To what extent can spatial mobility be an asset for migrant entrepreneurship?

What different capacities of spatial mobility exist, and why?

Migrant businesses have been studied from a static, host-country centered perspective and framed as an ethnic phenomena. The mobility lens allows us to focus on the (im)mobility of people, goods, ideas and capital, and to unpack multiple connections beyond host and home countries.

We contribute to Module III “Transnational Mobilities and Complex Diversities” by studying how regulatory regimes shape the diverse (im)mobilities of transnational entrepreneurs and their access to transnational resources.

Many self-employed migrants take advantage of their international experiences for business.

Using the concept of spatial mobility capital, we approach the mobilities of entrepreneurs from a critical inequality perspective.

Nation states shape opportunities by classifying the spatial mobility of our research participants as desirable or undesirable, thus widening or restricting their capacities as transnational entrepreneurs.

Diverse strategies (e.g. transnational networks, digital technologies, informality) enable migrant entrepreneurs to overcome mobility constraints and expand their options.


Sandoz et al. (In review). Mapping the field of transnational migrant entrepreneurship: A critical perspective on contemporary mobilities.

Sandoz (In review). The role of informal practices in transnational entrepreneurship.

Riaño et al. (In preparation). Spatial mobility across borders: A resource for migrant entrepreneurship?