

# Biennial Report Research Network 35

2017-2019

## 1. Name and number of RN

Research Network 35, Sociology of Migration

## 2. Coordinators and board members

### 2.1 Outgoing coordinators and board members

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Coordinator	Kenneth Horvath	University of Lucerne	kenneth.horvath@unilu.ch
Vice-coordinator	Elise Pape	University of Strasbourg	e.pape@unistra.fr
Vice-coordinator	Maria Xenitidou	University of Surrey	m.xenitidou@surrey.ac.uk
Board member	Catherine Delcroix	University of Strasbourg	cadelcroix@wanadoo.fr
Board member	Dilek Cindoglu	Abdullah Gül University	dilekcindoglu@gmail.com

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### 2.2 Incoming coordinators and board members

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Coordinator	Kenneth Horvath	University of Lucerne	kenneth.horvath@unilu.ch
Vice-coordinator	Margit Fauser	Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences	margit.fauser@h-da.de
Board member	Fiammetta Fanizza	University of Foggia	fiammetta.fanizza@unifg.it
Board member	Lena Kahle	Hildesheim University	kahlele@uni-hildesheim.de
Board member	Monika Serban	University of Bucharest	monas@iccv.ro
Board member	Kaja Skowronska	University of Nantes	kaja.skowronska@univ-nantes.fr

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### 2.3 Scientific board

RN 35 has a policy of actively involving the members of its scientific board in drafting its CfPs as well as in running its conferences. The current scientific board members are:

- Berta Álvarez-Miranda (Spain)
- Valerie Amiraux (Canada)
- Joaquín Arango (Spain)
- David Bartram (UK)
- Ayse Caglar (Austria)
- Catherine Delcroix (France)
- Thomas Faist (Germany)
- Katrine Fangen (Norway)
- Nina Glick Schiller (UK)
- Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez (UK)
- Marco Martiniello (Belgium)

- Mirjana Morokvasic-Müller (France)
- Cristiana Paladini (Italy)
- Lucinda Platt (UK)
- Ludger Pries (Germany)
- Christoph Reinprecht (Austria)
- Sergeij Ryazantsev (Russia)
- Monica Serban (Romania)
- Claire Wallace (UK)
- Catherine de Wenden (France)
- Andreas Wimmer (USA)
- Nira Yuval-Davis (UK)

This broad advisory board composed of numerous very established migration researchers has played an important role for developing our RN. Since RN35 is in the meanwhile firmly established, the new coordination team will develop proposals on how to redefine the role of the advisory board and also change its composition in order to address the coming challenges and tasks for advancing the professionalization of the RN.

### **3. Activities**

#### *3.1 Midterm conference*

ESA RN 35 held its midterm conference for the period 2017-2019 from 24 to 25 January 2019 at the University of Strasbourg. The conference was titled “Belongings and Borders – Biographies, Mobilities, and the Politics of Migration”. The conference was co-organized in close cooperation with the Institute DynamE, the Institute of Advanced Studies (USIAS) of the University of Strasbourg, and the French-German University (UFA/DFH) and was thematically linked to the international research project MIGREVAL. With David Bartram, University of Leicester, Monica Massara, University of Milano, and Monika Salzbrunn, University of Lausanne, we were happy to welcome three distinguished keynote speakers that represented different regional contexts, methodological perspectives, and substantial focuses on the overall conference theme. 69 papers were presented, covering a broad range of topics. The conference included papers by scholars at different levels (PhD students, , post-docs, established researchers) and aimed, and managed, to hold a good balance of thematic concentration, inclusiveness, and quality of presentations.

