



Public Lecture

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Thursday, 4 March 2021

**Onward Migration and Multi-Sited Transnationalism:
What Are the Interconnections?**

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Jill Ahrens, University of Sussex

Discussant: Laure Sandoz, University of Neuchâtel

18:15 – 19:45 h

The Public Lecture will be held online on Webex and streamed on the nccr – on the move YouTube channel

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Abstract

Onward migration is receiving increasing scholarly attention, but so far, we know little about the transnational ties and practices of this particular migrant group. In this lecture, I, therefore, set out to examine how onward migration and migrant transnationalism are interconnected. For this purpose, I draw insights from two different studies I conducted, one with Nigerian onward migrants in Europe, and another with students at international branch campuses in Dubai as well as other published research on onward migration. First, I introduce the term 'multi-sited transnationalism' with the specific aim of broadening the analysis of migrant transnationalism beyond its common bipolar framing; restricted to the origin country and one destination country. Second, I examine how transnational ties and mobilities can shape onward migration intentions and experiences. For instance, short visits to new destinations can enable individuals to better prepare for onward migration. Finally, I explore how different types of onward migration may result in varying forms and directions of transnationalism. Onward migrants, for example, may not only stay in touch with friends and relatives in their origin country but also maintain transnational ties with individuals in a previous country of residence or other destinations. Thereby I draw attention to the role of onward migration in shaping global mobility.

Curriculum Vitae

Jill Ahrens is a Research Associate at the Sussex Centre for Migration Research (SCMR) at the University of Sussex. She recently completed a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Utrecht University focusing on the mobilities of students and staff at international branch campuses in the United Arab Emirates. She holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Sussex, for which she conducted research with Nigerian onward migrants in Germany, the UK and Spain. Prior to that, she worked as a researcher at the University of Sussex on two projects related to international student mobility, as well as the Migrations between Africa and Europe (MAFE) longitudinal survey. She also has held visiting appointments at universities in Germany, Norway, Portugal and the United Arab Emirates. Her broad research interests include youth, skills and employment; the interactions between integration and transnationalism; migration and development; and onward migration.

Selected Publications

- Ahrens, Jill, and Russell King. R. (eds), (accepted book proposal). *Onward Migration and Multi-sited Transnationalism*. IMISCOE Research Series, Springer.
- Ahrens, Jill, Melissa Kelly and Ilse van Liempt (2016). Free Movement? The Onward Migration of EU Citizens Born in Somalia, Iran and Nigeria, *Population, Space and Place* 22(1), 84–98.
- Ahrens, Jill (2013). Suspended in Eurocrisis: New Immobilities and Semi-Legal Migrations Amongst Nigerians Living in Spain, *Journal of Mediterranean Studies* 22(1), 115–140.