15th Nordic Migration Research Conference
GLOBAL CHALLENGES - LOCAL RESPONSES
Malmö, 25-27 August, 2010

CONFERENCE REPORT

The conference was organised by Nordic Migration Research (NMR), Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare (MIM), and the Department of IMER, Malmö University. The sponsors of the 15th NMR Conference were Malmö University, The City of Malmö and FAS (Forskningrådet for arbetsliv och socialvetenskap).

The members of the local organising committee at Malmö University (Jonas Alwall, IMER, Björn Fryklund, MIM, Jan Nilsson, BIT, Maja Povranovic Frykman, MIM/GPS, Merja Skaffari-Multala, MIM and Louise Tregert, MIM) were assisted by fourteen student volunteers and the Conference Service at Malmö University.

In the frames of social programme, a reception was hosted by the IMER-förbundet (Swedish IMER Association), MIM and IMER, Malmö University. The conference dinner in Malmö City Hall was hosted and sponsored by The City of Malmö.

The participants also had the opportunity of visiting an exhibition presenting migration-related publications issued by Malmö University, book promotions, poster presentations prepared by the students at IMER and GPS, and information stands organised by Malmö University faculties and by the The City of Malmö.

NMR (Nordic Migration Research) General Assembly took place in the frames of the conference, as well as the General Assembly of NMF (Network for Migration Research Norway).

Five keynote speeches, by professors Eskil Wadensjö (Stockholm), Nina Glick Schiller (Manchester), Vered Amit (Montreal), Alex Stepick (Miami) and Knut Kjeldstadli (Oslo) were given as announced in the book of programme and abstracts. Prof. Thomas Faist could unfortunately not participate due to a family emergency. Professors Nina Glick Schiller, Eskil Wadensjö and Knut Kjeldstadli also acted as discussants in workshops 3, 11 and 13.

82 papers were presented at the conference, as noted below (the number of abstracts published in the book of programme and abstracts is slightly higher). 26 out of those papers were authored by PhD students.

The overall impression of the local organizers as well as of the colleagues who communicated their satisfaction with having participated in the conference, is that it was a successful event which met both academic and social expectations. The following text is based on short reports provided by the workshop convenors and chairs (compiled by Maja P. Frykman).
Workshop 1: Methodologies of IMER studies

All the papers in our workshop were presented. New perspectives in phenomenology and the study of extreme cases were especially focused upon. Some possibilities for publishing the papers in a book about methodology in IMER studies were also discussed. (Chair: Orlando Mella, Uppsala University, for IMER-förbundet)

5 papers were presented: Social belongings and ethnic identities – a phenomenological approach, S. Haghverdian (S); Cultural authorization and doctors trained outside the EU/EES – a Grounded Theory approach, L. Salmonsson (S); Internet: a source of knowledge for both migrants and researchers of migration, T. Sætermo (N); Research on religious resilience in displacement context through phenomenological approach to trauma narrative interviews, S. Porobic (S); Searching for significance in IMER research: the application of extreme cases’ methodology, O. Mella (S)

Workshop 2: State and civil society: regulating immigrant integration

In workshop 2 we only had two papers. This, however, gave us much time to discuss the papers. It was a fruitful discussion that I think gave the authors much input and suggestions as well as good time to develop ideas and the broader context of issues related to the more specific aspects of the papers. (Chair: Mikael Spång, Malmö University)

2 papers were presented: EQUAL: a new opportunity structure for immigrant organisations?, R. Scaramuzzino (S); When differences become politicized: the strategic responses from the political establishment towards radical right-wing populism. The case of Sweden, J. Kiiskinen and S. Saveljef (S)

Workshop 3: Urban environments, immigrant incorporation – beyond a national perspective?

The workshop was very well attended, and there was a lively discussion also among participants who did not present papers – probably due to an outstanding amount of discipline among the presenters. Both the audience and Nina Glick Schiller, who served as a discussant, offered questions and comments that were useful for development of the papers into articles. The conveyor of the workshop, Garbi Schmidt, and Nina Glick Schiller have started discussing options for collecting the articles in a special issue of an international, peer-reviewed journal. (Convenor and chair: Garbi Schmidt, SFI Copenhagen)