#### *3.2 RN activities at the 14<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference in Manchester*

RN 35 organized one semi-plenary, 27 thematic sessions plus a total of six joint sessions at the 2019 ESA conference in Manchester. A total of 129 papers were presented. The spectrum of themes mirrored the diversity of migration research. Topics ranged from methodological challenges for migration research in the digital era or educational inequalities in migration contexts to the local production of borders and conceptual challenges migration research faces in the light of recent political and social dynamics. The conference in Manchester was an important opportunity to further the cooperation of RN 35 with other RNs. A stream of joint sessions was organized with RN13 Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives under the heading of “Relatives at a Distance: Doing Family Across Borders”, with 10 paper presentations. A second joint session was organized together with RN37 Urban Sociology on the theme of “Migration and the City: Urban Spaces and Reordering of Borders, Boundaries, and Belonging in Contemporary Europe”, with 12 papers presented at the conference. Of particular importance for our Research Network was the Semi-Plenary we organized on

the “Contested Boundaries of Humanitarianism” for which we received well beyond 20 high-quality submissions. The eventual selection of talks by Julia Dahlvik and Dimitris Parsanoglou proved to be both topical and engaging.

### *3.3 Publications*

Our policy is to link our midterm conferences to publication projects. The introductory article to our 2017 special issue of *Migration Studies* (vol. 5, no. 3), titled “Migration regimes in the spotlight: The politics of migration in an age of uncertainty” found a lot of positive resonance and received the Best Article Award 2017 by the journal. Two special issue projects are in the pipeline following our Strasbourg conference. A call for papers was launched following this conference. After evaluation and selection of the papers, we are currently drafting special issue proposals for two journals that fit the thematic outlook. In the middle range, we are planning to develop an explicit publication strategy for our RN that shall allow for inclusive publication projects of the highest academic standards. One of the key aims will be to mirror the diversity of our Research Network while remaining focused to current debates in global migration research.

### *3.4 Newsletter*

We circulate a newsletter which includes information on conferences and workshops on migration, job adverts, as well as ‘reflections’, for example reflections of PhD students on the conferences we hold. The newsletter is emailed to the members of our research network, usually once a month. Furthermore we circulate information through a mailing list that includes 560 persons, most of them scholars in the field of migration studies that are (currently) not members of our RN, but who are interested in our activities. Scholars regularly contact the members of the board in order to be added to the list or share information on conferences in the European and non-European areas in the field of migration.

### *3.5 Outreach of RN35*

*PhD students:* We currently do not have PhD students on our board but two post-docs who earned their degrees recently. As a Research Network, we have a strong history of including young scholars in our activities and we are eager to include PhD students again in our future boards. However, the decision at our business meeting in Manchester was to put higher priority on the consolidation and professionalization of our Research Network that has grown very fast over the past few years. However, we continue to invite PhD students to become involved in different ways, including by sharing and publishing their reflections on our events. Furthermore, our conferences specifically aim to attract PhD students and early career researchers, in addition to senior researchers. A high number of PhD students participated in our sessions at the ESA conference in Manchester, as well as at our midterm conference in Strasbourg.

*Networking beyond Europe:* We have an active policy of reaching out to researchers in Europe and beyond to invite them to participate in our activities. Our Newsletter for example is distributed widely, also to non-members of our RN (we obtain regular demands of persons wishing to join the mailing list) and also to researchers outside of Europe.

*Collaboration with other ESA Research Networks:* We regularly co-organized joint activities. As in the previous years, our focus for the 2017-2019 periode was on organizing joint sessions at ESA’s general conference. This policy will be continued over the coming years, since our joint sessions with both RN13 and RN37 proved to be very inspiring and productive academic encounters.

#### **4. Future activities**

RN35's next midterm conference will be held in Berlin, most likely in September 2020. The conference will be organized in close cooperation with Anna Amelina from Cottbus Technical University and Janine Dahinden from Neuchatel University. The conference will focus on the many faces and challenges of "Reflexivity in Migration Research". The Call for Papers will be published in late 2019.

The new board of RN35 faces a number of important tasks that have been discussed at our business meeting. Apart from organizing our recurrent network activities, we aim to develop our RN in the following regards: (i) role and composition of the advisory board, (ii) publication strategy and profile, (iii) election processes and procedural guidelines for the RN board, (iv) further professionalizing our newsletter.