

Exploring the Multi-Directionality of Migration and Mobility: Barriers and Opportunities

8th Neuchâtel Graduate Conference
of Migration and Mobility Studies

University of Neuchâtel, 8 – 9 July 2025

Program

Neuchâtel Graduate Conference of Migration and Mobility Studies

8 – 9 July 2025

University of Neuchâtel

Conference Location:

University of Neuchâtel
Avenue du 1er-Mars 26
2000 Neuchâtel
Switzerland

Website: <https://nccr-onthemove.ch/events/neuchatel-graduate-conference-2025/>

Registration is closed.

Scientific and organisational
committee

The Neuchâtel Graduate Conference (NGC) is an international graduate conference organized by the nccr – on the move, Swiss National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) for migration and mobility studies. It provides a stimulating environment in which PhD and Postdoctoral fellows from different universities and research institutions can exchange ideas, establish networks, and initiate collaborative research.

The 8th edition will take place from 8 to 9 July 2025 in Neuchâtel, providing opportunities to meet other researchers in formal and informal gatherings. The topic of this year's Graduate Conference will be "Exploring the Multi-Directionality of Migration and Mobility: Barriers and Opportunities".

Lucas Oesch (Scientific Officer of the nccr – on the move), **Robin Stünzi** (Education, Careers and Equal Opportunities Officer of the nccr – on the move), **Valérie Baggi**, **Mélinda Dinh**, **Karin Vaagland** (University of Geneva), **Nina Khamsy**, **Livia Tomás** and **Great Udochi** (University of Neuchâtel).

Program Overview

Monday 7 July 2025

18:00 – 19:40 Walking tour "**In the Footsteps of Slavery**" in Neuchâtel (max. 30 participants) ([PDF](#))

Tuesday 8 July 2025

08:30 – 09:00 Badge pick-up at Welcome Desk

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome Address and Introduction to the Panels

09:15 – 11:15 Parallel Panels Session I

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:30 Parallel Roundtables and Workshops (max. 30 participants each)

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

NGOs in the Migration Field: Research, Practice and Early-Career Opportunities ([PDF](#))

13:30 – 14:45 Lunch Break

14:45 – 16:45 Parallel Panels Session II

16:45 – 17:15 Coffee Break

17:15 – 18:45 Keynote Lecture: **Has Trump Resolved the Liberal Paradox?** ([PDF](#))

19:15 – 23:45 Conference Reception

Wednesday 9 July 2025

09:00 – 11:00 Parallel Panels Session III

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30 Roundtable: **How Can Demigrantization Apply to Integration Studies?** ([PDF](#))

12:30 – 13:15 Workshop (max. 30 participants): **How Can Demigrantization Apply to Integration Studies?**

13:15 – 14:45 Lunch Break

14:45 – 16:45 Parallel Panels Session IV

16:45 – 18:00 Final Apéro

Event Highlights

Monday 7 July 2025

18:00 – 19:40 Walking tour: **“In the Footsteps of Slavery”** (max. 30 participants who registered)

Tuesday 8 July 2024

11:45 – 13:30 **Migration Research, Digital Media, and Journalism: Rethinking Pathways of Collaboration in Times of (Mis)Representations**
Room C49 (max. 30 participants who registered)

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)

Followed by a 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)

11:45 – 13:30 **NGOs in the Migration Field: Research, Practice and Early-Career Opportunities**
Room C56 (max. 30 participants who registered)

Roundtable and Workshop with:

Vanessa Ballarin (Red Cross Switzerland)

Maelle L’Homme (*Médecins Sans Frontières* Switzerland - MSF)

Catherine Woollard (European Council on Refugees and Exiles - ECRE)

17:15 – 18:45 **Has Trump Resolved the Liberal Paradox?**
Room C46 Keynote Lecture by **James Hollifield**, Southern Methodist University
(Aula) Discussant: **Sandra Lavenex**, University of Geneva

Wednesday 9 July 2024

11:30 – 13:15 **How Can Demigrantization Apply to Integration Studies?**

Room C46
(Aula)

