

IMISCOE 12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NCCR – On the Move 1st Annual Conference
“Right, Democracy and Migration – Challenges and Opportunities”
Geneva, 25-27 June 2015

Call for Papers for the panel

Friction-less and Root-less Mobilities?
Opportunities, Barriers and Intimacies in Expatriate Migration

Organizers:

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The migration of “mobile professionals”, commonly known as “expatriates” (e.g., corporate managers, diplomats, professionals of international organizations, academics), represents a significant component of current migration flows. Although this population has become more diverse with regard to ethnicity, gender, nationalities and migratory trajectories, the popular image of the “expatriate” remains mostly based on the idea of a *friction-less* and *root-less* form of migration. In neat contrast to “traditional migrants”, expatriates have long been described as *White*, *Westerner*, *independent* and super-mobile individuals, who freely and easily move between places of their choice with no time frame in mind, and who are characterized by a *cosmopolitan attitude*, that is the willingness to engage with diversity and openness to new experiences.

The present panel builds on recent research putting into question the homogeneity of this population. It brings to the fore the different opportunities and possible constraints faced by these individuals, as well as the experiences of other people involved either by expatriating or staying behind (e.g., children, partners/spouses). The panel especially focuses on the role of intimate relationships and of different categorical dimensions (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender, class) in the making of expatriates’ and their families’ identities, lives and trajectories. We invite theoretical and empirical contributions that explore, but are not restricted to, the following issues:

- The role, and intersection, of ethnicity, race, class, gender and other categorical dimensions in the making of expatriates’ and their families’ identities and lives
- Opportunities and challenges for different “expatriates” (e.g., “trailing spouses”, children, lesbian and gay expatriates)
- Interactions, and possible tensions, between institutional values, organizational practices, expatriate policies, family life, and individual choices
- Transnational families, family relocation, intimate relationships and their impact on mobility
- Different psychological implications of repeated mobility, and coping strategies
- Meanings of family, belonging and intimacy in expatriates’ mobile lives.

Please send a 200-250 word abstract by 7 January 2015 to flavia.cangia@unine.ch.

The notification of acceptance will be made by 12 January 2015.

Notification of acceptance of the panel by IMISCOE organisers: 15 February 2015