doing Feminisms in Barcelona”***

In diverse cultural fields –mass media, political and academic discourses– migrant women have historically tended to remain invisible or stigmatized, homogenized or just misrepresented as a disadvantaged and oppressed social group. Without dismissing the multiple situations of economic, political and cultural oppression many migrant women usually face throughout their lives, this paper seeks to reverse their widespread victimization and offer a different approach to the reality of migrant women. It focuses on Latin American-born women living in Barcelona, whose political activism in feminist movements across national borders has empowered their discourses and practices *as and*

*about* migrant women. First, the paper offers an overview of contemporary Latin American migration to Spain with focus on migrant women. Secondly, it summarizes the main contributions of postcolonial feminist theories, methodologies and epistemologies to migration studies. Thirdly, it argues that migrant feminists themselves constitute active agents of social change whose insights are crucial to understand the complexities and diversities involved in many migrant women's realities. Finally, I will illustrate this with a preliminary analysis of qualitative interviews with five Latin American women based in Barcelona on their experiences of migration and feminist activism. This in turn can provide new information that proves useful to improve and develop evidence-based policies on migrant women more broadly.

**Cecilia Gordano Peile** has previously worked as a Research Assistant at the Migration and Network Society Program, Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (UOC), where she got a PhD in the Information and Knowledge Society, in 2013. She also holds a European MA in Gender and Women's Studies (GEMMA, Utrecht University and Universidad de Granada). Her research interests span across various academic fields –postcolonial and transnational feminisms, cultural studies, critical discourse studies, migration studies and digital media studies— and related topics –including feminist methodologies, women's rights, social change and innovation.

**STEPHEN KINGAH**  
UNU-CRIS

***“Have European Union Mobility Partnerships been Obliterated in Turbulent Mediterranean Waters?”***

This paper introduces the European Union's Mobility Partnerships with Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia and articulates policy proposals to render the partnerships more relevant to the needs of those fleeing desolation for the hoped for nirvana of Europe. It discusses the strengths and some of the weaknesses of the three

partnerships, setting EU's migration challenge within a broader context. To avert the continuous perversity of transforming the Mediterranean Sea into an edgeless cemetery, this paper suggests relevant proposals for European policymakers and other stakeholders in the field.

**Stephen Kingah** is a Research Fellow at the United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) in Bruges and holds a PhD in law from the Free University of Brussels (VUB). He specialises on the rules that pertain to access to medicines and vaccines especially in the South. He takes interests in the legal and political aspects of EU-ACP relations; international financial institutions; the African Union's institutional architecture; human rights aspects of accessing affordable health care in the South and the role of emerging markets in global politics. He has published in many journals including the International and Comparative Law Quarterly, International Organizations Law Review, the European Foreign Affairs Review, Proceedings of the American Society of International Law, amongst others. He is currently working on issues of regionalism in Africa; regional social policy and the regional and global role of emerging markets.

**KATIE KUSCHMINDER**  
UNU-MERIT

***“Irregular Migrants Decision Making Factors in Transit”***

This study examines how migrants make the decision whether to stay in the country of transit, migrate onwards, or return to their countries of origin while in a transit country. The majority of a limited academic literature on migrant decision making has been concerned either with the decision to migrate in the first place (for example distinguishing voluntary from forced migration), or the decision whether to return. Decision making in transit has not been explored in depth. Migrant decision making in transit is influenced by conditions in the country of origin, conditions in the current country of stay (transit country), conditions in the perceived destination country, individual and social factors,

and policy interventions. This paper considers these multiple factors in the analysis of 1,028 surveys with migrants from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Syria collected in Athens and Istanbul in spring 2015. Regression analysis has been used to predict the factors determining the desire of migrants to migrate onwards as compared to stay in the current country or return.

**Katie Kuschminder** is a Researcher and Migration Studies Project Manager at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, where she is the theme leader for irregular and transit migration. She has ten years of research experience and has managed and worked on several projects funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection, GIZ, IOM, and UNHCR. Dr. Kuschminder also teaches in the Masters in Public Policy and Human Development, Migration Management Diploma Programme and Evidence Based Policy Research Methods Courses at the School of Governance/ UNU-Merit.

**ELAINE MCGREGOR**  
UNU-MERIT

### ***“Policy and Institutional Coherence for Migration and Development”***

In recent years, the link between migration and development has gained increasing attention in international fora. However, a complex relationship exists between migration and development. Migration can have positive and negative economic and human development impacts at the micro, meso and macro levels depending on various interconnected contextual factors. Furthermore, migration is a cross-cutting policy issue, extending beyond the regulation of human movement across international borders. Ultimately, this means that the policies that affect – or are affected by – migration can be found in a range of policy areas, not least the labour market, finance, education, trade and health. Thus, migration tends to be a “fragmented portfolio” (IOM, 2010, p.17) that is distributed amongst several ministries and to different levels of government with competing

views and different levels of power, influence and resources. For this reason, the KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on Policy and Institutional Coherence – with assistance from Maastricht University – developed a dashboard of indicators for measuring policy and institutional coherence for migration and development (PICMD). The dashboard is a user-friendly, stock-taking tool that aims to measure the extent to which public policies and institutional arrangements are coherent with international best practices to minimise the risks and maximise the development gains of migration, and can be used by domestic policy makers and other stakeholders such as researchers, civil society and international organisations.

