

Twelve Years in Motion: Migration Research, People, and Politics

The Final Event of the nccr – on the move

University of Neuchâtel, 9 July 2026



Twelve Years in Motion: Migration Research, People, and Politics The Final Event of the nccr – on the move

9 July 2026, 9:45 - 16:15, University of Neuchâtel

This event marks the conclusion of twelve years of the nccr – on the move, one of Switzerland's most ambitious and sustained research endeavors on migration and mobility. Bringing together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, public administrations, and the wider public, the event offers a unique opportunity to reflect on what has been learned, who has been shaped by this collective undertaking, and what challenges lie ahead. Through three thematic panels, the day moves from a stocktaking of key scientific findings, to a human-centred reflection on careers and trajectories built within the nccr – on the move, to a forward-looking and deliberately provocative exchange on the polarisation of the migration debate in Switzerland and Europe. The event is designed to be accessible to both specialist and non-specialist audiences, bridging academic knowledge and public debate on one of the defining issues of our time.

Program overview

Time	Session
09:45 – 10:00	Welcome (Gianni D'Amato, Director of the nccr – on the move)
10:00 – 11:15	Panel 1 – Key findings
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 13:00	Panel 2 – People and trajectories
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch and networking
14:15 – 16:15	Panel 3 – Migration and polarisation

Practical information

The event will take place in person on 9 July 2026 from 9:45 to 16:15 at the University of Neuchâtel, [Av. du Premier-Mars 26](#). The Panels will take place in room C46 (First Floor), the coffee break and lunch in the cafeteria (Ground Floor). **It is open only to registered participants.** The deadline for registration was 21 June 2026.

For questions, please contact julia.litzkow@unine.ch or lucas.oesch@unine.ch.

10:00 – 11:15, Panel 1

Speakers:

Philippe Wanner, University of Geneva, nccr – on the move

Janine Dahinden, University of Neuchâtel, nccr – on the move

Lorenzo Piccoli, EUI, nccr – on the move

Moderator: **Robin Stünzi**, nccr – on the move

What We Have Learned: Key Findings from Twelve Years of Research on Migration and Mobility

This opening panel brings together three researchers from the nccr – on the move to present and discuss some of the program's most significant scientific contributions. Rather than an exhaustive review, the session highlights select findings that have genuinely shifted the way we understand migration and mobility in Switzerland and beyond. The panel will explore three landmark areas of work: the migration-mobility nexus (MMN), a conceptual framework developed at the heart of the nccr – on the move that challenges traditional migration-settlement assumptions; the Migration-Mobility Survey (MMS), one of the program's flagship empirical contributions offering unprecedented data on mobility patterns and experiences; and the critical interrogation of categorizations in migration research, including the program's sustained effort to "de-migrantise" migration and mobility studies by questioning taken-for-granted categories and analytical boundaries. These themes represent only a selection of the knowledge produced over twelve years, but they illustrate the breadth, depth, and critical ambition of the nccr – on the move. The panel will offer both a synthesis for those familiar with the program's work and an accessible entry point for newcomers to the field.

11:15 – 11:45

Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:00, Panel 2

Speakers:

Stefanie Kurt, HES-SO, nccr – on the move

Salomon Bennour, Schweizerische Konferenz für Sozialhilfe SKOS

Paula Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, SciencesPo Paris

Anne Kristol, Caritas Switzerland

Moderator: **Nora Bardelli**, nccr – on the move

Growing With the nccr – on the move: People, Paths, and Possibilities

This panel turns the nccr – on the move itself into an object of reflection by focusing on the people whose careers it has shaped. Selected participants – who may have been doctoral researchers, postdoctoral fellows, or Project Leader at various points in the program's history – share how their trajectories evolved before, during, and after their time in the nccr – on the move. The discussion explores what it meant to "grow up" within a large-scale collaborative research program, how the nccr – on the move influenced their professional choices, skills, and networks, and where those paths have led them today – in academia, public administration, civil society, or beyond. The session is deliberately human-centered and personal in tone, offering a complementary perspective to the scientific stocktaking of the morning.

13:00 – 14:15

Lunch and Networking

14:15 – 16:15, Panel 3

Migration, Politics, and Polarisation: Are We Talking Past Each Other?

Speakers:

Pilar Gimeno, Cheffe de service des migrations, Canton de Neuchâtel

Philipp Lutz, University of Geneva, nccr – on the move

Lisa Pedicino, Co-director, Institut Neue Schweiz (INES)

Stefan Manser-Egli, Universities of Fribourg and Amsterdam, Board Member of Aktion Vierviertel and Operation Libero

Moderator: **Simone Prodolliet**

Migration has become one of the most politically charged and divisive topics in Switzerland and across Europe. This final panel brings together voices from research, politics, civil society, and public administration to examine why migration generates such intense disagreement and whether that disagreement can – or should – be bridged. Drawing on evidence from the nccr – on the move and beyond, the panel will tackle two central questions: What makes migration political and divisive? And is polarisation a problem, or a legitimate reflection of deeply held values and competing interests? The panel is deliberately designed to surface contradictory perspectives and to model the kind of constructive, evidence-informed debate that the nccr – on the move has sought to foster over twelve years. Grounded in both Swiss local and national realities and the wider European context, the discussion will speak to researchers, practitioners, citizens, and decision-makers alike.