



Cynhadledd Ryngwladol ar Fudo a Symudedd 2025

International Migration and Mobility Conference 2025

Croeso | Welcome

Fel Cadeirydd y Grŵp Ymchwil Daearyddiaeth Boblogaeth (PGRG), mae'n bleser gennyf eich croesawu i bedwaredd gynhadledd iMigMob, a gynhelir eleni yn lleoliad prydferth Prifysgol Aberystwyth. iMigMob yw'r gynhadledd gyntaf ymroddedig ar ddaearyddiaeth mudo a symudedd, a chafodd ei lansio yn 2016 ym Mhrifysgol Loughborough. Tynnodd yr alwad agoriadol am bapurau sylw clir at yr angen am gynhadledd o'r fath, gyda'r nod o 'feithrin a rhannu gwahanol safbwyntiau disgyblaethol ar fudo a symudedd, ac i ganolbwyntio'n gadarn ar y croestoriadau rhwng ymchwil poblogaeth a demograffig a thraddodiad ehangach y gwyddorau cymdeithasol o waith ar symudedd'. Dathlodd y gynhadledd gyntaf ehangder ac amrywiaeth y gwaith ar fudo a symudedd, gan gwmpasu themâu eang damcaniaeth, methodoleg, graddfa, ymgorfforiad, gwleidyddiaeth, gwahaniaethau cymdeithasol, cymunedau a rheolaeth. Cynhaliwyd cynadleddau iMigMob pellach yn Plymouth (2018) a St Andrews (2022) ac mae'n bleser cynnal y gynhadledd yn Aberystwyth eleni. Hoffem estyn diolch arbennig i Catrin, Ellen, a Rhys am ymgymryd â'r dasg nid ansylweddol o redeg y gynhadledd. Gobeithiwn y byddwch yn mwynhau'r gynhadledd ac edrychwn ymlaen at gyhoeddi lleoliad iMigMob 2027 yn y dyfodol agos.

As Chair of the Population Geography Research Group (PGRG), it is my pleasure to welcome you to the fourth iMigMob conference, held this year in the beautiful setting of Aberystwyth University. iMigMob is the first dedicated conference on the geographies of migration and mobility, and was launched in 2016 at Loughborough University. The opening call for papers clearly highlighted the need for such a conference, with the aim 'to cultivate and share different disciplinary perspectives of migration and mobilities, and to firmly fix the spotlight on the intersections between population and demographic research and the wider social science tradition of work on mobilities'. The inaugural conference celebrated the breadth and diversity of work on migration and mobility, spanning broad themes of theory, methodology, scale, embodiment, politics, social differences, communities and management. Subsequent iMigMob conferences have been held in Plymouth (2018) and St Andrews (2022) and it is a delight to take the conference to Aberystwyth this year. We would like to extend special thanks to Catrin, Ellen, and Rhys for taking on the not insignificant task of running the conference. We hope that you enjoy the conference and we look forward to announcing the venue for iMigMob 2027 in the near future.

Dr David McCollum

Cadeirydd Grŵp Ymchwil
Daearyddiaeth Poblogaeth RGS-IBG

Chair RGS-IBG Population
Geography Research Group



Cod Ymddygiad | Code of conduct

Mae'r gynhadledd yn ofod sy'n caniatáu i ymchwil ffynnu trwy drin eraill sy'n rhannu gwybodaeth, profiadau, a syniadau proffesiynol mewn modd parchus, cynhwysol a theg.

Gofynnwn i bawb:

- Ymddwyn yn broffesiynol.
- Trîn pawb yn gyfartal ac yn barchus.
- Gwrando ar farn pobl eraill ac ymgysylltu'n adeiladol â nhw.
- Gosod esiempl.
- Ymroi i helpu ein gilydd ac i fod yn garedig.
- Parchu'r amgylchedd a'r bobl o'ch cwmpas.

Rydym yn mynnu bod cynrychiolwyr y gynhadledd yn ymarfer:

- Dim trais
- Dim aflonyddu
- Dim gwahaniaethu
- Dim bwlio
- Dim ymddygiad anweddus

The Conference is intended to be a space that research to flourish through respectful, inclusive and equitable treatment of others sharing knowledge, experiences, and ideas.

We ask that everyone:

- Behaves professionally.
- Treats everyone equally and respectfully.
- Listens to others' views and engage constructively with them.
- Sets an example.
- Be committed to helping each other and to be kind.
- Respects the environment and the people around you.

We require that conference delegates practice:

- No violence
- No harassment
- No discrimination
- No bullying
- No condescending behaviour

