



European
Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation



Migration and asylum: The contribution of frontier research to the understanding of human mobility across frontiers



RESEARCH & INNOVATION
POLICY

European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
ERC EA — The European Research Council Executive Agency
Unit A.2 — Communication
E-mail: erc-info@ec.europa.eu
European Commission, ERC Executive Agency

How to obtain EU publications

Free publications:

- one copy:
via EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>);
- more than one copy or posters/maps:
from the European Union's representations (http://ec.europa.eu/represent_en.htm);
from the delegations in non-EU countries (http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/index_en.htm);
by contacting the Europe Direct service (http://europa.eu/eurodirect/index_en.htm) or
calling 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (freephone number from anywhere in the EU) (*).

(* The information given is free, as are most calls (though some operators, phone boxes or hotels may charge you).

Priced publications:

- via EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>).



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**Migration and asylum:
The contribution of frontier research
to the understanding of human mobility
across frontiers**

ERC
European Research Council



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

**Europe Direct is a service to help you find answers
to your questions about the European Union.**

Freephone number (*):

00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11

(* The information given is free, as are most calls (though some operators, phone boxes or hotels may charge you).

The European Research Council (ERC)

Set up in 2007 by the European Union, the European Research Council (ERC) is the first pan-European funding body designed to support investigator-driven frontier research and to stimulate scientific excellence across Europe.

Through long-term grants, it supports the best and most creative scientists of any nationality and age to identify and explore new directions in any field of research - Physical Sciences and Engineering, Life Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities. There are no thematic priorities and the only evaluation criterion is excellence. In the last ten years, the ERC has awarded around 7 500 grants to individual top researchers carrying out their research projects across Europe.

The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the Scientific Council, and the ERC President is Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. The ERC has a budget of over EUR 13 billion for the years 2014 to 2020 and is part of the EU Research and Innovation programme, Horizon 2020, for which European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Carlos Moedas is responsible.

LEGAL NOTICE

Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use which might be made of the following information.

The views expressed in this publication are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.

More information on the European Union is available on the internet (<http://europa.eu>).

ISBN 978-92-9215-056-3 (print version); ISBN 978-92-9215-055-6 (PDF version)

DOI:10.2828/908742 (print version); 10.2828/31839 (PDF version)

ISSN: 1018-5593 (print version); 1831-9424 (PDF version)

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

© European Union, 2017

Photo credits:

Whenever not indicated: © www.istockphotos.com

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



Foreword	6
Introduction	7
Examples of ERC projects by theme	13
Migration and youth	13
Gender and migration	17
Diaspora and historical aspects of migration	21
Belonging and identity	25
Asylum, refugees and displaced persons	29
Borders and border control	33
Social inclusion	37
Health and migration	41
Migration and urban space	45
Citizenship, governance and mobility	49
Economic aspects of migration	53
Development and migration	57
Annex: Country codes	61

Foreword

Why do people leave their homes for another place? What are the changing patterns of mobility? What are the impacts on the lives –too often at peril- of people who move across borders? What are the effects on the culture, social fabric, politics and economy of both ‘sending’, ‘transit’ and ‘receiving’ countries? These are among the questions the research community has been engaged with for a long time. These issues have gained even more visibility recently, as they keep challenging theories and methods, requiring more empirical work.

It is therefore not surprising that migration and asylum issues feature as topics chosen by many researchers applying for and winning ERC grants, even if the ERC does not show any preference for certain research topics and evaluates proposals on the sole criterion of scientific quality, with a view towards boldness. This is one of the many instances showing that frontier research is by no means an ‘ivory tower’ undertaking, and researchers who practice it engage willingly with issues of great importance not only for science but for society at large, while doing so on the sole basis of themes and approaches chosen by them. In this regard, this publication describes ERC-supported research as a complement to research supported by other parts of the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation (FP7 and Horizon 2020) and contributes to the efforts developed by the Task Force on Migration established by Directorate-General for Research and Innovation to map and foster migration research.

In this brochure, the readers will find a short factual analysis of the portfolio of research on migration and asylum funded by the ERC, as well as various examples of projects’ objectives and methods and –for those which are advanced enough or completed- selected results. No policy synthesis or recommendations are extrapolated, this being a task beyond the ERC’s mandate. Nevertheless, useful lessons can be drawn from the research presented here to base action and to trigger further reflections by public authorities as well as civil society actors, based on the best available evidence.

Researchers are among the most mobile groups in society, having been the travellers across borders since Antiquity. This has been happening mostly by choice and has been motivated by the wish to expand knowledge, cooperate effectively with other researchers, foster science diplomacy, or conduct field work in countries distinct from theirs to be able to establish, compare and contrast findings. Often, however, such mobility takes place by necessity – as in the case of refugee scientists such as Einstein or of researchers who cannot pursue their careers in their own countries and are part of ‘brain forced circulation’. There might thus be an additional motivation for researchers to engage with migration and asylum of often less advantaged people in society: a sort of sense of moral duty to help the understanding of a phenomenon which has had and continues to have a great impact and that can deliver great benefits or lead to great suffering. Whatever the reason for researchers to engage with this topic, it is clear that human mobility is a pervading phenomenon that keeps raising important questions and affecting many different agendas.

ERC support is one of the ways to foster ‘brain circulation’ and make mobility of scientists an asset for research in Europe and beyond, and for frontier research to provide an independent contribution to a well-informed, evidence-based public debate, an evidence which seems to be challenged by some, something a scientist like me feel threatened by. In the year marking the 10th anniversary of the ERC, I am thus pleased to invite the readers to dive into the pages of this publication and to express my most sincere thanks to all who contributed to make it possible. I hope the document will contribute to further in-depth reflection on one of the long-standing structural and ever changing phenomena which has shaped human experience over History.

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon
ERC President and Chair of its Scientific Council

Introduction

Migration and asylum are multi-faceted phenomena across space and time and have been engaging researchers in and across different disciplines for decades. The interest surrounding this research field has been on the increase due to recent events and related political and media attention. Such attention comes with the promise of genuinely trying to better understand the causes and impacts of migration, but also involves misuse and manipulation; it is thus of the utmost importance to have independent analysis and to keep carrying on research with quality and integrity in focus.

In an interdisciplinary/‘whole science’ context such as the ERC any keyword search will show that ‘migration’ is a polysemic term that can apply to far away phenomena such as human mobility or processes involving animals, cells, particles; and

‘asylum’ can lead to associations between very diverse categories such as protection from political persecution and human rights’ abuse to tackling mental illness. While such spurious correlations of terms might perhaps lead to novel research endeavours, the clear focus of this publication is on human migration and asylum for refugees. This also means that the contributions come prominently from social sciences and humanities.

Migration and asylum research emerges as an interdisciplinary field involving contributions from demography, sociology, law, political science, anthropology, social psychology, economics, history, archaeology, geography, urban studies, health studies, gender studies, conflict studies, cultural studies, education studies and others.

‘Cloud’ of most used keywords in ERC projects related to human migration



When organising the description of projects based on the 'bottom up' choice of researchers rather than on topics prescribed in Calls for Proposals, the methodological challenge of how to cluster them for the purpose of reader-friendliness is quite interesting. The pragmatic choice implemented here – with the dual aim of remaining loyal to the researchers' own choices and of relating to current debates in the field – was to extract the headings of the various sections from the keywords used by the Principal Investigators and matching them with some of the initiatives at EU and global level in the field of migration and asylum. As a result, some sections take a more 'actor focused' angle (youth, women, diasporas, refugees), some a more 'context focused' one (borders, cities, different historical periods), others a more 'process oriented' perspective (governance, inclusion, identity formation, health protection, development). It goes without saying that some projects can fit equally well different sections and the purpose here is simply to give examples of the variety of topics, methods and findings.

The sequence of sections is random except for the choice of starting with migration in connection with 'youth' and concluding with 'development'. After all youth migration is an especially marking experience that concerns an increasing number of young adults and children (including the worrying increase of unaccompanied minors in current migration flows towards Europe) and the link between migration and development is a key promise and at the same time a contested one in terms of both diagnostic and response.

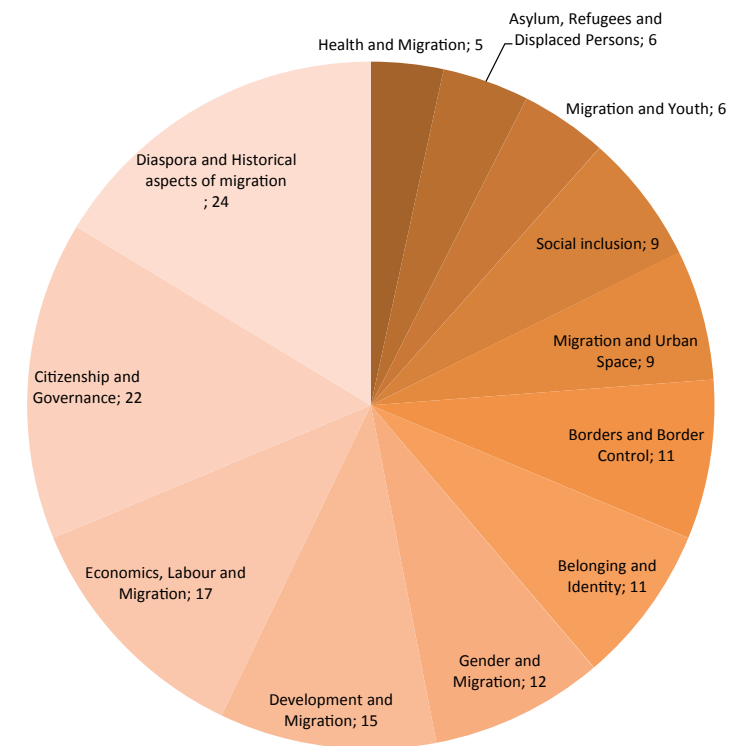
The sections below also intend to engage with and complement the useful synthesis of migration research under the cooperation component of FP7 and Horizon 2020 (*Research on Migration: Facing realities and maximising opportunities*), contribute to the Task Force on Migration established by the Directorate General for Research and Innovation

and provide an input to the [Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography](#) recently launched by the Joint Research Centre.

A mapping of what ERC-supported researchers choose to focus on, in which stage of their career (Starting, Consolidator, Advanced grantees), from which countries, both in terms of researchers themselves and of Host Institutions (the two often being different given researchers' mobility), and of ERC budget allocated to the relevant projects is offered in the data below.

As shown in *Figure 1*, since the beginning of the ERC in 2007, most projects that have been selected by our panels of experts have focussed on the historical roots of migration, looking at refugees and migrants from a governance and legal framework, as well as from a socio-economic perspective. These topics reflect the fact that migration has been at the heart of human history, influencing the creation of communities throughout the ages. The experience of mobility, forced or voluntary, and the issues that it brings, raised questions that have been explored by our research community over the last decade. These projects have delivered new insights into the complexity of migration and refugee issues and have provided food for thought on matters that need serious attention in a knowledge based society.

