

## Migration Development workshop series: WP3.1



### **MIGREC Seminar Series – Migration Development, Autumn 2021**

Welcome to the final workshop series delivered as part of WP3.1 State of the Art Migration workshops. The series concludes by focusing on the relationship between migration and development. The Migration Development workshop series will be by invitation only. We anticipate colleagues from the University of Belgrade, ELIAMEP and SEERC to be the main attendees, however we will also open up the seminar series to all the presenters, contributors to the MIGREC Special Issue (in preparation), as well as colleagues across the partner institutions who have a particular interest or expertise in this area.

The programme will be delivered during the first semester 2021/22. We have engaged a diverse range of presenters for this workshop series ranging from internationally acclaimed scholars to early career researchers and PhD students. An extended abstract, biography and link to the speakers' institutional profile page is included in this programme.

Every workshop will take place on a Tuesday (see specific dates below) at the same time:

**1.00 - 2.30pm (UK) / 2.00 - 3.30pm (Serbia) / 3.00 - 4.30pm (Greece).**

The workshops will be delivered using the Blackboard Collaborate platform. Access the virtual seminar room here: <https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/a446452aa5b84db68b93c695ee8a6e9b>

We look forward to your participation in the final WP3.1 State of the Art migration workshop series. If you have any questions about the programme, please contact Rebecca Murray: [r.e.murray@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:r.e.murray@sheffield.ac.uk).

## Programme

DATE	PRESENTATION TITLE	PRESENTER/S + AFFILIATION	CHAIR
12-10-21	'The European Union, Russia, and International Organizations in Regional and Global Migration Management'	Martin Geiger, Carleton University	Danica Šantić
26-10-21	'Diaspora investment and complex transnational care arrangements among diaspora women: A case study of Zimbabwean women living in the UK'	Roda Madziva, University of Nottingham	Natalija Perisic
23-11-21	This session brings together scholars studying various types of remittances and diaspora engagement across different European and African countries. Speakers will discuss various challenges they faced when conducting research transnationally, and how they overcame them using mixed-method approach or creative methodologies.		
	'Return migration and reintegration in the context of the migration cycle in the Republic of Serbia'	Milicia Todorovic, University of Belgrade	Aneta Piekut
	'Migration and Development: Ghanaian Hometown Associations (HTAs) as Drivers of Welfare Development Back Home'	Kwaku Owusu, Bedfordshire University	
	'Researching the diaspora online and offline'	Dominika Pszczółkowska, University of Warsaw	
	'Shifting positionalities and power relations: the ethical and emotional challenges of doing multi-sited research as a doctoral student'	Obert Tawodzera, University of Birmingham	
30-11-21	'Migration and Development, without Care?'	Matt Withers, Macquarie University	Dragana Stoeckel

## Abstracts (in order of presentation)

### **The European Union, Russia, and International Organizations in Regional and Global Migration Management**

This talk introduces to my existing research and scholarship on NGOs and international organizations and their growing role in regulating and managing migration and refugees. I will make the attendees familiar with some of my main projects, their theoretical and conceptual foundation, methodology and outcomes. Migration management is a newer concept in migration and refugee politics which has been introduced and mobilized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other organizations. Its main ideas have strongly shaped policy developments across the world, including the EU's approach toward the so-called 'Western Balkan' states, the EU accession process, and among others, also the UN Global Compact on Migration. A key component of the discussion on migration management is the complex interlinkage and the topic of migration and development. Many of the activities the EU and other policy hegemony have implemented in e.g. the 'Western Balkan' states to regulate migration have been carried out in the name of promoting human development. This talk will devote special attention to Eastern and South-eastern Europe, including the 'Western Balkans' as well as Russia's and the EU's global as well as regional engagement, i.e. with their respective 'near abroad'/'neighbourhood' areas, and critically reflect on the 'development' and 'integration' outcomes of mentioned 'migration management' activities.

### **Diaspora investment and complex transnational care arrangements among diaspora women: A case study of Zimbabwean women living in the UK**

In this presentation I focus on Zimbabwean migrant women who reside in the UK, exploring their engagement/involvement in transnational business creation and the dynamics of sustaining and maintaining care arrangements across transnational spaces. To explore this, I use three women's narratives of their lived experiences of migration to the UK and consequent investment activities and caring responsibilities in the country of origin. I seek to illustrate that apart from seeking opportunities to establish business projects for their own economic gains, these women also act as informal 'business angels' or 'social lenders' who remit to help extended family members start their own income generation projects in the country of origin. At the same time, these women are prone to culturally determined kinship and networks of care obligation as shown by their behaviours that conform to traditional norms and expectations of caring, especially for elderly parents. I argue that migrant women are adroit at helping others and especially for African women whose collectivist cultural values (built in a relational space of *Ubuntu*) oblige them to do so. I end the presentation by illustrating the power of socio-cultural factors in understanding Zimbabwean migrant women's participation in both transnational business activities and care arrangements, and the extent to which this challenges dominant understandings and discourses of brain drain and care drain.