Agenda

Dydd Mawrth 8 Gorffennaf / Tuesday 8 July

Amser / Time	Digwyddiad (Lleoliad) / Event (Location)	
11:00-12:00	Cofrestru / Registration (Medrus Mawr)	
12:00-12:45	Cinio / Lunch (Medrus Mawr)	
12:45-13:00	Croeso / Welcome (Medrus Mawr)	
13:00-14:30	Prif Siaradwr / Keynote 1: Towards climate nomadism? Displacement, (im)mobilization and escape in the face of planetary crises Dr Giovanni Bettini (Medrus Mawr) Cadeirydd/Chair: Rhys Dafydd Jones	
14:30-14:45	Egwyl / Coffee break (Medrus Mawr)	
14:45-16:30	Sesiwn Gyfochrog 1 / Parallel Session 1	
	Medrus 1	Medrus 3
	Cadeirydd/Chair: Paula Duffy 1. Creating the conditions to attract or retain 'older' young people: Shifting the focus in addressing demographic imbalance in rural regions Aimee Morse & Demelza Jones 2. Temporal Agency and Restanza: Migration Decisions in a Minority Language Context Bonner, E., Prys, C., Mitchelmore, S. & Hodges, Rh. 3. The Motives of Migration: Experiences of international migrants of speaking Welsh in the community Karolina Rosiak & Rhian Hodges 4. Folk Mobilities Keith Halfacree 5. Cycling practices among Portuguese immigrants in Switzerland Andreia Dinis Pinto	Cadeirydd/Chair: Hebe Nicholson 1. (Re)integration Experiences of Returning Rwandese and Ugandans after Apprenticeship in Germany Andres Matti Lembit Tomingas 2. The Medium is the Message: the geographies of cryptocurrency remittances to Venezuela Daniel Robins 3. Value Extraction in Migration: Governance, Migration Infrastructures and Social Reproduction among Filipino Crew on Global Fishing Fleets Philip Kelly
16:30	Derbyniad / Reception (Canolfan y Celfyddydau / Arts Centre)	

Amser / Time Digwyddiad (Lleoliad) / Event (Location)

09:15-11:00	Seiswn Gyfochrog 2 / Parallel Session 2	
	Medrus 1	Medrus 3
	<p>Cadeirydd/Chair: Darren Smith</p> <p>1. EU migrant youth post-Brexit: citizens in (heterogeneous) transitions David McCollum, Kate Boterill, Bozena Sojka & Daniela Sime</p> <p>2. Changing Working Patterns and Implications for High-Skilled Labour Mobility Anne Greene et al</p> <p>3. International migration as a factor in recent employment change in the Midlands David Owen</p> <p>4. Ethnicity and Internal Migration in England and Wales Momoko Nishikido & Gemma Catney</p> <p>5. The impact of education and age on internal migration distances in Slovakia Loránt Pregi & Ladislav Novotný</p>	<p>Cadeirydd/Chair: Helen Harrison</p> <p>1. Trapping a cheap workforce through climate shocks and collective violence on the Sudan-South Sudan borderlands Nicki Kindersley</p> <p>2. Harnessing Human Mobility in Lesotho: Rethinking its Internal and International Migration Dynamics for sustainable household livelihood and national development Bereket Tsegay & Yoseph Araya</p> <p>3. Mobility in the context of extreme heat Hebe Nicholson</p>
11:00-11:15	Egwyl / Coffee break (Medrus Mawr)	
11:15-12:45	<p>Prif Siaradwr / Keynote 2: : Migration and the making of 'Global Britain': state-making, statecraft in and through the migration-citizenship regime after Brexit</p> <p>Yr Athro / Prof. Michaela Benson (Medrus Mawr) Cadeirydd/Chair: Ellen Hjort</p>	
12:45-13:30	Cinio / Lunch (Medrus Mawr)	
13:30-15:15	Sesiwn Gyfochrog 3 / Parallel Session 3	
	Medrus 1	Medrus 3
	<p>Cadeirydd/Chair: Mike Chick</p> <p>1. Thinking Beyond Colonially Inherited Framings Of The Citizen – Refugee Sense Of Belonging And Contributing In Uganda Through A Lens of Everyday Performative Acts Of Civic Duty Craig Walker & Tominke Olaniyan</p>	<p>Cadeirydd/Chair: Aimee Morse</p> <p>1. Towards More Just Mobilities and Work: the making and circulation of imaginaries of work among internationally mobile health care workers Sarah Hartmann & Susan Thieme</p>

2. A Grounded Theory Exploration of wellbeing and liveable space for Uganda

Helen Harrison

3. Unpacking emergency evacuation in Scotland: Intergovernmental responses to the war in Ukraine

Dan Fisher

2. 'Driving Nurses out': Analysis of Out-Migration Intentions of Student-Nurses in the University of Cape Coast,

Razak Jaha Imoro

3. They keep on coming back – asylum seekers and refugees' post-reception support seeking from facilities' staff. A case study from Italy

Giulia Bisogni

4. The maternity care experiences of people seeking sanctuary in Wales

Alix Bukkfalvi-Cadotte

5. International migration and the future of elderly care: Perspectives of University students in Ghana

Vyda Mamley Hervie & Priscilla Attafuah

15:15-15:30

Egwyl / Coffee break (Medrus Mawr)