**Elaine McGregor** is a Researcher at UNU-MERIT and the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance. Her main research interest lies in the area of migration and development, with a focus on migration governance and policy coherence. She finished her Bachelors in Public Policy and Masters in Urban Regeneration at the University of Glasgow in the UK and Masters in Public Policy and Human Development with a specialization in Migration Studies at Maastricht University. She has fieldwork experience in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, the UK, Vietnam, the Philippines, Pakistan and Nepal, and has worked with a range of International Organisations and National Governments including ICMPD, ILO, IOM, OECD, the World Bank, IADB, the Swiss Government and the Dutch Government, and has been involved in the design, development, implementation and management of several migration projects and evaluations. She is currently working on her PhD on the migration and development discourse.



**ANA MOSNEAGA AND MICHAELLA VANORE**  
UNU-AIS & UNU-MERIT

***“Displacement and the Elderly: towards an Age-sensitive Approach to Durable Solutions”***

Compared to the plethora of humanitarian organizations focusing on women and children, there are few interventions catering to the needs of the elderly, and their situations in conflicts and disasters are seldom documented. This is especially the case for the displaced elderly, who often become invisible due to lack of age-disaggregated data.

The analysis here looks at the impacts of displacement on the elderly following protracted displacement induced by disaster and conflict. Drawing on examples from Japan and Georgia, both known for high proportions of older populations, it considers implications for designing durable solutions for the displaced elderly. In Japan it examines the displacement situation after the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster, while in Georgia it draws on case of those displaced by the 1991-2 secessionist civil conflicts in Abkhazia and Ossetia and by the 2008 Georgian-Russian War.

The conclusions highlight that the elderly are a fundamentally different population cohort when considering durable solutions and include a set of recommendations to be taken into account for designing an age-sensitive approach to addressing displacement. More broadly, the need for age-sensitive approaches to durable solutions emphasizes the importance of better profiling displaced populations so that the designed solutions meet the specific needs and vulnerabilities of different segments of the affected populations.

**Ana Mosneaga** is a Migration Policy Specialist with core expertise in labour migration management and durable solutions for displacement. Currently, Ana works as Research Associate at UNU’s Institute for Advanced Studies of Sustainability in Tokyo researching displacement situation after the March 2011 disasters in Japan. She holds a PhD in human geography from the University of Copenhagen with a focus on the management of international student mobility as a subgroup of skilled migration. During her PhD, Ana was a guest researcher

in the International Migration Branch of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva. Before joining UNU, Ana worked for the Immigration and Integration Unit of the Directorate-General Home Affairs of the European Commission in Brussels and held positions with multinational companies in Copenhagen. Additionally, Ana has studied in Japan, Australia and Norway and received her BA and MSc degrees in human geography with a focus on development studies.

**Michaella Vanore** is a Research Fellow at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, where she has worked for the past six years as a researcher and lecturer on migration and development. In the course of her work, Michaella has worked on projects commissioned and funded by the European Commission, IOM, ICMPD, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, OxfamNovib, UNICEF (Iran, Kazakhstan, Moldova), and UNDEF. Within these projects, Michaella has addressed topics such as defining and analysing poverty among migrant children, assessing the consequences of family-member migration for children and the elderly who remain in the home country, diaspora engagement and contributions in conflict and post-conflict settings, and remittances.

**PARVATI NAIR**  
UNU-GCM

***“Sealed Lips, Sealed Borders: Contemporary Human Mobility and the Imperative of Language”***

In recent years, two important phenomena have coincided: a rising awareness in the international community of the urgent need for better governance of migration and the displacement, and subsequent mobility, of ever greater numbers of people. In this paper, I will consider the importance of language as the conceptual tool through which mainstream discourses and policies on migration are constructed and validated. In so doing, the ways in which language constrains perceptions around migration will be considered, as well as the ways

in which a more rigorous engagement with the language of migration can lead to better understanding and governance of human mobility, not as an exceptional occurrence, but as a central phenomenon of our contemporary age.

