EUniWell MADEINEUROPE Winter School – Final Workshop

Researching migration and diversity in European cities – disciplinary and methodological crossings

Location: Villa Ruspoli, Piazza della Indipendenza 9, Firenze

All times are local Florence times (CET).

DAY 1 Thursday, 9 June	
Time	**Topic**
13:30	Arrival, registration, welcome coffee
14:00	Opening Institutional Welcome, Professor Giorgia Giovannetti, Vice-Rector for International Relations, University of Florence
14:15	Introduction activity
14:30 – 16:00	**Session 1: Participants' presentations** **Labour migration, racism, and institutions** - "The use of diversity data in initiatives to tackle workplace inclusion", Amanda Heath, Linnaeus - "Working below skill level as a risk factor for mental health among Indian and Pakistani migrants living in Sweden", Muhammad Ishaq, Linnaeus - "Intersected groups and Discriminatory Everyday behavior", Andrea Strinic, Linnaeus 15 mins per presentation, 15 mins discussant's responses, 30 mins Q&A Discussant: Jesper Johansson
16:00 - 16:15	Break
16:15 – 17:45	**Session 2: Participants' presentations** **Local diversity, interactions and responses** - "Caribbean Cuisine: The unseen scene of superdiversity." Charlene Rose, Birmingham - "The current social work response to the Ukraine crisis and forced displacement of refugees across Europe", Omar Mohamed, Birmingham - "Transnational chronotopical imaginaries: how understandings and experiences of refugees settling in Germany and Turkey are shaped by other places and other times", Paladia Ziss, Birmingham 15 mins per presentation, 15 mins discussant's responses, 30 mins Q&A Discussant: Jonathan Ngeh
17:45 – 18:00	Break
18:00 – 19:00	**Session 3: Methods workshop: Approaching research on diversity** Facilitator: Nando Sigona Examples: - Ethnography (Michaela/Jonathan) – collaborative research - Archives (Marlou) / Narrative analysis (Jesper) - Brexit and methodological supranationalism (Nando)
19:30	Dinner

DAY 2 Friday, 10 June	
Time	**Topic**
9:00 – 10:30	**Session 4: Current highlights from active research projects** - Alessandro Simoni: The problem of non-enforcement in socio-legal research - Jesper Johansson: Anti-racist social work - Marlou Schrover: The dilemma of doing diversity
10:30 – 11:00	Break
11:00 - 12:30	**Session 5: Participants' presentations** **States, borders and policies** - "Why is low-skilled immigration portrayed as necessary for developed economies and at the same time having to be restricted?", Dorothea Pozzato, Florence - "The role of Refugee-Led Organizations in providing protection and assistance for displaced communities in the Middle East", Basma El Doukhi, Kent - "Hospitality or Hostility? Hotel accommodation in the UK asylum system through Covid-19 and beyond.", Olivia Petie, Birmingham 15 mins per presentation, 15 mins discussant's responses, 30 mins Q&A Discussant: Alessandro Simoni
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	**Session 6: Working on migration and diversity on the ground** Discussion and Q&A with Matias Mesquita, activist, President of Casa de Angola, Firenze
14:30-15:00	MADEINEUROPE feedback and closing

Participants' presentations – Abstracts

Session 1: Labour migration, racism, and institutions

The use of diversity data in initiatives to tackle workplace inclusion

Amanda Heath, Linnaeus University

Many organizations, particularly in the public sector, collect statistics on the background of clients, service users, job applicants and employees. Information collected includes some or all of the characteristics protected in anti-discrimination law (ethnicity, gender, religion and so on.), and is used to assess the effects of diversity management initiatives or provide statistics to government on inclusion. The use of such data is generally known as equality monitoring (EM). There exist a number of challenges and debates surrounding EM, and there are differences in prevalence across EU member states. The talk will outline the background to EM in a European context, focusing in particular on its potential use in the development of inclusive recruitment practices. Results of a survey on public perceptions of EM will be presented showing country (UK vs Sweden), ethnicity and gender differences. Overall, attitudes towards EM were positive and respondents tended to endorse views that such data can be used to promote inclusion and fairness. Recommendations are made for future implementation.

