

# White Paper

## Publications of the nccr – on the move in Phase II

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Discussed and approved by the Scientific Committee

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## Introduction

In the second half of May 2018, the nccr – on the move produced a publication strategy as an addendum to the Full Proposal for Phase II. The strategy included the “target” number of publications by IP to be realized by end of Phase II and a series of indications on the “publication mix” to be achieved by nccr – on the move researchers in Phase II. With the mid-term review of the nccr – on the move approaching in May/June 2020, time is ripe to take stock of the publication output of the last two years.

We use primarily the online infrastructure created by the Scientific Committee and the Data Manager for monitoring the publication output of Phase II. In particular, we rely on [our online instrument](#) that allows for tracking the NCCR publications per outlet, metrics, citations, gender of the author(s), open access status, and the IP of the author(s). In addition to this tool, we used the database of NCCR publications on Zotero.

The reader should bear in mind that it is not always possible to neatly isolate publications that result from the work of Phase II. In fact, many of the publications by NCCR members that have appeared since the beginning of Phase II (that is, 1 June 2018) are either authored or co-authored by Phase I researchers, based on research conducted in Phase I, or related to other projects completed prior to the start of Phase II. Because of these methodological difficulties, we have pragmatically decided to compare publications reported up until 31 May 2018 (IR1-4) and those issued after 1 June 2018 (IR5-6) – although, where possible, in the publications released after 1 June 2018, we distinguish between Phase I and Phase II output.

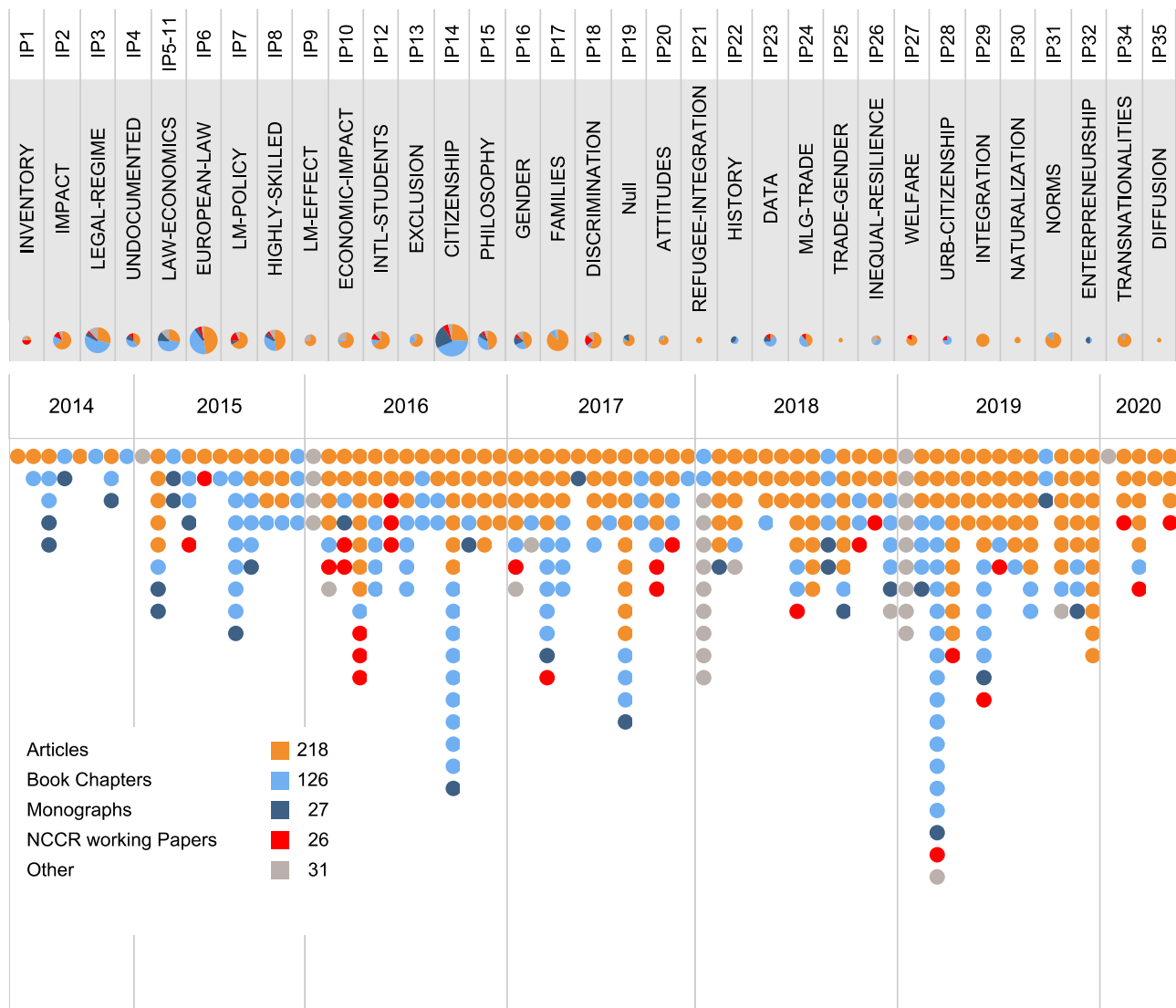
The structure of the report reflects the main aspects highlighted in the Full Proposal for Phase II. Hence, after a short overview of the transition from Phase I to Phase II, we discuss the balance between top disciplinary and interdisciplinary journals; the balance between single-author and collaborative products; the publications of young researchers; and the publications of female scholars. We added one section with various remarks that are mainly related to open access publications. In the section we reflect on whether the NCCR is on track regarding the publications objectives in the four aspects that were first laid out in the Publication Strategy annexed to the Full Proposal for Phase II.

## A general overview of the transition from Phase I to Phase II

Overall, we observe an increase in the number as well in the visibility of NCCR publications over time, with a clear change starting from 2018 (NCCR Year 6).