**Parvati Nair** is the Founding Director of the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM). She is also Professor of Hispanic, Cultural and Migration Studies at Queen Mary, University of London, where she was formerly the Director of the Centre for the Study of Migration. She completed her undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral studies at the University of London. Her research is in the field of Cultural Studies, with a particular interest in the geopolitical and cultural contexts of the Hispanic world. Her research focus is on the fields of community, migration, displacement, marginality, ethnicity, gender and cultural memory. Much of her work has focused on these issues as represented in photography, film and music. Her first two books focused solely on Spain in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Her subsequent research has acquired a broader and more comparative focus. She is interested in studying questions of culture, identity, memory and narrative in terms of travel, translation and translocation. This necessarily involves research methodology and focus that take into account globalization, mobility and migrancy as features of contemporary culture. Her preferred research methodology combines the theoretical analysis of cultural texts and media with ethnographic fieldwork. She has a keen interest in photography and music, especially with regard to the ways in which cultural and aesthetic representation provide inroads to knowledge and power for communities that are marginal, displaced or rendered migrant. She combines theoretical analysis on such cultural production with fieldwork. She is also the founder and Principal Editor of *Crossings: Journal of Migration and Culture*.

JANINA PESKINSKI  
UNU-GCM

***'Female Immigrants' Associational Participation as City-level 'Acts of Citizenship' "***

Immigrants in Europe, particularly women, have established a multitude of associations that enable them to exercise their civil rights in the public political sphere even though they are often not granted the right to formal political participation through voting. Therefore, this research is oriented around the questions: how do immigrant women exercise their agency through associational involvement, and how does such involvement serve as an alternative form of civic participation for those lacking the political rights reserved for citizens? It focuses specifically on immigrant women in order to consider how civic participation through associations becomes a way for women to exercise their agency to shape their community life in a new context. The research considers the central role of female leaders in establishing immigrant associations and how their activities can be interpreted as "acts of citizenship" at the local level. It examines associations themselves as political actors in cities, as well as exploring how the women who are members develop and express their agency through their involvement in the association.

**Janina Pescinski** is a Junior Research Fellow at UNU-GCM contributing to the program on Female Agency, Mobility and Sociocultural Change. She holds a Master's degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action from the Institute d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po). Prior joining UNU, Janina was a research consultant on West Africa with Amnesty International. Her research interests include migration, human rights, diaspora networks, and civil society.

**NORA JASMIN RAGAB**  
UNU-MERIT

***“Diasporas and Peace: What role for development Cooperation?”***

As “agents of change” diaspora groups promote peace and development in the country of origin through economic and social remittances and the transfer of values, know-how, and skills. At the same time they are often perceived as “long distance nationalists”, who might exacerbate the dynamics of conflict and, thus, are seen as a security risk for both the country of origin and the country of residence. Recently, the debate on diaspora engagement in conflict settings is moving beyond the dichotomy of Diasporas being either peace-wrecker or peacemakers by highlighting the diverse roles Diasporas can play in conflicts. As heterogeneous social formations, different groups and individuals within the same diaspora can differ in terms of approaches, interests, and objectives in their contributions to the homeland, leading to opposing aims and strategies of involvement. Since Diasporas are becoming increasingly-recognised partners in mainstream development cooperation and given the context-specific nature of diaspora engagement, it is essential to understand the interests, aspirations, institutions, and objectives of diaspora groups as well as the structural factors by which they are shaped. Herein, the level of politicization is a key concern when cooperating with Diasporas in conflict settings, since a potential lack of neutrality, impartiality, and independence of Diasporas and their actions, can risk insufficient adherence to humanitarian principles. In the context of fragile- and conflict-affected states, and given the potential ambiguity of diaspora engagement in such settings, development cooperation, hence, needs to be aware of how the diaspora can be best facilitated to contribute to peace.

**Nora Jasmin Ragab** is a PhD Fellow and Researcher at the Migration and Development research cluster at Maastricht Graduate School of Governance/UNU-MERIT. By using the Syrian diaspora as a case, the aim of her PhD project is to provide a broader understanding of the role and contribution of Diasporas to conflicts and peace building in the country of origin. Moreover, she conducted studies on the Syrian and Tunisian diaspora in Germany, looking

among other things on how the “Arab Spring” influenced the diaspora consciousness. She finished her Bachelor’s degree in Business, Economics and Social Sciences at Vienna University of Economics and Business in Austria and did her Master in Public Policy and Human Development with a specialisation in Migration Studies at Maastricht University. Beside this research experience she also collaborates closely with migrant organizations in her function as intercultural consultant.

**MELISSA SIEGEL**  
UNU-MERIT

***“The Nexus between Migration and Corruption”***

Linkages between migration and corruption may not be the most obvious and are definitely not the most studied, but when looking a little further, the linkages are vast and extremely important for development. Linkages between migration and corruption can be both positive and negative. The rate of migration and level of corruption are correlated; there is higher emigration in countries with higher level of corruption. We also know from lots of research that corruption and development are negatively correlated, therefore, from a development perspective this linkage matters.