Working below skill level as a risk factor for mental health among Indian and Pakistani migrants living in Sweden

Muhammad Ishaq, Linneaus University

Globalization, urbanization, war, environmental change, natural or environmental disaster, economic and political disparities are together creating the structural conditions which displaced people and their families. Europe is currently hosting the largest population of migrants, corresponding to 87 million (30.9%) of the world migrant population.). At the end of 2015, only the Swedish migration board received 162,877 applications for asylum In Sweden, there is one net migrant in every 16 minutes. Knowledge about immigrants work situation and its association with mental health is limited. Therefore, the aim of this study is "to verify the association between working below skill level and mental health status of Indian and Pakistani immigrants residing in (Sweden). This cross-sectional study probably included 400-500 Indian and Pakistani immigrants living in Sweden. Participants were contacted by facebook group with link of Google online survey. Questions included socio demographic information, skill level, current occupation and distress.

Intersected groups and Discriminatory Everyday behavior

Andrea Strinic, Linnaeus University

De-racialization research suggests that depicting members of ethnic minority groups as gay leads to less stereotypic perceptions of their ethnic group. However, whether the consequences of de-racialization translate into real-world behavior is unclear. In a large "lost letter" field experiment (N = 6,654) where an email was ostensibly sent to the wrong recipient by mistake, we investigate whether the relative impact of signaling gayness (vs. heterosexuality) differs for Arab (minority) versus Swedish (majority) senders. The results show clear evidence of ethnic discrimination where Arab (minority) senders receive fewer replies (prosocial response) than Swedish (majority) senders.

However, there is no evidence indicating that Arab senders would receive a lower penalty for revealing gayness. Implications for multiple categorization research are discussed.

Session 2: Local diversity, interactions and responses

Caribbean Cuisine: The unseen scene of superdiversity

Charlene Rose, University of Birmingham

This thesis explores the idea that Caribbean cuisine is often viewed as unsuccessful or unpopular when compared to other cuisines that have migrated to the UK, such as Chinese and Indian. However, is this the case when in the Ladywood constituency of Birmingham, a superdiverse inner city voting area consisting of 10 wards; Caribbean takeaways and restaurants are prominent.This raises the question of whether researchers and critics are looking in, or avoiding due to reputation, the right places for Caribbean takeaways and restaurants. The thesis will also look at how these venues advertise to a superdiverse community through their signage using multimodal discourse analysis which is often use in the field of Linguistics.

The current social work response to the Ukraine crisis and forced displacement of refugees across Europe

Omar Mohamed, University of Birmingham

This presentation will explore and analyse the current social work response to the Ukraine crisis and forced displacement of refugees across Europe. A sharing of knowledge of what the International Federation of Social Workers across Europe are doing to coordinate responses on the frontline around neighbouring countries on the borders of Ukraine will be analysed with relevant research to unpick social work's responses to political conflict around forced displacement. A further discussion will be encouraged around the responses from the England perspective and what can be done to support refugees fleeing the conflict from England. A critical analysis will be undertaken to explore England's response to refugees from different racial and ethnic backgrounds to explore the similarities and differences. This will incorporate an analysis of social work values, ethics and principles around supporting refugees and responding to political conflict around forced displacement

Transnational chronotopical imaginaries: how understandings and experiences of refugees settling in Germany and Turkey are shaped by other places and other times

Paladia Ziss, University of Birmingham

For the past decade, millions of refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran have fled war and oppression, most along the Eastern Mediterranean route via Turkey to Western Europe, in particular Germany. Many individuals now living in Germany maintain social relations and networks to family members and friends who had to or wanted to stay put and settle in Turkey. These new transnational social spaces (Faist 2004) mirror long-standing connections between the two countries, based on past and ongoing migration from Turkey to Germany. This paper examines how refugees' experiences of local settlement in Germany and Turkey are shaped by transnational imaginations of places as well as times that refugees have not lived in themselves. It draws on qualitative PhD fieldwork on the politics of temporality in urban displacement with refugees and local communities

in Germany and Turkey that maintain transnational connections to people living in the other country. The paper suggests that transnational social ties of refugees in Germany and Turkey form an overlapping chronotope, borrowing from Bakhtin (1981). In this, refugees understand and evaluate their own living situation, e.g. experiences of precarity and temporariness, in relation to the living situations of family members and friends in the present, through an understanding of how local and national policies shape local settlement elsewhere, as well as through imaginations of past migratory movements from Turkey to Germany. This transnational chronotopical imaginary is fraught with tensions as local experiences are set into hierarchical relations to other places and times.