6 papers were presented: Malmö as an aspiring cosmopolitan city: places and practices, M. Povranovic Frykman (S); Planning for pluralism, R. Gressgård (N); “Grounded” politics: stating Islam as a political factor and localized identity in Copenhagen, G. Schmidt (DK); Social relations in multi-ethnic residential area: discourses and practices on ethnic relations, T. Gudrun Jensen (DK); Migration, mimesis and the city, B. Clavier (S); Migration, welfare state and urban restructuring in Northern and Southern Europe: Landskrona and Genoa compared, S. Scarpa (I), A. Violante (I), and T. Salonen (S)

Workshop 4: Transnational family practices and nation state regulation

In our workshop, everybody was there and presented really interesting stuff. Having gotten into contact with one another, we have already been exchanging sources etc. before the conference, and at the conference we had a lunch together, discussing possibilities for further co-operation. As people are really tied up with PhDs / babies due soon, etc, we kept it low scale, and made a mail-list, which also included the participants and audience from Annika Rabo’s family workshop (W14). We have discussed making a seminar or possibly a PhD course, but it is all just ideas right now. On the more concrete level, one researcher (Kristin Henriksen) had some results that we really have to
compare with finds in Denmark. (It concerns changes in transnational marriages for Turks and Pakistanis below the age of 24: Without having a law in Norway the numbers have dropped substantially - that is of interest in Denmark where we have made a law to the same end). So we’ll see where we go from here. (Convener and chair: Anika Liversage, SFI, Copenhagen)

5 papers were presented: A real marriage? The regulation of marriage migration, H. Eggebo (N); Children, circular migration and legislation, H. Lidén (N); Marriage migration among young individuals – why less frequent?, K. Henriksen (N); Time, space and the struggle for re-categorization – transnational couples negotiating Danish immigration legislation, A. Liversage (D); ‘The good family’ and ‘the good family law’. Transnational interactions between the Middle East and the Nordic Countries, A. Rabo (S)

Workshop 5: Media, migration, minorities and majorities in the Nordic countries

Our workshop was organized through our existing network MigraNord (Nordic researchers working on issues of migration, race/ethnicity and migration). It is my impression that people external of the network, who came to the workshop, were very interested in our presentations and that some of them will be joining our network in the future. (Convener and chair: Rikke Andreassen, Malmö University/MigraNord)

6 papers were presented: The Finnish nation in puberty: framing immigration and integration in opinionated journalism, K. Horsti (N); The “Glasvej Case” – television news coverage of a Danish ‘terror-case’, A. Smedegaard Nielsen (DK); Which positions are available for racial/ethnic minorities in the Danish media, R. Andreassen (S); Islam critique and cultures of violence – debates on ethnicity and gendered violence in families in Denmark and Finland, S. Keskinen (F); Transnationalism under different conditions, M. Andersson (S); Picturing ethnic minorities and immigrants, C. Haavisto (F)

Workshop 6: Finding a language of our own: a critique of migration research

All papers were given. The academic outcomes are clear for the PhD students, who presented their work in progress, receiving a lot of feedback from the audience. (Convener and chair: Ronald Stade, Malmö University)

5 papers were presented: In-between identity and interest: toward a transnational frame for political engagement among young adults with ethnic minority background in Norway, M. Andersson and J. Rogstad (N); Ir/regular African migrants’ experience of transit the case of Istanbul, B. Suter (S); What we talk about when we talk about migration, J. Røyrvik (N); Untouchable: a declaration against integration, R. Stade (S); Discourse on truth and Swedish multicultural governmentality, D. Chatzoglakis (S)

Workshop 7: Irregular migration in Scandinavia and beyond

The workshop papers were based on contributions already published in the edited volume ‘Irregular Migration in a Scandinavian Perspective’, which was just released at the time of the conference. It was fruitful to discuss the results and the different perspectives presented in the anthology with the other workshop participants and we received some good comments. The workshop represented also the opportunity to meet ‘face-to-face’ with some of the Scandinavian contributors, whom the convenors had previously only contacts via mail. This also revealed that there are good perspectives of formalising and enlarging the network in relation to this topic. (Conveners: Trine Lund Thomsen, Martin Bak Jørgensen, and Susi Meret, Aalborg University)

5 papers were presented: Return of the Polish peasant – an analysis of irregular migration in Denmark, T. Lund Thomsen (DK); Irregular migration from a comparative Scandinavian migration policy
perspective, M. Bak Jørgensen and S. Meret (DK); The international dimensions of irregular migration, S. Kalm (S); Religious encounters in the field of irregular migration: when God becomes an actor in the quest for asylum, H. Andreassen Kjærre (N); Irregular migration, health and access to health services in Norway, K. Harsløf Hjelde (N).

