MIGREC organized its Third workshop focused on the relationship between migration and development which was led by USFD. It engaged exciting interdisciplinary group of scholars whose work speaks directly to the themes of MIGREC.

Martin Geiger, Carleton University
‘The European Union, Russia, and International Organizations in Regional and Global Migration Management’

Roda Madziva, University of Nottingham
‘Diaspora investment and complex transnational care arrangements among diaspora women: A case study of Zimbabwean women living in the UK’

Kwaku Owusu, Bedfordshire University
‘Migration and Development: Ghanaian Hometown Associations as Drivers of Welfare Development Back Home”

Dominika Pszczółkowska, University of Warsaw
‘Researching the diaspora online and offline’

Obert Tawodzera, University of Birmingham
‘Shifting positionalities and power relations: the ethical and emotional challenges of doing multi-sited research as a doctoral student’

Matt Withers, Macquarie University
‘Migration and Development, without Care?’
The Faculty of Political Science (University of Belgrade) marked the International Migrants Day on December 20th, 2021. The participants were greeted by Prof. Ana Ćekerevac and assistant Danijela Pavlović, MA. The list of lecturers included Prof. Natalija Perišić, who presented the MIGREC project and pointed to the importance of migration research, and Miroslava Jelačić, legal analyst in non-governmental organization Group 484 and consultant in the GFA Consulting Group, who spoke about regular labour migration, cooperation with diaspora and the Strategy of Economic Migration.

The Faculty of Geography (University of Belgrade) marked the International Migrants Day on December 20th, 2021. Representatives of organizations Group 484, Praxis and Centre for Research and Social Development IDEAS spoke about programmes and projects being realized in the sphere of migration, field work and possibilities for volunteering and internship in their respective organizations. Students of undergraduate studies of Geography and Demography, together with students of master and doctoral studies, had an opportunity to discuss the above topics with the speakers; in doing so, they adequately emphasized the importance of research of migration phenomena.
Contemporary migration is characterized by its very dynamic nature. In that sense, it is extremely important that scientific knowledge, academic research, as well as the public policy measures, be based on current research and accurate data sets. Furthermore, theoretical papers explaining relevant phenomena and concepts could be equally relevant and useful like the empirical ones, putting more light on the specific problems in the process of creating and implementing public policies. The purpose of this paper is to emphasize the links between the topics in scientific papers and policymakers' needs through the desk analysis of the leading Serbian national scientific journals in the areas of social sciences and humanities. The analysis of 41 papers in total was related to the identification of three specific migration topics: migration and development, integration and migration governance. Through comparison between the global research trends and the national approaches and findings certain conclusions were drawn and recommendations were given. Detailed analysis led to findings that some of the selected academic research could be a reliable and useful source for the decision makers. This is a necessary step for development of efficient and timely state responses to existing and future challenges brought by migration.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had severe consequences for the large-scale movement of populations within and across borders. Moreover, the crisis has had serious impacts on origin, transit and destination countries, as well as on migrant workers and their families. This paper aims to enhance the understanding of migration contexts in times of crises, as well as migrant-specific vulnerabilities, including the characteristics of stranded migrants in Serbia. Two phenomena have interacted to influence the shape and intensity of mobility in the country during the pandemic: that of citizens returning from abroad in the wake of the economic downturn and changing labour markets, and that of irregular migrants and asylum seekers stranded in transit along the Western Balkan Migration Route. An emphasis is placed on the challenges faced by migrants, as well as those faced by the country itself in terms of migration governance and management in times of crisis, questioning the existence of barriers to access to support. Despite the fact that these different groups of migrants will experience crises differently, it is important to explore the capacity of the country to assist them, both while in their country of origin and while in transit.

This article sheds light on the status of migrants and asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the state response to the growing challenges in the area of acceptance and protection, following the transformation of the Balkan Migration Route. This shift has caught state-level governmental institutions and local communities unprepared, with high numbers of migrants and refugees stranded upon its territory. A special focus was paid to the Bihać and Velika Kladuša municipalities in Una-Sana Canton, in the northwest of the country, and the ways in which they responded to this situation, in particular the ‘archipelago’ of official and makeshift camps that play a fundamental role in managing migration flows. In order to gain an insight into the problem being analyzed, the methodology applied was primarily based on participant observation and interviews, together with desk research of existing reports and media coverage in different stages of the crisis. The evidence suggests that the unique political infrastructure created after the 1990s has given rise to myriad institutional weaknesses and insufficient coordination between state-level and local authorities in the efforts to prevent a humanitarian emergency.