Indeed, almost half of the NCCR publications (170, 40%) have been produced starting from 1 June 2018. Furthermore, the majority of the 170 publications since this date are peer-reviewed journal articles (100, 60%), with only a minority being books/book chapters (53, 30%), working papers and reports (17, 10%).

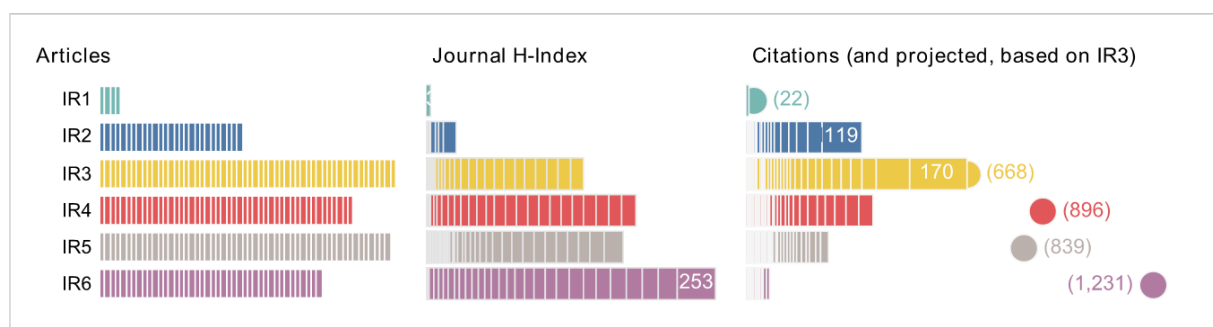
Figure 1: Overview of the articles published by NCCR researchers by number, project, and type (April 2020)



On average, we observe that projects that joined the NCCR with a new research agenda two years ago, at the start of Phase II, currently have fewer publications than those that were already part of Phase I. Indeed, a large number of the most recent publications draw on research carried out prior to the start of Phase II. Based on the experience of Phase I, during which the IPs published on average ten journal articles, we expect that the coming three years (2020-2023) will see the appearance of most Phase II work.

In the meantime, the clear move towards peer-reviewed articles has already led to a sharp rise in the aggregate H-Index of the publications of NCCR researchers. Based on the projections based on the previous years, we expect that this will also result in a rise in the number of citations.

Figure 2: Overview of the articles published by NCCR researchers by number, H-index and number of citations (April 2020)



### Balance between disciplinary and interdisciplinary journals

The table below lists the journals where our researchers have published three or more articles since 1 June 2014. From this list, we infer that NCCR researchers tend to publish mainly in interdisciplinary journals.

Journal	Number of articles by NCCR researchers	Authors
Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies	14	(Arrighi & Lafleur, 2019; Auer, 2018; Bonoli & Fossati, 2018; Della Torre & de Lange, 2018; Green et al., 2019; Hanke et al., 2019; Heath et al., 2018; Jashari et al., 2019; Moret et al., 2019; Panizzon & van Riemsdijk, 2019; Sandoz, 2018; Schaer et al., 2017; Vidal Coso, 2019; Zschirnt & Ruedin, 2016)
Migration Letters	10	(Cangià, 2019; Cangià et al., 2018; Cangià & Zittoun, 2018; Hercog & Sandoz, 2018b, 2018a; Lacroix & Zufferey, 2019; Sontag, 2018; Tissot, 2018; Toader & Dahinden, 2018; Wanner et al., 2016)
Culture & Psychology	5	(Cangià, 2020; Cangià & Zittoun, 2020; Marková et al., 2019; Zittoun, 2019, 2020)
Ethnic and Racial Studies	4	(Cangià, 2017; Dahinden, 2016, 2017; Dahinden et al., 2020)
International Migration	3	(Auer et al., 2017; Camenisch & Suter, 2019; Vidal Coso & Ortega-Rivera, 2017)

Regional Studies	3	(Bennour, 2020; Filindra & Manatschal, 2019; Piccoli, 2019b)
Ethnopolitics	3	(Arrighi, 2019; Arrighi & Stjepanović, 2019; Piccoli, 2019a)
International Migration Review	3	(Auer et al., 2019; Pecoraro & Ruedin, 2016; Zufferey et al., 2020)

In addition to the journals listed above, NCCR researchers have published in other interdisciplinary journals: examples include *Citizenship Studies* (Kristol & Dahinden, 2019) and *Journal of Borderlands Studies* (Borrelli, 2019).

With the start of Phase II NCCR researchers have also targeted important disciplinary journals. Examples of these publications for the last year, IR6, are provided below. Overall, the research conducted by members of the NCCR appears in some of the most important journals of economics, political science, psychology, public policy, and social anthropology. At the time of writing this report, there is relatively little exposure in geography, law and sociology journals, which may be linked to the fact that many of the geographers and sociologists have published their findings in interdisciplinary journals..

Discipline	Journal	Authors
Anthropology	<i>Social Anthropology</i>	(Kalir et al., 2019; Rosset & Achermann, 2019)
Economics and Statistics	<i>Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics</i>	(Slotwinski et al., 2019)
	<i>American Economic Review</i>	(Couttenier et al., 2019)
Political Science	<i>Comparative European Politics</i>	(Lavenex, 2019)
	<i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i>	(Lutz et al., 2019)
Public Administration and Policy	<i>Regulation &amp; Governance</i>	(Jurje & Lavenex, 2019)
	<i>Social Policy &amp; Administration</i>	(Auer & Fossati, 2020)
	<i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>	(Bonoli & Emmenegger, 2020)
	<i>Journal of European Social Policy</i>	(Bonoli et al., 2019)
	<i>International Journal of Social Welfare</i>	Bonoli and Wilson 2019
Psychology	<i>Journal of Experimental Social Psychology</i>	Borinca, Falomir-Pichastor, and Andrighetto 2019
	<i>Group Processes &amp; Intergroup Relations</i>	Visintin, Green, Falomir-Pichastor, and Berent 2019
	<i>Journal of Applied Social Psychology</i>	Visintin, Berent, Green, and Falomir-Pichastor 2019