15:30-16:35

Sesiwn Gyfochrog 4 / Parallel Session 4

Medrus 1

Cadeirydd/Chair: Keith Halfacree

1. The future of Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region: assimilation or isolation?

Faruq Abdul Mawlood

2. Dynamics of refugee and immigrant integration and citizenship (Economic, social, cultural etc., for diverse groups)

Richard Osei Bonsu

3. Representing (Im)mobility through Proximity: Narratives of Migration and Displacement during a Global Health Crisis

Marina Morani

Medrus 3

Cadeirydd/Chair: Giulia Bisogni

1. Thinking from the border: a critical methodology and agenda for research

Katy Budge

2. Gendered Mobilities and Misyar Marriages in Globalised Istanbul

Semra Akay

3. In Limbo – on intersecting experiences of migration with disabilities and post-Soviet (un)belonging

Toni Iman Kania

16:35

Amser Rhydd / Free Time

18:00

Swper y Gynhadledd / Conference dinner

Dydd Iau 10 Gorffennaf / Thursday 10 July

Amser / Time	Digwyddiad (Lleoliad) / Event (Location)
09:15-10:30	Prif siaradwr / Keynote 3: Categorising the Overseas Student: Settlement, Residence and Immigration Dr Sophie Cranston (Medrus Mawr) Cadeirydd/Chair: Catrin Wyn Edwards
10:30-10:45	Egwyl / Coffee break (Medrus Mawr)
10:45-11:50	Sesiwn Gyfochrog 5 / Parallel Session 5 Medrus Mawr Cadeirydd/Chair: Rhys Dafydd Jones 1. Understanding & solving the information gaps for asylum seekers wanting to access higher education in Wales Laura Shobiye 2. Migrant Language Education in a Nation of Sanctuary Mike Chick 3. Inside Asylum Court Appeals: Access, Participation and Procedure in Europe Nicole Hoellerer; Nick Gill; Daniel Fisher (co-author: Jessica Hambly)
11:50-12:00	Diweddsglo / Closing remarks (Medrus Mawr)
12:00-13:00	Cinio / Lunch (Tamed Da)

Diwedd y Gynhadledd | End of Conference

Siaradwyr | Speakers



Yr Athro | Professor Michaela Benson

Mae Michaela Benson yn Athro mewn Cymdeithaseg Gyhoeddus ym Mhrifysgol Caerhirfryn ac yn Brif Weithredwr y Sociological Review Foundation. Mae ei hymchwil presennol yn canolbwyntio ar fudo, dinasyddiaeth a ffiniau'r DU wedi Brexit a sut mae hyn yn berthnasol i hanes hirach o reolaethau mewn fudo hiliol. Mae'r ymchwil hwn wedi'i gefnogi gan gyllid gan y Cyngor Ymchwil Economaidd a Chymdeithasol a'r Academi Brydeinig. Yn ogystal â'i chyhoeddiadau academiaidd, mae hi'n cynnal ac yn cynhyrchu Who do we think we are?, podlediad sy'n chwalu dealltwriaethau o ymfudo a dinasyddiaeth ym Mhrydain heddiw a gymerir yn ganiataol.

Michaela Benson is Professor in Public Sociology at Lancaster University and Chief Executive of the Sociological Review Foundation. Her current research focuses on migration, citizenship and the UK's borders after Brexit and how this relates to longer histories of racialised immigration controls. This research has been supported by funding from the Economic and Social Research Council and British Academy. In addition to her academic publications, she hosts and produces Who do we think we are? the podcast debunking taken for granted understandings of migration and citizenship in Britain today.

Migration and the making of 'Global Britain': state-making, statecraft in and through the migration-citizenship regime after Brexit

'Taking back control' and ending free movement were central to the politics of Brexit. But what has happened to the migration-citizenship regime since the UK left the European Union? How are changes to the regime implicated in state-making and statecraft as the UK redefines itself and seeks a new position on the world stage? And what does this make visible about the role of migration governance within the post-Brexit political project?

This paper turns attention to the apparent contradictions, contingencies and dynamics of the post-Brexit migration-citizenship regime. It emphasises that making sense of this requires greater attention to the reorientation of Britain's place in the world, to argue for the coalescence of ideology, politics and geopolitics in the making of this regime past and present. Situating the current regime in a longer, and refashioned history Britain and its borders over the past century, it foregrounds a new conceptual framework that considers the interplay of the global political economy of migration and citizenship, geopolitical struggles and crises, and the domestic politics in the development of the migration-citizenship regime. In this way, it offers a bold and timely analysis that highlights the interweaving of coloniality and geopolitics in the post-Brexit governance of migration and citizenship.



Dr Giovanni Bettini

Mae Giovanni Bettini – Uwch Ddarlithydd ym Mhrifysgol Caerhirfryn – wedi bod yn ymchwilio i sut mae newid amgylcheddol – yn ei gymeriad planedol ond anwastad, ac sydd ynghlwm wrth gyfres o ‘argyfwng’ cyfoes a chymynroddion hanesyddol – yn creu gofodau newydd, dulliau llywodraethu, goddrychedd a ffurfiau o ymwrthedd. Mae wedi cyhoeddi’n helaeth ar y cysylltiadau rhwng newid hinsawdd a symudedd dynol. Mae Giovanni yn cydlynw’r prosiect a ariennir gan Ymddiriedolaeth Leverhulme Digital Climate Futures: a decolonial and justice perspective on digitalised climate change adaptation, sy’n archwilio rôl y digidol wrth ail-lunio ymaddasu, gwytnwch a chyfiawnder. Mae hefyd yn gwasanaethu fel Cyfarwyddwr Cyswllt ar gyfer y Ganolfan Ymchwil Symudedd (CeMoRe) ym Mhrifysgol Caerhirfryn.