Roundtable with:

Anna Amelina, TU Chemnitz

Parvati Raghuram, Open University

Anne-Kathrin Will, Humboldt-Universität | Hochschule Zittau/Görlitz

The roundtable (11:30-12:30) is open to all and will be followed by a workshop (12:30-13:15) with a limited number of participants (30 - only those who registered)

Tuesday, 8 July 2025 | Program Details

09:15 – 11:15

Panel #1

Borders I

Room B32

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Christin Achermann,
University of Neuchâtel

Chair: Anna Marino,
University of Neuchâtel

Frontex Between Meroni and Les Vert: The Liability of the Agency in Name of the Rule of Law Principle

Alessio Laconi, University of Florence

The Role of Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community (AFIC) in Border Security and Irregular Migration from Nigeria to Europe

Peter Irabor, Osun State University

Children and Youth in Transit: State Ambivalence, NGO Governance, and Migration Strategies of Unaccompanied Children and Youth in Egypt

Amira Abdelaziz Elsaid, University for Continuing Education Krems (UWK)

Sweet Escapes and Unscrupulous Smuggling: Navigating Criminalization on the Lebanon-Cyprus Route

Nora Milch, University of Oslo

09:15 – 11:15

Panel #2

Agency

Room B29

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Mihaela Nedelcu,
University of Neuchâtel

Chair: Carol Pierre,
University of Neuchâtel

Agency in Exile: A Gendered Perspective On Redefining Structural Constraints and Belonging

Mira Elham Hazzaa, University of Osnabrück

Navigating Mobility: Hospitality, Reciprocity, and Relational Agency Among Young Refugees

Fathe Mubeen, Tampere University

Where Do People Migrate and Why Not Elsewhere? Another Perspective on Migration Systems

Yacine Ait-Larbi, University van Amsterdam and International Migration Institute

Tuesday, 8 July 2025 | Program Details

09:15 – 11:15

Panel #3

Education

Room C49

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Parvati Raghuram,
Open University

Chair: Livia Tomás,
Université de Neuchâtel

Intersectional Experiences in International Academia

Tugay Durak, University College London (UCL)

From Students to Refugees: Students' (Im)mobility in the Wake of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Ezenwa Olumba, Royal Holloway University of London

From Study Abroad to Staying Abroad: The Unintended Migration Pathways of Turkish and International Students

Yussif Issah, Ankara University

The Japa Syndrome in Nigeria's Migration Landscape: Interrogating the lived Experiences of Nigerian Migrants in the United Kingdom

Samuel Okunade, University of Johannesburg

09:15 – 11:15

Panel #4

Climate and Rurality

Room C56

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Suzy Blondin,
University of Neuchâtel

Chair: Nora Bardelli,
University of Neuchâtel

Environmental Change and Adaptive Migration: A Study of Urban-to-Rural Movement in Ghana's Akwapim North Municipality

Eric Gyampoh, University College of Management Studies, Accra

"Trapped" Despite Flood Disasters: (In)Voluntary Immobility among Climate Vulnerable Population in Ghana's Savannah Region

Sandra Obiri-Yeboah, University of Ghana

Pathways of Mobility in Times of Climate Change and War: Exploring the "Lived Experiences" of Displacees in Gaza

Zeina Moneer, American University in Cairo

Small and Medium-Sized Towns (SMT), Mobilities and Rural Diversification: An Institutional Analysis of Resource Access in Katete and Mumbwa, Zambia.