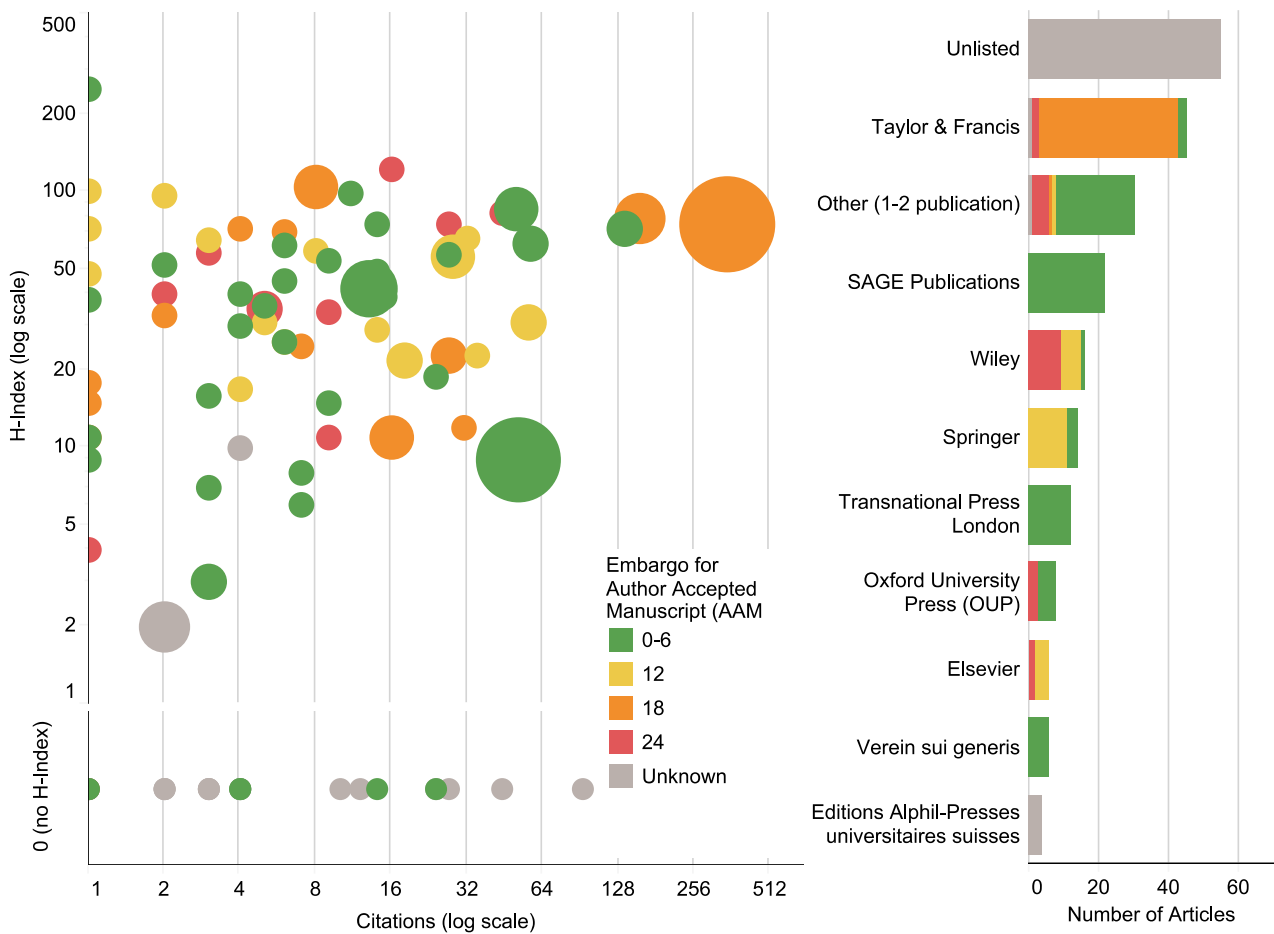
In this sense, we note that researchers of the NCCR are increasingly targeting journals with a broad international readership. We list below the journals with H-Index higher than 90 where NCCR research has

appeared since 2014. It is interesting to remark that all these publications have appeared after the beginning of Phase II.

Journal	Date of publication	Author
American Economic Review	2019	(Couttenier et al., 2019)
Journal of Public Economics	2018	(Schmidheiny & Slotwinski, 2018)
Regional Studies	2019, 2019, 2020	(Bennour, 2020; Filindra & Manatschal, 2019; Piccoli, 2019b)
Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology	2018	(Visintin et al., 2018)
Journal of Applied Social Psychology	2019	(Visintin et al., 2019)
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization	2018	(Ilić, 2018)

On average, there seems to be a correlation between the H-Index of the journal and the number of citations. However, there are a few exceptions to this: the following papers that have appeared in outlets that do not have an H-Index have received over 20 citations (Couttenier et al., 2016; Zittoun, 2016). We also note that publications that have no embargo, or an embargo period below 18 months, also tend to be cited more often.

Figure 3: Publications of NCCR researchers by H-Index, citations and embargo period (April 2020)



The articles that stand out for number of citations appear both on interdisciplinary and disciplinary outlets. The examples are the meta-analysis of studies on ethnic discrimination in the labor market by Zschirnt and Ruedin (2016, 187 citations), the plea for a de-ethnicization of research on migration by Dahinden (2016, 121 citations) and the analysis of how the length of time that refugees wait in limbo for a decision on their asylum claim, affects their subsequent economic integration by Hainmuller et al. (Hainmueller et al., 2016, 111 citations). More recent publications (e.g. Arrighi & Bauböck, 2017 Zittoun, 2017) are also picking up quickly in terms of citations (44 and 42, respectively).

