



Round Table at the Neuchâtel Graduate Conference

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Wednesday, 12 July 2023

Migration Governance in Times of Entangled Crises: Lessons from Brazil and South Africa

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Leiza Brumat (Eurac Research, Bolzano)

Paulo Sérgio Almeida (UNHCR Brazil)

Lily Sanya (IOM South Africa)

Nene Ernest Khalema (School of Built Environment and Development Studies, University of Kwazulu-Natal)

Moderation: Anouk Jasmine Albien, University of Lausanne

11:30 – 13:00 h

This panel will be held in person at the University of Neuchâtel, Avenue du 1er-Mars 26, Room C46, on WEBEX ([link](#)), as well as live-streamed on the nccr – on the move YouTube channel ([link](#)).

Abstract

When one speaks of migration, particularly after the so-called ‘refugee crisis’ in 2015, the emphasis, both in the international political agenda and specialized literature, tends to be on the impact refugees and migrants have on European and North American states. This focus, along with the under-theorizing of mobility practices in the Global South, creates a false, Western-centric narrative of the burdened North, although most global cross-border mobility does not primarily involve the liberal democracies of the Global North.

Countering this trend of a hyper-focus on the Global North, our expert roundtable brings together practitioners and scholars of migration governance in Brazil and South Africa, two key migrant-receiving countries in their respective regions and beyond. The roundtable will discuss the challenges posed by country-specific combinations of entangled crises to migration governance, as well as policy shortcomings and successes, and the lessons that can be drawn from these two countries at regional and global scales.

About the Speakers

Leiza Brumat is a Senior Researcher at Eurac Research in Bolzano. Her main areas of research are multilevel migration governance and regionalism with a particular focus on South America. Leiza Brumat was a Research Fellow at the Migration Policy Centre of the European University Institute, where she worked on EU-funded projects on migration and asylum governance at the regional, national and global levels. At Eurac, she is now working on her project ‘Policy Implementation in Global South Regionalism: Multilevel Migration Governance in South America (POLIM)’, focusing on the implementation of policies that liberalise the movement of persons in two large federal states, Argentina and Brazil.

Paulo Sérgio de Almeida has been working as UNHCR Officer for Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion in Brazil since 2017, after ten years as Head of the National Council of Immigration (CNIg), the entity responsible for coordinating the Brazilian migration policy as a whole. In this capacity, he was involved in the implementation of major policies, as well as in the adoption of the present Migration Law. Moreover, Paulo Sérgio de Almeida had an active role in the development of the current humanitarian visa policy, rooted in the provision of a special humanitarian visa to Haitians.

Lily Sanya took up her appointment as the IOM Chief of Mission in South Africa in January 2019. Prior to this, she was Chief of Mission to Zimbabwe from March 2016 to January 2019. Lily Sanya has worked with IOM for the past 22 years in several operations in sub-Saharan Africa and in Central Asia. In July 2004, she temporarily served as a Regional Trainer for the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). She also served as an Electoral Support for the IOM’s Out of Country Voting Process for Iraq in Syria and the UN Assistance Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for the Liberian elections.

Ernest Nene Khalema is the Dean and Head of School of Built Environment and Development Studies, University of Kwazulu-Natal. He was Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Calgary (2007-2011), and a Lecturer in several Canadian universities since 2001. Ernest Nene Khalema also served as Adjunct Professor of Public Health from 2012 to 2017 at the University of Alberta’s Centre for Health Promotion Studies, specialising in African migrant epidemiology, health equity for vulnerable populations, and chronic disease prevention. He has led and co-led numerous national and international research projects tackling interventionist work for community empowerment/engagement; the demography of global migrations and its consequences; and the social epidemiology of vulnerable populations.