Giovanni Bettini – Senior Lecturer at Lancaster University – has been investigating how environmental change – in its planetary but uneven character, and entangled with a series of contemporary ‘crises’ and historical legacies – is generating new spaces, modes of governance, subjectivities and forms of resistance. He has published extensively on the links between climate change and human mobility. Giovanni coordinates the Leverhulme Trust-funded project Digital Climate Futures: a decolonial and justice perspective on digitalised climate change adaptation, which explores the role of the digital in reshaping adaptation, resilience and justice. He also serves as Associate Director for the Centre for Mobilities Research (CeMoRe) at Lancaster University.

Towards climate nomadism? Displacement, (im)mobilization and escape in the face of planetary crises

The question of how climate change will intersect with human migration has gained significant traction, and relates to fundamental issues concerning sovereignty, habitability, mobilities, and justice. However, most often the question has been answered by extending into an even direr future today’s unequal and constrained geographies of mobility, displacement and immobilisation. Instead of re-imagining how (im)mobility might or should look like in the face of the climate emergency, the figure of the climate migrant / refugee has been mobilised as presage of the ‘migration crises’ to come.

Working with the provocation of ‘climate nomadism’, this intervention problematises two key ingredients of this deadlock: the biopolitical nexus State-territory-citizenship and the reification of the figure of the migrant. The notion of ‘climate nomadism’, gesturing towards a reterritorialization of discourses on climate migration, and a shift towards the political subjectivity of those (not) on the move, aims to help untangling how future mobilities are imagined from the deadlock of currently dominant discourses.



Dr Sophie Cranston

Mae Sophie Cranston yn Uwch Ddarlithydd mewn Daearyddiaeth Ddynol ym Mhrifysgol Loughborough, lle mae hi wedi gweithio am 10 mlynedd ar ôl cwblhau ei PhD ym Mhrifysgol Caeredin. Mae ei phrif ddiddordeb ymchwil yn ymwneud â datgelu'r ffyrdd y mae mudo'n cael ei gategoreiddio, ei gynhyrchu, a'i brofi, yn enwedig ymhlith grwpiau a ystyrir yn freintiedig. Mae hi wedi cyhoeddi nifer o bapurau ar yr alltud a'r myfyriwr rhyngwladol fel categorïau symudedd, y diwydiannau mudo a'u rôl wrth lunio symudedd a'u categorïau, a sut mae braint yn amlygu ei hun trwy fudo. Mae ei hymchwil wedi'i ariannu gan, ymhlith eraill, yr ESRC, cronfeydd eraill gan lywodraeth y DU a'r RGS-IBG. Mae Sophie yn ymwneud yn weithredol â Grŵp Ymchwil Daearyddiaeth Poblogaeth y Gymdeithas Ddaearyddol Frenhinol (gyda Sefydliad Daearyddwyr Prydain), gan gynnwys fel cadeirydd rhwng 2021 a 2023. Mae hi'n aelod o fyrdau golygyddol y cyfnodolion Global Networks a Population, Space & Place.

Sophie Cranston is a Senior Lecturer in Human Geography at Loughborough University, where she has worked for 10 years after completing her PhD at the University of Edinburgh. Her central research concern is unravelling the ways through which migrations are categorised, produced and experienced, especially amongst groups considered to be privileged. She has published numerous papers on the expatriate and international student as categories of mobility, the migration industries and their role in shaping mobilities and their categories, and how privilege manifests itself through migration. Her research has been funded amongst others, by the ESRC, other UK government funds and the RGS-IBG. Sophie is actively involved with the Population Geography Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society with Institute of British Geographers, including as chair between 2021 and 2023. She is an editorial board member for Global Networks and Population, Space and Place.

Categorising the Overseas Student: Settlement, Residence and Immigration

This paper questions the category of the international student. Who the international student is has been depoliticised and is often ignored in discussions around UK higher education despite the importance of international student fees as a commodity. This paper traces the origin story of the overseas student as a fee payer from the 1960s when differential fees were first announced to the 1980s, when market fees were introduced. Drawing upon archival work, it explores the categorisation and definition of the overseas student through residence and temporality which came to define mobility and migration in relation to an imagined British public. Through this, the paper argues for a need to re-politicise our understanding of overseas students' fees within a wider context of a post-colonial political economy.