## Authorship of NCCR Publications

### *Single-Authored texts*

Among the publications authored since 1 June 2018, 66 of 170 (about 39%) are single authored by one member of the NCCR network. About one third of these texts have been written by authors affiliated to Phase II projects (22); another third (22) by Phase I doctoral students and PostDocs summarizing their main findings from their research conducted in Phase I; and another third (22) by PostDocs. For many of the young scholars placing a single-authored article in journals is frequently a challenging and time-consuming endeavor, but it is for many an important milestone in their career.

### *Co-authored texts: internal and external co-authors*

It is common for NCCR researchers to publish collaborative work: more than half of the publications since 2014 (226, 54%) have more than one author (see also Figure 4). The figures are consistent for Phase II: more than half of the texts (104, 61%) published since 1 June 2018 have been co-authored by members of the NCCR network and internal or external collaborators. In most cases, the co-authors are members of the same IP. In about one third of the publications (57, 33%) released since 1 June 2018, external collaborators were involved as co-authors. In the case of the PostDocs the co-authors frequently are collaborators they worked with in former research projects, but we also find co-authorship with NCCR Visiting Fellows among the “external collaborators” (e.g. Moret et al., 2019). This is one indication that the NCCR visiting fellowship scheme is proving helpful in fostering international scientific collaborations.

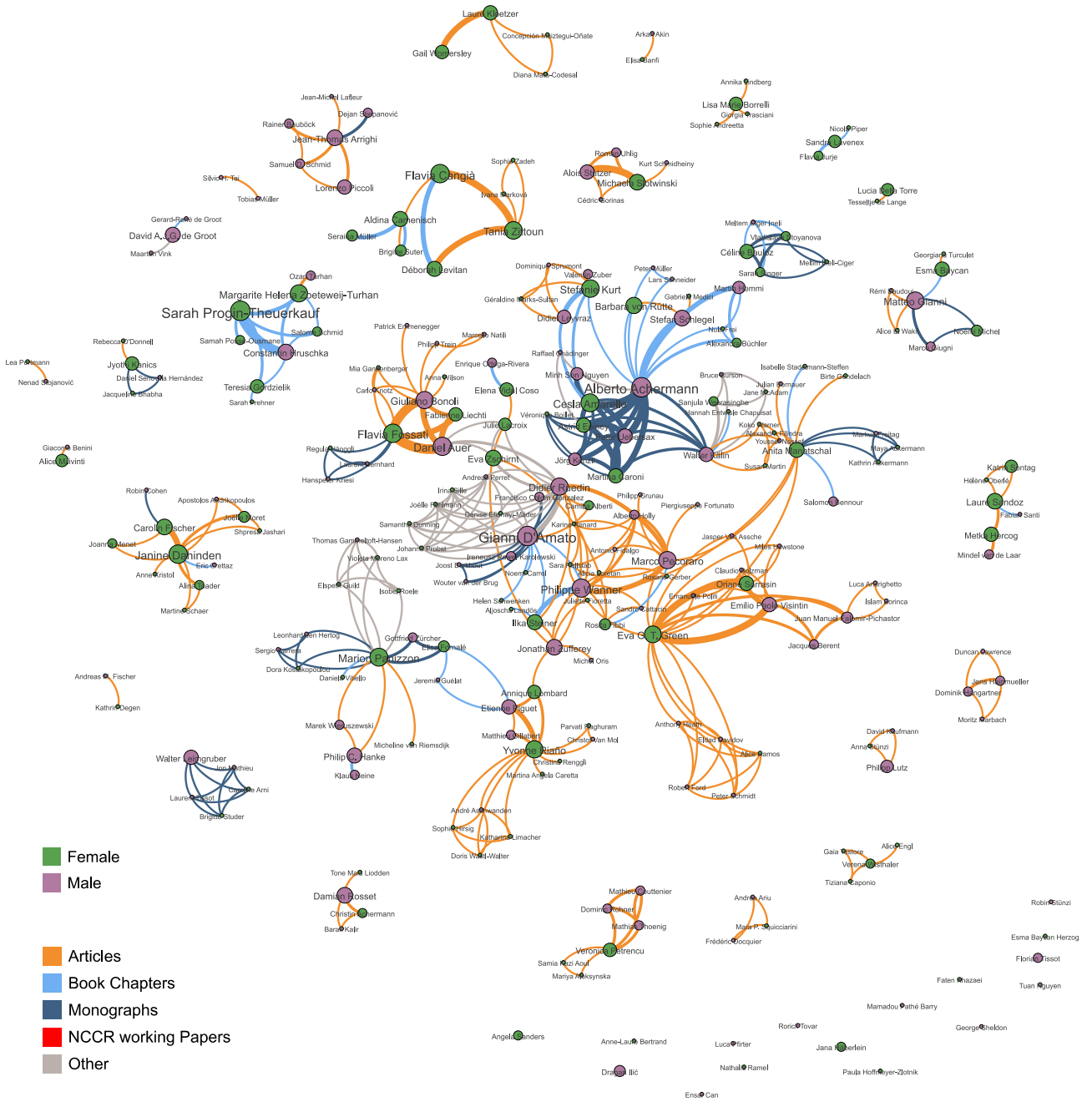
## Collaborative Work in the nccr – on the move

Co-authored pieces are often published by authors in the same IP located within the same academic institution but with different disciplinary backgrounds. In total, only 24 collaborative pieces with members from different NCCR IPs have been published in the framework of the nccr – on the move (approx. 5%): eleven of these were published in Phase I, before 31 May 2018, while thirteen have appeared in years 5 and 6. Some of the products of Inter-IP collaborative work (e.g. discrimination in the housing market, migration policies in federal Switzerland, borders, boundaries, and administrative discretion) have been submitted but not yet published in a journal.

The relatively small percentage of collaborative publications in the NCCR network hints at the difficulties of this type of academic publishing, which is relatively time-consuming and enjoys little prestige in many academic traditions and in the evaluation of young scholars' publication record. Moreover, the move towards interdisciplinarity at the level of the IP leadership in Phase II has created an incentive to engage in

interdisciplinary work at the level of the projects instead of the NCCR or the modules. Notwithstanding these difficulties, a number of collaborative publications with members of different NCCR projects were launched in the last years, with most of them involving researchers from the same or a related methodological tradition. An overview of the network of authors can be found below.

