

Migration, Social Transformation and Differential Inclusion in Turkey

Young Scholars and Early Career Academics Conference
5-6 October 2018
Istanbul

convened by

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(2017/18 Mercator-IPC Fellows)

Call for Papers

While the war in Syria has resulted in over three million Syrians fleeing to Turkey, the country has been (and is) the destination and transit country for millions of refugees and migrants from diverse backgrounds. These migrations have led to social transformations and various forms of interaction, presence, and exclusion at different levels. The Turkish state has historically approached various refugees and asylum seekers differently. The legal framework including the geographical restriction on the 1951 UN Convention and the Resettlement Law have a large impact on migrants' and refugees' statuses and lives in Turkey. This legal framework has created a stratified system of differential inclusion. The multiplication of statuses and forms of protection has institutionalized immobility, insecurity, and vulnerability for certain groups while maintaining pathways for movement out of Turkey, permanent status in Turkey, and other possible routes of action for others. In the process, tensions arise among different refugees, migrants, and host society members. Borders appear in the everyday as much as migrants and refugees encounter the securitization of the border when trying to enter or leave Turkey. Refugees and migrants are still dealing with the ramifications of the Turkey-EU agreement of 2016 and the externalization of the EU border. Refugee presence and policies are furthermore used as leverage for political goals on the international level, raising questions about humanitarian and asylum regimes.

The conference Migration, Social Transformation and Differential Inclusion in Turkey seeks to examine themes of migration and (im)mobility, forms of temporariness, and migrant and refugees' struggles and strategies to achieve existential security through movement, citizenship processes, or other acts. The conference aims to examine relations among host society members and refugee or migrant populations in light of challenges resulting from diverse migration to Turkey. Furthermore, the conference seeks to address the lack of theorization emerging from the Turkish context as part of a broader contribution to migration studies and research.

The conference invites papers discussing the following thematic fields:

- Critical theoretical perspectives on migration studies in Turkey
- Critical methodological approaches to migration research in and about Turkey, with an emphasis on research ethics in migration studies
- Refugee and migrant struggles and strategies around mobility, temporality, access, and differential inclusion; effects of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, class, sexuality, or other factors on migrant and refugee experience
- Inclusion, integration, and citizenship: thinking beyond the limits of citizenship; inclusion and integration as varying concepts; what does integration/ inclusion mean in the Turkish context; how the meaning of citizenship change for citizens affected by large migrant populations; everyday acts of citizenship
- Global and local implications of migration: migration and asylum politics and policies; state and local organizations' responses; geopolitical ramifications of migration; international responses and local contexts; critical engagement beyond human rights
- Social responses to migration: resources, support, and solidarity networks; civil response and daily practices that (de)construct borders; neighborhood, space, and social transformations
- Vulnerabilities: how vulnerability is experienced, recreated, or extenuated; dealing with uncertainty; effects of migration on social relations
- Gendered aspects of migration: creation of gender-based vulnerabilities; gender dynamics in migration; gendered experiences of migration
- LGBTTIQ migration: (re)creating networks and forging new ties; persistent vulnerabilities; heteronormative concepts of identification, sexuality, and family at the intersection of migration processes and policies; migration and intersection with discourses on freedom of sexuality
- Economic ramifications: economic incorporation; precarious labor; informality; solidarities across status/citizen-migrant lines; economies built around humanitarian action; migration brokers
- Narratives of migration: reflections of migration and displacement in literature, art, theater, etc.
- Migration, media, and technologies: representations of migrants and refugees; the relationship between media and to social tensions; social media and technologies' role in migration movements and refugees' and migrants' struggles

We welcome applicants from all fields related to the study of migration in Turkey. We particularly encourage papers from early career academics and young scholars. The conference is a discussion platform for scholars working on migration within the Turkish context to facilitate intersectional and interdisciplinary exchange and perspectives between scholars from different disciplines and countries.

Applicants are invited to submit:

- An abstract of max. 300 words (only in English)
- A biography of no more than 300 words

Abstracts should be sent to: migrationcon@sabanciuniv.edu

The submission deadline is **29 July 2018**.

Keynote Speaker:

Prof. Nicholas De Genova (University of Houston)

Important Dates:

Deadline for abstracts (300 words): 15 July 2018

Notification of accepted papers: 31 July 2018

Deadline for extended abstracts (800-1000 words): 31 August 2018

Conference dates: **October 5-6, 2018**

Venue:

The conference will take place in Istanbul. The venue will be announced later.