

INTERDISCIPLINARY METHODS IN MIGRATION STUDIES

4-8 September, 2023
Campus Luigi Einaudi
University of Turin, Italy

international
**summer
school**
2023 - 2024

sessions OUTLINE

READING THE BOOKLET:

Plenary session

In plenary sessions all participants are invited to join together. These represent a great opportunity to exchange views with scholars from other universities and disciplines, contributing to strengthen the UNITA network.

Health & migration

The School's focus on Health and Memory encompasses the complexity of the migratory biographical experience and its implications on individuals' emotional and psycho-social sphere.

Inter- disciplinary focus

This area conveys students' critical thought on current, highly-debated migration-related topics, bringing together multiple, cross-fertilising approaches and disciplines, from anthropology to political sciences, legal studies and sociology.

Methods in migration studies

By exploring different qualitative and quantitative techniques, these sessions are intended to deliver students an overview of original approaches to research design and useful hints to overcome common dilemmas in migration studies.

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MONDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER

10.00 - 11.00

THE STRESS OF MIGRATION: EFFECTS OF STRESS AND TRAUMA ON HEALTH AND DISEASE*

Sonia Pellissier

Université Savoie Mont Blanc. Laboratoire LIPPC2S Chambéry

11.00 - 12.00

TRAUMA AND PTSD: THE FEAR REACTION*

Frédéric Canini

Université Savoie Mont Blanc. Laboratoire LIPPC2S Chambéry

*Stress is a psychophysiological reaction that aims to adapt the individual to the environmental challenges. Stress is helpful when adjusted to the challenge but stress may be deleterious when not adjusted in extent (too much or not enough) or in duration (prolonged stress after disappearance of the challenge). Therefore, confronting stress is an inherent part of life and our psychological, physiological and biological reactions are adapted to enable us to cope with and overcome stressful situations. Nevertheless, in situations where exposure to the stressor becomes chronic, intense and/or traumatic, as may be the case in migration situations, especially if these are imposed by precariousness, danger and strong and vital threats (war, poverty, climatic disasters...), the stress response may be overwhelmed. Under these conditions, a state of chronic stress can lead to health disorders and stress-related pathologies. In this course, we will discuss the mechanisms that explain the emergence of these pathologies and their possible impact on offspring. We will see how the immune system is the link between chronic stress and trauma and health.

People may also experience a fear reaction when confronted acutely to an aggressor. The fear reaction is mainly unconscious and associates a strong stress reaction and a characteristic behavioral sequence: an anxious arousal when the stressor is present but far, a flight when possible or a tonic freezing or a fight when the aggressor is nearer and finally a behavior mimicking death when the situation is hopeless. This reaction called "the acute stress reaction" disappears in most of the case but may persist along time. It features the post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The closer is the aggression and the greater is the risk to develop PTSD after acute stress reaction. In PTSD, people experience repeatedly the initial psychological traumatism, avoid contexts that resemble to that of the trauma, and suffer of an intense anxiety together with an excessive arousal with sleep disorders. Some complication can occur such as depression and addiction. PTSD is the consequence of the memorization of the initial traumatism with contextual and emotional parts. The PTSD can be treated using psychological methods that seek to extinguish the emotional memory using EMDR or cognitive therapy. Unfortunately, people experiencing an acute stress reaction, and of course a PTSD, are prone to develop another one when exposed to other confrontations.

It would be important to seek traces of potentially traumatic confrontations, acute stress disorder, stress-induced pathologies and PTSD in migrants as their history is at risk for stress disorders. An early detection and treatment may improve their integration in the countries of emigration.

10.00 - 11.30

METHODOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH ON MIGRATION

Barbara Sorgoni

Università di Torino

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The lecture will explore, from an anthropological perspective, how ethnographic methodology has changed in the last few decades in relation to parallel changes in the global order and in migration policies, addressing both the global North and South. It will propose some selected ethnographic cases which will enable an analysis of different ethical issues that emerge when doing fieldwork in sensitive fields, and it will discuss possible strategies and solutions.

14.00 - 16.00

ONLINE MIGRATION DATA

Luiza Mesesan Schmitz

Universitatea Transilvania din Braşov

This course aims to develop skills to manage online resources in migration. Students will work interactively with some online databases and learn how to find, extract, visualize, make comparative analyses and tell the story through data. Also, students will work with online documents provided by representative institutions (reports, Eurobarometer etc.). Everyone can take this course; no experience is needed.