Session 5: States, borders and policies

Why is low-skilled immigration portrayed as necessary for developed economies and at the same time having to be restricted?

Dorothea Pozzato, Scuola Normale Superiore in Florence

Why is low-skilled immigration portrayed as necessary for developed economies and at the same time as having to be restricted? How do migration policies combine these opposed narratives on labor migration? This thesis aims at providing a better understanding of how political and economic institutions at destination countries shape the policies regulating labor immigration. Taking as point of departure the assumption that the existence of a need is socially constructed, this thesis analyses the discourses of the actors involved in the labor market governance in order to unveil the power relations behind policies on low-skilled labor immigration. It does so by adopting a multi-level governance approach. In this way, this thesis investigates how the interrelations of different authorities and interests at the European, national, local, and horizontal level produce often contradictory immigration policies.

The role of Refugee-Led Organizations in providing protection and assistance for displaced communities in the Middle East

Basma El Doukhi, University of Kent

My proposed research on the role of Refugee-Led Organizations in providing protection and assistance for displaced communities in the Middle East, draws on ten years of humanitarian work and my own lived experiences as a refugee. The findings will illuminate the contribution of displaced people as catalysts for sustainable and transformative change, challenge hostile environment narratives and inform effective response to forced displacement. My experiences show that the immediate task of feeding, sheltering and keeping displaced people safe is typically organised through mutual aid (helping each other) rather than by external assistance from wealthier countries and that the effective support can only be achieved in close partnership with displaced people. 'Localisation' and inclusion of refugees in their own development fulfils the "leave no one behind" fundamental principle underlying Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals which potentially provides an opportunity to engage with refugee-led community organisations (RLOs). RLOs may be more effective, efficient, and legitimate in their responses compared to humanitarian actors. RLOs in Lebanon provide shelter, educational and protection assistance to displaced people. This project aims to move from anecdotal evidence to research-based findings that illuminate the nature of refugee-led organizations and the factors conditioning their impact and response. My project will meet 16 and 17 of the UN sustainable development goal(s) which are; promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Both goals acknowledge that the successful and sustainable development agenda requires inclusive and sustainable partnerships, solidarity and cooperation that ensures the respect of human rights as a key to build more effective and inclusive solutions through reinforcing people's leadership, ownership and autonomy in crises and humanitarian situations, rather than creating equivalent structures. RLOs succeed in growing and establishing themselves as important providers of social protection and assistance achieving both goals.

Hospitality or Hostility? Hotel accommodation in the UK asylum system through Covid-19 and beyond

Olivia Petie, University of Birmingham

Following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, hotels were increasingly used to house asylum seekers in the UK with numbers rising from 1,200 to 9,500 over the first few months of the pandemic. Many of those in hotels also stayed for much longer periods over several months rather than weeks. The use of hotels as longer-term accommodation continues today, for example since summer 2021 there have been thousands of resettled Afghan refugees living in hotels, facing delays in finding suitable housing to move out to.

This presentation will use the concept of hospitality as a theoretical lens to explore long-term accommodation in hotels as part of the UK asylum system. It will draw on secondary empirical research and wider evidence of the experiences of those accommodated in hotels throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond. In doing so this presentation will explore key aspects of 'hospitality', including the right to universal hospitality and how it can be understood within the context of refugees; the provision of food and accommodation to meet asylum seekers essential needs; and the host guest relationship between individuals, hotels and the state. In doing so, this presentation will demonstrate how the housing of asylum seekers in hotels for a prolonged period does not qualify as offering true hospitality, and instead demonstrates the project of hostility from the state into everyday spaces.