Migration and corruption are linked from paying bribes and gaining fake documentation to migrate irregularly to rampant corruption being a reason for migration or for not returning to the transfer of anti-corruption norms and values back to countries of origin by diaspora living abroad. The linkages are vast. As explained in an earlier article ten ways in which migration and corruptions are interlinked are discussed: 1) Corruption Facilitates Illegal Migration; 2) Corruption Enables Protection of Refugees; 3) Corruption Impedes the Development Benefits of Migration; 4) Corruption Stimulates Migration Desires; 5) Corruption Promotes the Transnational Ties of Elites; 6) Corruption Discourages Return Migration; 7) Social Remittances Reduce Corruption; 8) Migration Upends Corrupt Social Structures; 9) Migration Sustains Corruption; 10) Corruption Undermines Assistance to Migrants.

**Melissa Siegel** is an Associate Professor and Head of Migration Studies at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance and Senior Research Fellow at UNU-MERIT where she manages several migration research projects, heads the Migration and Development research group, coordinates the Migration Studies Specialization and heads the Migration Management Diploma Program. She also heads the Migration and Development research theme of the Maastricht Center for Citizenship, Migration and Development (MACIMIDE) and holds the Chairmanship of the United Nations University Migration Network. She has worked on or headed projects for many governments and international organizations and teaches at the graduate and undergraduate level around the world. Her research focused on the causes on consequences of migration with a specific focus on the linkages between migration and development.

**AISHIH WEHBE HERRERA**  
UNU-GCM

***“Nigerian Women Migrant Sex-workers, Humanitarianism and International Human Rights Law: Contesting Visions”***

I will offer a revision of current international human rights law on sex-trafficking, and how it embraces specific moral and humanitarian narratives that reproduce cosmopolitan power hierarchies in turn clearly gendered, racialized, sexualised and classed. What is more, current sex-trafficking legislation further deepens the traditional neoliberal divide of the global North/South by regulating and monitoring the bodies and movement of mostly women sex-workers from developing regions, with the "excuse" of eradicating human trafficking (Androjisevic 2010, Plambech 2014). My analysis, therefore, will question this socio-political and economic hegemonic apparatus, rooted in a neoliberal human rights practice, in order to expose its gendered character. In so doing, I will delve into the "politics of pity" and humanitarianism that permeate anti-trafficking narratives and implementation mechanisms, and which rely on traditional gender binaries of powerful/powerless, victim/perpetrator, passive/active, and

action/inaction, among others. I will also reflect on how this humanitarian discourse further obscures the activation of surveillance mechanisms of border control, protection and migration flows that accentuate, rest on and reinforce the North/South divide. I will illustrate my analysis with a photodocumentary by Nigerian women migrant sex-workers, which problematize institutionalised discourses on sex-trafficking and their transnational and translocal impact at glocal and individual levels. This photoaccount portrays these Nigerian women's daily lives, their socio-political and economic vulnerability, their situated and personal experiences of immigration and human rights violations, but also other relevant issues relating to empowerment, agency and political recognition/resistance.

**Aishih Wehbe Herrera** holds a PhD in Gender and English Studies by the University of La Laguna, Spain, and a M.A. in Human Rights by Columbia University. Her M.A. thesis revolved around Women's Human Rights, gender-based violence against women, and policy making by incorporating masculinity issues into the analysis. Her former research background and PhD. focused on gender and masculinity issues, "third world" feminism, post-structuralism, hegemony and power, and cultural/visual studies. She has published and presented her work internationally, and she has been a guest speaker in a number of occasions (Bielefeld University (Germany), The University of Manchester (UK), The University of Edinburgh (UK) and the University of La Laguna (Spain). Before starting her postgraduate degree at Columbia University, she lectured in the UK higher education system for 5 years. Her teaching experience gave her the opportunity to explore and engage on (women's) human rights issues in the classroom, raising awareness about gender discrimination and inequality through specific curricula, and work on gender mainstreaming in education. She is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of the United Nations Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility in Barcelona.



## **List of Participating Institutions**

United Nations University - Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-AIS) Tokyo, Japan

United Nations University - Institute on Comparative Regional Integration  
Studies (UNU-CRIS) Bruges, Belgium

United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security  
(UNU-EHS) Bonn, Germany

United Nations University - Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility  
(UNU-GCM) Barcelona, Spain

United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute  
on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) Maastricht, the Netherlands

## **The United Nations University Migration Network**

The United Nations University Migration Network is a research platform across Institutes of the UNU that brings together expertise on Migration. It has been formed on 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, from different disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, 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. 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 analyses 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; to jointly influence governments or regions. It also works towards 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 disseminate cutting edge research.

Its website (<http://migration.unu.edu>) intends to provide both the general public and stakeholders with easy access to information on the results obtained through the Network's research programs and subsequent policy recommendations, as well as on its past, ongoing and upcoming events and activities.