15.00 - 16.00

PSYCHO-SOCIAL MEMORY AND TRANSMISSION

Thierry Atzeni

Université Savoie Mont Blanc. Laboratoire LPNC Chambéry

The organization of autobiographical memories in memory follows a temporal structuring. This structuring is expressed in particular through a distribution of these memories across the lifespan that is extremely regular across individuals, with the following components which have been consistently identified in the literature: childhood amnesia, retention and reminiscence. The latter is usually defined as a recall of a larger than expected number of vivid and important memories from the 10–30 age period of life - i.e. the reminiscence bump. Three main possible explanations have been suggested for the reminiscence bump. A maturational account suggests that cognitive capacities are at their optimum from ages 10–30, and as such, one remembers more events from that period. A social development account suggests that more events are recalled from the 10–30 age period because this is when an individual's personal and social identity is formed and one's self-narrative is constructed. Finally, a cognitive mechanisms account suggests that during young adulthood, a person goes through a period of rapid change followed by a period of relative stability. In order to disentangle these explanations, the immigration situation was used owing to the similarity of its features with the 10-30 age period. Indeed, this is a period of change, often rapid, followed as a rule by a period of relative stability. Researches that have focused on the reminiscence component through the study of autobiographical memories among immigrants have provided a better understanding of the temporal organization of these memories.

In the first part, we will review the main results obtained from researches on the reminiscence bump among immigrant populations. In particular, we will examine the effect of a major cultural and linguistic transition, such as immigration, on the recall of autobiographical memories. In addition, we will address the relationship between language and memory among bilingual immigrants via same language and crossover memories. In a second part, the effect of immigration on the recall of autobiographical memories will be discussed from a more qualitative angle, as well as the link with mental health issues.

Finally, in the last part, we will address memory as a social object that participates in the shaping of both individual and collective identities,

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through the processes of collective memory formation and collective forgetting. More specifically, we will see how the processes underlying collective memory and collective forgetting contribute to the mechanisms of cohesion and assimilation of immigrant populations.

16.30 - 18.00

KEYNOTE LECTURE: MOVING BEYOND. SYMPTOMS AND IMAGINARIES OF MIGRATION

Francesca Morra

Passi@Unito/Università di Torino. CREtAM - Department of Cultures, Politics and Society

How is migration imagined? And how is it desired? Drawing on the ethnography of an interdisciplinary clinical setting, this lecture discusses the forms and the roots of suffering among young migrants in Italy. In their migration trajectories different imaginaries of mobility resonate, and sometimes collide, producing entanglements between mental distress, multiple dimensions of exclusion and precarity, and aspiration to move.

TUESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER

9.00 - 10.00

MENTAL HEALTH OF YOUNG MIGRANTS

Joanna Norton

Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Medicale (INSERM)/Université de Montpellier

This session will focus on the mental health of young migrants, who often arrive as unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), protected under the United Nation's 1989 Child Protection Act. Although the legislation on reaching adulthood varies from one host country to another, their first years of adulthood are often characterised by anxiousness and vulnerability regarding their right-to-stay in the host country.

The first part of the session will start with an attempt at answering the question of what is mental health and how can it be measured? This will be followed by an up-to-date overview and discussion of the international scientific literature on the topic, with prevalence rates for the main psychiatric disorders, namely depression, anxiety, somatoform disorders and post-traumatic stress disorders in young migrants. We will see that there is extended research on the mental health both accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children but limited research on young migrants in their early years of adulthood. Furthermore, the heterogeneity of study methods, lack of longitudinal study designs and use of standardised research tools, and often small and convenience sample sizes make comparisons difficult.

The second part of the session will describe an exploratory study recently carried out in three French cities on the mental health of UASC in their first years of adulthood after leaving child protection. This will be approached:

1. from a research perspective with a description of the study design, methodology, objectives and hypotheses, along with the main findings and what they contribute to the scientific literature; and
2. from a fieldwork perspective. We will discuss the difficulties encountered in reaching these young adult migrants since leaving child protection, who could be contacted solely through the child protection structures and carers they had stayed in touch with.

Further challenges lay in collecting the data using questionnaires with standardised but not always culturally-adapted research instruments,

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not translated into their native languages.

We will end with a discussion of what was learnt from this study for further research (critical assessment of study design, advantages/disadvantages of quantitative versus qualitative research, feasibility, etc.).

9.00 - 12.00

PARTICIPATORY VISUAL APPROACHES TO MIGRATION - PHOTOVOICE WORKSHOP

Leyla Safta-Zecheria & Catarina Sales Oliveira

Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara & Universidad de Beira

Interior/Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia (CIES-IUL)

In this photovoice workshop participants will gain an overview of why and how visual methods have been used to overcome practical and ethical challenges in migration research. They will develop practical skills of basic uses of visual participatory methodologies in migration studies (photovoice, digital storytelling etc) and explore potential ethical challenges of visual participatory research in migration.

TUESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER

11.00 - 12.00

VOICES IN THE HEAD: VARIATIONS IN ENDOPHASIA AND FLUCTUATIONS IN AGENCY FRAMED IN A NEUROCOGNITIVE MODEL

Hélène Løevenbruck

Université Grenoble Alpes. Laboratoire LPNC Grenoble

Inner speech, or endophasia, can take various formats depending on the individual or the situation. It can be experienced as expanded, like a little voice chattering in the head, or rather as condensed, abbreviated and deprived of sensory quality. It can feel monological, when we engage in internal soliloquy, or dialogal when we recall past dialogues or imagine future conversations. It can feel intentional, when we rehearse material in memory, or unintentional and irruptive, during mind wandering or daydreaming. In the ConDialInt model, a neurocognitive model rooted in a predictive control theory, this diversity of forms is accounted for by considering a gradual variation along three essential dimensions: condensation, dialogality and intentionality. Endophasia is viewed as an interruption in the speech production process. Speech production itself is considered as hierarchically monitored, with prediction-based control. Variations in condensation, dialogality and intentionality are associated with tuning of specific control parameters: earliness of inhibition, perspective and predictor, initiation of monitoring. A derived dimension in the model is agency, the experience of oneself being the source of the verbal production. In line with the predictive control framework, agency attribution is assumed to rely on the timing of initial semantic content relative to sensory prediction. I will show how the model can account for atypical forms of endophasia, such as auditory verbal hallucination or rumination, and what treatment options it may suggest.

14.00 - 15.00

EXPERIENCES OF MOTHERHOOD BY IMMIGRANT WOMEN IN SWITZERLAND: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

Patricia Perrenoud

Haute Ecole de Santé de Vaud (HESAV) Lausanne

The physical and mental health of immigrant women in the perinatal period has been a growing topic of interest as they suffer from a higher morbidity and mortality than non-immigrant women. This difference is

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considered as a tangible sign of reproductive injustice in high-income countries and is a motive for concern in care ethics. The course will use an approach at the intersection of migration studies and care ethics. It will be based on an FNS study conducted in Switzerland (2018-2020) which examined the digital practices of immigrant women during the perinatal period and included women's experience. Our ethnographic study comprised observations and interviews with women and their health and social care providers (HSCP). Immigrant women as well as a proportion of professionals connected the quality of women's experience to their concrete sociomaterial situations. Their discourses also showed that social and migration politics, as well their implementation into practice by street-level professionals, could undermine immigrant women's physical and emotional safety and contribute to reproductive injustice. Immigrant women also connected their experience to their situation as a member of a transnational family, which often implied missing close ones intensely. Women and HSCP employed different strategies – including digital ones - to countervail the social distress lived by some women, in particular its dimension of loneliness common to women from all socioeconomic backgrounds. HSCP did not consistently understand immigrant women's needs and experiences; particularly when they stereotyped women while using an essentialist approach to culture. In such instances, immigrant women's needs for information and support could be underestimated. Immigrant women's experiences of motherhood also underscore the relevance of generally using a holist understanding of the perinatal experience both in research and practice, including women's sociomaterial conditions. This proposition can be deemed self-evident, but it is not consistently implemented as ethnographic examples will illustrate. In addition, the course will describe and analyze several methodological and ethical challenges which occurred during the study such as the need to collaborate with interpreters to conduct the interviews

14.00 - 17.00

RESEARCHING MIGRATION CONTROL IN UNEVEN PLAYING FIELDS

Valeria Ferraris

Università di Torino

This session focuses on researching migration control in countries characterised by a high level of informality and/or gaps between law in the books and law in action and/or blurred lines between detention and reception and/or a lack of openness from institutions in allowing researchers to have data, enter facilities devoted to held migrants, etc. This restrictive access requires integrating different research methods, from quantitative to qualitative methods. The session will show some examples of research adopted with different epistemological approaches. It will engage students in building a methodological framework to investigate a migration control issue considering the country-specific situation.

15.00 - 17.00

EXPLORING THE NEXUS BETWEEN MIGRATION AND MOBILITIES STUDIES

Catarina Sales Oliveira

Universidade de Beira Interior/Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia (CIES-IUL)

In this lecture we will discuss the relation between the two fields of study: mobilities studies and migration studies. With a well-established tradition in social sciences, migration studies is a long known field of studies. In recent years the increase in dynamics of moves and flows of people around the world in old but also new forms has challenged migration studies paradigms and concepts. In this scenario mobilities studies developed in the beginning of the XXI century addressing precisely the

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new mobility regimes and its meanings for social world. In addition to the figures of migrant and refugee - which are increasingly complex situations - there are now the hyper-mobile workers, posted workers, travellers, nomads and others. These represent very different social positions and living conditions. In this session we will take a look at all this concepts and discuss the relevance and timeliness of the main explanatory theories with also a look at social intervention. Confronting the two fields we highlight the lines of cooperation and complementarity between them.

WEDNESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER

9.00 - 12.00

INSTITUTIONAL ETHNOGRAPHY OF BORDER CONTROLS ETHIC AND POLITICS

Ana Aliverti

University of Warwick

The session introduces students to researching border control bureaucracies (police, asylum case work, courts, detention, deportation, among others). It will explore ethnographies on the subject (Bosworth, Good, Perkowski, Armenta, Aliverti, etc) to assess their value for documenting, understanding and contesting border regimes. We will discuss different approaches to institutional ethnographic research, and the political and ethical challenges and risks, as well as opportunities, they can open up for both academic and advocacy work. Given the sensitivity of migration controls and the restrictive access to their sites and actors, is it worth pursuing it? What are the risks of becoming co-opted by these institutions? To what extent does it silence some voices (those of people subject to border violence) and enable or amplify others (of those exercising it)? and how we as researchers should navigate the ethics and politics of (in)visibility at stake? The session will build on debates in criminology, politics, anthropology and sociology about the risks and virtues of institutional ethnographic work, and draw on the experiences of students in conducting their own research in the field of migration.

9.00 - 12.00

A CONVERSATION ON GENDER, MOBILITY, AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES - EARLY MODERN PERIOD

Teresa Bernardi

Università di Padova. Centre for Advance Studies in Mobility & Humanities (MOHU)

The workshop concerns the relationship between gender and human mobility. In the first part, I will discuss with participants why it is so important to study mobility and migration adopting a gender-sensitive approach. In the second part, I will show which types of archival sources can be used to explore this topic in relation to the early modern period. Administrative, judicial, and literary records will be at the core of the conversation. In the third and last part, I will use my on-going project on marriage and mobility in Venice as a case study, to examine the different choices behind the research: concerning archives, methodologies, teamwork, and the use of digital tools (e.g. Geovistory: <https://www.geovistory.org/>). The workshop will also give participants the opportunity to discuss and receive feedback on their current or future research projects. No prior knowledge is necessary. Attendees from various disciplines and at different career levels are welcomed.

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14.00 - 17.00

MIGRATION NARRATIVES ON SCREEN

Catarina Sales Oliveira

Universidade de Beira Interior/Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia (CIES-IUL)

Migration is particularly dear to cultural production in general and to cinema in particular. This is justified because it often features strong elements of human drama, life stories of struggle and resilience as well as the picturesque nature of cultural diversity and processes of confrontation between cultures. There are very different films about migration, from mainstream Hollywood films to more auteur productions and also documentaries with an investigative or even autoethnographic basis. In this session, we will watch and discuss a selection of films in order to deconstruct how the problematic of migration and its protagonists is represented and how it relates to the prevailing social perceptions about migration.

THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER

9.00 - 12.00

THE RESEARCH-POLICY INTERFACE: WHAT ROLE FOR KNOWLEDGE IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN MIGRATION POLICIES? / RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN MIGRATION STUDIES: THE SOCIO-POLITICAL APPROACH

Guido Tintori

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities

Building on more than a 10-year of personal experience working at the interface of research and migration-related policy, the lecture critically addresses the ways in which academic research becomes a resource for policy-making. Thematically, the lecture focuses on policies for the governance of migration flows, as well as public opinion and narratives on migration.

The second part of the session is structured as a workshop with a focus on research methodology in migration studies from a political and social perspective in the European context. It provides an introductory level hands-on experience on sources, data and analytical tools that contribute to sound scientific evidence on real-world issues. The aim of the workshop is to enhance participants' capacity to identify and access the relevant sources for migration-related analyses.

9.00 - 12.00

GRANT WRITING IN MIGRATION STUDIES

Roberta Ricucci

Università di Torino

The lab aims to endow participants with conceptual and methodological tools that help them develop their skills in writing a successful project in order to be successful both in a research grant application as well as in a innovation action activities, spanning from educational centers to welcoming initiatives, from refugees to economic migrants, from unaccompanied minors to second and other generations with a migratory backgrounds.

Topics will include:

- Different kinds of projects and different kinds of financial opportunities.
- How to read and analyze the various call for proposals, both at National and International levels;
- Devising a provisional list of contents and organizing the writing into

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- the subsequent steps and tasks.
- How to define a coherent and sustainable budget.