Mwy o Wybodaeth | Further Information

Sut i Gyrraedd Canol Tref Aberystwyth | How to get to Aberystwyth Town Centre

Bws | Bus: 301, T2, 512

Tacsi | Taxi: HopTon Taxis
07487 523133

Teifi Taxis
07999 567777

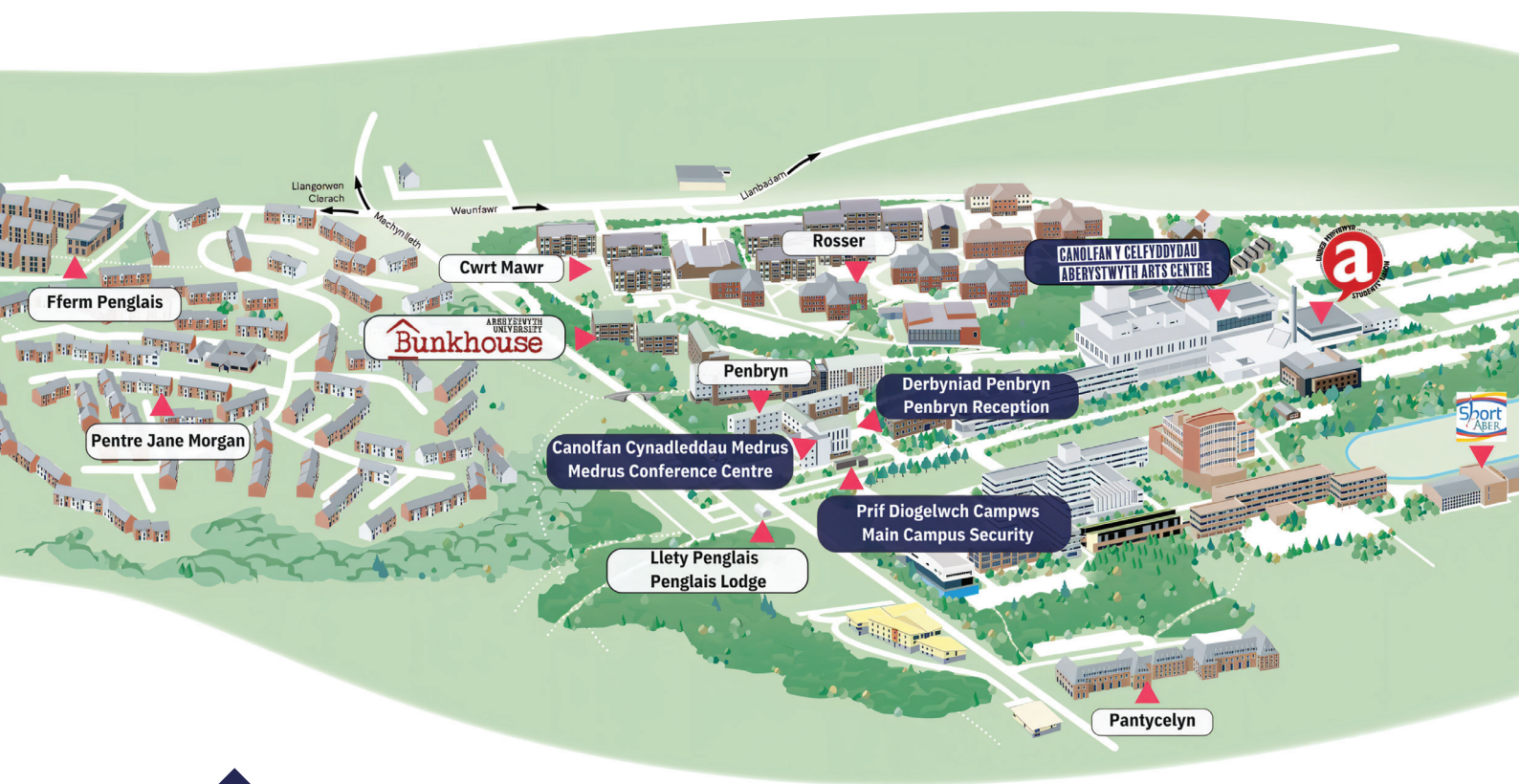
John's Taxis
07792 906559

Atyniadau Twristiaeth Cyfagos | Nearby Tourist Attractions

1. Rheilffordd y Graig Aberystwyth Cliff Railway
2. Castell Aberystwyth Castle
3. Traeth y Gogledd Aberystwyth North Beach
4. Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum
5. Rheilffordd Cwm Rheidol | Vale of Rheidol Railway



Campws Penglais Campus



Crynodebau | Abstracts

Sesiwn Gyfochrog 1 / Parallel Session 1 – Dydd Mawrth / Tuesday 14:45-16:30

Medrus 1

Creating the conditions to attract or retain ‘older’ young people: Shifting the focus in addressing demographic imbalance in rural regions

Aimee Morse & Demelza Jones

Demographic imbalance is a challenge across rural areas of Europe. This paper reports findings of RUSTIK – a Horizon Europe/UKRI project examining challenges facing rural regions – which works in Monmouthshire/Sir Fynwy to explore the demographic imbalance caused by youth out-migration and an ageing population. Unlike much existing research on rural regions, our target population includes not only the classic definition of 16–25-year-old ‘youth’, but also younger working-age people (aged up to 44). There is a comparative evidence gap around the needs of this group who, while older, nonetheless may have a long period of labour market activity still ahead of them, may have young families, and have much to contribute to the growth, vibrancy and sustainability of rural regions. Drawing on survey and focus group data, as well as comparative insights from a RUSTIK partner region in Rhein Hünseruck, Germany, which faces similar demographic challenges, the paper offers insights into how rural local authorities may attract and retain younger working-age people, to inform place-based decision making and ensure inclusive and sustainable futures for citizens at all life stages. While for the youngest groups within our study, migration decision-making largely focuses on higher education or the desire for new experiences as an aspirational rite of passage with limited scope for policy-making to address, there is greater potential for policy-makers to respond to the needs of older groups whose decision-making is more practical and who are more likely to view Monmouthshire/Sir Fynwy in positive terms rather than a place to ‘escape’.

Temporal Agency and Restanza: Migration Decisions in a Minority Language Context

Bonner, E., Prys, C., Mitchelmore, S. & Hodges, R.