Becaye Dione, Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD)

Tuesday, 8 July 2025 | Program Details

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #5

Borders II

Room B32

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Saara Pellander,
Migration Institute of Finland

Chair: Nina Khamsy,
University of Neuchâtel

Narratives' Variation of "Migration Crises" at Europe's Southernmost Borderscapes: the Case of Melilla and Lampedusa

Anna Marino, University of Neuchâtel

Affective Dimensions of State-Sanctioned Violence: An Exploration of Australia's Border Policies Through the Lens of Violence, and Its Attendant Societal Harms

Simon Metcalfe, University of New South Wales

Suspended Futures: Bureaucratic (Im)mobility and the Politics of Exclusion in Assam's NRC Regime

Debasreeta Deb, University of Hyderabad

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #6

Space, Subjectivity and Mobility

Room B29

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Anna Amelina, TU Chemnitz
and Hind Al-Shoubaki, FHNW

Chair: Carol Pierre,
University of Neuchâtel

Architecture of Migration: From Paper Models to Public Spaces, How Collaborative Making Shapes Identity, Integration and Community Building for the Romanian Diaspora

Ecaterina Stefanescu, University of Central Lancashire

Decentering the Cartography of Migration Trajectories: Rethinking the Visual Representation of the "Balkan Route"

Silvana Maeder, University of Geneva

Migrant Subjects, Diasporic Subjects

Clare Maxwell, Graduate Institute, Geneva

'Jamia Nagar is a Muslim ghetto': Economy, Ecology and the making of a Muslim Colony in Delhi

Ali Istikhar, Venu Charitable Society

Tuesday, 8 July 2025 | Program Details

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #7

Labour Migration

Room C49

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Eric Crettaz, Hautes écoles
de travail social (HETS) Geneva

Chair: Livia Tomás,
University of Neuchâtel

Labour Migration to Gulf Countries as an Alternative Strategy for Improving Livelihood Opportunities: A Case Study of Murshidabad District, West Bengal, India

Abbasuddin Sk and Subrata Purkayastha, North-Eastern Hill
University

Bridging Cultural Gaps: A Study on Second-Generation Migrant Hiring Practices in the Netherlands

Ao Yin, University of Groningen

Navigating In-Between Spaces: Comparing Experiences of Romanian and Polish Mobile Workers in Brandenburg

Cristina Buza, University of Amsterdam

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #8

Health

Room C56

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor : Joëlle Schwarz,
Unisanté, Lausanne

Chair: Nora Bardelli,
University of Neuchâtel

‘Sick Enough?’ The Production of (Un)Deportability and (In) Eligibility for Humanitarian Visa through Health in Switzerland

Gesa Teigelkötter, University of Neuchâtel

Pregnancy, Birth and Postpartum as a Unique Transition to (Not) Belonging

Irina Radu, University of Neuchâtel

Navigating (Im)mobility: Systemic Barriers in Im/migrant Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health Care in British Columbia, Canada

Aysan Dehghani, University of British Columbia

The Mental Wellbeing of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Fragile, Transient-Cum Permanent Displacement Settings in the Global South: Evidence from Tongogara Refugee Settlement in Zimbabwe

Norman Pinduka, Africa University

Wednesday, 9 July 2025 | Program Details

09:00 – 11:00

Panel #9

Policies I

Room B29

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Sanda Lavenex,
University of Geneva

Chair: Great Udochi,
University of Neuchâtel

Differentiated Inclusion and Mobility: Comparing Accommodation Access for Ukrainian Refugees and Other Migrant Groups in the EU

Viktoryia Vaitovich, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

"Provisional and Transitory: Case Study on the Creation and Application of the 'S Protection Status' in Response to the Balkan War"

Adis Sabanovic, University of Lausanne

Temporary Protection Directive and Its Implementation: Creating Opportunities or Barriers to Mobility of Persons Displaced from Ukraine?

Maja Lysienia, University of Lausanne and HES-SO Valais-Wallis

"Unaccompanied Minors' Governance: a Pendulum Between Protection and Control. Comparative Analysis Among Democratic Systems

Isabella Miano, University of Catania

09:00 – 11:00

Panel #10

Belonging and Identity

Room B32

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Ayca Arkilic, Victoria
University of Wellington and
Anne-Kathrin Will, Humboldt
Universität

Chair: Valérie Baggi,
University of Geneva

Mapping Our Fragmented Journeys: 1.5-Generation Iranians' Experiences of Belonging and Well-being