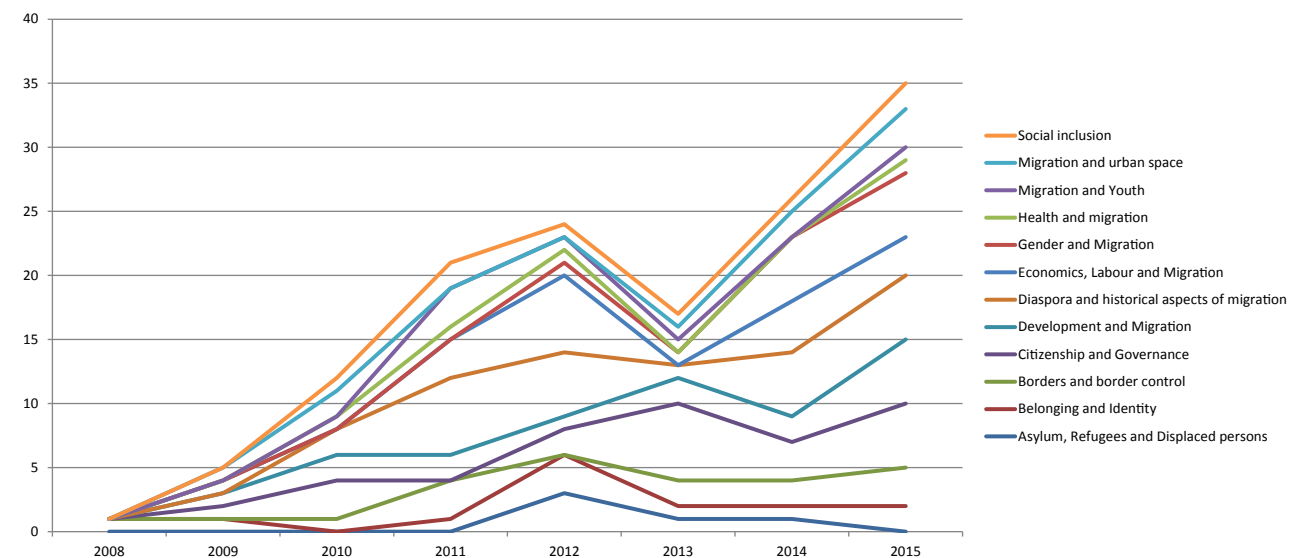
Figure 1: Number of ERC projects funded since 2007 until Starting Grant 2016 by main research themes related to migration



Migration related issues have been a major focus of research explored by the research community supported by the ERC with strong increase between 2008 and 2011 and then again a 'pick' in 2015 with an increased interest in migration issues in relation to social inclusion, urban space, gender, youth, health,

economic and historical aspects of migration. Projects prominently focused on asylum and refugees have a lower curve, but projects under other categories as main focus (e.g. borders, citizenship) often tackle the situation of refugees and asylum seekers.

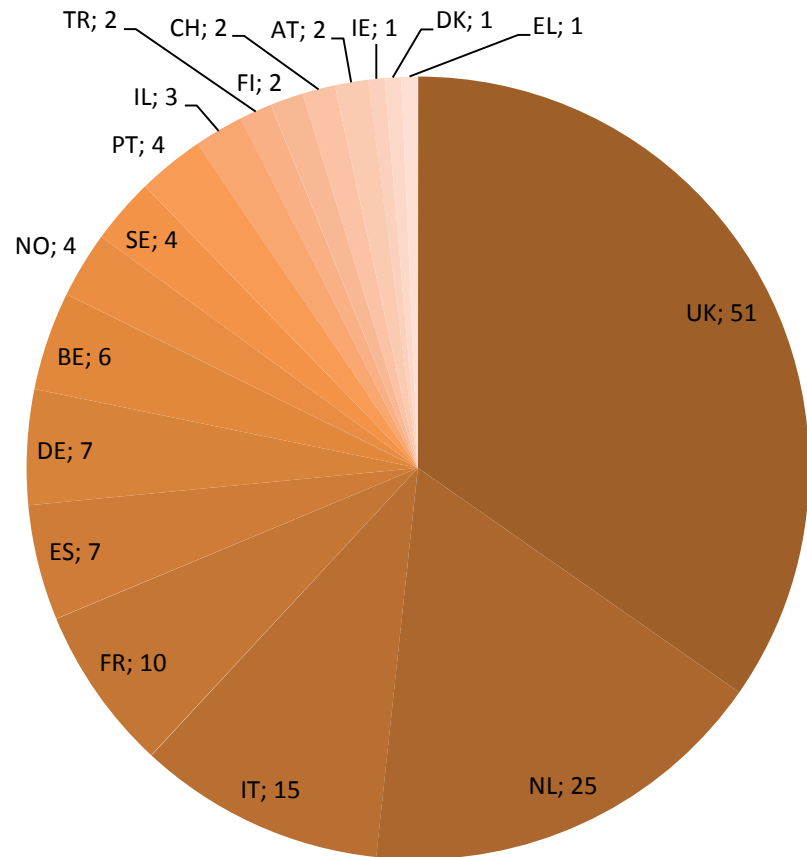
Figure 2: Trends over time in ERC projects related to migration and asylum (2007-2015)



In terms of country distribution, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy and France are the countries whose Host Institutions have supported the majority of the funded projects related to migration and refugees, as we can see in Figure 3. We do see that

gradually, other EU countries, as well as Associated Countries under Horizon 2020, such as Norway, Turkey, Israel and Switzerland, have contributed to the production of knowledge in these areas.

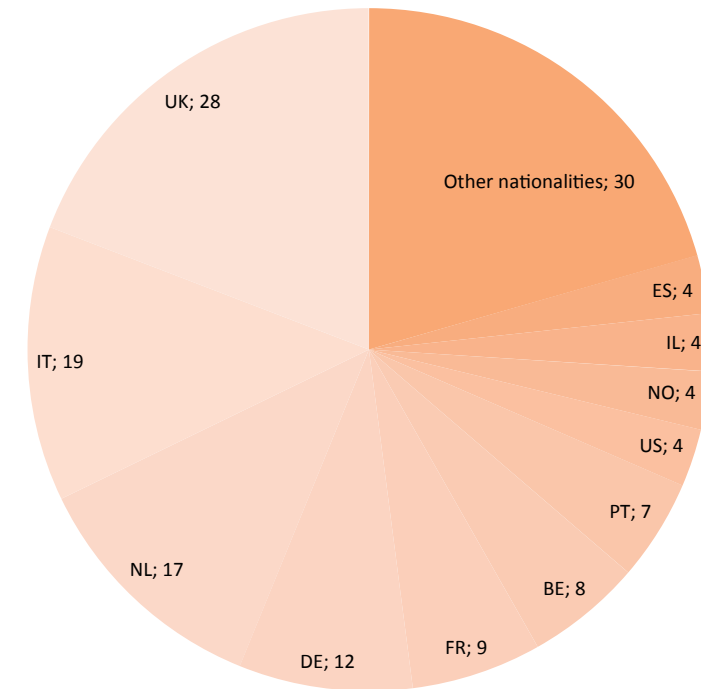
Figure 3: Number of ERC projects funded since 2007 until Starting Grant 2016 by country of Host Institution



However, for a more complete look at how the ERC has helped to advance the careers of researchers from all over the world, coming to Europe and Associated countries to develop their ideas, the chart

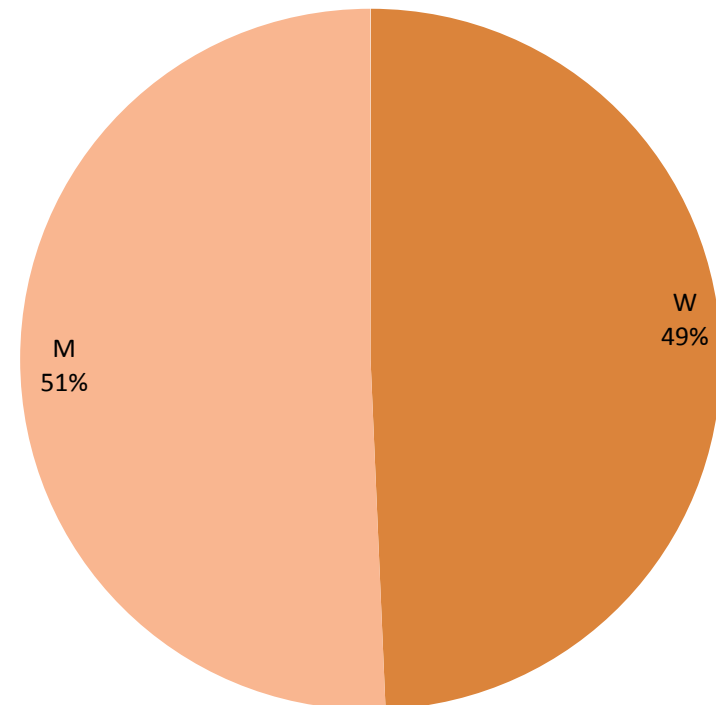
below shows the distribution by nationality. Once more, it reflects the global nature of the matters pertaining to migrants and refugees.

Figure 4: Number of ERC projects by nationality of the Principal Investigator



We can also witness a solid gender balance of Principal Investigators dealing with migration and refugee issues with 49% being women and 51% being men.

Figure 5: Percentage of ERC funded projects divided by gender of Principal Investigators



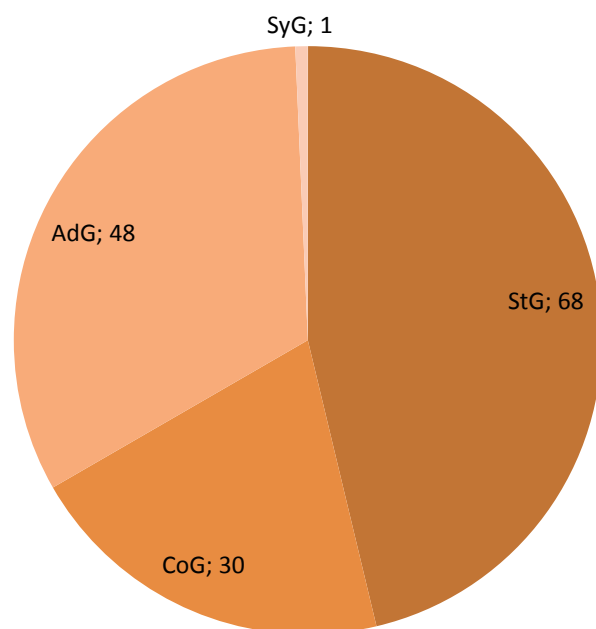
The majority of projects funded by the ERC in the areas of migration, asylum and refugee studies have been brought forward by researchers in the early stages of their careers, as we can see in *Figure 6*, where the Starting Grants represent the largest portion of funded projects. It is also noteworthy to point out that though the Consolidator Grants were only introduced in 2013, projects financed by

researchers consolidating their careers and research groups, and dedicated to migration and refugee issues, have also steadily increased in numbers.

In terms of budget, over 255 million EUR have been provided by the ERC to research projects addressing migration, asylum and refugee issues since 2007.

Figure 6: Distribution of number of projects by types of ERC grants:

Key: StG – Starting Grant | CoG – Consolidator Grant | AdG – Advanced Grant | SyG – Synergy Grant



It is important to note that these are current figures and that a dynamic approach cannot be reflected in a publication such as this one, thus interested readers can search for projects on this theme (as well as any other) on the [ERC website](#).

Last but not least it is worth mentioning that the team that delivered this publication was composed of colleagues of different ERCEA Units (Angela Liberatore and Inês Pio from the Social Sciences and Humanities Unit, Noélie Auvergne, Rosaria Carbone and Alice Senga from the Communication Unit, Mike Mugabushaka from the Unit providing

support to the evaluation of ERC activities) and took inspiration from other efforts by ERCEA in mapping the research we support (including the report *'Science Behind the Project'*, led by Carmen García Fernandez, done for FP7 and now re-launched). We hope the readers will find inspiration from the exciting projects briefly described in the following pages and that frontier research will prove to be able to transcend frontiers within and across societies by sharpening our understanding of the complex changes involving generations of people moving across the globe.

January 2017



Migration and youth

These are some of the projects which highlight the experiences of young people moving from their home countries in search of a better chance at life, and second generation born migrants trying to integrate in their societies.

Bringing equal opportunities to immigrant children

Some school systems in Europe are highly segregated, the Belgian one especially. Poorer standards of education are seen in schools where pupils are predominantly of immigrant background. Researchers are compiling new datasets and information about school composition and teaching cohesion to ensure segregation does not have to mean a difference in education standards.