This paper applies Emirbayer and Mische’s (1998) theoretical framework to a typology of migration decisions among Welsh speakers (Bonner et al., 2024) to offer a novel interpretation of the agency of minority language speakers. The analysis focuses on typological groups prioritizing social and affective factors—the Faithful (who have chosen to stay), the Lonely (who have chosen to leave), and the Nostalgic (who chosen to return). The study evaluates whether the temporal orientations of these groups’ agency, as conceptualized by Emirbayer and Mische, align with the past, present, or future.

Theoretically, the paper contributes to the field by connecting this framework to the concept of *restanza* (Teti, 2018; Wynn et al., 2022) for the first time. *Restanza* refers to the state or act of celebrating the resilience and courage of individuals who choose to remain in their communities despite challenges. This integration offers fresh insights into how agency operates in the context of migration and minority language maintenance.

The paper also explores the practical implications of this nuanced understanding of agency and its relationship with *restanza* for policymaking. It considers how these insights can inform strategies aimed at retaining young people in higher-density linguistic areas or attracting them back to these communities. By combining theoretical innovation with practical relevance, this paper contributes to the broader discourse on language resilience, migration, and community sustainability.

The Motives of Migration: Experiences of international migrants of speaking Welsh in the community

Karolina Rosiak & Rhian Hodges

The Welsh Government's Welsh language strategy aims to create a million Welsh speakers by 2050 (Welsh Government 2017) and acknowledges the key role played by new speakers of Welsh in achieving this aim (Hodges 2021). Indeed, research on adult new speakers from different ethnic backgrounds is an increasingly important field of study that warrants further research and recognizes the importance of diversity and inclusivity in terms of Welsh language policy (Higham 2025, Tilley, 2020, Rosiak 2023). This paper will present findings of a pilot study examining the migration journeys, migration motivations, learning experiences, and opportunities of five international economic immigrants who have acquired Welsh. In particular, by using biographical narrative interviews, we will aim to answer questions such as, why did the research participants migrate? Why were they attracted to the Welsh language and Wales? What were their motivations to learn Welsh? We'd like to focus on their journeys from learners to becoming new speakers and attempt to unpack the challenges faced with being 'accepted' as legitimate users of the language by Welsh-speaking communities. A persistent challenge for new speakers is the tendency of traditional Welsh speakers to switch to English when approached in Welsh by learners (Trossett 1986; Pritchard-Necombe 2007; Hodges et al, 2023). Our paper, then, will discuss (1) how participants in our study navigated potentially demotivating reactions from L1/fluent Welsh speakers to them learning the language, and (2) what policy measures could support traditional/fluent speakers in engaging more effectively with learners and further contributing to an inclusive and diverse community of Welsh speakers.

Mobile Methods for Artistic Creativity? Contemporary British Folk Artists' Reassertion of Walking

Keith Halfacree

Everyday mobilities can be recognised as feeding into inspiration for creativity as much as more spatially constrained practices such as sitting at a desk or focussing on a computer screen. This simple point is illustrated in this paper with respect to a surge in interest in the foregrounding of walking, usually in the countryside, by a number of present-day British folk musicians. Specific attention is given to Johnny Campbell, from his recent rural song recordings to his engagement with the all-things-mystical Hwæt! duo in exploring the northern English hills; to Sam Lee and his engagement, also involving guests and other musicians, with singing with nightingales; and to many of the folk artists involved with the now well-established Folk-on-Foot podcast, as led by former BBC editor Matthew Bannister. The paper maps out something of what mobility serves to promote for the artists, their art and its consumption.

Cycling practices among Portuguese immigrants in Switzerland

Andreia Dinis Pinto

In the context of the climate emergency, promoting active travel is essential for building sustainable mobility systems. Understanding the specific experiences and barriers faced by diverse groups is critical to encouraging cycling uptake. Studies reveal that immigrants cycle less than locals, and in Switzerland, Portuguese immigrants are 53% less likely to cycle than their Swiss counterparts.

Therefore, this contribution explores why Portuguese immigrants in Switzerland cycle (or not) and how their cycling practices evolve across generations, analysed through the prisms of travel socialisation and travel assimilation. Travel socialisation examines how exposure to varying social and physical

environments throughout an immigrant's migratory trajectory shapes travel behaviours. Factors such as access to transport modes (e.g., functional bicycles, car ownership), learned competencies (e.g., when and how cycling skills were acquired), and personal and peer representations and attitudes toward transport modes influence travel practices. Additionally, the influence of spatial and physical environments is considered, as regional differences within Switzerland—such as higher cycling rates in German-speaking areas—affect cycling practices. Travel assimilation, meanwhile, builds on socialisation by exploring how immigrants align their cycling behaviours with local Swiss norms over time, emphasising generational differences and avoiding assumptions of immigrant homogeneity.

As part of a broader mixed-method approach combining quantitative and qualitative analyses, this presentation focuses on a national-scale quantitative study using primary data collected via a questionnaire. By exploring generational shifts, social, and territorial influences, the study identifies leverage points to promote cycling and its sustainability benefits for all.

Medrus 3

(Re)integration Experiences of Returning Rwandese and Ugandans after Apprenticeship in Germany

Andres Matti Lembit Tomingas

Attracting African youths to study vocational professions is an important tool to tackle skills shortage in Europe. African countries benefit from diaspora remittances, investments and skills transfer of remigrating workforce. But this approach can fail due to (re)integration challenges.

