

**nccr** →  
**on the move**



Swiss Forum for Migration  
and Population Studies

**unine**  
Université de Neuchâtel

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

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

**Workshop**

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**(Re)searching for a Nexus:  
Contemporary Youth between Mobility  
and Migration**

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**23 – 24 May 2024**

**University of Neuchâtel**

Please register through [this link](#) no later than **22 May 2024**.

 **Swiss National  
Science Foundation**

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are a funding scheme of the Swiss National Science Foundation

## (Re)searching for a Nexus: Contemporary Youth between Mobility and Migration

Thursday, 23 May 2024 – Friday, 24 May 2024

### Location

The workshop will be held at the University of Neuchâtel, Av. 1er Mars 26, Room B41, and on Webex ([link](#)).

### Workshop Description

We all move by different means and for various reasons, this assumption is central in contemporary times and those means and reasons often mark the difference between migration and mobility. But is this line always so easy to draw? The nccr – on the move aims to investigate precisely this nexus by seeking to bring into dialogue two areas of the human sciences that are often considered as separate but which must be held together in order to understand the dynamics of human movement and what they entails on an individual, social, and political level.

The seminar/workshop we are proposing fits into this perspective by choosing an angle of analysis where this comparison between migration and mobility makes particular sense nowadays in literature and society: Youth Studies field. Mobility has, in fact, entered in youth studies by right following the growing popularity of exchange programmes (for working or studying) and the ease with which borders are crossed, especially at the European level (Cairns 2015, 2018; Cuzzocrea 2020, 2022; Murphy-Lejeune 2002), which are defined within an institutional framework related to the functioning of the EU and the countries participating to these programmes. Overall, the topic of youth mobility is a catalyst for more comprehensive reflections on the reasons and causes of this phenomenon, calling into question the nexus between mobility and migration.

For which purposes do young people move between European countries? By what means and for how long? What are the eventual obstacles that prevent them to embark on such moves whenever they would be happy to leave? Here can we draw the line between a multicultural experience abroad limited in time and related to the sphere of education and entertainment and the need for a young Italian, Spanish or Greek person to leave in search of working conditions more akin to his/her values and appropriate to his/her training? When it is a matter of mobility and when is migration more likely to be the 'final' outcome?

These are questions that the field of Youth Studies has started focusing on, as evidenced by the contributions contained in the recent publication *The Palgrave Handbook of Youth Mobility and Educational Migration* (Cairns, eds. 2022), where the terms migration and mobility appear together in the title, as proof of the progressive rapprochement of the two research sectors. There is therefore a need in Youth Studies to define a new

paradigm in mobility studies that rejects the categorisation between mobility and migration and is able to bring together old knowledge on the latter, new developments in student mobility systems and the increasingly frequent need among young people to move abroad to find work opportunities. Such a paradigm would start from the traditional view of migration studies, i.e. the fact that people move to escape a difficult economic situation in their country of origin, but at the same time it should consider the richness and fascination of internationalisation in contemporary experiences of youth mobility.

This seminar/workshop aims to investigate the link between migration and mobility through the perspective of youth studies in order to reflect on the means and reasons why young people move around Europe, means and reasons that transform the biographical experience of a generation that is used to hearing about crises in relation to migration and opportunities in relation to mobility, but whose division cannot be so clear-cut as to ignore the grey spaces where these two areas meet, thus producing new social dynamics that it is important to account for.

### Registration

Please register through [this link](#) no later than 22 May 2024.

## Thursday, 23 May 2024

- 14:00 - 14:45 **Life Trajectories of Young Migrants: The Role of Local Systems of Public Action in Enacting One's Agency**  
Guillaume Negri, Université de Rennes 2/EUR CAPS - Arènes
- 14:45 – 15:00 Coffee break
- 15:00 – 15:45 **Exploring The Factors That Drive "the Social Ladder" the Role Of Objective And Subjective Social Status Among Young People In Switzerland**  
Vanessa Juarez, University of Lausanne
- 15:45 - 16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00 - 16:45 **Perceptions of and Attitudes Towards Naturalisation Among Young (intra)EU Migrants**  
Iraklis Dimitriadis, Scuola Normale Superiore
- 17:30 – 19:00 **Public Lecture Moving from Youth Migration to Mobility: Spatial Distinction and the Evolution of the Mobilities/Transitions Nexus**  
David Cairns, ISCTE-University Institute of Lisbon
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## Friday, 24 May 2024

- 10:00 – 13:00 **Exploring the Perks and Drawbacks of Academic Mobility through Forum Theater**  
Workshop  
Doris Niragire Nirere, University of Neuchâtel
- 13:00 - 14:30 Lunch break
- 14:30 - 15:15 **Looking for the Nexus between Mobility and Migration: Young People Moving in Europe**  
Alessandra Polidori, University of Neuchâtel
- 15:15 - 15:30 Coffee break
- 15:30 – 16:15 **Intra-European Mobility of Young Spaniards: Return Analysis**  
Beatriz González Martín, University of Almería (Spain)
- 17:00 – 18:30 **Public Lecture 'Like Swimming in a Swimming Pool': The Temporal Complexity Of Mobility in a Multilayered Approach**  
Valentina Cuzzocrea, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Cagliari