Shiva Mazrouei, McMaster University

Smoke and Mirrors: Navigating Religion, Class, and Migration Among Zimbabwean Middle-Class Pentecostal Migrants in South Africa

Tinashe Chimbidzikai, Leiden University / Goettingen University

Silenced National Identity: Case Study of Russian Migrants in Japan

Marina Obukhova, Waseda University

Making Morocco Home: The Dynamics of Immobility and Multidirectional Migration of Nigerian Migrants

Chaimaa Radouani, Leiden University

Wednesday, 9 July 2025 | Program Details

09:00 – 11:00

Panel #11

Circular Migration

Room C49

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Livia Tomás,
University of Neuchâtel

Chair: Vestin Hatagekimana,
University of Neuchâtel

Transnational Family Networks and Cross-Border Trade: Roles of (im)Mobile Family in Herbal Medicine Practices Along the West African Migration Corridor

Oluwasegun Ajetunmobi, University of Ibadan

Stuck, Stayed or Remigrated: Forced and Voluntary (Im)mobility Among Overseas Filipino Workers Returnees and Affective Wellbeing During COVID-19

Kristel May Gomez-Magdaraog, University of Geneva

A Slice of Aspiration of Labour Migrants: Circular Move to Stay Put from Indian Sundarbans

Sourina Bej, University of Bonn

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #12

Measuring Public Opinion, Preferences and Economic Outcomes

Room C56

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Marija Dangubic,
University of Lausanne and
Anita Manatschal,
University of Neuchâtel

Chair: Tugay Durak,
University College London

Anti-democratic Penalties Against Government Critics in South Africa - the Role of Mixed Stereotype Content

Daniska Tampise Klebo, University of Neuchâtel

The Politics of Fairness: How Migrant Legal Status and Social Service Provision Shape Immigration Preferences

Taylor Trummel, University of California Santa Barbara

How Occupational Histories Shape Immigrants' Economic Outcomes: Evidence from Linked Employer-Employee Data in Germany

Jeremy Kuhnle, University of Lausanne

Wednesday, 9 July 2025 | Program Details

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #13

Policies II

Room B32

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: James Hollifield,
Southern Methodist University

Chair: Great Udochi,
University of Neuchâtel

Global Mobility Ginis: Studying the Inequality of Transnational Mobility between Countries

Tobias Grohmann, European University Institute (EUI)

(In)Security, Silencing and Hindered Parenting: How the Europeanization of Swiss Migration Policy Perpetuates Reproductive and Epistemic Injustices

Victor Santos Rodriguez, Sciences Po Paris

Guest Worker Programs and Female Employment: Dutch Labor Supply Policies, 1960–1980

Jacob Alabab-Moser, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam

India-EU Migration and Mobility Partnerships - Policy Innovations and Future Prospects

Gatha Nautiyal, Consultant, Government of India

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #14

Skilled Mobility

Room B29

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Laure Sandoz,
University of Lausanne

Chair: Mélinda Dinh,
University of Geneva

Spatial Aspirations of Skilled Migrants in Europe: What Drives Aspirations to Live Transnationally?

Julia Reinold, Erasmus University Rotterdam

From India to Japan and Beyond? Quest Migration and the Multi-Directionality of Skilled Mobility

Sakshi Narang, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Through time, space, and in-between: Migration decision making among highly skilled serial migrants

Rica Agnes Castaneda, Toronto Metropolitan University

Skilled but Stranded: Vietnamese Migrants' Lived Experiences of Job Mismatch and the Trap of Social Immobility in Japan

Vy Vu Hong Huynh, Waseda University

Wednesday, 9 July 2025 | Program Details

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #15

Digital Migration

Room C49

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Nina Khamsy,
University of Neuchâtel

Chair: Lucas Oesch

Migration Governance and Migrants' Agency: The Case of Sub-Saharan Irregular Migrants in Algeria