Figure 4: Network of the NCCR publications by authors (April 2020)

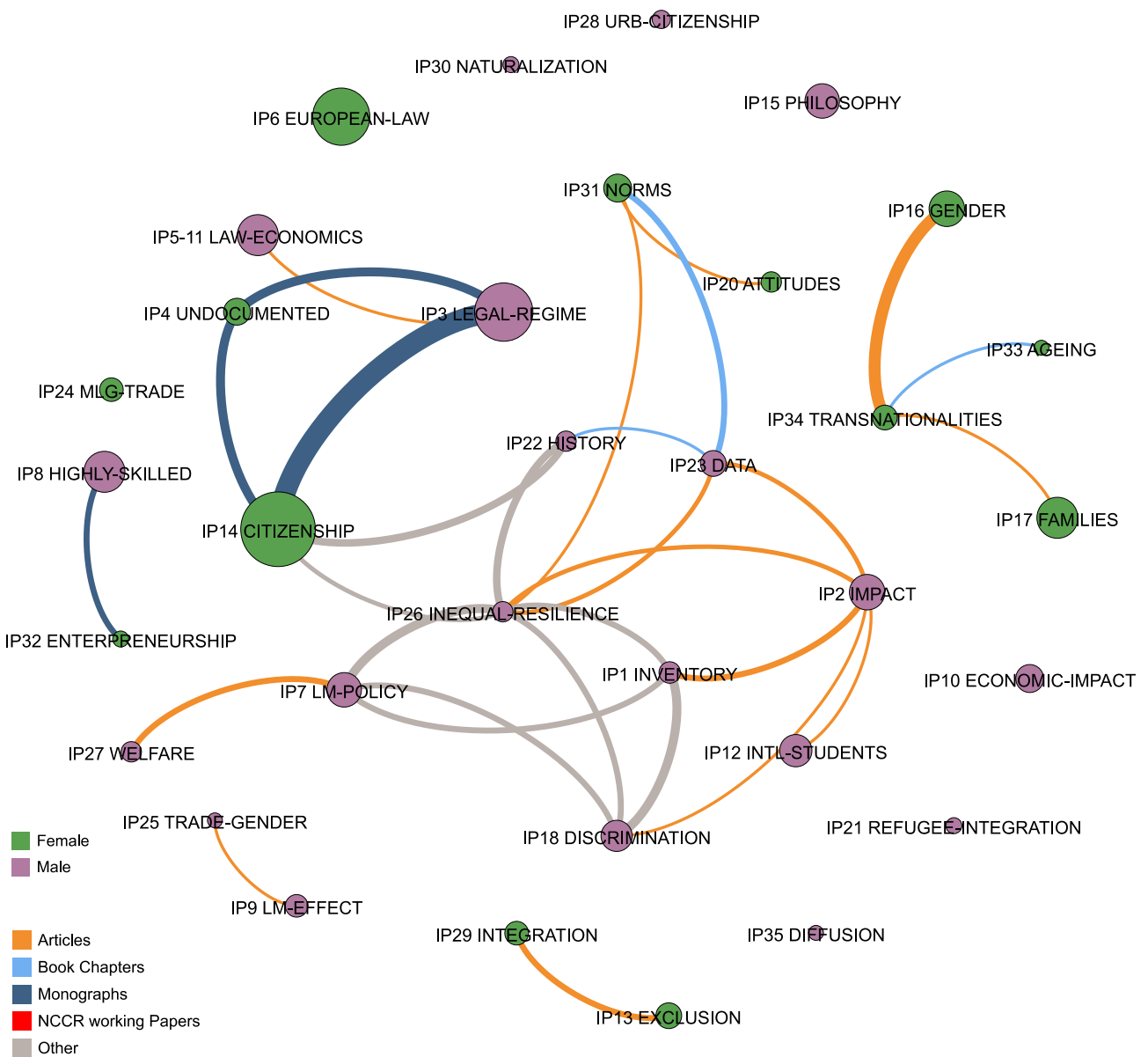


In Phase I, one of the major collaborative endeavors that the NCCR helped to realize was the *Jahrbuch Migrationsrecht/Annuaire du droit de la migration*, which involved legal scholars from the NCCR law teams



(A. Achermann, M. Caroni, S. Progin-Theuerkauf) on a yearly basis. With all of these teams having left the NCCR in Phase II, this collaborative project will not continue in Phase II. The second major collaborative project was the edited book analyzing the results of the first wave of the Migration-Mobility Survey entitled *Migrants and Expats: The Swiss Migration and Mobility Nexus*, edited by P. Wanner and I. Steiner. This project involved 15 NCCR researchers, and some of the individual chapters were authored by members of different IPs (e.g. Auer & Ruedin, 2019; Crettaz & Dahinden, 2019; D’Amato et al., 2019; Pecoraro & Wanner, 2019). The realization of the book laid the ground for further research initiatives, such as the co-funded project on Discrimination in the Housing Market (D. Ruedin, D. Auer, E. Zschirnt, J. Lacroix).

Figure 5: Network of the NCCR publications by IP (April 2020)



At the IP level, the members of the demographic project, conducted by P. Wanner at the University of Geneva (IP1\_INVENTORY, IP2\_IMPACT, II\_IP23\_DATA), have been involved in different collaborative endeavors involving other team members at the University of Geneva and researchers at the University of Neuchâtel (M. Pecoraro, D. Ruedin, A. Manatschal, L. Ravazzini, A. Lombard). A highlight in this regard is the recent article on the different kinds of contemporary migration trajectories in *International Migration Review*, which relies on the Longitudinal Data Set (Zufferey et al., 2020). Members of II\_IP23\_DATA continue to work together with other IPs, with joint publications scheduled on the Longitudinal Data Set, the Migration-Mobility Survey and the Transnational Ageing Survey.