Many studies have highlighted that levels of educational attainment tend to be lower among immigrant children. OECD data shows this inequality is most pronounced in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, and above all, Belgium. However, the data also suggest that this poor performance in Belgium does not only stem from the usual socio-economic factors associated with low attainment. So where is the Belgian education system going wrong?

"Segregation is clearly one of the main detrimental factors, but the key issue is to understand under what circumstances it can be attenuated," says Prof. Dirk Jacobs, who received a grant from the ERC to lead the EQUOP project. "We find that some schools have a majority of pupils from immigrant backgrounds, while others will be almost entirely composed of non-immigrant children. But when we compare schools that have a similar pupil composition, still we find important discrepancies. Children in some do much better than children in others. We are investigating whether the characteristics of teachers and cohesion among staff can account for this difference."

The EQUOP project looks at existing datasets of school composition and examination results, in combination with new data which track teacher attitudes and characteristics over time. Once the researchers have analysed all this data, they will be able to offer new insights into the effect of school composition in Belgium, a phenomenon first noted in the 1960s in racially segregated America.

School policy and teacher attitude

"The school composition effect is well documented: a concentration of pupils from lower socio-economic backgrounds often causes them to collectively underperform," says Prof. Jacobs. "But here we examine whether, in highly segregated Belgian schools, the effect is reinforced or attenuated by the attitudes, policies and characteristics of individual schools and teachers themselves."

With the help of ERC funding, the five-year project bridges gaps in literature by approaching the problem from a socio-economic perspective which looks at the education system as a quasi-competitive market. Preliminary results have already revealed that segregation should also be considered at classroom level, not just across schools. *"Future international studies must consider internal school policies that might enforce further segregation within the schools themselves,"* says Prof. Jacobs.

One of the systemic effects at play may be the way in which novice teachers in Francophone Belgian state schools are assigned their first position. They are typically placed in a school in need, invariably one with a large proportion of pupils from immigrant and socio-economically marginalised backgrounds. These schools end up with a high proportion of less experienced teaching staff; and staff cohesion is low because new teachers tend to move soon after their initial posting. Prof. Jacobs thinks that system might be one of the causes of the pronounced educational inequality in Belgium.

Education system reform

EQUOP findings have already made front page news in Belgium. The stories highlighted what Prof. Jacobs terms the "double-handicap" for immigrants: they start from a lower socio-economic standing and are then plunged into an education system that stunts educational achievement.

Throughout the project, the EQUOP team has been in close contact with policy-makers in Belgium. Belgian governments wish to reduce the impact of segregation on educational opportunities and insights from the EQUOP project are informing debates on necessary reforms.

Moving into its final phase, the researchers are considering the creation of a pilot intervention programme in schools that are failing their disadvantaged students. By the end of the project in June 2017, the team wants to identify what boosts attainment levels in some schools with similar socio-economic starting positions. The challenge is to translate insights from the sociology of education into strategies that can be used for school improvement.

Prof. Jacobs concedes that sensitivity is important. *"All stakeholders, pupils, teachers, parents, policy-makers and politicians need to first endorse a common objective ('a good school for each child') and then work to overcome the obstacles together. It is critical there is no finger of blame as this will just delay educational reform."* *"Equal opportunities are key for society,"* he adds. *"We are wasting the talent of pupils who miss out on a good education. By not mobilising and using this talent, we are harming the viability of our society and our economic system."*

The findings from EQUOP can provide useful lessons not only for Belgium but also for other countries experiencing school segregation.



Researcher: Dirk Jacobs, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)

ERC Project: Equal opportunities for migrant youth in educational systems with high levels of social and ethnic segregation: assessing the impact of school team resources (EQUOP)

ERC funding: Starting Grant 2011, EUR 1.2 million (2012-2017)

Dirk Jacobs is Professor of Sociology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB, Belgium) and affiliated to the research group Ethnicity, Racism, Migrations and Exclusion (GERME). He is interested in the sociology of education, particularly with regard to the issue of equal opportunities for migrants.

How migration affects youth

For millions of young people around the world migration is part of their biographies. Yet research has focused on just two types of moves: their first move to a new country of residence, or their parents' migration. Starting in 2017, Prof. Valentina Mazzucato's project aims to understand the broader mobility patterns of youth with migrant backgrounds and how mobility affects youth's life chances, including how they perform in school. Her research in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Ghana will compare the youth who do not move with those who do move in different European countries or visit their parent's home country. Findings from this project will be of relevance for policy makers dealing with youth issues. ■

Valentina Mazzucato is Professor of globalisation and development at the University of Maastricht (The Netherlands). Before coming to Maastricht, she lived in and conducted research on Africa for over 20 years. She has served on the Social Science Research Council of the US special committee on migration and development as well as on the World Connectors' Migration and Development group charged with bringing issues related to migration to a broader public.

Researcher: Valentina Mazzucato, University of Maastricht (The Netherlands)

ERC Project: Mobility trajectories of young lives: Life chances of transnational youths in Global South and North (MO-TRAYL)

ERC funding: Consolidator Grant 2015
EUR 1.9 million (2017-2021)

Clubbers and new social practices

Prof. Kira Kosnick investigated how young people who are descendants of Europe's largest immigrant groups are developing forms of social engagement and cultural experimentation in the context of urban club cultures in Europe. She conducted her research in three major cities that feature ethnic club cultures dominated by different large-sized immigrant groups in the city: South Asian in London, Caribbean in Paris and Turkish in Berlin. This ethnographic study showed that urban club scenes, as semi-public arenas of encounter between strangers, are creating new forms of social practices and participation in urban public space. These findings have brought an innovative perspective on post-migrant youth groups and their forms of identification and will contribute to new theoretical approaches and understanding of ethnic diversity, youth cultures, and contemporary urban space. ■

Kira Kosnick is Professor of Sociology at Goethe University Frankfurt. She completed her PhD at the New School for Social Research, New York (USA), where in 2003 she was awarded the Stanley Diamond Memorial Award 2003 for "Outstanding dissertation in the social sciences". Her research interest focuses on gender, sexuality and migration, Turkish migration to Europe and urban spaces.

Researcher: Kira Kosnick, Johann Wolfgang University Frankfurt Am Main (Germany)

ERC Project: New Migrant Socialities: Ethnic Club Cultures in Urban Europe (Migrant Socialities)

ERC funding: Starting Grant 2007
EUR 2 million (2009-2013)



Gender and migration

Because migration can be experienced quite differently depending on gender, these projects look at migration and being a refugee or asylum seeker from a gender and sexual orientation perspective.

When technology empowers migrant women

Social networking platforms and other online activities can enable women migrants to maintain the links with their home countries, but also to connect to each other, thus encouraging their emancipation. Digital media could hence be rethought as a tool for participation and integration. These are preliminary findings of Prof. Sandra Ponzanesi's study focusing on migrant women in three different European countries.

In recent decades, the migration of women to and within Europe has increased. In specific waves - for instance, those connected to family reunion, arranged marriages, and care demand - women are more numerous than men to migrate. While they are often autonomous migrants, they are under-represented in the news or perceived as victims of the migration process, which is usually portrayed as violent and men-dominated.

New communication technologies not only help migrant women overcome isolation and distance from their home countries, but they seem to provide them with novel tools of active participation and emancipation. With the project [CONNECTINGEUROPE](#) a team of researchers based at Utrecht University, aims to understand if and how digital technologies enhance European integration or foster segregation.

To do so, [Prof. Sandra Ponzanesi](#), who leads the project, is analysing the online activities of migrant women aged 18-40 from Somali, Turkish and Romanian backgrounds, living in London, Amsterdam and Rome. The internet is not always a safe space for women and according to the researcher, it can reflect, if not magnify, dynamics of exploitation and racism, most notably through racist hashtags on social networks. At the same time

though, digital platforms allow women to connect around specific topics that identify them as an online community and to share information to which they would otherwise not have access.

Prof. Ponzanesi, for example, has examined with her team the feminist poetry of Somali-British writer [Warsan Shire](#). After going viral for being quoted in pop singer Beyoncé's latest album *Lemonade*, her work has connected and mobilized women from African and Somali diasporas in digital media platforms worldwide, on issues of race and womanhood, but also of immigration and refugees.

By combining media and communication studies with gender and postcolonial studies, Prof. Ponzanesi will further examine how digital connectedness influences the interaction among and between different diasporic groups, as well as new forms of participation and citizenship in postcolonial Europe. Her research will thus contribute to the development of postcolonial digital humanities.



Researcher: Sandra Ponzanesi, Utrecht University (The Netherlands)

ERC Project: Digital Crossings in Europe: Gender, Diaspora and Belonging (CONNECTINGEUROPE)

ERC funding: Consolidator Grant 2014, EUR 1.9 million (2016-2020)

Sandra Ponzanesi is Professor of Gender and Postcolonial Studies at Utrecht University (The Netherlands), and Head of Department Humanities at University College Utrecht. She specialises in gender and postcolonial studies, cinema, and digital media studies, among other fields. Prof. Ponzanesi is also founder and director of the [Postcolonial Studies Initiative](#) (PCI), a platform for research into postcolonial issues.

How to assess more fairly asylum claims based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

Every year, thousands of individuals seek protection in Europe based on their sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI). Considering the high rate of refusals on these grounds and other evidence, Prof. Nuno Ferreira believes SOGI asylum claims are often treated unfairly. Building on extensive documentary studies and field work, the researcher will compare how SOGI asylum claims are adjudicated in different legal frameworks (EU, Council of Europe, Germany, Italy, UK) to produce the first ever comprehensive analysis of refugees' status on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. His goal is to provide detailed recommendations to policy and decision-makers to improve the current national, EU and CoE asylum systems with a view to fulfil the human rights obligations of European States. ■

Nuno Ferreira is Professor of Law at the University of Sussex (United Kingdom) since 2016. His research focuses on human rights, children's rights and asylum and refugee law. He has driven the creation of the Liverpool Asylum and Refugee Knowledge, an interdisciplinary refugee studies platform at the University of Liverpool characterized by its external engagement across the UK and beyond. He also works with the media in relation to discrimination, refugee and SOGI themes.

Researcher: Nuno Ferreira, University of Sussex (United Kingdom)

ERC Project: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Claims of Asylum: A European human rights challenge (SOGICA)

ERC funding: Starting Grant 2015
EUR 1 million (2016-2020)

Migration, trafficking and the sex industry

Humanitarian and governmental discourses often depict migrant sex workers as victims of trafficking. While this phenomenon is important, it is also to be noted that a minority are actually trafficked while many consider working in the sex industry to be an alternative to being exploited in other types of jobs. Prof. Nicola Mai intends to reappraise the concepts of exploitation, slavery and trafficking through the study of the complex experiences, decisions and trajectories of migrants sex workers across six strategic urban areas in France, the US, Australia and New Zealand, all characterized by different laws on migration, sex work and trafficking. The new concepts and data produced, including information on the efficiency of the current anti-trafficking initiatives, could inform future policies addressing migrants working in the sex industry. ■

Nicola Mai is a sociologist, ethnographer and filmmaker. He is Professor of Sociology and Migration Studies at Kingston University (United Kingdom). His films and research examine the relationship between gender, sexuality and migration in the context of the global sex industry. The findings of his research challenge prevailing humanitarian representations of migrant sex workers as prominently trafficked by analysing their experiences and understandings of exploitation and agency.

Researcher: Nicola Mai, Kingston University (United Kingdom)

ERC Project: Sexual Humanitarianism: understanding agency and exploitation in the global sex industry (SEXHUM)

ERC funding: Consolidator Grant 2015
EUR 1.6 million (2016-2020)



Diaspora and historical aspects of migration

The projects highlighted in this section focus on diasporas and on past migrations, memories, as well as on the consequences of colonialism. They look at our common past, our heritage and traditions in order to better understand our present.

