



Roundtable and Workshop at the Neuchâtel Graduate Conference

Tuesday, 8 July 2025

Migration Research, Digital Media, and Journalism: Rethinking Pathways of Collaboration in Times of (Mis)Representations

11:45 – 13:30

This roundtable and workshop will be held in person at the University of Neuchâtel, [Avenue du 1er-Mars 26](#), Room C49. Both the roundtable and workshop have a limited capacity of 30 participants, who will be accepted on a first served basis by way of the conference registration form. The first 30 participants will be asked to complete an additional questionnaire.

Roundtable with:

Elodie Feijoo, Responsible for the Comptoir des médias at asile.ch, Switzerland

Saeed Husain, Visiting Faculty at the Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan

Saara Pellander, Director of the Migration Institute of Finland

Nicole Vögele, Filmmaker, investigative journalist and Professor of Moving Image at the Dresden University of Fine Arts (HfBK Dresden)

Samson Yemane, Vice-President of the Federal Commission against Racism, Co-President of the Eritreischer Medienbund EMBS, member of the Swiss Refugee Council OSAR and the Protestant Social Center CSP Vaud

Workshop with:

Elodie Feijoo, Responsible for the Comptoir des médias at asile.ch, Switzerland

Saara Pellander, Director of the Migration Institute of Finland

Inka Sayed, Communication Officer, nccr – on the move

Nicole Vögele, Filmmaker, investigative journalist and Professor of Moving Image at the Dresden University of Fine Arts (HfBK Dresden)

Samson Yemane, Vice-President of the Federal Commission against Racism, Co-President of the Eritreischer Medienbund EMBS, member of the Swiss Refugee Council OSAR and the Protestant Social Center CSP Vaud

Description

In the current Western media landscape, anti-migrant rhetoric increasingly echoes discourses of siege and threat rooted in emotions and fear (Hage 2016). While critical migration scholarship offers powerful tools to dismantle the myths, biases, and colonial tropes that frame immigration as a danger, a disconnect remains between academic insights and mainstream media or journalistic (mis)representations.

How can we critically conceive the relationships between academia, digital media, and journalism in the ongoing politicisation, securitisation and polarisation of the public discourse about migration? What roles do scholars, media creators and journalists play in shaping public imaginaries of migration, and how might these roles conflict or align? As young migration scholars, how can we engage meaningfully with media producers and journalists, both to share accurate, empirically and theoretically grounded information and to respond to queries about current migration issues? How can we both position ourselves as spokespersons on migration issues and work to expand the space for dialogue, fostering connections with diasporas so that individuals with lived experience can also speak for themselves?

In this Neuchâtel Graduate Conference side event, we suggest digging into these questions with a roundtable discussion. During the discussion, participants will share their experiences in the field of academic-media-journalist collaborations and present what worked, and what did not work so well.

Following the roundtable, participants will be divided in small groups for thematic discussions guided by some of the panellists:

- If you had to answer a journalist or media producer's questions on a topic linked to your research, how would you go about it?
- If you had to write a piece linking your research to a current topic, how would you go about it?
- If you had to contribute to a journalistic or media piece, how would you maintain academic nuance and rigour while aligning your contribution to the timelines and framing constraints?

Reference

Hage, Ghassan. 2016. 'État de siège: A dying domesticating colonialism?'. *American Ethnologist*, 43(1): 38-49. <https://doi.org/10.1111/amet.12261>

Bios

Elodie Feijoo has a master's degree in development studies and a certificate of advanced studies in migrations law, and has been working for asile.ch, an association specialized in asylum information, since 2023. She is in charge of the Comptoir des médias, an action and awareness-raising project aimed at a diversified and objective treatment of asylum-related information in the media of French-speaking Switzerland. Ms. Feijoo runs workshops in journalism schools, provides a media watch - asking for corrections in the event of factual errors or stigmatizing terms/images - and link up journalists with practitioners, researchers and people with asylum backgrounds. Discover some of the Comptoir des médias' actions and tools:

- A glossary with definitions and ethical reflections aimed at the media: <https://asile.ch/memots/>
- Points presse migrations organized with the nccr-on the move to promote topics and experts: <https://asile.ch/points-presse-migration-une-formation-en-ligne-pour-les-journalistes-proposee-par-le-nc-cr-et-le-comptoir-des-medias/>

Saeed Husain is an anthropologist who researches Pashtun migration in Karachi. He is a founding member of the Joint Action Committee for Refugees (JAC-R) which advocates for people on the move in Pakistan.

Saara Pellander is Director of the Migration Institute of Finland. She is Doctor of Social Sciences and holds the title of Docent in Political History at the University of Helsinki. She is currently the PI the [INDEFI](#) project on deportability and family ties funded by the Research Council of Finland as well as work package leader in a consortium project (Strategic Research Council funding) called Diversity, Trust, and Two-Way Integration ([Mobile Futures](#)). She has worked as a journalist before embarking on her academic career, during which she has focused on the regulation of cross-border intimacies as well as media representations of (forced) migration.

Inka Sayed has a background in journalism, science communication, and media relations within academia and NGOs, and is the Communication Officer at the nccr – on the move. She has extensive experience across digital platforms and specializes in storytelling, audience engagement, and the evolving landscape of modern science communication.

Nicole Vögele is a filmmaker and investigative journalist. She lives and works between Zurich, Berlin and Dresden. As a journalist, she has been dealing with the EU's external borders for years. She has been part of several international investigations that revealed the systematic pushback practices of the Croatian police. As a filmmaker, Nicole Vögele tries to examine the world with essay documentaries. Her films have been shown and awarded at various international festivals. *THE LANDSCAPE AND THE FURY* (2024) was nominated for the European and Swiss Film Awards and won the Doc Alliance Award, among others. Nicole Vögele has been Professor of Moving Image at the HfBK Dresden since 2021.

Samson Yemane holds a degree in political science and currently works for the Swiss Refugee Council (OSAR) and the Protestant Social Center (CSP) Vaud. He also serves as Vice-President of the Federal Commission against Racism and Co-President of the Eritreischer Medienbund Schweiz (EMBS). Deeply convinced of the value of a pluralistic society, he is actively engaged to advance human rights and social justice. His areas of expertise include migration policy, asylum law, and the fight against structural racism, with the aim of promoting equal opportunities and a truly inclusive society.

Roundtable and Workshop organised by:

Nina Khamsy, University of Neuchâtel, nccr – on the move

Mélinda Dinh, University of Geneva, nccr – on the move