

# nccr → on the move

National Center of Competence in Research—  
The Migration-Mobility Nexus

[nccr-onthemove.ch](http://nccr-onthemove.ch)



## Call for New Projects

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## For Phase II (2018–2022)

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The National Center of Competence in Research **nccr – on the move** aims to enhance the understanding of contemporary migration and mobility patterns. Connecting disciplines, the **nccr – on the move** brings together research projects from the social sciences, economics and law. Managed from the University of Neuchâtel, the network comprises eight universities in Switzerland.

## Call for New Projects

The **nccr – on the move** is seeking to recruit three Switzerland based research teams working on migration and mobility issues for its second four-year cycle (the so-called Phase II), which is scheduled to run from 1 June 2018 to 31 May 2022. The funding offered by the NCCR will cover the salaries of one PostDoc and two doctoral students for each of the three projects.

To be eligible for funding, project proposals should address research questions related to the migration-mobility nexus. The future research agenda of the **nccr – on the move** will be organized in one transversal research module (“Social Transformations”) and three thematic research modules. These are “Citizenship, Social Cohesion and Democracy”, “Shadows of Mobilities”, and “Transnational Mobilities and Complex Diversities”. We are launching a call for projects for the latter two.

## Module I: Shadows of Mobilities

Research on “Shadows of Mobilities” starts from the observation that unparalleled levels of inequality and new societal tensions are being reached worldwide today. This observation applies both to the international and the domestic level.

At the international level there is an economic driven consensus that more migration would be economically beneficial to the world as a whole, but the liberalized allocation of migrants faces numerous non-economic obstacles. Moreover, “unwanted” migration can be expected to increase in particular because of the growing importance of emigration from demographically young Africa as well as from a geopolitically shattered Middle East, triggering changes in skill composition of the flows.

These complex mobilities have repercussions at the domestic level. Within the destination countries, one observes the increasing concentration of income

and wealth as well as steadily widening inequality at different levels, as the benefits of economic growth are accruing to an ever-smaller group. Structural developments have contributed to transformations in societal stratification: stagnant wages, gendered precarious occupations, increasing wealth inequalities, decreasing returns on educational investments, and worries for the socio-economic outcome of the next generation have induced fear of decline in local middle classes. This socio-economic destabilization is paralleled with the perception of dispossession in the established groups – citizens and not – leading to new tensions and fears as can be seen in new forms of radicalization, neo-nationalist tendencies, changing moral economies, and so forth.

Against those background-considerations, the module “Shadows of Mobilities” addresses the increasing tensions and inequalities in a mobile world. Within this module, the **nccr – on the move** launches two project calls.

### Call 1: A project investigating flows and skills: migration and inequality (international level)

The proposed research projects should contribute to the understanding of the determinants of labor market inequality and focus both on “push” and “pull” factors of international complex mobilities. Migration pressure is growing yet the skill composition of these migration flows may not meet labor demand in destination countries, thus failing to alleviate the feared shortage of high-skilled labor (mismatch-hypothesis).

The projects could provide on the one hand an assessment of the factors that determine the structure of global migration flows, in particular regarding the selection and sorting of migrants by skills. On the other hand, they could provide a characterization of the forces (technology, trade, offshoring etc.) that shape the structure of labor demand in destination countries and their consequences for migration and inequality. Finally,

the projects could either offer a critical assessment of the mismatch-hypothesis or they could analyze it empirically and offer policy relevant indications to address the labor demand needs of destination countries.

Projects should adopt a comparative approach putting Switzerland in a European perspective.

### **Call 2: A project investigating the multifaceted crisis in immigration countries (domestic level)**

The proposed research projects should contribute to the understanding of the social, cultural or political dynamics triggered by economic change at the domestic level. They should address the present tensions in immigration countries, by providing a thorough insight in either one of the following aspects – social stratification, hierarchies of values and moral economy, political expression of social cleavages – or by analyzing their peculiar combination.

Possible topics of study include: 1) the evolution of social stratification (in Switzerland and comparable immigration countries) since the Eighties under the impulse of economic change and migration dynamics; 2) the emergence (or revamping) of forms of radicalization, which can be observed both among immigrants, as well as in immigration societies at large, finding their expression in political ideologies, such as nativism among the established groups and/or radicalization in outsider groups (ethnic closure); 3) the emergent or changing cleavages characterizing immigration societies and seeking for a renewed political expression (e.g. “ethnic”, opposing established and outsiders; generational, opposing older and younger generations; regional, opposing urban and rural environments).

Projects should adopt a comparative approach putting Switzerland in a European perspective.

## **Module III: Transnational Mobilities and Complex Diversities**

Current social transformations have been leading to new patterns of transnational mobilities and to complex diversities. The future module adopts a comprehensive methodological or theoretical framework, the so-called mobility lens or transnational approach, to grasp a wide spectrum of transnational mobilities. This module focuses on two current outcomes of social transformations, both linked to the migration-mobility nexus.

First, it aims at understanding current trends and drivers of diversified transnational mobilities – migration being one among them. Second, it investigates the complex diversities that come to light as a result of new forms of transnational

mobilities. Both aspects are analyzed from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, concretely social and economic geography, social anthropology, sociocultural psychology, sociology and law. Within this module, the **nccr – on the move** launches one project call.