Close to home: involvement of diasporas in homeland conflicts and reconstruction

When war displaces large populations, refugees and their descendants form diasporas. They are far from home and spread across countries, but many remain involved in homeland politics. In a comparative study of diasporas and contested sovereignty from the Balkans, the Caucasus and the Middle East, EU researchers reveal how diasporas can both mitigate and aggravate conflicts.

The news is heavy with reports of the refugee crisis in Europe. Migrants from war-torn areas are reaching Europe in record numbers, having fled conflict in their homelands. As they settle across Europe, displaced peoples and their descendants form diasporas. They retain a sense of national identity and often keep strong links with their countries of origin. EU-funded research is now revealing how this strong sense of identity and involvement often leads to diasporas engaging in homeland conflict and post-conflict reconstruction.

"We compare systematically when and how diasporas in Europe can both mitigate and aggravate conflicts when they are mobilised to get involved. We analyse how contexts shape this activism and look at the links diasporas have with their home states, host states, supranational institutions, and different global localities," says Prof. Maria Koinova, who leads the [DIASPORA CONTEST](#) project.

The crucial question is: what motivates diasporas to take action transnationally? Prof. Koinova explains how the project systematically studies how diasporas link to different types of conflict-ridden states. *"The Kurdish diaspora is stateless,"* she notes, *"but those from Kosovo, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Palestine are linked to de facto states with local governance, but no international sovereignty; diasporas identifying with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Iraq, are linked to internationally recognised states, but with weak or unstable governments due to ethno-nationalist or*

sectarian divisions. These contexts, and a variety of others to which diasporas are durably linked across the globe, shape their transnational activism."

Understanding diasporas

The DIASPORA CONTEST research team collects comparative qualitative data through interviews and focus groups with diaspora activists in five European countries. When completed in 2017, the project will have insight also into the attitudes of non-activist diaspora individuals, obtained through a unique cross-national survey. Prof. Koinova explained that *"this large amount of data will help us understand cross-country and intra-country variations that members of diaspora groups hold towards their homelands."*

Early analysis is beginning to reveal the complex interplay between homeland links, context and individual attitudes. The mobilisation of diasporas to 'a cause' is influenced by how they become empowered from the position they occupy in a global geographic location, their socio-economic status and their links to a variety of networks both locally and transnationally.

The researchers also warn host-states, which want to resolve conflicts abroad, that part of the solution is to look into bettering relationships with diasporas on their own territories. Much of diaspora activism is sustained by sense of injustice performed by a host-state recently or in the distant past, whether by being a colonial power, or having engaged in atrocities and military interventions in the diasporas' original homelands.

Diaspora influence on state-building

The research shows that home states also involve diasporas in their strategies. De facto states, aspiring to statehood, may actively seek diaspora support for external financing of businesses, cultural reproduction and public diplomacy; they may push

diasporas toward activism. Sovereign states with significant internal conflicts and divisions may be less active, but still call on diasporas to engage in transitional justice processes and aspects of state-building.

The project DIASPORA CONTEST has already produced over 10 peer-reviewed publications, with many more in the pipeline, and [eight short videos](#). The project is the subject of two journal special issues and a book manuscript in preparation. Public engagement has included a film-screening and public discussions held during the centenary commemoration of the Armenian genocide and the 20-year anniversary of the Dayton peace agreement. A round-table discussion with policy-makers is

planned in Brussels in March 2017 to ensure that project findings support new policy developments.

"DIASPORA CONTEST could have a huge impact on policy," Prof. Koinova concludes. *"In the current crisis, it is important to think about refugees whose lives are on hold, without documents to work or study, and how this affects prospects for long-term diaspora activism. Also, diasporas could act as public diplomats for their countries of origin, but host states and international organisations should be cautious not to delegate too many responsibilities to them. Diasporas activists may pursue institutional interest, but more often they believe in a particular cause and seek to change the world, some in more peaceful and constructive ways than others."*



Researcher: Maria Koinova, University of Warwick (United Kingdom)

ERC Project: Diasporas and Contested Sovereignty: Transnational Diaspora Mobilization in Europe and its Impact on Political Processes in the Balkans, the Caucasus, and the Middle East (DIASPORA CONTEST)

ERC funding: Starting Grant 2011, EUR 1.5 million (2012-2017)

Maria Koinova is Reader in International Relations. Before joining the University of Warwick (United Kingdom) in 2012, she held research positions at Harvard, Cornell, Dartmouth, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C., and faculty positions at the University of Amsterdam and the American University of Beirut. Since 2006 she has worked on topics related to diasporas, conflicts, post-conflict reconstruction and democratization, and has conducted multi-sited fieldwork among the Albanian, Armenian, Bosnian, Croatian, Lebanese, Palestinian, Serbian, and Ukrainian diasporas in the US and in Europe.

Colonial heritage and attitude towards migrants

Portuguese, French and Belgian societies are shaped by their colonial heritage and the linked migratory waves. The end of the colonial empires triggered important population flows that brought large numbers of both the former colonised and colonisers to Europe, a process often marked by ambiguities, fractures and violence. Prof. Margarida Calafate Ribeiro uses a comparative approach to see how this traumatic past persists to this day and resonates into the current forms of differentiation and exclusion. More specifically, she studies the integration of the colonial experience into the different national narratives - literary, cinematic, musical, theatrical and artistic production - exploring the concepts of transgenerational memory and postmemory. Prof. Calafate Ribeiro hopes that the findings of her project will foster a meaningful 'North-South' dialogue in the conduct and use of her research. ■

Margarida Calafate Ribeiro is a scientific leader on post-colonial studies in the Portuguese speaking world. Her work is characterized by a strong interdisciplinary approach. She is a senior researcher at the Centre for Social Studies (CES), University of Coimbra, where she is a member of the Humanities, Migration and Peace Studies Research Group. She holds the Eduardo Lourenço Chair, Univ. Bologna/Camões Institute.

Researcher: Margarida Calafate Ribeiro, University of Coimbra (Portugal)

ERC Project: Children of Empires and European Postmemories (MEMOIRS)

ERC funding: Consolidator Grant 2014
EUR 2 million (2015-2020)

Revisiting Balkans history for a unified future

The peoples of the Balkans' region have long shared an "entangled" and tumultuous history during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with people on the move all along. Professor Daskalov's project brought a new transnational and relational perspective to this history. His innovative approach has placed the histories of South Eastern European countries in a global perspective, beyond national lines, transcending established disciplinary boundaries between history, sociology, political science, international law and linguistics. Individual national identities have been entrenched in the historiography, which in turn has led to even deeper entrenchment of those feelings of separate national identity and division. Professor Roumen Daskalov believes there is some positive and integrative value in showing how "entangled" the histories of the present-day Balkan nations and states were and still are. ■

Roumen Daskalov is Professor of modern history at the New Bulgarian University (Bulgaria) and Visiting Professor at the Central European University (Hungary). His academic and research interests are linked to the modern social and cultural history of South Eastern Europe.

Researcher: Roumen Daskalov, New Bulgarian University in Sofia (Bulgaria)

ERC Project: Balkan Histories: Shared, Connected, Entangled (ENTANGLED BALKANS)

ERC funding: Advanced 2008
EUR 1.5 million (2009-2014)



Belonging and identity

Belonging and identity are issues at the heart of migration studies. Here are some examples of projects that shed light into the role of ethnicity and cultural heritage for identity formation, and the experiences of multi and inter-culturalism in contemporary societies.

Learning from Diversity

Could migration lead to more respect for ethnic and cultural diversity not only in receiving communities but also in sending countries? By observing the effects of Polish migration to the UK and Germany, as a result of the country's entry in the EU in 2004, Prof. Magdalena Nowicka explores possible answers to this question.

Migration undoubtedly changes how people relate to each other and how they understand the world. Over time, migrants acquire skills, competences and values that allow them to fit into a new society. Migration also has an effect on the migrants' communities of origin, exposing them to different cultures and habits through their contacts with the migrants themselves.

Led by Prof. Nowicka, the ERC project [TRANSFORmIG](#) analyses whether and to what extent migration can trigger a shift towards acceptance of those perceived as 'others'.

[Prof. Nowicka](#) used a mixed methods approach – a set of multi-disciplinary qualitative instruments, spanning sociology, anthropology, history and cultural studies – to focus on the situation of Polish migrants in the cities in which they settle. By comparing the UK and Germany - two traditionally multi-cultural countries - and Poland, considered one of the most ethnically homogeneous societies in the world, she enquired into the different transnational workings of acceptance and of racism.

The analysis of the data collected in the cities of Berlin, Munich, London and Birmingham allowed [her team](#) to discover remarkable differences in terms of integration and rejection. Both depend on social contexts, which vary across said cities, and, in turn, impact the knowledge that is passed on to the communities of origin in Poland.

The team's preliminary findings highlight the relevance of the project's approach, studying migration at urban and transnational scales rather than at a national level.

Prof. Nowicka and her team, based at Humboldt University in Berlin, have opened a new line of investigation on migration across Europe and has led to various workshops and conferences exploring the transnational and urban approaches to migration.

Prof. Nowicka has also strived to reach audiences other than academics hoping to use her empirical research to contribute to the debate around current topical themes such as the rise of islamophobia and the refugee crisis in Europe.



Researcher: Magdalena Nowicka, Humboldt University (Germany)
ERC Project: Transforming Migration - Transnational Transfer of Multicultural Habitus (TRANSFORmIG)
ERC funding: Starting Grant 2012, EUR 1.3 million (2013-2017)

Magdalena Nowicka is Professor of Migration and Transnationalism at the Humboldt University in Berlin (Germany). She studied in Warsaw and Krakow, before transferring to the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich in 2005 for her doctoral degree. Professor Nowicka's current interests include transnational migration to Germany and the UK, mobility of professionals and educational migrants, entrepreneurship of migrants. She has been awarded several prizes for her work.

How does mobility affect the sense of 'home'?

The experience of 'home', which should be based on a sense of security, familiarity and control, lies at the core of everyday life. How does 'home' work in the trajectories of those who left it behind? What does the search for 'home' tell us about immigrant's integration? How does the arrival of migrants affect the feelings of 'home' among the native/local people? Focusing on specific urban areas in five countries (Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, UK and Sweden), Prof. Paolo Boccagni investigates these questions as indicators of larger issues such as space appropriation, social cohesion, inclusion and equality. Building on the concept of homing - at the intersection of home, mobility and diversity studies - the researcher aims at a novel understanding of home experience as affected, constrained and redefined by international migration. His results will feed the broader debate on the governance of today's multi-ethnic societies. ■

Paolo Boccagni is a lecturer in Sociology at the University of Trento (Italy). His research interests include wellbeing, care and emotions linked to international migration, topics which are still understudied. His current research is on home-making and home-feeling processes, with a focus on migrants and ethnic minorities, as a strategic issue to understand the daily negotiation of boundaries between native and foreign-born populations.

Researcher: Paolo Boccagni, University of Trento (Italy)

ERC Project: The Home-Migration Nexus: Home as a Window on Migrant Belonging, Integration and Circulation (HOMInG)

ERC funding: Starting Grant 2015
EUR 1.5 million (2016-2021)

Muslims in European everyday life

Headscarves, mosques and halal shops - many EU citizens are Muslims, but visible signs of their faith are often viewed with distrust. What some Europeans see as a right to express their identity, others regard as a threat to their core values. Prof. Nilüfer Göle's ERC project explored the visibility of Islam in European public spaces and some of the debates it stirred. Looking beyond stereotyped images, she and her team aimed at hearing the voices of the people involved in emblematic controversies. They organised workshops in 21 European cities bringing together inhabitants, both muslims and non-muslims. Her research, published in *Musulmans au Quotidien. Une enquête européenne sur les controverses autour de l'islam* (La Découverte, Paris, 2015) is an important contribution to the understanding and overcoming of stereotypes that are still diffused in policy and media debates. The book is also published in German, Polish, Turkish and English. ■

Nilüfer Göle is Professor of Sociology at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris (France). She works on Islamic visibility, secularism and intercultural controversies in European public spheres. Her sociological approach aims to open up a new reading of modernity from a non-western perspective and a broader critique of Eurocentrism in the definitions of secular modernity. Her books have been published in many languages.