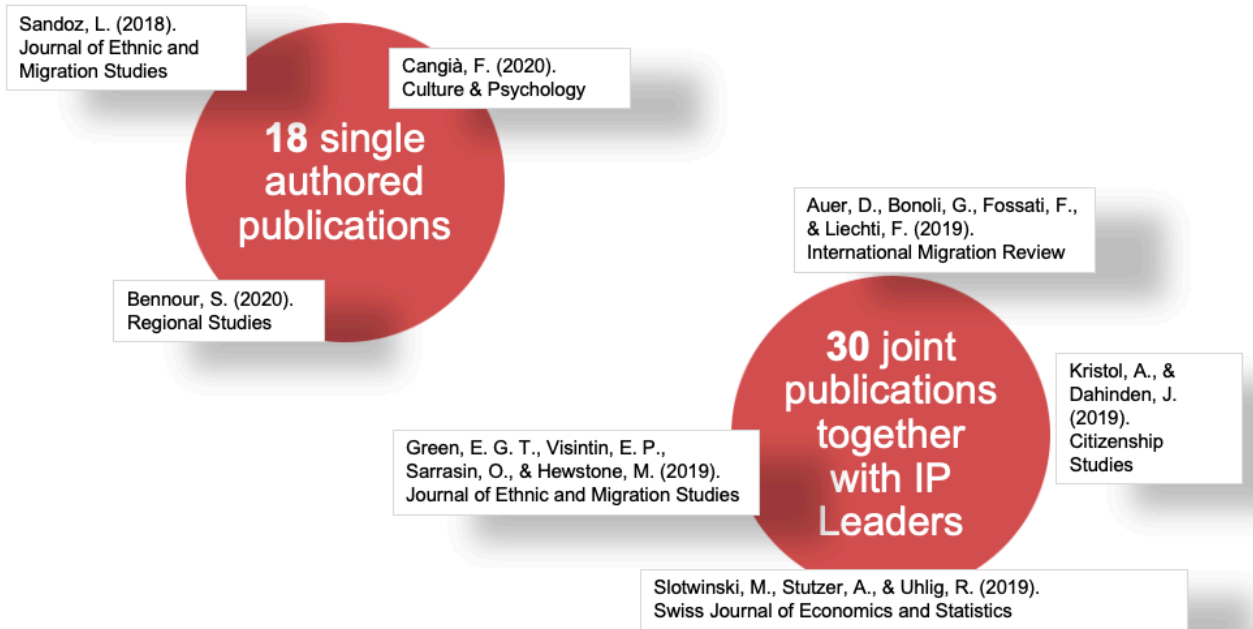
Another cluster of research has developed around researchers at University of Neuchâtel (D. Ruedin), University of Lausanne (F. Fossati, G. Bonoli) and international partners (D. Auer, E. Zschirnt) working on questions of ethnic discrimination in Switzerland and other European countries with a focus on the use of experimental methods. In this vein, the members of module I are conducting a joint survey experiment, the results of which should be published in an article in *International Migration Review*. Researchers in module II are also using experimental methods, which is why a workshop on the use of experimental methods has been convened with members of module I (D. Ruedin and F. Fossati) and module II (D. Hangartner, E. Green, A. Manatschal) in January 2021 at the University of Lausanne (rescheduled from June 2020).

A collaborative axis is also emerging around mobility issues. The analysis of migrant transnationality based on the Migration-Mobility Survey by E. Crettaz and J. Dahinden (2019) is one first illustrations of this collaboration. It should find continuation in the Special Issue that the members of module III are currently working on and in the collaborative projects on “reflexive approaches”, which may eventually lead to joint publication projects, such as the Special Issue on Borders, which will be published on Migration Letters in June 2020 (edited C. Achermann, J. Dahinden, C. Fischer).

## Young researchers

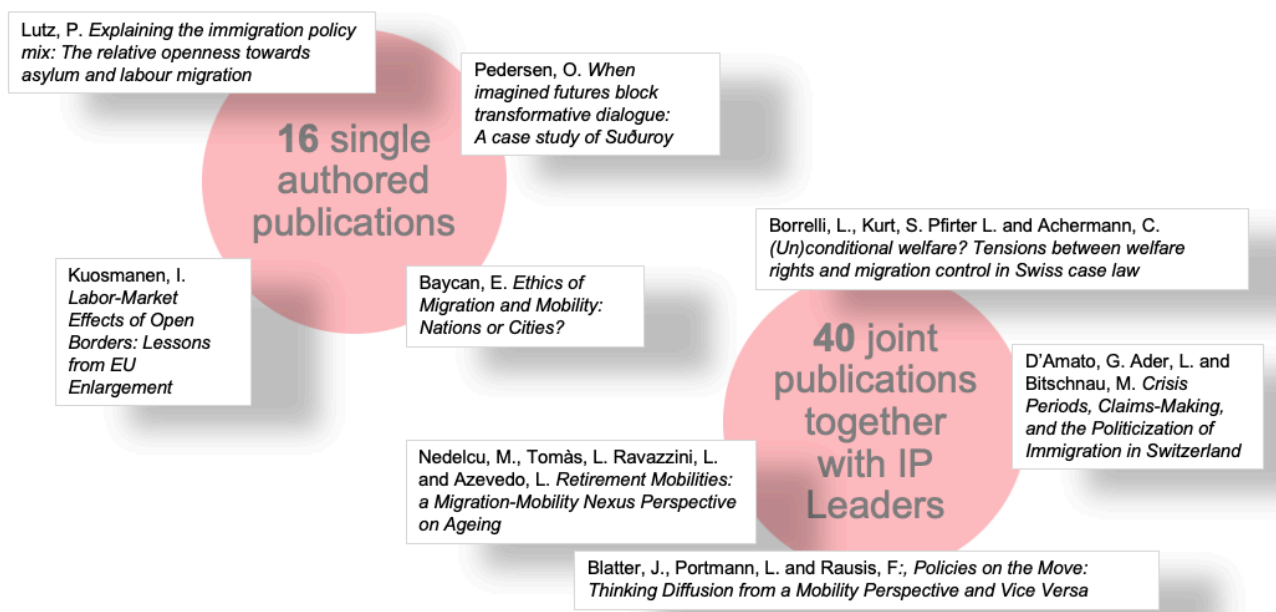
PostDocs of Phase II have authored roughly half of the publications since June 2018 (37, or 52%). Phase II doctoral students have so far authored 19 publications (27%). In the figure below we provide a snapshot of the single authored publications of young researchers of Phase II and of the publications realized together with Project Leaders.