Workshop 8: Transnational practices in migration

No direct academic outcome was tangible in the workshop, but for vivid discussions and possible further networking. We hope that several workshop participants will join the Network that organized this workshop. (Convenor and chair: Ali Osman, Stockholm University, for Forskarnätverket om transnationalism och diaspora)

7 papers were presented: Cultural activities as places to enact identity – differentiating from and sharing with the Other. “Somaliness” in Finland and Germany, J. Schütze (D); The impact of a transnational social support system on Swedish Somalis daily life in Sweden, C. Melander (S); Remittances and return in policy and practice, L. Åkesson (S); Magic and migration in Nicaragua, O. Eggebo (N); Global upscaling of labour markets? Demographic processes and transnational potentials of international labour migration in rural Sweden, C. Hedberg (S); Racialized practices in gendered transnationalism: Swedish migrants and domestic work in Singapore, C. Lundström (S); Art music as transnational practices, I. Grandin (S)

Workshop 9: Childhood and migration

The workshop was a continuation of the focus stream on Family, Childhood and Migration within the Swedish IMER association. The papers highlighted some of the problems and extreme vulnerable positions of children in the asylum seeking process as well as everyday life conditions of children and youth with migrant background. Some of the papers will be published in a coming volume edited by the two convenors, and fruitful new contacts were established. Only one of the announced papers in the book of abstracts was not presented. (Chairs: Maren Bak and Kerstin von Brömssen, Göteborg University, for IMER-förbundet)

6 papers were presented: Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in research, U. Wernesjö (S); Separated minors in Sweden, K. Gustafsson and I. Fioretos (S); Restricting participation: unaccompanied children in interpreter-mediated asylum hearings in Sweden, O. Keselman (S); Ethnicity and disability: minority families with disabled children, B. Berg, (N); Cultural change and the day care centre – resistance and accommodation, K. Lauritsen (N); Bilingualism as an asset among immigrant youth, L. Wiltgren (S)

Workshop 10: Locating religion in multicultural societies

We had seven interesting presentations followed by vivid discussions. No further plans are made at the moment, concerning the papers presented in the workshop. (Convenors and chairs: Magdalena Nordin and Jonas Alwall, Department of IMER, Malmö University)

7 papers were presented: Religion as a marker of exclusion, F. Gregorius (S); Religious multicultural health care in a secularised pluralistic society, M. Nordin and T. Schölin (S); Translocalism, migration, and sharia, R. Lagervall (S); A distant shaykh: patterns of belonging in contemporary Sufism, S. Stjernholm (S); A respectable Islam? Young adult Muslims negotiating Islamic traditions with family, friends and foes, J. Otterbeck (S); “Euro-Islam! what Is it then?”. Muslim organizations in Western Europe and the construction of a compatible identity, A. Aslan Yildiz and M. Verkuyten (NL); Place making and religious practices: Pentecostal migrants in Denmark negotiating social positions within a transnational religious field, U. Lyndby Christensen and I. M. Vammen (DK)

Workshop 11: Comparative migration and integration studies
Most papers were work-in-progress. We had good comments and questions from the audience as well as from the discussant, Prof. Eskil Wadensjö. Very different topics were presented, so no new networks or edited volumes will come out, we think that those present (30 people) thought it was a giving session. (Convenors and chairs: Pieter Bevelander and Anders Hellström, Malmö University)

6 papers were presented: Effects of multiculturalism policies on social cohesion, K. Nagayoshi (Japan); Social trust, political trust and diversity in four Nordic countries, L. L. Lundgren (USA); Feeding the beast: nourishing nativist appeals in Sweden and in Denmark, A. Hellström (S); Citizenship and integration: the official discourse versus the subjective image. A comparison of second generation Turks in France and Sweden, C. Vera Larrucea (S); Citizenship and employment integration – comparing two cold countries, P. Bevelander (S); The East-West migration before and after EU enlargement, K. Anniste (EST)

Workshop 12: Intermarriage and children of mixed parentage: new paradigms?