Researcher: Nilüfer Göle, EHESS - School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Paris (France)

ERC Project: Islam in the Making of a European Public Sphere (EuroPublicIslam)

ERC funding: Advanced Grant 2008
EUR 1.4 million (2009-2013)



© Katerina Rozakou

Asylum, refugees and displaced persons

The projects in this section look at asylum seekers, refugees, displaced persons, their rights and how different countries acknowledge their status – or not. Some of the projects also shed light into some of the causes for deciding to leave one's country behind.

Why deportation policies fail?

The treatment of irregular migrants is a hotly debated issue not only in Europe but all over the world. In the face of increasing flows of migrants and refugees, many countries have adopted restrictive policies that often include the deportation of undocumented migrants to combat “illegal migration”. Dr Barak Kalir brings an anthropological perspective that could help explain how deportation policies are implemented and why their implementation mostly fails.

The starting point of this research project is the disproportionality between the alleged “crime” of being an undocumented migrant and the sanction of deportation. But what determines the ways in which deportation is being implemented on the ground? What are the factors that prevent or expedite implementation?

Dr Kalir’s research team is carrying out extensive fieldwork to compare the implementation of deportation strategies in four democratic countries, all signatories to relevant international conventions: Greece and Spain, the first destinations for migrants seeking to enter the European Union; Israel and Ecuador, both interesting case studies for their fundamentally different approach. According to the team, Israeli deportation policy is highly restrictive while Ecuador has one of the most progressive deportation regimes in the world which includes close partnership with civil society.

While current studies focus either on the laws and procedures of the host country or on the networks and survival strategies of irregular migrants, this project adds a different perspective. It explores the in-between actors who deal with undocumented migrants on the ground: on one hand, police agents, asylum service officers, local authorities, in charge of locating, detaining and deporting people; on the other hand, civil society organisations, human rights

movements, religious organisations, which assist and at times also protect them.

This comparative study will provide findings of vital importance that could lead policy-makers and actors in the field to find alternative approaches in dealing with the realities of irregular migrants nowadays.



Researcher: Barak Kalir, Universiteit Van Amsterdam (Netherlands)

ERC Project: The Social Life of State Deportation Regimes: A Comparative Study of the Implementation Interface, (DEPORT REGIMES)

ERC funding: Starting grant 2013, EUR 1.5 million (2014-2019)

Barak Kalir is Associate Professor at the department of Anthropology, co-director of the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies and programme director of Moving Matters: People, Goods, Power and Ideas of the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands). He studies and compares the actual implementation process of deportation regimes.

Fleeing civil wars

Each year, civil wars cause thousands of deaths, injuries and massive destruction. Many people escape to neighbouring territories, creating new regional instabilities, or seek asylum in other countries. Prof. Gilles Dorronsoro's challenge is to conduct a systematic comparison of long-term conflicts drawing on extensive fieldwork in war-torn countries: Afghanistan, Northern Iraq, Syria, Mali, Turkey, South Sudan, Ivory Coast and the Democratic Republic of Congo. As governmental institutions get weakened or disappear, civil wars are seen as breakdowns of social order; on the other hand, they reveal the hidden mechanisms that previously underlaid social stability in the territory and therefore constitute a rich empirical basis for a new conceptualization. Conflicts themselves can be understood as alternative social orders with their own logic. This project promises a major advance in the understanding of the very phenomenon of civil war. ■

Gilles Dorronsoro is a specialist of contemporary Afghanistan and Turkey. A field-based researcher, he has investigated civil wars throughout his career using a sociological approach and ethnographic methods. His more recent research topics are identity conflicts. He provides informed expertise to the French and American media as well as to various national and international agencies.

Researcher: Gilles Dorronsoro, University of Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne (France)

ERC Project: Social Dynamics of Civil Wars (CIVILWARS)

ERC funding: Advanced Grant 2014
EUR 2.5 million (2016-2020)



© UNHCR/Zsolt Balla

Borders and border control

Borders seemed on the verge of disappearing due to globalisation, and some did, but re-bordering processes are now taking place. The projects described here examine border dynamics, how different countries and entities interpret and apply border controls, the changing of borders over time and space and the relations with migration and asylum.

The growing similarities between crime control and migration control

Regulating migration has become a key priority for European countries and, according to Prof. Katja Franko, crime control practices and penal cultures have evolved across the continent as a consequence. With ERC support, she has studied these new hybrid and intertwined forms of migration and crime control policies, a phenomenon she calls 'Crimmigration control'.

The academic fields of migration and criminology were traditionally seen as distinct from each other. Literature in criminology has mainly focused on the impact of migration on crime statistics, sex trafficking, human smuggling and urban marginality. Prof. Franko and her team, based at the University of Oslo, were amongst the first European experts to propose to look beyond the consequences of migration on crime patterns. They have investigated how 'traditional' criminal justice institutions and practices - in prisons, courts and police - are being reshaped by immigration and the growing importance of border control.

Prof. Franko's research shows that mass migration is having a major impact on crime control practices and penal cultures in Europe, as well as on the development of novel forms of punishment and social control. This "["crimmigration control"](#)" phenomenon reflects the overlap between migration and criminalisation.

"We are witnessing growing similarities between criminal and migration control measures," she explains, "detention facilities for migrants, for example, often bear resemblance to prisons, and so do the daily routines for their inmates". While reintegration of offenders into society is the ultimate purpose of 'traditional' justice punishment, as foreign citizens make up for a significant share of the prison population in several European countries, the aim has shifted and is gradually being replaced by a focus

on deportation. Prof. Franko and her team found that deportation has become a fundamental tool of penal practices, and that European countries increasingly resort to criminal law for border control purposes. They also found evidence of intensified policing strategies towards non-citizens and criminalization of immigration-related behaviour.

Gathering adequate "crimmigration statistics" was one of the major methodological challenges, as deportation data are scarce and unreliable in many countries. Prof. Franko and her team have therefore developed a comparative framework of European deportation practices. They also gained invaluable information on the operation of the EU External Border Control Agency, Frontex, and have published and shared their recommendations with relevant national police and EU authorities.

Prof. Franko says: *"Migration-related crime is obviously a hot political topic, but the subject is still largely uncharted and overly governed by political priorities. Our research shows that it is necessary to raise awareness of these new punitive aspects of migration control measures, as well as to provide procedural rights and legal aid to the affected individuals."*



Researcher: Katja Franko, University of Oslo (Norway)
ERC Project: "Crimmigration": Crime control in the borderlands of Europe (CRIMMIGRATION)
ERC funding: Starting Grant 2010, EUR 1.3 million (2011-2016)

Katja Franko is Professor of Criminology at the Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law at the University of Oslo (Norway) since 2009. Born in Slovenia, she graduated at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana and obtained her PhD from the University of Oslo. Her primary research interests are globalization, migration, international police cooperation, and the use of advanced ICT in contemporary crime control strategies, particularly border control.

How consistent are border controls in Europe?

Prof. Nick Gill examines one of the most critical aspects of border control: how consistent are these controls for asylum seekers? His project uses different instruments - interviews, legal ethnography, focus groups, and quantitative analysis - to explore this question across various European countries and contexts. Producing unique and rich data sets, this investigation will likely be of interest both to academic communities and policy-makers working in border control settings. It will also provide an assessment of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), launched in 2013 to fix common minimum standards for the treatment of all asylum seekers and applications around the EU. The long-term vision of this project is to initiate a sustained critical discussion around matters of border control, raising the question of whether a fair and consistent international border management mechanism is actually possible. ■

Nick Gill is Professor of Human Geography at the University of Exeter (United Kingdom). His work has proved important for lawyers and policymakers dealing with the issue of refugees, and he has acted as consultant to the British Ministry of Justice in relation to immigration and asylum policies. He explores the themes of justice and injustice through a geographical approach, especially in the context of border control, mobility and its confiscation, incarceration and the law.

Researcher: Nick Gill, University of Exeter (United Kingdom)

ERC Project: Fair and Consistent Border Controls? A Critical, Multi-methodological and Interdisciplinary Study of Asylum Adjudication in Europe (ASYFAIR)

ERC funding: Starting Grant 2015
EUR 1.3 million (2016-2021)

What does it mean to be located somewhere?

Prof. Sarah Green studies changes in the relations and divisions between different locations in the Mediterranean, for centuries an important crossroads of diverse peoples and environments. Her work focuses on the changes that have affected both the connections and separations between peoples and places in this area, including the 2008 financial crisis for Southern Europe, the Arab Spring and the recent events in the Middle-East which have led to the refugee crisis – as well as less newsworthy events, such as the effects of unequal internet connection across the region. Prof. Green aims to understand how the social, political and economic values of different locations across the Mediterranean have changed and how that affects the many different people who live in or pass through the area. This project developed from many years of working on the anthropology of borders and frontiers. ■

Sarah Green is Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Helsinki (Finland), specialising in the anthropology of Europe, and most particularly the Balkan and Mediterranean regions. She has worked on issues related to the anthropology of space, place and location for most of her academic career.

Researcher: Sarah Green, University of Helsinki (Finland)

ERC Project: Crosslocations in the Mediterranean: rethinking the socio-cultural dynamics of relative positioning (CROSSLOCATIONS)

ERC funding: Advanced Grant 2015
EUR 2.4 million (2016-2021)



Social inclusion

The projects presented in this section not only examine social inclusion and what it means for migrants and those of migrant descent, but also take a critical look at the roots of social exclusion, paths towards integration in host countries and the development of a more inclusive society.

Pathways to success for second-generation migrants

Many children of migrants, born in their adopted homeland, have successfully overcome the odds and enjoy 'elite' status with well paid jobs in EU countries. By studying these individuals, researchers hope to identify how policies and education can be changed to help more second-generation migrants achieve success.

Immigrants to the EU face greater challenges and barriers to employment than most of their European counterparts. Research has largely focused on understanding why the second generation often fail to achieve. But, what about those individuals who do reach the top and become part of the employed elite?

"The pathways taken for the successful children of migrants varies depending on which country they live in, and which employment sector they work in," says Prof. Maurice Crul, who leads the ELITES project. "Through analysis of this, we can influence policy and education systems to make it easier for similar individuals to achieve success in the future."

In focusing on the successful cases, the project has created a shift in approach, placing emphasis on systems that help immigrants to make progress. Prof. Crul argues that when you look at what gave individuals the chance to progress in their careers – not what made them fail – you discover how to create additional opportunities to help people succeed.

Overcoming obstacles

The four-year project ended in 2015 and was conducted in Germany, France, the Netherlands and Sweden. Career paths in these countries were known to develop very differently. ELITES focused on second-generation migrants of Turkish descent who have achieved success in three sectors: corporate law, business and education. The team interviewed almost 200 individuals and analysed their education and employment track record.

"We knew that the school systems and transition to the labour market worked very differently in these four countries and that people encounter different challenges when moving up the ladder," says Prof. Crul. "We wanted to isolate what these challenges were, and to see how they differed, depending on the sector of employment."

ELITES identified a number of differences between countries and employment sectors. For example, in Sweden interviewees typically experienced a smooth educational journey, from pre-school where they learned Swedish through to university. But their transition to employment was more difficult. Successful second-generation migrants in Germany, however, had a quite different experience: the education system and language were both major barriers. However, if they made it through, apprenticeships and internship opportunities opened up to help them get on the employment ladder.

Across the continent

This initial project has sparked academic debate and similar projects are now underway across Europe, while a book is in production bringing together all of these results. Meanwhile the journal *New Diversities* published a special issue in which contributing papers outline what Prof. Crul describes as "The multiplier effect": individuals achieving employment success take small steps forward, reaping cultural and social capital at each new level. They adapt to each new environment, increasingly different to their own world, and make networks with those in that sphere.

