

**nccr**   
**on the move**

National Center of Competence in Research –  
The Migration-Mobility Nexus  
nccr-onthemove.ch

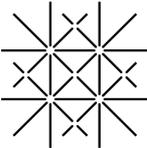
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# National Center of Competence in Research – The Migration-Mobility Nexus

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## About Us

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UNIVERSITÉ DE  
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BASEL

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UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

**UNI  
FR**  
UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG  
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

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DE GENÈVE

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UNIL | Université de Lausanne  
IDHEAP

UNIVERSITÄT  
LUZERN

The nccr – on the move is the National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) for migration and mobility studies, which has been operational since June 2014. The center aims to enhance the understanding of contemporary migration patterns and to establish an innovative and competitive field of research on migration and mobility in Switzerland.

Managed from the University of Neuchatel, the network comprises seventeen research teams from seven universities in Switzerland: The Universities of Neuchatel, Basel, Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne and Lucerne. Some 60 researchers and administrative collaborators work at the nccr – on the move.

## Research Focus

**The overall scientific aim of the nccr – on the move is to offer a comprehensive and interdisciplinary framework for understanding the character of and the experienced shifts in contemporary migration and mobility to Switzerland.**

Designed to develop new perspectives on the changing migratory reality, the nccr – on the move brings together research projects from social sciences, economics and law. These projects are combined to address the overall research question: What is the character of contemporary immigration patterns – within the so-called migration-mobility nexus?

In more concrete terms, the projects will:

- provide a description of the status quo of human mobility in Switzerland;
- trace the emergence and evolution of migration law in Switzerland;
- specify the mechanisms through which international norms influence domestic law and regulation;

- examine the impact of politics and law on different social and institutional actors;
- explore the evolution of interactions between market forces and the State in the area of labor migration;
- analyze the composition, trajectories and characteristics of specific migrant flows;
- investigate the role of gender, age, education and social status in processes and outcomes of migration;
- and, shed light on inclusionary and exclusionary practices that are developed and implemented in the context of migration.

## Migration-Mobility Nexus

**The notion of the migration-mobility nexus offers an analytical perspective for shedding light on the patterns of migration, which move on a continuum from long-term and permanent to increasingly more temporary and fluid.**

Three conflict lines are central to the analysis of possible changes on the migration-mobility continuum: (i) the shift of legal and judicial regulation from a national to a supranational level, (ii) the shift from state regulation toward market forces, and (iii) the impact of these shifts on social inclusion and exclusion. While all the individual projects are inter-related within this matrix, some of them focus more on the legal and economic drivers of change and others on the societal dynamics. Two projects have a transversal function within the NCCR and link to all the other projects, furnishing the underlying demographic facts and figures to inform the research in all areas of the NCCR.

### Demographic Evolutions

Paradoxically for one of the most important immigration countries worldwide in proportion to its population, Switzerland is ill-equipped in terms of monitoring systems and data bases regarding individual migration as well as structural and cultural integration. NCCR research thus aims to improve methods and data in measuring and analyzing migration flows and migration-related phenomena to, from, and within Switzerland.

### Legal Framework

Changes in the legal framework, which regulate migration flows to Switzerland, constitute one of the fundamental factors for shifts in migration and mobility patterns. These dynamics are heavily influenced by the international legal environment. Research in the NCCR thus identifies relevant international norms, traces the processes,

through which they were created, and specifies the mechanisms, through which they influence domestic law and regulation.

### Market Drivers

The Swiss labor market is one of the main factors driving immigration. Regulation of (old) labor immigration has always taken political considerations into account. Over the last decade, labor immigration shifted towards (new) mobility regulated predominantly by market forces. NCCR research examines policy and labor market interventions and the implications for society – looking at both the benefits as well as the costs of labor immigration.

### Societal Dynamics

Social cohesion is necessary for collective action to take place and such action is made possible because of manifold sets of shared values within society. The changing patterns of migration and mobility have an impact on existing norms and systems of social cohesion, as they contribute to increased heterogeneity and cultural complexity. Research in the NCCR focuses on the analysis of contemporary social mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion as well as on the emergence of new forms of solidarity within the society.

## Management Areas

**In addition to the core task at the level of research, the different NCCR management areas – namely communication, knowledge transfer, education and training, equal opportunities – contribute to increase the benefit and impact of the nccr – on the move.**

Interdisciplinary cross-fertilization among the projects and a doctoral program on migration and mobility research foster scientific innovation and strengthen the field of migration studies in Switzerland – the results of which will be published first in the nccr – on the move Working Paper Series and later in other publications. Internal communication plays a key role in enabling the exchange of ideas, approaches, data and results among the members of the nccr – on the move. Additionally, different knowledge transfer measures allow for entering into a regular

and structured exchange with members of the wider national and international scientific community, with institutional partners, decision-makers and opinion leaders. These knowledge transfer measures are combined with external communication activities in order to spread excellence in science and to ensure that the knowledge gained within the NCCR also reaches a broader audience. Special attention is dedicated to improving equal opportunities and the awareness for gender issues, (in)equalities and stereotypes at all levels of the NCCR.

## **Our Projects**

### **Inventory of Individual Statistical Data on Migration to, from and within Switzerland in a Post-Census World**

Philippe Wanner (University of Geneva) and Rosita Fibbi (University of Neuchatel)

### **Mapping the Demographics of the New Forms of Mobility and Measuring Their Socioeconomic Impact**

Philippe Wanner (University of Geneva)

### **From “Traditional” to “New” Migration: Challenges to the International Legal Migration Regime**

Alberto Achermann (University of Bern), Walter Kälin (University of Bern), and Jörg Künzli (University of Bern)

### **New Wine in Old Skins? Regulating “New” Migration within the Traditional Framework – The Example of Sans-Papiers in Switzerland**

Martina Caroni (University of Lucerne)

### **The Law and Economics of Migration Policy**

Alberto Achermann (University of Bern)

### **The Emergence of a European Law on Foreigners**

Sarah Progin-Theuerkauf (University of Fribourg)

### **Integration through Active Labor Market Policies**

Giuliano Bonoli (University of Lausanne)

### **The Mobility of the Highly Skilled towards Switzerland**

Walter Leimgruber (University of Basel)

### **Labor Market Effects and the Political Economy of “New” Migration to Switzerland**

Yves Flückiger (University of Geneva) and Tobias Müller (University of Geneva)

### **The Economic Impact of New Migration and Integration Issues**

George Sheldon (University of Basel) and Alois Stutzer (University of Basel)

### **International Student Mobility between the South and the North**

Etienne Piguet (University of Neuchatel)

### **Restricting Immigration: Practices, Experiences and Resistance**

Christin Achermann (University of Neuchatel)

### **Unity and Diversity in Cohesion: The Concept of Integration in a Changing World**

Cesla Amarelle (University of Neuchatel) and Gianni D’Amato (University of Neuchatel)

### **Citizenship and Immigration: An Empirical and Normative Analysis of Swiss Philosophy of Integration**

Matteo Gianni (University of Geneva)

### **Gender as Boundary Marker in Migration and Mobility: Case Studies from Switzerland**

Janine Dahinden (University of Neuchatel)

### **“New Migration” and New Forms of Integration: Families in Geographical Itinerancy**

Tania Zittoun (University of Neuchatel)

### **Discrimination as an Obstacle to Social Cohesion**

Gianni D’Amato (University of Neuchatel) and Rosita Fibbi (University of Neuchatel)

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