### **Call 3: A project investigating regulation of mobilities**

The project we are seeking to recruit in this module shall provide an analysis of the multi-layered legal frameworks regulating mobilities. The term “mobilities” has been used in a variety of legal instruments in European and international law (e.g. trade or environmental law) in recent years. The project should engage with this phenomenon and help us understand, what is being regulated under the term of “mobility”, through which means it is being done and how law reacts to societal transformations affecting or resulting from migration. In empirical terms the analysis shall cover a variety of multi-layered legal frameworks, including international, European and/or domestic law.

## **Basic Conditions**

### **Applicants**

The **nccr – on the move** accepts project proposals by teams of two future project leaders. Project leaders are Professors or experienced academics (for example Maître d’Enseignement et de Recherche) that have a permanent position at their home university. Teams can be made up of professors from one or more **Swiss institutions of higher education and research (Universities or Universities of Applied Sciences)** as well as from different disciplinary backgrounds. Please note that you cannot demand **nccr – on the move** funding for paying the salary of the so-called project leaders, as they are considered the “in-kind” contribution of the respective universities.

Your proposal shall be written in English.

### **Rights and Duties of Selected Projects**

Potential future **nccr – on the move** projects are expected to contribute to the submission of the Pre-Proposal on 28 February 2017 as well as to the Full Proposal on 28 February 2018. The projects need to be approved by the internal and the external evaluation bodies. They can expect to begin on 1 June 2018, which is when the **nccr – on the move** shall enter into the second Phase (1 June 2018 to 31 May 2022). The members of the new projects will be fully involved in the preparatory work for Phase II and are expected to participate in all events linked to the submission of the Full Proposal (that is Site Visits, Retreats etc.).

## Application Procedure

### Project Description

The applicants shall submit a four-page project description (2000 words), which includes information on the contribution to the literature of the proposed project, the research question(s), hypotheses, data, methods, research tasks/milestones, as well as expected contribution to the respective module and to the research conducted within the NCCR.

### Contribution to the Module

As the (potential) contribution of the proposed project to the module will be an important criterion in the evaluation of your proposal, we ask you to contact the module representatives, Rosita Fibbi, [rosita.fibbi@unine.ch](mailto:rosita.fibbi@unine.ch) (Shadows of Mobilities), or Janine Dahinden, [janine.dahinden@unine.ch](mailto:janine.dahinden@unine.ch) (Transnational Mobilities and Diversities) to obtain more information about the state of reflections in the respective modules.

### Budget

Furthermore, a budget shall be annexed showing how much money you will need to conduct your research. Please note that the hiring of academic personnel is subject to the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)'s budgetary guidelines: Salaries for academic personnel can be funded by the **nccr – on the move** in accordance with either the rules of the hosting institution (PostDocs) or the scales published by the SNSF (doctoral students). Please also list other expenditures that you expect to incur while conducting your research, for example, if you plan to conduct a survey or field work abroad. Please note that the **nccr – on the move** does not fund infrastructure, equipment, publications, administrative activities, or overheads.

Please send all information to Nicole Wichmann, [nicole.wichmann@nccr-onthemove.ch](mailto:nicole.wichmann@nccr-onthemove.ch). Starting on 1 October 2016, she will also reply to questions regarding the formal requirements and the procedure.

**Deadline for application is 31 October 2016.**

## Selection Procedure

All project proposals will, in a first step, be submitted to the internal assessment by the committee assisting the Management Board in the preparation of Phase II and the International Advisory Board. In a second step – as one element of the whole **nccr – on the move@Phase II** package – the selected projects will be submitted to the external assessment by the SNSF Review Panel.

## Criteria Guiding the Internal Assessment

- Originality of the individual research contribution, which addresses a gap in the NCCR's research portfolio.
- Degree of fit and potential synergies with the other projects in the respective modules – “Shadows of Mobilities” or “Transnational Mobilities and Diversities”.
- Feasibility and appropriateness of the selected research design.
- Potential contribution to international debates and theories.
- Potential added value to the work undertaken in the **nccr – on the move**.
- The motivation of the applicants to engage in the **nccr – on the move**.
- Potential for interdisciplinary collaborations within the NCCR network.

Please keep in mind that the project must demonstrate its originality and added value against the corpus of established literature and that you need to show that the team has the necessary skills and experience to answer the proposed research question(s).

### Internal Decision-Making

The project proposals will be evaluated by the committee assisting the Management Board in the preparation of Phase II. The committee will conduct its internal review of the projects in early November. In a second step, by Mid-November, it will ask members of the International Advisory Board to review the project proposals. Accepted projects shall finalize their project submissions by the end of the year, and will be included in the Pre-Proposal that is due on 28 February 2017.

### External Decision-Making

The SNSF Review Panel will conduct its review based on the written Pre-Proposal and the Site Visit, which will take place in May 2017. The NCCR as a whole – including all approved individual projects – will submit a revised version of the Pre-Proposal, the so called Full Proposal, on 28 February 2018. The evaluation criteria of the external evaluators will be communicated in a subsequent stage. The projects are expected to begin on 1 June 2018.