By highlighting routes to success and typical barriers along the way in different European countries, ELITES is helping policy-makers to improve their support for migrant communities. In the Netherlands, a task force has been set up by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour. It aims to facilitate smooth

transitions between finishing study and entering the workforce for those from immigrant backgrounds. In Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden a new project aims to bring universities and employers together to find ways to break down barriers that prevent an easy transition to employment.

"ELITES was a new way of looking at things and now many academics are getting on board," says Prof. Crul. "We want to make sure that the future does not present obstacles in the pathway to success for those of immigrant descent."



©Reimier Gerritsen

Researcher: Maurice Crul, Erasmus University Rotterdam (The Netherlands)
ERC Project: Elite Leadership Positions In The Emerging Second Generation (ELITES)
ERC funding: Starting Grant 2011, EUR 1.2 million (2011-2015)

Maurice Crul is a Professor at the Free University in Amsterdam and at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam (The Netherlands). He is the international chair of IMISCOE, a network of excellence that includes 38 research institutes in the fields of migration and diversity in 18 European countries. In the last 20 years he mostly worked on the topic of education and children of immigrants, first within the Dutch context and, in the last ten years, in a comparative European and transatlantic context.

Mobility and social protection

High rates of unemployment in Europe since the start of the 2008 financial crisis, coupled with changing migration trends, have led to a high number of EU and non-EU migrants asking for social protection coverage. Governments across the EU have accordingly considered reducing migrants' access to this support, despite the fact that these people are increasingly at risk of poverty and exclusion. Migrants' strategies to cope with health or unemployment risks are at the core of this project. Spanning from the entitlements in host and home countries to informal family and community-based practices, Dr Jean-Michel Lafleur will investigate what he defines as 'transnational social protection'. His team will compile information on welfare entitlements from the 28 EU member States and 12 non-EU countries into a single database. In addition, they will document the experience of immigrants accessing social protection in various cities in the EU.

This data will contribute to a better understanding of social protection policies for citizens living abroad. ■

Jean-Michel Lafleur is currently a research associate at the FRS-FNRS Belgium and Deputy Director of the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies of the University of Liège (Belgium). His areas of expertise are the transnational dimension of contemporary migration, EU mobility, social protection and the political participation of immigrants.

Researcher: Jean-Michel Lafleur, University of Liège (Belgium)
ERC Project: Migration and Transnational Social Protection in (post-)crisis Europe (MiTSoPro)
ERC funding: Starting Grant 2015
EUR 1.3 million (2016-2021)

How family dynamics change with migration

Migrants and their families face many changes when they settle to a new country, yet little is known about the consequences of international migration for these individuals' life courses and family dynamics. Prof. Helga de Valk studied the lives of migrant families in different European countries, focusing on the population dynamics of first and second generation immigrants, intergenerational solidarity and family ties, and individuals' paths of life. Her findings indicate that migrants' life course perspectives and decisions are affected to a large extent by the country they settle in: this is the case, for example, for second-generation migrant women participation in the workforce. Migrants' host countries also influence their views on the ideal age for marriage, parenthood or intergenerational support. A better insight into these topics is crucial to understand the societal developments across Europe's heterogeneous population. ■

Helga de Valk is the leader of the Migration and Migrants group at the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute and Professor at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). Her research interests are related to a wide range of topics from migrant characteristics to the transition to adulthood of immigrant youth, educational inequality, union and family formation, and intergenerational relationships in immigrant families.

Researcher: Helga de Valk, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute/KNAW-Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (The Netherlands)
ERC Project: Families of migrant origin: a life course perspective (FaMiLife)
ERC funding: Starting Grant 2010
EUR 1 million (2011-2016)



©Julie Schiltz

Health and migration

These are examples of projects that examine the links between health and migration, including the psychological and physical impacts of the experience.

What kind of support for unaccompanied refugee minors?

Almost 30 million children across the world are currently forcibly displaced and many of them, unaccompanied refugee minors, are travelling without the protection and support of parents or caregivers. What do we know about the impact of their often harsh experiences on their psychological wellbeing? Dr Ilse Derluyn aims to gather evidence that will support the development of policies and clinical and social interventions for these unaccompanied children who face multiple traumas, also in a view to facilitate their integration in the host countries.

While thousands of refugees are searching for a safer and better life in Europe, children who flee unaccompanied are among the most vulnerable. As they reach their destinations, they are more prone to suffer from psychological troubles such as post-traumatic stress, depression, anxiety, substance use and aggressive behaviour.

So far, most studies have focused on the impact of traumatic events experienced in the war-torn countries of origin. Only recently have researchers started to investigate the effect of stressors in settlement countries, such as life in refugee centres, limited housing facilities, racism, and inadequate professional support. In addition, we know little on the impact of the difficulties experienced on the move, including abuse by smugglers and authorities, hard living conditions in transit camps and detention centres, life-threatening events. Overall, there is a general lack of longitudinal studies on how their mental health and its risk factors evolve over time.

Recent research carried out by [Dr Ilse Derluyn](#) revealed that more than the type of trauma, it is the number of traumatizing events that affect the emotional and psychological wellbeing of these unaccompanied children. In her project, recently funded by the ERC, Dr Derluyn intends to provide

scientific evidence to support these initial findings and better understand the factors leading to the 'cumulative trauma'.

Her team will conduct fieldwork in four countries in order to document the complexity and diversity of flight experiences: Greece and Italy, the first entrance and transit countries of the European Union; Libya, the last country many refugees go through before they attempt to enter the EU; and Belgium, both a transit (particularly to the UK) and a settlement country. The researchers will follow 300 minors over 14 years old (a group of 100 in each country; the participants in the Libyan study will only be assessed once), over a period of two to three years, combining methods of participant observation, in-depth interviews, questionnaires and visual ethnography.

At the end of the project, the team will present their results during two 'implementation workshops' involving in the discussion key policy makers and practitioners from different countries and organizations such as the European Commission Migration and Home Affairs Department, EU Member States' migration authorities, UNHCR, IOM, various NGOs. The aim of these workshops is to understand the implications of their findings for policy, clinical, educational and social work and to suggest timely interventions for these unaccompanied refugee minors victims of multiple trauma.



©Ilse Derluyn

Researcher: Ilse Derluyn, Ghent University (BE)

ERC Project: The impact of flight experiences on the psychological wellbeing of unaccompanied refugee minors (CHILDMOVE)

ERC funding: Starting grant 2016, EUR 1.4 million (2017-2022)

Ilse Derluyn teaches different courses on migration and refugee health at Ghent University (Belgium). She is the head of the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR) and co-director of the Centre for Children in Vulnerable Situations (CCVS) of Ghent University. Her main research topics concern the psychosocial wellbeing of unaccompanied refugee minors, migrant and refugee children, war-affected children, victims of trafficking and child soldiers. She is also actively involved in supporting refugees and practitioners working with refugees and migrants, in policy research and policy-influence.

Maternity care at EU borderlands

With the recent geopolitical events in North Africa and the Middle East, the number of pregnant women entering the EU irregularly has sharply increased. This phenomenon has urgent implications: poor maternal health indicators among these women represent an ethical and medical challenge to which maternity services located at EU borderlands have to respond, with little support from national and European authorities. Dr Vanessa Grotti is conducting an extensive fieldwork in North Aegean and Attica (Greece), Sicily (Italy), Ceuta and Melilla (Spain) and in French Guiana and Mayotte, to trace the networks of maternity care in European peripheries facing an increase in immigration flows, and characterized by structural social and economic underinvestment. This research will address wider questions about identity and belonging, citizenship and sovereignty, and humanitarianism and universalism in Europe today. ■

Vanessa Grotti is a social and medical anthropologist based at the European University Institute (Italy). Throughout her career she has focused on medicine, health and care delivery in cross-cultural contexts. Since 2011, she has started to work on minorities, migration and reproductive healthcare in borderlands, in particular in Europe's remote peripheries.

Researcher: Vanessa Grotti, European University Institute (Italy)

ERC Project: Intimate Encounters in EU Borderlands: Migrant Maternity, Sovereignty and the Politics of Care on Europe's Peripheries (EUBorderCare)

ERC funding: Starting Grant 2014
EUR 1.5 million (2015-2020)

How to address health inequalities in Europe?

Reducing health inequalities, a fundamental concern of our time, is a policy priority at national and European level. However, the mechanisms behind these health gaps are still poorly understood. Using a range of health data sets and statistical modelling, this project investigated the role of various physical, social and economic factors in shaping health experiences, behaviours and outcomes across Europe. This allowed to give new insights into e.g. the connections between green space, health and wellbeing and how environmental exposure in early life matters for health outcomes in old age. Prof. Jamie Pearce also revealed that selective migration and mobility patterns between EU regions can contribute to the combined accumulation of poor health and greater social disadvantage. The project generated new empirical knowledge and provided, in addition, the European Commission with important input for future directives on air pollution. ■

Jamie R. Pearce is Professor of Geography at the University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom). His research lays at the intersection of human geography, public health and epidemiology. With other scientists he created the Centre for Research on Environment, Society and Health (CRESH) to study how physical and social environments can influence population health. He is editor-in-chief of the journal *Health and Place*.

Researcher: Jamie R. Pearce, University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom)

ERC Project: Physical built environments and health inequalities (PhyBEHI)

ERC funding: Starting Grant 2010
EUR 1.4 million (2011-2016)



Migration and urban space

The projects presented in this section highlight different experiences and impacts of living in often intercultural and 'superdiverse' hubs for migrant populations worldwide – cities.

Old and new diversities recreating urban spaces

Global migration flows show a profound diversification of migrants' groups in recent years. Their patterns of nationality, ethnicity, language, age, gender and legal status are growing ever more complex and migrants with 'new diversity' traits live in cities alongside people from previous immigration waves. Prof. Steven Vertovec's comparative study helps understand how old and new waves of migrants meet, mix, interact and get integrated into a given society.

These dynamics of diversification and patterns of encounter in urban public space have been at the core of the [GLOBALDIVERCITIES](#) project. In public spaces, what are the social and spatial patterns that arise under conditions of diversification when new migrants - 'new diversity' - settle alongside migrants from older waves? This issue remains largely unexplored and we know little about how people in diversifying urban settings create new patterns of coexistence, or how and why they might tend towards conflict.

Eighteen months of fieldwork have been carried out in three cities undergoing rapid diversification: New York (a classic city of immigration with new global migrants flows in a broadly supportive political context); Singapore (dominated by racial-cultural politics, and wholly dependent on new, highly restricted migrants); and Johannesburg (emerging from apartheid with tensions around unregulated new, pan-African migrant flows). In these cities, within specific neighbourhoods studied by the project, new migrants from a wide variety of origins and legal statuses represent more than 40% of the local population.

[Prof. Steven Vertovec](#) and his team have used multidisciplinary research methods that span anthropology, sociology and human geography to research the changing nature of diversity in these three cities. Their approach included the exploration

of how old and new diversities are locally understood by inhabitants, and how they are experienced in their everyday lives (e.g. on their way to work, in shopping areas or public transports or parks).

The team also looked at how segregation can arise as people become excluded from public spaces either by their own decisions (based on e.g. social discomfort, fear of confrontation or lack of physical security) or directly by others' (through racist acts, policing or other more subtler modes of making people unwelcome).

This study has illustrated how social interactions in public spaces are constantly being recreated, triggered by the arrival of new migrants. Despite considerable contextual (historical, social, cultural, economic and political) differences across the three cities under investigation, new migration-driven diversities are often experienced through common socio-spatial patterns or repeated forms of interaction that are shaped by the nature of public places. According to Prof. Vertovec, diversification creates or modifies the composition and function of urban socio-spatial patterns as old diversity structures are built upon, altered or contested. Old diversity patterns are seen as the norm through which the new is regarded as similar, different, or challenged altogether.