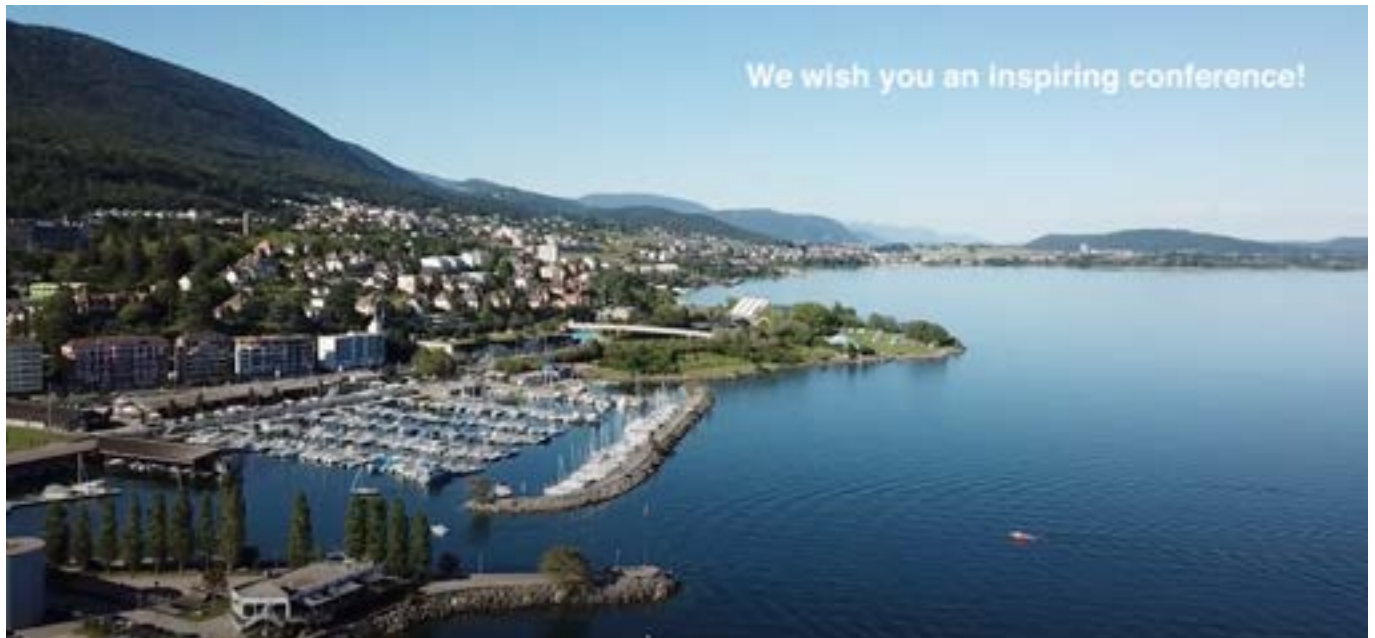
Fella Djilaili, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University

Analyzing Migration Intentions in Switzerland through Reddit Data

Vestin Hategekimana, University of Geneva

Theorizing Queer Migrant Joy on TikTok

Paul Mart Jeyand Matangcas, Northwestern University



NGC Bag Photo Contest – Snap, Share & Win!

Pick up your NGC bag at the registration desk and enter our photo contest for a chance to win up to CHF 200! Show us your creativity, your unique style, and your travels!

Prizes: 1st: CHF 200 | 2nd: CHF 100 | 3rd: CHF 100

Deadline: 15 December 2025

More info and how to enter: <https://nccr-onthemove.ch/snap-share-and-win-the-neuchatel-graduate-conference-bag-photo-contest-is-back/>

Have a look at our website www.nccr-onthemove.ch, to discover the **Blog Series**, the visualizations of the **Migration-Mobility Indicators**, the short video clips on **Overcoming Preconceptions**, our researchers' **Vlogs on YouTube**, and our **Podcast on Immobility**.

To stay informed on upcoming events and new blog texts, **subscribe to our E-News** and **Blog Notifications**.

For the latest updates on the Neuchâtel Graduate Conference, follow us on X **@nccr_onthemove**, hashtag **#neuchgradconf25**.

We hope you have challenging discussions and wish you a good time in Neuchâtel!