This qualitative research examined such challenges. The author first consolidated scientific sources focusing on integration of African vocational migrants in Europe (case 1) and their reintegration in home countries (case 2), including mitigation strategies and research gaps. Secondly, the author conducted semi-structured interviews with twenty Rwandese and Ugandans, who migrated to Germany for apprenticeship and remigrated after graduation. He applied a combined inquiry strategy:

- 1) *Case Study*: The author studied the experiences of migrants for above mentioned cases. He analysed how different factors influence (re)integration – causing challenges or being used to mitigate them.
- 2) *Grounded Theory*: The author developed a theory that explains the phenomenon of (re)integration in a broader context.

Research participants emphasised the importance of specific preparation before and after migration to Germany, focusing most importantly on German language, also on occupational practice, expectations, and administration. The preparation on local context, e. g. dialects for proper communication, was a new finding.

Research participants easily reintegrated in home countries' labour markets, due to the learnt soft and technical skills. They take responsibility through skills transfer. Prejudices of the home countries' society are their biggest challenge.

The research findings may provide guidance to relevant stakeholders to anticipate and mitigate (re)integration challenges of African migrants. This might contribute to securing skilled workforce.

The Medium is the Message: the geographies of cryptocurrency remittances to Venezuela

Daniel Robins

Cryptocurrency remittances overcome many regulatory and practical barriers, but there is little empirical research into this increasingly popular remittance medium. In response, this article explores cryptocurrency remittances from Latin America and the Caribbean into Venezuela. Cryptocurrencies as a remittance medium conveys important messages for advocates and critics. To appropriately critique cryptocurrencies, it is important to understand how they are used in the 'every day' rather than how their use may be characterised by ideologues. Rather than directly relying on 'trustless' and decentralised blockchain technology, 'really existing' cryptocurrency remittances are highly intermediated. Access to this medium is often hierarchical, stemming from knowledge barriers but also legal status (and by extension, economic status). The 'need' for trusted intermediaries prompts discussions around the relationship between 'trustless' blockchain technology and cryptocurrency remittances. This article shows that stablecoins (cryptocurrencies pegged to fiat currencies—usually the US dollar) are the most popular cryptocurrency remittance medium. Stablecoins challenge institutional attempts to geographically restrict currencies yet also contribute to global processes of dollarisation. This is important to understand how stablecoins simultaneously undermine spatial barriers to financial access yet may create new ones in the process.

Value Extraction in Migration: Governance, Migration Infrastructures and Social Reproduction among Filipino Crew on Global Fishing Fleets

Philip Kelly

This paper analyzes the ways in which the governance of migrant worker deployment to global fishing fleets creates opportunities for value extraction that go well beyond the direct labour process aboard vessels. The global fishing industry has a heavy reliance on migrant workers – almost exclusively men – to supply the crews for its vessels. Significant source countries for migrant fishers, such as the Philippines, have extensive governance infrastructures for the deployment of such workers, which are part of a much wider institutional framework for labour export. A government licensed and regulated ecosystem of both private and public actors exist to train, socialize, record, deploy and reintegrate migrant workers. The ecosystem also extends to local recruiters and service-providers in flag states and port states used by fishing vessels. These actors are engaged in directly extracting value from migrant workers or facilitating the creation of key nodes in the deployment process that create opportunities for others to profit from labour deployment in the form of various kinds of fees and charges. Using qualitative data from migrants and key informants involved in the Philippines' migration infrastructure, this paper examines the empirical dimensions and theoretical implications of value extraction from migrant fishery workers. Going one step further, the paper will also draw upon recent feminist political economy (e.g. Mezzadri, 2024) to consider the ways in which value is produced and extracted in the rural sending areas that migrant fishers come from and return to. Social reproduction in migrant source communities become an essential component of the system that supplies labour to, and produces value for, global fishing fleets.

Sesiwn Gyfochrog 2 / Parallel Session 2 – Dydd Mercher 9^{fed} Gorffennaf / Wednesday 9th July

9.15 – 11.00 Medrus 1

EU migrant youth post-Brexit: citizens in (heterogeneous) transitions

David McCollum, Kate Botterill, Bozena Sojka & Daniela Sime

This paper engages with the intersection of two population sub-groups that are of considerable scholarly and policy interest: young people and Europeans in the UK post-Brexit. The wellbeing of migrants and ethnic minorities is a longstanding and significant concern amongst policymakers and scholars. These issues are of particular pertinence in the context of younger people, given the substantial and growing child and youth migrant population in most higher income countries. This paper mainly draws on primary survey data and the national Census to focus on young EU migrants in the UK post-Brexit. This group merits analytical scrutiny as many young EU nationals in Britain have been vulnerable to well-documented significant achievement gaps, higher rates of early school leaving, lower access to higher education opportunities and higher proportions classified as not in employment, education or training (NEET). Their characteristics and circumstances, and how these existing challenges may have been exacerbated by the UK's withdrawal from the EU, is the focus of this paper. The analysis finds that many European young people in the UK are experiencing positive transitions, but that there is significant internal heterogeneity within this cohort. As such, it is important for scholarship and policymakers to acknowledge this nuance and considerable diversity when representing migrant youth and responding to the policy challenges that they face.