These findings have been conveyed in a book [Diversities Old and New](#) (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), four ethnographic films, three photo exhibitions and two photo books. The films are now being screened at anthropological film festivals around the world.

The project has also developed a unique and innovative visualisation methodology: the 'Datarama'. Both a research tool and an artistic installation, the [Datarama](#) provides a 360° immersive projection environment that allows researchers and urban planners alike to interactively explore

the relation between multiple kinds of sociological and geographic data from different sources of a given neighbourhood, including photos.

Prof. Vertovec hopes his results will provide new social scientific understanding for many global trends connected to migration, urbanisation and social diversification.



Researcher: Steven A. Vertovec, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (Germany)

ERC Project: Migration and New Diversities in Global Cities: Comparatively Conceiving, Observing and Visualizing Diversification in Urban Public Spaces (GLOBALDIVERCITIES)

ERC funding: Advanced grant 2010, EUR 2.2 million (2011-2016)

Steven Vertovec is Director of the Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen (Germany), and Honorary Joint Professor of Sociology and Ethnology at University of Göttingen. His research interests surround globalization and transnational social formations, international migration, ethnic diasporas and contexts of urban diversity. He has acted as expert or consultant for numerous agencies, including the British Council, the European Commission, the G8, the World Bank and UNESCO.

United in diversity: how it works in Europe?

European cities are witnessing unprecedented levels of migration and population change. In an era of super mobility and super diversity, how do people develop the capacity to live with difference? This was Prof. Gill Valentine's question, pertinent in times of economic crisis: history has indeed shown a hardening of attitudes towards 'others' in difficult periods. Her project has collected a unique set of data on everyday understandings of difference in two contrasting European countries: a former colonial power in Western Europe - the United Kingdom - and a post-socialist state in Eastern Europe - Poland. The findings might be applied to inform existing policy and to identify new strategies for developing inclusive societies and creating togetherness. To this purpose, at the end of the project the research team disseminated policy briefings to European policymakers. ■

Gill Valentine is Professor of Geography and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of social sciences at the University of Sheffield (United Kingdom). Prior to Sheffield, she was head of Geography at the University of Leeds. Her research focuses on three interconnected areas: social identities and belonging; childhood, parenting and family life; and urban cultures and consumption. She has (co)authored/edited 15 books and over 170 other publications.

Researcher: Gill Valentine, University of Sheffield (United Kingdom)

ERC Project: Living with Difference in Europe - Making Communities out of Strangers in an era of super-mobility and super-diversity (LIVEDIFFERENCE)

ERC funding: Advanced Grant 2009
EUR 2.1 million (2010-2014)

Super-diversity, creativity and political expression

Artistic expression represents an original way to show political criticism and demand civil rights. But how do citizens use art in activism or activism in art to create multiple forms of resistance? This project explores new artistic forms of political expression in multicultural cities, in times of crisis and/or in oppressive conditions. Prof. Monika Salzbrunn focuses on a broad range of artistic tools, styles, and means of expression such as festive events and parades, cartoons and comics, and street art. Her work is based on multisensory ethnographic research including filmmaking and drawing in three principal urban settings: Italian and French towns with a strong tradition in Carnival parade, Latino immigrant cities in California (US), gateway cities in Cameroon. Building on urban studies, migration studies, and anthropology of art, Prof. Salzbrunn aims to understand how social actors engage artistically in order to trigger social, economic and political change. ■

Monika Salzbrunn holds a full professorship in Religions, Migration, Diasporas at Lausanne University (Switzerland). She is currently director of the Research Institute for Social Sciences of Contemporary Religions (ISSRC) at the same University.

Researcher: Monika Salzbrunn, University of Lausanne (Switzerland)

ERC Project: Art and Activism: Creativity and Performance as Subversive Forms of Political Expression in Super-Diverse Cities (ARTIVISM)

ERC funding: Consolidator Grant 2015
EUR 2 million (2016-2021)



Citizenship, governance and mobility

These projects explore the implications of legal and political frameworks on the status of migrants and their rights – including in relation to citizenship, as well as the impact of major political events on people's decision to move.

International migration governance: understanding policy drivers for better responses

While migration's impact is global in scale, the decisions that regulate it tend to be taken at the national and regional level. Indeed migration policy can be a defining issue for national sovereignty, touching on the very definition of borders and citizenship. But what are the drivers behind the way States respond to migration?

Extensive research is ongoing on why people migrate and about the legal and policy responses in the countries they are going to. We know less about the factors that shape these responses, particularly how the key people in positions of authority within these governance systems understand the causes, risks and effects of international migration. The aim of the ERC-funded project [MIGPROSP](#) is to collect these understandings and analyse how they condition the institutional responses to global migration now and in the future.

[Prof. Andrew Geddes](#), who leads the project, has developed a multi-disciplinary research programme drawing from Political Science, International Relations, Environmental Science, Social Psychology and Organisational Studies, which includes extensive fieldwork all over the world. Since the start of the project in 2014, his team has conducted more than 300 interviews in around 30 countries spread over four regions: Europe, North America, South America, and Asia-Pacific.

Prof. Geddes and his [team](#) have interviewed political leaders, government officials, civil servants, NGO's and trade unions representatives about a wide range of issues. These include: i) their personal background and experience and how this impinges on their perception of international migration, ii) whether particular events or incidents have had shaping effects on their opinion on international migration, iii) what they see as the main causes and effects as well as the risks and uncertainties of international migration and whether

these might change in the future, iv) their networks and the sources of information upon which they rely for their understanding.

Findings from the first phase of the project highlight some key dynamics. For example, climate change is seen by interviewees as a future cause or driver of migration. While, empirically, there is evidence that environmental and climate changes are already affecting population movements, its projection as a challenge for the future is emblematic of reactive tendencies in migration governance in major immigrant destination countries. MIGPROSP research has also highlighted how a perception of significant migratory pressures has become a "new normal", with a tension between the view that "something must be done" and a sense that change is both difficult to achieve and potentially problematic because of the possibility of unforeseen consequences in an unstable and highly politicised policy field. It's clear too that the focus on deterrence in Europe, the US, Australia, and some South American countries is based on a belief that migration is largely determined by "pull factors" – a nation's attractiveness and openness to migrants – and risks downplaying both "push factors" (insecurity or poverty, for example) and the role of migration networks (e.g. family ties).

The project is currently in its second phase, which uses new interviews and workshops to focus on the circumstances under which prevailing assumptions might change. In fact, a status quo in the attitudes of the key actors in major destination countries is likely to prevent innovation and change in the migration governance.

The research findings, allowing also a cross-regional comparison, will hopefully provide a valuable contribution to debates about future and better responses to migration, both at State and international level.



Researcher: Andrew Peter Geddes, University of Sheffield (United Kingdom)
ERC Project: Prospects for International Migration Governance (MIGPROSP)
ERC funding: Advanced Grant 2013, EUR 2.1 million (2014-2019)

Professor Andrew Geddes joined the Department of Politics at the University of Sheffield (United Kingdom) in 2004. In January 2017 he has moved to the European University Institute in Florence (Italy) to become Chair in Migration Studies and Director of the Migration Policy Centre. He specialises in comparative and international analysis of politics and policy-making and has a strong interest in the politics of international migration.

European perspectives on religion in public

A famous case of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), the *Lautsi v. Italy* decision, prevented the display of the crucifix in classrooms, and was later revoked after a public outcry and mobilisation of several national governments. Dr Effie Fokas studies the influence of ECtHR decisions at the grassroots level. Looking beyond the legal implementation of the decisions, she examines how they change local perceptions of religious rights, grassroots movements and national case law. For example, the final *Lautsi* decision encouraged Greek Orthodox clerics to 'protect' the display of religious symbols in public spaces by arguing that they are national and cultural symbols. Her team focuses on Italy, Greece, Romania and Turkey examining issues such as the display of religious symbols, civil union, conscientious objection and conflicts between religion and gender rights. Since 1993 the ECtHR has judged over 50 such cases. Inspired by the *Lautsi* case, their research also considers the pressure on the Court from states and transnational NGOs, analysing how 'grassroots' mobilisations can influence European decisions. ■

Effie Fokas is a Research Fellow at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP, Greece). She was founding Director of the London School of Economics Forum on Religion (2008-2012) and is currently Visiting Fellow of LSE European Institute. Her research interests include religion and politics in the European Union setting, sociology of religion and the relationship between religion, national identity and nationalism.

Researcher: Effie Fokas, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (Greece)

ERC Project: Directions in Religious Pluralism in Europe: Examining Grassroots Mobilisations in Europe in the Shadow of European Court of Human Rights Religious Freedom Jurisprudence, (GRASSROOTSMOBILISE)

ERC funding: Starting Grant 2013
EUR 1.2 million (2014-2018)

Which changes has the 'Arab Spring' brought?

In December 2010, waves of protests against oppressive regimes started to rise in Arab countries. In Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Bahrain, social unrest generated new political actors and practices that have dramatically reconfigured socio-political alliances. These developments in the national political arenas, unsurprisingly, contribute to the reshaping of the regional political equilibrium, which in turn influences the Euro-Mediterranean relations and could eventually modify the direction and intensity of migration flows. Prof. François Burgat looks at this double impact on domestic and international political dynamics, offering an interpretation which will broaden our understanding of causes, processes and consequences of the 'Arab Spring' and will bring a major contribution to the study of the transitional political dynamics and mobility in the Middle East and North Africa region. ■

François Burgat has devoted his career as a political scientist to the analysis of political systems and civil societies in the contemporary Arab world. He has also filled a wide range of academic and institutional responsibilities in a large number of international instances. Fluent in Arabic, he has spent more than 25 years in the Middle East and North Africa throughout his career.

Researcher: François Burgat, CNRS - National Center for Scientific Research (France)

ERC Project: When Authoritarianism Fails in the Arab World: Processes and Prospects (WAWAW)

ERC funding: Advanced Grant 2012
EUR 1.9 million (2013-2017)



Economics, labour and migration

The economic impacts of migration on host and sending countries, the changes in labour, the widening socio-economic polarisation, the relations between ethnicity and economic development are among the issues examined in the projects presented in this section.

New migrants, new workers: how do economies adapt?

The impact of migration on the economies of receiving countries is a fundamental question in economics. According to Prof. Christian Dustmann, current research is coming to different conclusions about the impact immigration has on wages and employment of native workers.

Immigration is not a static process: while many new immigrants return home within a short time, those who remain gradually change the way they interact with the economy of the receiving country. As large groups of migrants enter their labour markets, countries' economies receive a dynamic shock with effects in the long term on the different actors involved in the process. First of all, on immigrants themselves, who change their position in the initial skill distribution over time as a result of their life-cycle decisions; on firms, who react by adjusting their choices in investment and involvement in institutional and regulatory environment; and finally on local workers, who adapt their plans over education and occupation.

Existing research is fragmented and does not allow to fully highlight the interdependence of the decisions made by immigrants, firms and native workers and to comprehensively uncover the cause-effect relationships.

A major challenge in determining the causal effects immigration has on the various parts of the receiving country's economy is the construction of a "counterfactual" situation with which the status quo should be compared: i.e. how would the different parts of a country's economy have evolved had migration not happened. Prof. Dustmann intends to develop new methods that could simultaneously examine the multiple mechanisms of economic adjustment, by combining highly innovative theoretical perspectives with state-of-the-art empirical analyses and by exploiting exceptional data from Germany's administrative population services, as well as firm and individual surveys.

To investigate how native workers respond to a large and unforeseen labour supply shock, for example, Prof. Dustmann and co-authors have focused on the particular situation induced by the fall of the iron curtain. In its aftermath, the German government allowed workers from the bordering regions of what was then Czechoslovakia to work but not to live in some German frontier districts, and not in others. This unforeseen policy generates comparison regions (i.e. those where commuters were not allowed to work), and creates variation in the exposure to the commuter immigration shock in affected regions, through distance from the border.