We are all very satisfied with our workshop, and we have agreed that we will try to start a network. We have started by making an e-mail list now. (Convenors and chairs: Rashmi Singla, Roskilde University, and Sayaka Osanami Törngren, Malmö University)

4 papers were presented: The consequences and challenges of mixed marriages and children of mixed parentage, M. Topal (DK); Intermarriages, children of mixed parentage and mental health, R. Singla (DK); Living within and across national borders: “transnational families” as actors in a globalised world, A. Kaffrell-Lindahl (S); Attitudes towards interracial marriage, S. Osanami Törngren (S)

Workshop 13: Beyond the suitcase: representations of migration and Europe and the role of museums

Coming from outside Scandinavia, the NMR conference was an interesting opportunity for us to meet a broad range of colleagues from different disciplines. While the keynote lectures given by Vered Amit and Nina Glick Schiller were most inspiring for me (Kerstin), I also enjoyed the absence of "demarcation discourse" between researchers from various subjects. As for our workshop, I had the impression that its direct and explicit focus on representational matters was most welcome, and we received very positive and helpful feedback from other participants. Sabine and I had not met our two colleagues from the museum field in person before, but we had the impression that we managed to link both theory and practices in a manner that not only was inspiring for us, but also for Scandinavian discussions. (Convenors and chairs: Sabine Hess, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München and Kerstin Poehls, Humboldt-University Berlin)

4 papers were presented: The art of governing migration? Anthropological approaches to studying and representing the new European border regime, S. Hess (D); A small metropolis. Approaches to migration in the city museums of Antwerp, L. Beyers, J. Parmentier, and B. Beelaert (NL); Destination X – representing migration and tourism within a mobility perspective, K. Grinell (S); No ideas but in things? On the contested role of objects in museal representations of migration, K. Poehls (D)

Workshop 14: Families in change: discourses and practices

This workshop - although it was not ‘convened’ - became quite coherent and successful. It fitted very nicely into Workshop 4, on transnational family practices and nation state regulation, and also quite well into workshop 12, on intermarriage and children of mixed parentage (...). Anyway; pretty much the same people came to all so there was a continuous discussion of sorts. Helga Eggebø from workshop 4 has quickly organized an email-list and a yahoo-group. (Nordisk forskarnettverk om familie, migrasjon og lovgjøving; Nordic Researcher’s Network on Family,
Migration and Law; Kortversjon: Family, Migration and Law). An attempt is planned, to arrange a Ph.D. course on this topic as a NMR activity. (Chair: Annika Rabo, Stockholm University)

4 papers were presented: Families in change: doing family among young adults with immigrant background in Norway, M. Five Aarset (N); Between marriage and migration – Women who migrate through marriage with a Norwegian man, M. Nadim and M. Tveit (N); Freedom fighters? Making sense of young minoritised women’s protest and strategies against oppressive family relations, A. Bredal (N); Violence against women in the name of honour: borders, identities, and sexualities, M. Alinia (S)

Workshop 15: Migrants’ perceptions of exclusion and inclusion

All the papers from the book of abstract were presented. We had a very good and interesting workshop. I was very glad to see that we had a very good attendance and discussions, even though we were so late in the program. We did not decide anything about an edited volume but I am sure there will be further contacts between some of us presenters and some of those who attended as well. (Chair: Unnur Dis Skaptadóttir, University of Iceland)

5 papers were presented: Diverse voices: migrant’s views and processes of exclusion and inclusion, U. Dis Skaptadóttir (ISL); Exclusion and it’s perception by immigrants: the case of Cameroonian students in Sweden, J. Ngeh (S); Polish labour migrants in Norway – negotiating cultural capital?, L. Dyrlid (N); Heading far north: migration decision making among young Polish migrants to Iceland, A. Wojtynska (ISL); Inclusion and exclusion of young adult immigrants in Europe: findings from a European research project, K. Fangen (N)

Workshop 16: Time, history, and processes of migration

There have been discussions about networking or common publishing in the group, although we have now met and learned to know each other. I think the themes are in the interest sphere of many scholars who came to listen and discuss, not the least from Malmö. The workshop showed, in my concluding analysis, that history of migration must recognize and consider a dependence of the "private" spheres of family and, e.g., generational shifts, global issues and development as well as the level of the state. (Convenor and chair: Ella Johansson, IMER-förbundet)

5 papers were presented: Europe and its people without history, E. Johansson (S); Swedish integration of the refugees from Chile, O. Mella (S); Immigrants’ landowning and land transfers, Minnesota 1850-1950, U. Rosén (S); Cosmopolitanism and cultural trauma, P. Stoltz (S); Memory work: immigrants in Sweden and the practice of remembrance during the end of the 20th century, D. Tzimoula (S)