

# The Impact of Crises on the Global Governance of Migration: Boost or Blow

## Research Questions

- Which international institutions are empowered/weakened in dealing with migration cooperation in times of crisis?
- Do the policies adopted advance or disrupt hierarchies within long-standing goals, principles, legal rules and standards of the MMN?
- How do stakeholders govern through crisis narratives in international migration fora, and under which conditions do these narratives advance/disrupt cooperation? How does this differ across countries (developed/ developing) and institutional settings?

## Contributions to NCCR



Covering 60 years, compiling a unique dataset of IO documents documenting 'crises' and observing Global South and North settings, the IP is the first systematic and theory-driven attempt to study the role of crisis narratives in key IOs and to explore how these narratives affect the hierarchy of categories in the Migration-Mobility Nexus in international migration governance.

## First Results

**I. UNHCR governance through crisis narratives** is strongest between 1985-1990 and centers on UNHCR funding. We identify two crises discourses engendering institutional change: First, that UNHCR was not efficiently managing its finances and projects, resulting in increased Member State oversight. Second, that UNHCR was not adequately responding to increased migration to Western Europe, leading to the creation of new regional organizations and a fragmentation of the migration regime.

### II. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

The narratives produced by the so-called "migration crisis" of 2015 contributed to the establishment of the UN's GCM which tries to balance migrant protection and state sovereignty. In a *forthcoming Oxford Handbook*, Editor V. Chetail provides a commentary on the GCM's objectives and identifies ways forward to improve the Compact's implementation in compliance with international law and migrants' human rights.

## Planned Outputs

- Database of IO documents on crises and related organisational change
- Frame analysis: historical systematic analysis of crisis framing in the UNHCR, IOM and ILO
- Elite survey: global north/global south perspectives on international cooperation on migration in International Organizations
- Analysis of policy change in selected IOs
- Analysis of authority change in selected IOs

### Associated Ambizione Project

#### The Politics of European Burden-Sharing

### I. Burden-Sharing Index

- 31 European Countries
- 1990-2020
- Large N-policy analysis

### II. Domestic political processes

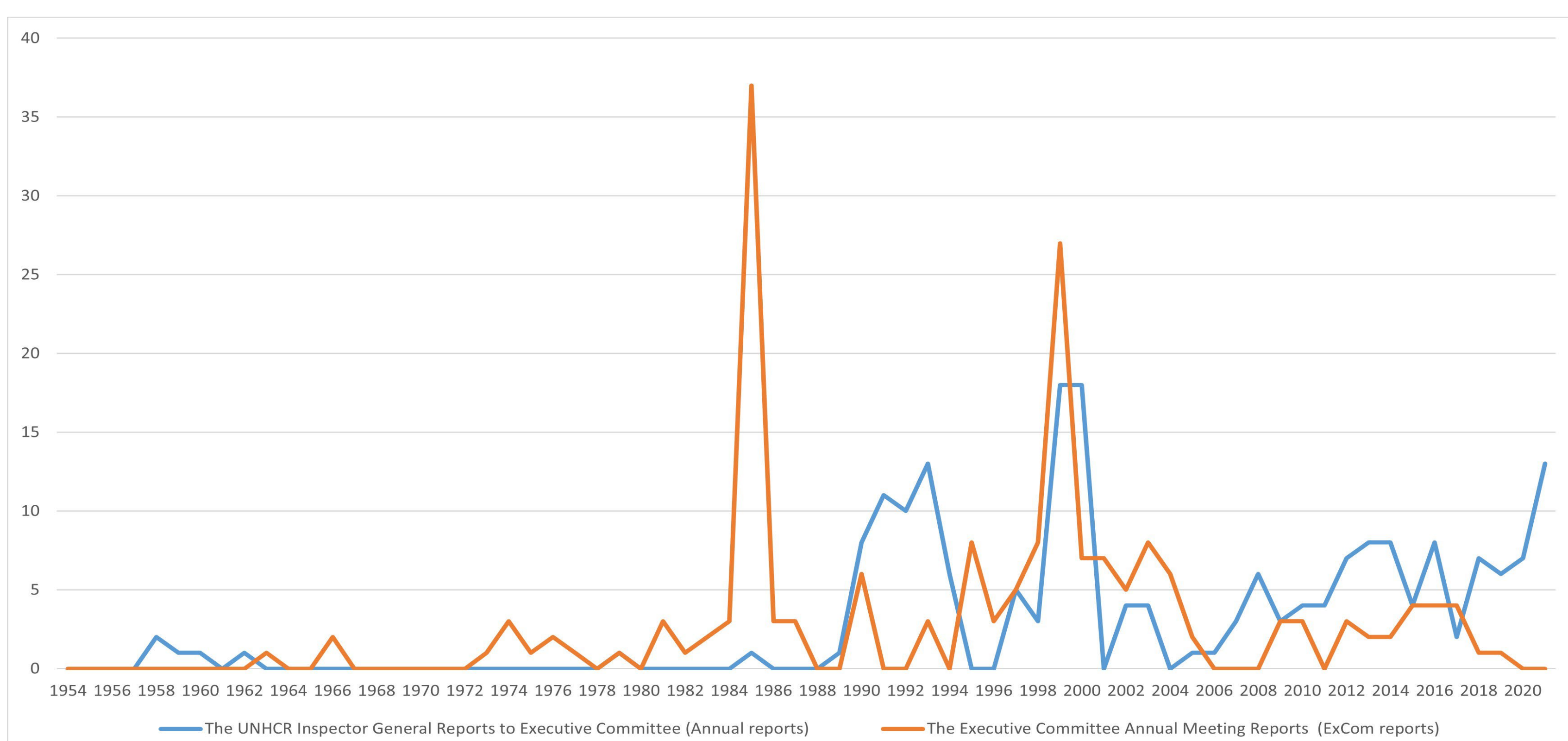
- comparative case studies: legislative debates; claim analysis; citizen preferences; survey experiments

## Project Team

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### Associated researchers:

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Number of references to "crisis" and "crises" 1958-2021 in UNHCR annual reports

## Publications

- Chetail (2021) L'instrumentalisation des migrations et la tentation de l'état d'urgence permanent: le droit européen d'asile en question. *AFDI*, 67.
- Chetail (2023) The politics of soft law: progress and pitfall of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*, 5.
- Lavenex (2024) The international refugee regime and the liberal international order: dialectics of contestation. *Global Studies Quarterly*. In press.
- Rausis (2023) Restrictive North versus Permissive South? Revisiting Dominant Narratives on the Evolution of the Refugee Regime. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*. Online first.
- Rausis (2024) Policy Diffusion across Political Ideologies: Explaining Denmark's Desire to Externalize Asylum. *West European Politics*. Forthcoming.
- Vaagland (2024) How 'going online' mediates the challenges of policy elite interviews. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 11, 431.