With his innovative approach, he has e.g. shown that – while wage effects are modest – employment effects are quite large. Interestingly, these employment effects are not predominantly generated by native workers being displaced from the workforce (i.e. outflows), as commonly believed, but by native workers who would have entered the workforce in the absence of the labour supply shock, not entering (i.e. reduction of inflows). This has important implications for how we should think about adjustments to immigration, and who are the natives who are affected.

Prof. Dustmann and his team have also developed a structural life-cycle model of 'return migration', which takes into account the interdependencies of immigrants' investment in skills, and their return plans and migration durations. This model sheds light on how temporariness of migration interacts with immigrants' decisions, and the endogenous selection of those who leave the country. The model will allow, for instance, evaluation of policies that grant initially only temporary status, or leave immigrants uncertain about an eventual permanent residence permit. This has important implications for the integration of refugees and migrants.



Researcher: Christian Dustmann, University College London (UK)
ERC Project: The Dynamics of Migration and Economic Adjustment (DMEA)
ERC funding: Advanced Grant 2012, EUR 1.1 million (2013-2018)

Christian Dustmann is Professor of Economics at University College London (UCL, United Kingdom) and Director of CReAM, the Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration. He is a leading labour economist, having widely published in the areas of migration, education and labour market. He regularly advises government bodies, international organisations and the media on current policy issues. He is also the president of the European Society of Labour Economists (EALE).

Widening gap between the rich and the poor

In more and more European cities, the rich and the poor are living at increasing distance from each other: these are the conclusions of a joint study entitled *Socio-Economic Segregation in European Capital Cities*, of Prof. Maarten van Ham with Prof. Tiit Tammaru, Dr Szymon Marcińczak and Prof. Sako Musterd. Comparing the situation in 2001 and 2011 in 13 European cities, the research concludes that social mixing is declining in many areas. The study focuses on income segregation but ethnicity, also linked to migration, often plays a role in understanding segregation. Prof. van Ham says that high levels of segregation should be avoided as it can be disastrous for the social stability and competitive power of cities. This can be accomplished by investing in neighbourhoods and communities, but especially by reducing inequality through investments in education and social mobility. ■

Maarten van Ham has been Professor of Urban Renewal and Housing at the Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands) since 2011. He is also Professor of Human Geography at the University of St Andrews in Scotland (UK). His research focusses on understanding the relationships between socio-economic inequality, poverty and cities. Prof. van Ham has published widely in leading journals and has written several books on neighbourhood effects and segregation.

Researcher: Maarten van Ham, Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands)

ERC Project: Socio-spatial inequality, deprived neighbourhoods, and neighbourhood effects (DEPRIVEDHOODS)

ERC funding: Consolidator Grant 2013
EUR 2 million (2014-2019)

The determinants of ethnic identity

What determines the strength of ethnic self-identification? Why do ethnic differences matter in some cases and not in others? These questions are central to understand how ethnic divisions influence conflicts and economic development but they are currently under-researched. This project sets new grounds by documenting the social, economic, and political factors leading to the formation of ethnic self-identification and ethnic animosity. The aim is to demonstrate how beliefs and attitudes created on ethnic grounds play an important role in socio-economic and political developments and affect the design, implementation, and effectiveness of social policies. The study of rich data sets on ethnic diversity and tensions, migration flows after World War II, and ethnic occupational segregation will shed more light on the causes and consequences of ethnic prejudices and conflicts. ■

Ekaterina Zhuravskaya is Professor of Economics at the Paris School of Economics and at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (France). Her research interests are political economics, public economics, development economics and economics of transition.

Researcher: Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, Paris School of Economics (France)

ERC Project: The Economics of Ethnic Prejudice (Econ_Prejudice)

ERC funding: Consolidator Grant 2014,
EUR 1.6 million (2015-2020)



Development and migration

These are some examples of projects that look at how migration and development are intertwined, in present, past and future oriented perspectives. They investigate the effectiveness of migration policies, how exposure to diversity from ancient times to current days have a profound impact on how our society developed, and how globalisation and climate change influence -among other aspects- human mobility.

Behind the wall: uncovering the effectiveness of migration policy

Comprehensive new databases of migration flows and policy data since World War II highlight how some policies have had unintended effects.

“Much of the migration debate is fact-free and based on unfounded assumptions,” asserts Hein de Haas, Professor of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam. *“Thanks to recent advances in research, we have much better evidence to assess the effects of immigration policies on international migration.”*

With the DEMIG project, Prof. de Haas, then based at Oxford University, has led a team of researchers in the creation of four unique databases that chart migration flows, policy changes and visa data for the entire post-WWII era. Analysis of this rich dataset is finally shedding light on how immigration policies and regulations have influenced international migration over nearly three-quarters of a century.

“Contrary to popular belief, we have found no global acceleration in migration,” Prof. de Haas says. *“The proportion of people migrating is the same as that just after World War II, even though the global population is far greater. However, the changing role of Europe in international migration has been the big game changer: there has been a significant ‘global migration reversal’. In fact, before the War, Europe was the largest global supplier of migrants, and now it is the largest attractor.”*

Migration policy: successes and failures

Since 1945, immigration policies have generally become less restrictive, apart from those relating to asylum-seekers and some categories of un-skilled workers, DEMIG data reveal. *“Contrary to policy rhetoric, we see that most policies are not designed to affect the numbers of migrants coming in, but select in terms of who can migrate,”* Prof. de Haas observes.

Through advanced statistical analyses of the datasets, Prof. de Haas and his colleagues have

provided hard evidence showing that migration policies often produce unintended side effects. For example, restrictive policies decrease immigration, but they also interrupt circulation, often preventing migrants’ return and pushing them into permanent settlement. The effect of restrictions on net migration and migrant numbers is therefore ambiguous.

In addition, restrictions often cause migrants to find new migration routes – legal or irregular – as they avoid countries with certain restrictions. And in the run up to the enforcement of a restriction, unplanned migration surges can occur when migrants want to ‘beat the ban’. Such unintended effects pose fundamental dilemmas for policy-makers, and show the need for carefully designed, fact-based policy-making.

Adding data to the migration policy debate

The DEMIG project questioned the popular belief of widespread migration policy failure. *“Despite the unintended effect of some policies, most migrants migrate legally. Illegal border crossings and refugee migration represent a relatively small share of total immigration,”* Prof. de Haas is quick to note.

The five-year DEMIG project ended in 2014 and has seen the publication of many peer-reviewed articles. Four publicly available migration databases – the largest in the world – are receiving great attention from academics around the globe. The European Commission’s ‘Knowledge Centre for Migration and Demography’ will use the DEMIG migration data. The Centre works closely with Prof. de Haas, who regularly contributes to the migration debate, meeting with journalists, policy-makers and politicians to discuss the empirical evidence now available.

“Migration is a highly politicised topic,” he says. *“Because migration policy is often about electoral gain and the desire to be seen to take bold actions, politicians don’t prioritise designing fact-based policies.”* He

concedes that the project’s findings are unlikely to lead to overnight policy change, but is confident the facts will filter through. *“The project has added data and insight to the debate”* he concludes. *“which have a great potential to contribute to more effective policies”.*

In a second ERC-funded project, MADE (Migration as Development), Prof. de Haas is now examining how development processes and social transformation

shape the geographical orientation, timing, composition and volume of migration. While economic and human development is often believed to reduce migration out of poorer countries, evidence suggests that it rather increases migration. The project will use theory-building, quantitative tests using international databases, and case studies in six countries to boost understanding of the developmental drivers of migration.



Researcher: Hein de Haas, University of Oxford (United Kingdom)

ERC Project: The determinants of international migration: A theoretical and empirical assessment of policy, origin and destination effects (DEMIG)

ERC funding: Starting Grant 2009, EUR 1.2 million (2010-2014)

Hein de Haas is a founding member and a former director of the International Migration Institute (IMI) at the University of Oxford (United Kingdom). In 2015 he was appointed Professor of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam. His research focuses on the linkages between migration and broader processes of social transformation and development in origin and destination countries. He did extensive fieldwork in the Middle East and Africa and, particularly, in Morocco. He also maintains a blog on migration-related topics.

Addressing the crises of an 'overheated' world

Globalisation, characterised by accelerated and intensified contacts, can lead to tensions, contradictions, conflict and changed opportunities. Change takes place unevenly, but often fast and as a result of a peculiar combination of local and transnational processes. Prof. Thomas H. Eriksen leads a team of anthropologists with strong interdisciplinary interests, who carry out fieldwork in five continents to understand how local communities cope with, adjust to and resist accelerated change in three different areas: environment, economy and changes that affect people's identity and mobility. The project offers policymakers a view of these global crises from a local vantage point, including keys to address cultural and identity frictions that take place notwithstanding the development of cosmopolitan values and universalisation of human rights. The first books from the project are *An anthropology of accelerated change* and *Identity destabilised: Living in an overheated world*, both published in 2016. ■

Thomas H. Eriksen is Professor in the Department of Social Anthropology of the University of Oslo (Norway). He has for many years studied, and written about, identity politics, ethnicity, nationalism and globalisation from a comparative perspective. As from 2012, he primarily works on the ERC-funded research project OVERHEATING.

Researcher: Thomas H. Eriksen, University of Oslo (Norway)

ERC Project: The three crises of globalisation: An anthropological history of the early 21st century, (OVERHEATING)

ERC funding: Advanced Grant 2011 EUR 2.5 million (2012-2017)

Europeans: a history of large-scale migrations

Modern humans settled in Europe 45 000 years ago. This project harnessed advanced ancient DNA technology and innovative anthropological and archaeological methods to investigate the complex morphological, genetic, and cultural factors that shaped this event. Prof. Ron Pinhasi found that the relatively homogenous population living today in Western Eurasia - including Europe and the Near East - originates from various groups of people as different as contemporary Europeans and East Asians. Over time, populations migrated to neighbouring regions and mixed with the natives until those diverse groups became genetically very similar. These results could transform our view of the demographic and evolutionary process in Western Eurasia, whose inhabitants now appear to descend from four major groups: hunter-gatherers in Western Europe, hunter-gatherers in Eastern Europe and the Russian steppe, the Iran and the Levant farming groups. ■

Ron Pinhasi is an Associate Professor at University College Dublin and Adjunct Assistant Professor in Trinity College Dublin (Ireland). He is the author of various publications on the spread of farming in Europe and the bioarchaeology of past populations. He leads several archaeological fieldwork projects in the Caucasus. In 2013 he opened the first human ancient DNA laboratory in Ireland.

Researcher: Ron Pinhasi, University College Dublin (Ireland)

ERC Project: From the earliest modern humans to the onset of farming (45,000-4,500 BP): the role of climate, life-style, health, migration and selection in shaping European population history (ADNABIOARC)

ERC funding: Starting Grant 2010 EUR 1 million (2011-2015)

Annex : Country codes

EU Member States

AT	Austria
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czech Republic
CY	Cyprus
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
EE	Estonia
FI	Finland
FR	France
HR	Croatia
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
LT	Lithuania
LV	Latvia
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal

RO	Romania
SE	Sweden
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
UK	United Kingdom

Associated Countries to Horizon 2020

AL	Albania
AM	Armenia
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CH	Switzerland
FO	Faroe Islands
GE	Georgia
IL	Israel
IS	Iceland
MD	Moldova
ME	Montenegro
MK	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
RS	Serbia
TN	Tunisia
TR	Turkey
UA	Ukraine



“The European Research Council has, in a short time, achieved world-class status as a funding body for excellent curiosity-driven frontier research. With its special emphasis on allowing top young talent to thrive, the ERC Scientific Council is committed to keeping to this course. The ERC will continue to help make Europe a power house for science and a place where innovation is fuelled by a new generation.”

Jean-Pierre Bourguignon
ERC President and Chair of its Scientific Council



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission



EuropeanResearchCouncil



@ERC_Research



Publications Office