### **Return migration and reintegration in the context of the migration cycle in the Republic of Serbia**

Return migration, as a stage in the migration cycle, is an increasingly important subject in scientific and public debate. Nevertheless, the Republic of Serbia belongs to the group of countries in which it is necessary to intensify research in order to form a clear picture of this phenomenon. The subject of the doctoral dissertation is to comprehensively investigate the process of voluntary return migration in the Republic of Serbia by examining all stages of the migration cycle of returnees, reintegration process and to determine the role of returnees into migration-development nexus. The analysis will

be based on mixed method research data that includes both quantitative (survey) and qualitative (interview) aspects of research. The results of the research will enable the expansion of the spectrum of scientific knowledge, the improvement of statistical shortcomings in this process and enable the formation of research recommendations for more efficient return migration management in Serbia.

### **Migration and Development: Ghanaian Hometown Associations (HTAs) as Drivers of Welfare Development Back Home**

The study focuses on four Ghanaian Hometown Associations (HTAs) and explores their welfare engagements in their own communities and other parts of Ghana. It does this through an extended analysis of family/household livelihood perspectives and through the lens of three socio- psychological theories: communal and exchange theory; individual and group self-centeredness concept; and role-set theory, seldom employed in migration studies. The study adopts a qualitative research method by conducting multi-sited fieldwork in the UK and Ghana. In doing so, it follows the works and activities of these associations between the UK and Ghana. Findings from the data collected through interviews, observation and secondary analysis of documentary sources, illuminate how Ghanaian HTAs positively impact meso level development back home. The findings also illuminate challenges and show that the associations' motivations to undertake such activities are multifaceted. Key among these motivations is catering for the wellbeing of their left-behind families, the wellbeing of non-related families or the community and the wellbeing of the HTA members, especially when they visit or retire to live in Ghana. Furthermore, the findings indicate that Ghanaian HTAs' transnational roles, especially in their communities' back home, are mandated as an implicitly expected duty entrenched in Ghanaian socio-economic norms, formed around obligation and values of personhood. Hence, communities and families back home expect Ghanaians abroad to remit financial resources and newly found social ideas when their socio-economic wellbeing in receiving countries is perceived to be successful and stable. Lastly, policymakers, the Ghanaian government, the Ghanaian HTA members and recipients of the projects are also of the view that the Ghanaians abroad are crucial welfare development partners, hence the need to find feasible ways to engage them through workable policies, programs and strategies.

### **Researching the diaspora online and offline**

This presentation will be about conducting qualitative research with diaspora members, both in person and online. It will be based on research conducted within two projects: one regarding destination choice among Polish post EU-accession migrants (my PhD project), and the second regarding political and public participation of Poles in the Polish-Irish transnational space. Some of the interviews in these projects were conducted in person, a majority via online communicators, such as Skype, Google Meet, or Messenger. I will reflect on the practical challenges of conducting interviews in person and online and recruiting respondents (also through Facebook). A more theoretical element of my talk will be on finding the right framework for various aspects of your research. For me, the transnational optic has been particularly helpful in unpacking various social phenomena linked with migration, especially social or political remittances. I believe it can be especially useful when researching relatively short-distance intra-European migrations. Some of the above methodological and theoretical reflections are discussed further in the following papers:

- Pszczółkowska D., Lesińska M. (2021) 'One step forward, two steps back in political integration: why are Polish candidates not making progress in Irish local elections', Irish Political Studies, <https://doi.org/10.1080/07907184.2021.1929186>

- Pszczółkowska D. (2020) 'Facebook recruitment and online interviewing - suitable for qualitative research in migration?'; CMR Working Papers 119/177, Ośrodek Badań nad Migracjami (uw.edu.pl)

### **Shifting positionalities and power relations: the ethical and emotional challenges of doing multi-sited research as a doctoral student**

It is increasingly recognised that undertaking qualitative research can pose ethical challenges for the researcher. Yet academic literature rarely gives an account of the ethical and emotional pitfalls that doctoral researchers experience when conducting qualitative multi-sited research. Particularly, the literature is lacking on the challenges doctoral researchers face when negotiating continuous access to participants living in different parts of the world. There is also a lack of understanding of how the emotional experiences open up possibilities for self-reflection which can be an important aspect of generating in-depth insight from qualitative research. This paper is based on my PhD experiences of conducting multi-sited research with Zimbabwean migrants in the UK and their overseas family members. Field work was conducted in both the UK and Zimbabwe between March and November 2019. I pay attention to how I negotiated the insider/outsider dichotomy and reflect on the differential power dynamics between me and my participants. The paper ends with a discussion of the importance and value of emotional reflexivity in deepening analysis of the complexities of multi-sited qualitative research.

