

Call for Papers

Annual Conference of the Romanian Network for Migration Studies RoMig 2021

CROSSING BORDERS: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION RESEARCH AND POLICY

September 23-24, 2021
(Virtual) Iași, Romania

Conference rationale

In recent years, questions of national identity, borders, belonging and migration have become particularly pressing in many parts of the world, including Europe. As evidenced by the Eurobarometer, “the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU” has proven one of the main benefits of EU membership. Simultaneously, however, immigration has become one of the main fears in the EU. Depicted by politicians and in the media as a threat to national identity, democracy, economic development, as well as political and economic stability, immigration and the fear that often accompanies it has recently translated into nationalism, populism and xenophobia. New and older member states alike are affected by these trends. The anti-immigration manifesto was the leading vehicle for the Brexit movement in the UK. Moreover, while immigration was often interchangeably used for refugee flows in the national discourse, some of the newer member states have strongly opposed EU demands to share the burden of hosting asylum seekers in the wake of the refugee crisis. Their attitude seems rather paradoxical, given the large migration stocks from Central and Eastern Europe which were, in turn, hosted by the EU’s older member states.

The Coronavirus pandemic added more controversy to an already hot topic. On the one hand, given the economic contraction caused by the pandemic restrictions, immigrants are once again pointed out as scapegoats by host countries population for the worsening economic conditions and high unemployment. On the other hand, they are blamed for the spread of the virus by source countries. In this sense, many questions emerge on the direct impact of the pandemic on migration flows emerge, such as: How the COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped human mobility? Will migration flows recover to the pre-pandemic level? Therefore, the significant backlash against migration calls for further research to advance understanding of its drivers and far-reaching implications. We believe that this event could provide novel insights, while raising awareness of the migration challenges that EU member states face.

With more than 3.5 million of its citizens living abroad, Romania itself provides a fertile and compelling ground for empirical analysis. Furthermore, the large emigration flows have paved the way for an increased flow of inward migration. The increased presence of a foreign population has changed Romania’s position in the migration transition process, and challenges policy-making bodies to address issues relating to this new inward-migration context.

 **Academics, students and practitioners working in the field of migration and social integration are welcomed to submit abstracts aligned with the following topics:**

Migration, ethnicity and identity;
Migration and development nexus;
Migration, employment and labour markets;
Diasporas and remittances;
Migration, transnationalism and social change;

The mobility transition pattern;
Refugee and asylum migration;
Evolution and effectiveness of migration policies;
Data sources and their uses in the study of migration;
Post-pandemic migration
Frontier issues of the migration theories and evidence.

Confirmed keynote speakers

Amelie F. Constant, Princeton University

Peter Nijkamp, Centre for European Studies, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania
Open University, Heerlen, The Netherlands

Submission instructions

Please submit your abstract (max. 400 words) to web.romig@gmail.com.

We are able to accept up to 40 proposals. There are no registration or participation fees. All abstracts and presentations will be in English.

Important dates

Deadline for abstract submission: **June 30, 2021, 23.59 hours GMT+2 (Bucharest's time)**

Acceptance decision: **July 15, 2021**

Deadline for registration: **August 30, 2021**

Dates of RoMig Conference: **September 23-24, 2021**

Conference venue

The 4th RoMig conference will take place **virtually** at the **Centre for European Studies, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi** and **"Gh. Zane" Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch**.

Contact

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The Organizing Committee

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Set up in 2016, RoMig – the [Romanian Network for Migration Studies](http://www.romig.ro) (www.romig.ro) is a network of Romanian and international scholars with different disciplinary backgrounds who share a common interest in international migration from and towards Romania.