

## Biennial Report Research Network 35

2019-2021

### 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	Margit Fauser	Darmstadt University	margit.fauser@h-da.de
Board member	Fiammetta Fanizza	University of Foggia	fiammetta.fanizza@unifg.it
Board member	Lena Kahle	Hildesheim University	kahle@uni-hildesheim.de
Board member	Monica Serban	University of Bucharest	monas@iccv.ro
Board member	Kaja Skowronska	University of Nantes	kaja.skowronska@univ-nantes.fr

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#### 2.2 Incoming coordinators and board members

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Coordinator	Margit Fauser	Darmstadt University, Germany	margit.fauser@h-da.de
Vice-Coordinator	Ilenya Camozzi	University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy	ilenya.camozzi@unimib.it
Board member	Fiammetta Fanizza	University of Foggia, Italy	fiammetta.fanizza@unifg.it
Board member	Linda Haapajarvi	Centre Maurice Halbwachs (CNRS-ENS-EHESS), France	linda.haapajarvi@ehess.fr
Board member	Monica Serban	Research Institute for Quality of Life (ICCV), Romanian Academy, Romania	monas@iccv.ro
Board member	Kaja Skowronska	University of Tours, France	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. At the moment, 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 incoming board has as one of its main objectives for its current mandate to develop a proposal on how to redefine the role of the advisory board and to change its composition in order to address the coming challenges and tasks for advancing the professionalization of the RN.

### **3. Activities**

One main objective of the outgoing board was the further professionalization of the network. An important aspect we dealt with was the definition of the board election and other procedures concerning the RN.

Concerning the electoral procedures for the RN board we designed the different steps at the Manchester Conference; then, at the business meeting of the Mid-term Conference 2021 we presented the election procedure to the participants and received positive feedback. Finally, we informed all RN members of the new procedures through our newsletter prior the election.

The general principle that guided us was to allow for a certain level of continuity while ensuring regular turnover in line with ESA statutes, together with heterogeneity in the representation of career level and territorial areas. In detail the system for electing the board provides for an initial phase of self-nomination to which networks members are invited in advance; it is the aim to renew half of the board every two years, so that half of its member remain and secure continuity. At the business meeting during the general ESA conference each new board is presented to the members and eventually elected.

We implemented these procedures at the Barcelona Online Conference for the first time, at the business meeting, on 02 September 2022.

Regarding other procedures, besides the election system, we worked toward a clear division of tasks within the board; the regular collection and archiving of all decisions and activities concerning the RN. In addition, we established a regular newsletter to all members to be published three times a year, substituting an earlier more irregular format of messages to network members.

### *3.1 Midterm conference*

ESA RN35's mid-term conference for the period 2019-2021 was entitled "Towards Reflexivity in Migration Studies: Knowledge Production in Times of Contested Politics and Post-Colonial Dynamics" and took place on the 21st and 22nd of January 2021. The conference was organized in close cooperation with the newly founded IMISCOE Standing Committee on "Reflexivities in Migration Studies" and the "Migration, Conflict and Social Change" Research Platform at Cottbus Technical University. It was initially to be organized at the Technical University Berlin, Germany, but due to the current health crisis the event was held online.

The event included a total of 62 presentations and 7 distributed papers from participants from over 20 countries. It also featured three keynote speeches by Paweł Kaczmarczyk (University of Warsaw, Poland), Sharam Khosravi (Stockholm University, Sweden), and Gökce Yurdakul (Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany).

The regular RN35 business meeting was also held during the mid-term conference, providing a space for RN members to discuss current issues and laying the ground for further collaboration with present partners, in particular the IMISCOE Standing Committee on "Reflexivities in Migration Studies". Other topics, included the format of the electoral procedure that was presented and discussed and themes for the next mid-term conference.

### *3.2 RN activities at the 15<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference /Online*

RN35 organized 29 thematic sessions. A total of 109 papers were presented, representing a wide scope of methodologies and topics. The subjects explored ranged from reflexivity in migration studies and their role in the context of rising anti-migrant politics, through redefinitions of citizenship, emergence of new solidarities, or issues related to forced migration, to the intersection of migration with gender, care, or education. The conference was also an opportunity to foster cooperation with other RN, notably through the organization of a semi-plenary entitled "Social Research and Social Justice in the Study of Migration Towards Southern Europe" with RN27 Regional Network Southern European Societies, as well as a joint session on health and migration during the Covid-19 pandemic with RN16 Sociology of Health and Illness. It also provided space to further develop the collaborations with other international networks, in particular the IMISCOE Standing Committee on "Reflexivities in Migration Studies", that was initiated during the mid-term conference.

During the business meeting held during the conference new board selection procedures were successfully implemented and avenues for future events were explored, including the next mid-term conference

### *3.3 Publications*

From the Midterm conference 2019 a Special Issues has been published:

European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology, Special Issue: Migration regimes in the spotlight: The politics of migration in an age of uncertainty, Volume 8, Issue 4 (2021), edited by Elise Pape, Kenneth Horvath, Catherine Delcroix, Ursula Apitzsch

### *3.4 Newsletter*

Since the mandate of the previous board (2019-2021) RN35 has started to circulate a newsletter to its members on a regular basis three times per year. The newsletter includes information on conferences and workshops on migration, information on publications and new projects from our members and in relation to our network activities. The newsletter is emailed to the members via ESA platform (including formal members only) and to our wider mailing-list that includes more than 500 persons, most of them scholars in the field of migration studies that are 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. 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 Barcelona, as well as at our online midterm conference in 2021.

As regards the involvement of PhD students, we plan to move in two directions: firstly, to establish a procedure for including a PhD student on the board; and secondly, to hold a workshop dedicated to PhD students during this mandate.

*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 colleagues who are currently not members of our RN and ESA (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 2019-2021 period was on organizing joint sessions at ESA's general conference. As previously noted, during the ESA Conference in Barcelona, we organized a semi-plenary entitled "Social Research and Social Justice in the Study of Migration Towards

Southern Europe" with RN27 Regional Network Southern European Societies, as well as a joint session on health and migration during the Covid-19 pandemic with RN16 Sociology of Health and Illness.

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

RN35's next midterm conference will be held at the University of Naples, Federico II, in Spring 2023. The conference will be organized in close cooperation with colleagues of the University of Naples and other Italian scholars in the role of local organizers. The conference will focus on the nexus among mobility, crises, borders and violence. The Call for Papers will be published in Mai 2022.