### **Migration and Development, without Care?**

Highly-restrictive temporary labour migration schemes have become commonplace throughout the Indo-Pacific region and continue to expand amid increasing demand for low-wage labour and sustained policy enthusiasm for 'migration-development'. The developmental benefits of these 'guestworker' migration schemes are routinely evaluated according to narrow economic criteria, such as remittance transfers and human capital formation, with little consideration given to transnational family separation and the displacement of *socially reproductive* labour that sustains everyday life. Indeed, 'migration', 'development' and 'care' are deeply interlinked political economic processes that have, for the most part, been theorised in partial isolation. We attempt to reconcile these disjunctures by situating the developmental implications of temporary labour migration in relation to the total social organisation of labour in countries of origin and destination. To do so, we firstly conceptualise a typology of transnational care practices that delineates between proximate care activities disrupted by migration and aspatial care roles that might continue across borders. In the second section of the article, this conceptual framework guides our identification of critical gaps between partially overlapping literatures on 'migration and development', 'gender and development' and 'migration and care'. These lacunae inform our analytical framework for a more holistic 'migration-care-development' nexus that foregrounds the identification, evaluation and policy redress of developmentally unsustainable disruptions to care practices. Finally, we operationalise our conceptual and analytical frameworks in the context of Australia's Pacific Labour Scheme to illustrate the developmental consequences of transnationally disassembled (and incompletely reassembled) care practices for Pasifika households and communities. We conclude by emphasising the need for 'decent care' policies to address care deficits in support of sustainable and gender-equitable development.

## Biographies

### Martin Geiger

In 2011, Martin received his doctorate from the University of Bonn and is Associate Professor of 'Politics of Human Migration and Mobility' at Carleton University. Cross-appointed between Political Science and European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, he is a leading scholar on international, including regional organizations (e.g. European Union) in migration management. His work examines interrelated aspects of political regulation, development, innovation and population change. As a former Canadian SSHRC Banting Fellow, Dr. Geiger is currently leading an Ontario Early Researcher Award and a SSHRC Partnership Development grant project. Dr. Geiger is an expert on different projects of regionalism (e.g. European Neighbourhood Policy) and their focus on mobility and migration. He is also Deputy Director General of the Alliance of Global Talent Organizations, Senior Advisor to Phase II of the EU-China 'Dialogue on Migration and Mobility' and a Senior Research Fellow with the Center for China and Globalization in Beijing (China). Dr. Geiger also continues to be affiliated with his former place of work, the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies at University of Osnabruck – one of Europe's leading migration research centres.

### Roda Madziva

Roda is an Assistant Professor in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Nottingham. Her research interests are in the area of global sociology with a focus on migration, race and inequalities. Her empirical work has focused on themes of forced migration and family separation, migrant integration and access to services, bringing together work on education, employability, diaspora transnationalism and more recently, the link between migration and human trafficking. Current projects include an ESRC-GCRF funded project (as PI) to work with survivors of human trafficking in Zimbabwe, a UKRI funded project (as CI) to help internally displaced persons in Zimbabwe fight COVID-19 and a BA funded project (as CI) which looks at disabled refugee children's inclusion and visibility in education in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

### Kwaku Gyening Owusu

Dr Kwaku Gyening Owusu is a tutor in health and social care at School of Applied Social Science, University of Bedfordshire, UK. His research interest focuses on the sociology of migration and how migrants impact development in both receiving and sending countries. He has undertaken field research in migration studies with emphasis on transnationalism and the sociological elements motivating migrants such as healthcare professionals to migrate from the Global South countries to work in the healthcare industry in Global North countries.

### Dominika Pszczółkowska

Dr Dominika Pszczółkowska is a political scientist and migration researcher at the Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw. Her research interests revolve around post-EU accession migrations, the political participation of migrants, migration and integration policies. Her PhD thesis, defended at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies of the University of Warsaw, was entitled „Why the Isles, why the Continent? Factors Influencing Destination Choice among post-2004 Graduate and Non-Graduate Migrants from Poland”. Before joining academia, she was a journalist for “Gazeta Wyborcza” daily, including as its Brussels correspondent. She wrote about European affairs, the EU enlargement of 2004, and emigration from Poland.

### **Obert Tawodzera**

Obert Tawodzera is a research fellow at the University of Birmingham. He recently completed his PhD at the University of Sheffield. His PhD research focused on how Zimbabwean migrant care workers in the UK negotiate long distanced aged care relationships with their overseas family members. Obert's research interests include migrant transnational care arrangements, new technologies in adult social care, political economy of migration and migrant labour market integration.

### **Milica Todorovic**

Milica Todorovic is a PhD candidate and teaching assistant at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Geography, Department of Human Geography. Her scientific and research interests are in the field of migration and population geography. She is particularly interested in return migration and reintegration and transnational migration. She has published several scientific papers and has participated in several scientific conferences. She has participated in relevant research projects. Since 2019, she is a member of the project MIGREC – Center for Migration, Integration and Management Research.

### **Matt Withers**

Matt Withers is a research fellow within the Department of Sociology at Macquarie University. His research addresses the developmental implications of temporary labour migration and remittances throughout the Indo-Pacific region, with an emphasis on South Asia and Pacific Island Countries. His current project examines how temporary labour migration interfaces with the work and care arrangements of transnational migrant households, using the concepts of 'decent wages' and 'decent care' to frame the need for improved labour governance and gender-equitable policymaking in support of sustainable development outcomes.