Figure 6: Overview of the publications by doctoral students and PostDocs researchers (April 2020)



It would be unrealistic to expect current doctoral students to publish proficiently already during the second year of the doctorate. We believe that for this aspect it is more important to monitor the work that Project Leaders are currently conducting together with their doctoral students, instead of counting finished publications. This is the reason why in the figure below we provide an estimation of the planned publications.

Figure 7: Overview of the planned publications by doctoral students and PostDocs (April 2020)



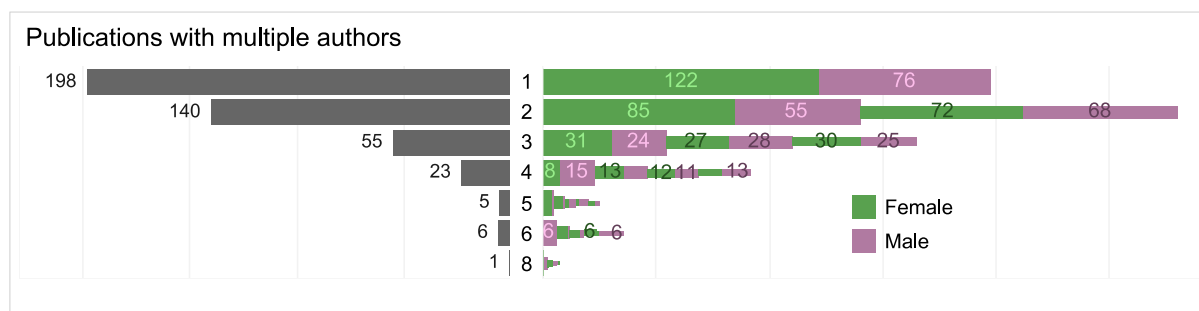
To give an idea of the prominence of publications authored by young scholars, we should also consider the publications authored by Phase I doctoral students in years 5 and 6. In the last two years of Phase I, in particular, the doctoral students authored 42 of 100 texts (42%), 36 of which are peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Since many of the Phase I doctoral students completed their doctoral thesis by articles between 1 June 2018 and 31 May 2020, the last two years represented the period in which most of the publications related to the doctorate actually appeared. With this experience in mind, we would expect the publications of the doctoral students to rise in the coming three years.

The PostDocs have overall played a very important role in boosting the NCCR's publications. PostDocs were involved in half of the 100 Phase I publications issued between 1 June and now, which shows that the late stage of the PostDoc is a particularly productive one. The fact that we were able to prolong a number of Phase I PostDoc contracts in year 5, beyond the formal end of phase I, was surely helpful in ensuring that a maximum amount of Phase I findings remained linked to the NCCR.

## Female scholars

Women have figured prominently in the publications released by the NCCR since the beginning of Phase I. Of the roughly 200 single authored publications that have appeared since the start of the NCCR, 122 have been realized by female researchers. Female researchers feature as the first author in about 55 % of all co-authored publications (122 out of 226).

Figure 8: Publications with multiple NCCR researchers by number of authors and gender (April 2020)



In years 5 and 6, 70% of the publications (122 of 170) were authored by one or more female researcher. The high percentage of publications issued by female authors among the NCCR publications mirrors the dominance of women working on the NCCR projects at the PostDoc and doctoral level with on average almost two thirds of the NCCR fellows being female. At the level of the NCCR Project Leaders, there have always been more men than women, with the share of women fluctuating between 35 and 40%.