Participants will develop greater awareness of the existence of a plurality of ways to plan and write a project considering the various topics in migratory studies. More specifically, through an active participation, participants will gain basic methodological knowledge that will help them to increase their ability:

- to sort out what is fundamental in a call for proposal;
- to write effectively;
- to define a coherent budget proposal;
- to articulate and structure consistently a fairly long text such as a research proposal, avoiding rigid schemes.

14.00 - 17.00

GENDER & MIGRATION IN SOCIAL SCIENCE: ISSUES, CONCEPTS, METHODS

Linda Guerry

Laboratoire de Recherche Historique Rhône-Alpes (LARHRA)/Institut Convergences Migrations/Institut National d'Études Démographiques (Ined), Paris

This lecture will present the historical evolution of migration studies in different disciplines (sociology, geography, political science, anthropology and history). Constructed as a synthesis of past and present approaches, it will focus on research on women and gender: emergence in the 1970s, broadening of the horizon (1990s) and new approaches since the 2000s. Examples of recent research on migration with a gendered dimension will be presented and discussed with students.

14.00 - 17.00

COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTIC RESOURCES AND METHODS FOR ANALYZING HATE SPEECH AND MISREPRESENTATION IN SOCIAL MEDIA DISCOURSE ON IMMIGRANTS

Viviana Patti

Università di Torino

The lecture will give an overview of the computational linguistics state-of-the-art resources and methods to analyze and detect automatically hate speech against immigrants and implicit phenomena such as stereotypes and prejudices about immigrants in social media in different languages (Italian, English, Spanish, French).

It will address how to develop a pipeline for a social media corpus to study topics related to migration works (data collection, annotation, evaluation cycle).

It will introduce students to corpora and computational linguistics methods for analyzing and monitoring hate speech against immigrants and misrepresentation in discourse on immigrants with a special focus on social media, without neglecting their role within the entire media communication ecosystem. The approach will be multilingual in order to encourage cross-cultural comparison and the issue of intersectional hate will be raised.

FRIDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER

10.00 - 11.30

GOVERNANCE AND POLITICS OF MIGRATION

Tiziana Caponio

Università di Torino

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This lecture will provide an introduction to the analysis of the intricacies of migration governance and politics from a political science perspective. We will look at how the literature on migration policies has developed in Europe, from an institutionalist perspective which was dominant in the 1990s to a more process and governance-oriented perspective at the beginning of the 2000s. Examples of research studies carried on different types of policies and levels of government will be illustrated, with a particular attention to the local level, where the dynamics of migration policymaking have been the matter of a lively debate throughout the last two decades. However, the governance perspective has often neglected issues of power and politics. We will illustrate the centrality of these concepts for the understanding of migration policies in the current context of recurrent and continuous migration crises, with a focus on the reception of asylum seekers and refugees in small localities across Europe.

14.00 - 17.00

RESEARCH-ACTION IN CRITICAL ETHNOPSYCHIATRY

Lei Huang & Shailjanand Jha

Passi@Unito/Università di Torino. CREtAM - Department of Cultures, Politics and Society

In the realm of mobility, does the choice of a language of narration influence the content itself? What pivotal role does a cultural mediator play in this dynamic? With these questions, this workshop will foster active participation among attendees by exploring the significance of language(s) in articulating the experiences of discomfort and unease faced by international university students. Moreover, it will specifically explore how the presence of a cultural mediator, rather than a mere translator, introduces unforeseen possibilities for deciphering, interpreting, and negotiating the indeterminate meanings that arise within a clinical setting.

14.00 - 17.00

JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY OF SELF AND OTHERS/TODAY'S ACTIVISM IS MADE OF STORIES

Passi UniToPaule Roberta Yao & Zakaria Mohamed Ali

Archivio delle Memorie Migranti (AMM)

This workshop, divided into two parts (Journey of discovery of self and others and Today's activism is made of stories), establishes a collective space for discussion and confrontation, in which each participant can experience and give self-expression, which is seen as the precondition for openness to the other. Thus, each individual can realize that he or she is part of a group and exercise self-narrative in order to prepare oneself to welcome the narrative of one's/their neighbor.

Starting with some exercises for introducing ourselves (carried out twice, at two different times during the activities), each person is invited to change her/his point of view, to leave aside stereotypes and to act out one's own view of oneself and the world, which one wants in listening to the group. One's own story is a body, whose features it takes on and rehearses the joys, sorrows and memories.

The screening of the film *To whom it may concern* (16') thus opens to the possible uses of self narrative: memory, but also example, action, militancy.

The project DiMMi - Migrant Multimedia Diaries - will also be presented.