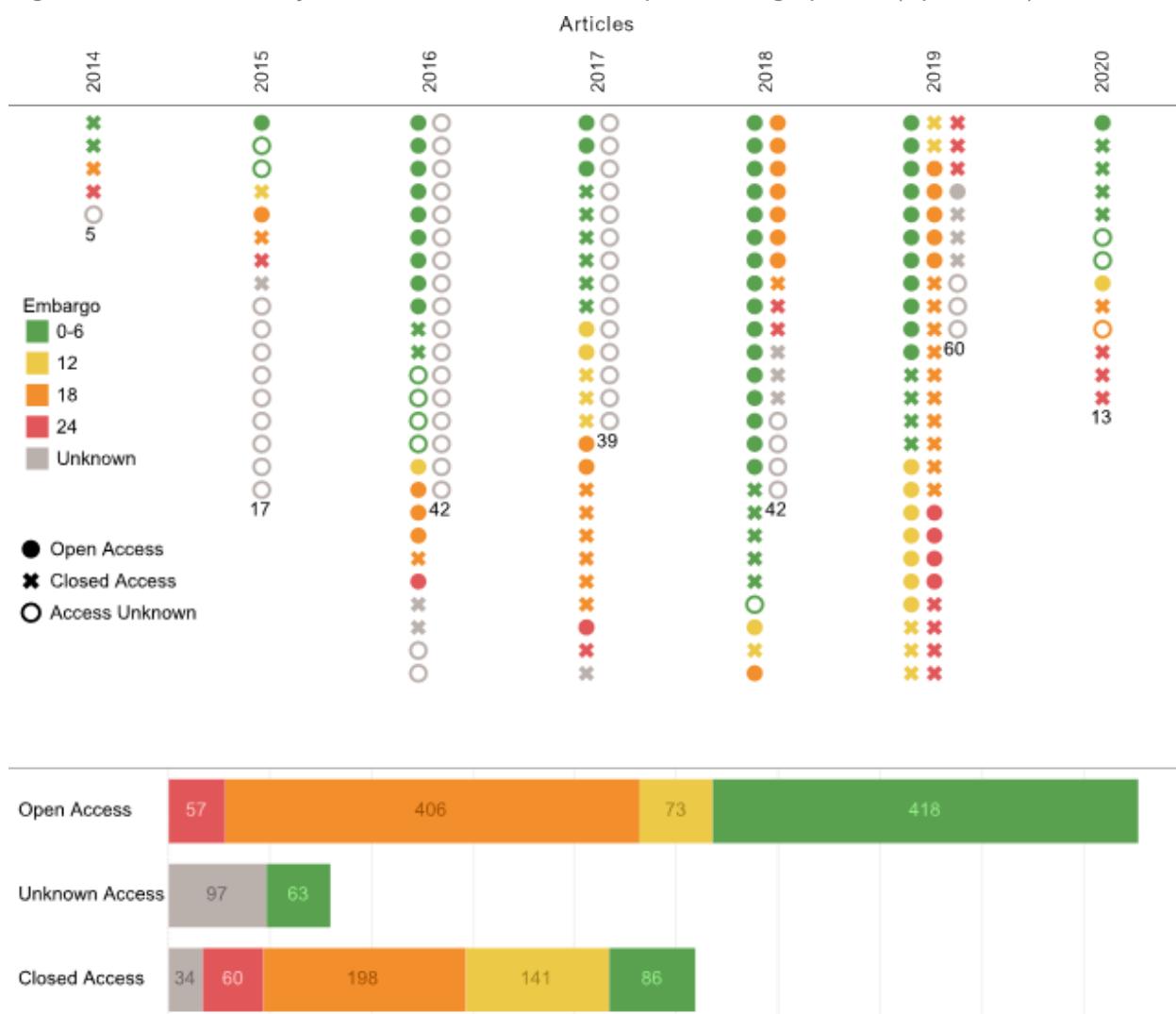
A closer look at authorship indicates that about 60% of single authored publications have been released by female scholars, who feature as first author in about half of all co-authored publications (52 out of 103). Furthermore, 48 publications (28%) were authored by female and male authors jointly. Among those, a majority of men feature as first authors (60%).

To sum up, the majority of publications – and many of the most cited articles of the NCCR – are realized by female researchers. The prevalence of women in the publications reflects the high share of women working within the NCCR. Yet, women feature less prominently as first authors in female-male joint publications.

### Other remarks

The move towards journals with a high H-Index has led to a growth in the number of publications with an embargo period of more than six months. However, NCCR researchers continue to publish working papers, as well as articles in open access journals and in journals with an embargo period shorter than six months. On average, the number of citations in journals with low embargo periods tends to be higher for these outlets than it is for journals with closed access.

Figure 9: Publications by NCCR scholars over time, per embargo period (April 2020)



## Main challenges ahead

Looking at the publications overall, we conclude that there is a trade-off between high impact disciplinary work and collaborative publications of members in the network. Academic collaborations leading to joint publications are relatively rare, in particular across methodological traditions. This may be a consequence of this type of publications enjoying little prestige and not being highly evaluated in the career progression of young scholars. This trade-off is one of the key contradictions enshrined in the objectives set for the NCCRs, which should encourage both disciplinary excellence and interdisciplinary innovation among its members. We try to encourage members to do both: we offer funds to pursue disciplinary and interdisciplinary research in the individual projects and we encourage joint publications through thematic workshops and collaborative research initiatives. We note that these initiatives facilitate the dialogue both within and across IPs. While these exchanges do not automatically translate into collaborative publications, they inform and expand the scope of many of the articles that are being produced in Phase II.

In terms of publication outlets, since 2018 the members of the nccr – on the move have started to prioritize publication in international peer-reviewed journals. This resulted in a number of articles appearing in interdisciplinary migration journals, such as JEMS, Migration Letters, Migration Studies, and International Migration Review. The NCCR members have also become increasingly visible in disciplinary journals in psychology, political economy, and political science. For the time being, NCCR researchers remain less internationally visible in mobility journals, as well as in law, geography and sociology journals. This may be due to the fact that some of these disciplines are less represented in the NCCR.

There is no doubt that publications are important for the career progression of the PostDocs and doctoral students working in the NCCR setting, but since getting one's work published is a challenging and time-consuming undertaking, this is an area in which constant efforts are required. Presentations of academic papers in a "friendly environment" at NCCR Research Days, the prior publication of the results in an NCCR Working Paper and offering targeted training sessions (e.g. on giving and receiving feedback) for junior fellows are the type of support measures the NCCR can offer in overcoming these challenges. The more specific guidance on where to publish, on the other hand, has to come from the senior members of the network that have a broad experience in this realm. The publication plans presented by the Project Leaders in the posters and the intermediate report, as well as the numbers presented for the last two years of phase I, show that they take this "mentoring role" seriously.

The changing requirements of funding bodies (chiefly the SNSF) to publish one's results in open access outlets are beginning to influence how and where scholars publish their work. Since these changes are ongoing, it is too early to make statements on how exactly this change in the academic publishing culture has affected the output of the nccr – on the move. Having said this, our aggregate numbers on citations by embargo period indicate that open access is favorable for the number of citations, which may eventually support the shift towards open access outlets or journals with low embargo periods.

One final observation concerns the lengthy peer-review processes in the social sciences, which inevitably lead to a publication lag. This publication lag makes it difficult to conduct such a publication review exercise, as the observations will always be based on the publication record of the past and remain weak on the prediction side. The projection based on the overview of the articles published by NCCR researchers by number, H-index and number of citations in April 2020 is the only tool at our disposal to estimate the future impact of the nccr – on the move's work, which leads us to the optimistic overall conclusion that the NCCR is on track in view of reaching its key objective of increasing "international visibility" through high-quality publications.

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