Changing Working Patterns and Implications for High-Skilled Labour Mobility

Anne Green, David McCollum, Jackie Wahba, Armine Ghazaryan, Ian Taylor, Jonathan Payne

The UK faces mounting policy concerns around regional inequalities, productivity weakness and the under-performance of second-tier regional cities. One dimension of this challenge involves how changes in working practices (i.e. hybrid working, working from home and remote working) affect the residential, workplace and other spatial mobility behaviour of high-skilled labour and the implications for economic growth trajectories and spatial inequalities. These issues are important from a policy perspective because human capital is recognised as being central to the economic and social well-being of people and places. It is timely to investigate them because the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated pre-existing trends in the take up of hybrid/ remote/ home working that may have the potential to alter the economic geography of the UK.

This paper presents an overview of the findings from mixed methods research funded by the ESRC and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. It traces the evolution of the spatial residential mobility of high-skilled workers pre-, during and post-pandemic using the UK Household Longitudinal Study. In-depth case studies involving interviews with policy stakeholders and employers in three regional cities – Birmingham, Sheffield and Glasgow – complement the quantitative analyses. The findings provide insights on the factors influencing the residential (im)mobility of high skilled workers, the implications hybrid/ remote/ home working for spatial disparities and growth, and how policy make places attractive and 'sticky' to high-skilled labour. They also highlight the shortcomings of current data to provide comprehensive insights on changing patterns of (im)mobility in the UK.

International migration as a factor in recent employment change in the Midlands

David Owen

The level of international migration to the UK (both gross and net) has increased markedly during the 21st century. Work is a powerful attraction for migration, with about two-fifths of long-term UK migrants being people migrating for work and their dependants.

Other than during the financial crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic, employment has grown steadily for most of this period in most industries and regions of the UK. Employers have reported recruitment difficulties and have responded by recruiting labour from overseas. The origin of most was the EU until Brexit, but the post-Covid recovery has attracted job migrants mainly from the rest of the world.

This paper explores how international migration has contributed to employment change in industries in the local authority districts of the Midlands and examines how industries have changed their geographical source of migrants over time in different types of local labour market area. It brings together data from the Census of Population, Business Register and Employment Survey Labour Force Survey and PAYE employee estimates. The paper also considers spatial and industrial variations in self-employment among international migrants.

Ethnicity and Internal Migration in England and Wales

Momoko Nishikido & Gemma Catney

Despite considerable interest in the residential redistribution of White and minority ethnic groups, fundamental questions remain on *who* is migrating and *where*, and on the role of (internal) migration in shaping ethnic geographies. This paper explores patterns of internal migration in England and Wales by ethnic group using 2021 Census data commissioned from ONS. The data provide information on change of address one year prior to Census Day by ethnic group and age, at three spatial scales (Districts, and Middle and Lower Layer Super Output Areas).

We first explore the migration propensities of each ethnic group by age, and how these rates have changed 2001-2021. The paper next builds on previous research which has highlighted commonalities in migration away from urban concentrations and towards greater inter-group mixing. Recently-renewed political-policy claims of so-called 'self-segregation' into minority ethnic clusters contradict new evidence from Census data analyses across three decades, showing a steady decline in residential segregation of all ethnic groups alongside a growth in neighbourhood ethnic *diversity*. We use age-standardised net migration rates to explore ethnic group differences in *intra*-area residential mobility and migration towards and from own-group ethnic concentrations. Preliminary results from this novel multi-scale analysis suggest net migration for minority ethnic groups away from areas of highest co-ethnic concentrations. A similar, but more complex, pattern at the neighbourhood (LSOA) scale points towards net gain in White majority areas for all ethnic groups, mirroring the growth of ethnic diversity in these spaces between 1991-2021.

The impact of education and age on internal migration distances in Slovakia

Loránt Pregi & Ladislav Novotný

Different population categories, defined by social and demographic characteristics, exhibit varying intensities and spatial patterns of migration. These differences shape not only the redistribution of the population but also changes in its structure and social stratification across various spatial levels. However, detailed research on selective migration is limited by the lack of reliable statistical data at the local level. Consequently, geographical literature lacks comprehensive studies evaluating selective migration in relation to migration distance at the levels of municipalities, regions, and regional systems. The aim of this study is to identify and evaluate development trends in internal migration by education and age, with a focus on migration distances across different spatial levels in Slovakia. The research covers the period from 1996 to 2022 and is based on anonymised microdata on individual migrations between municipalities provided by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic for scientific purposes. The results show that migration distance in Slovakia is significantly influenced by considered population characteristics. Migrants with higher education and those aged 25–34 tend to migrate over longer distances compared to older individuals and those with lower levels of education. These findings contribute to understanding migration trends and shifts in population structure and social stratification, which is applicable even in countries lacking access to similarly detailed local-level data.

Study funded by the EU NextGenerationEU through the Recovery and Resilience Plan for Slovakia under the project No. 09I03-03-V05-00008 and project VEGA 1/0768/24: Multiscale assessment of spatial variability of social-economic population stratification.

Medrus 3

Trapping a cheap workforce through climate shocks and collective violence on the Sudan-South Sudan borderlands

Nicki Kindersley

Wars and famines in today's Sudan and South Sudan borderlands have created well-known pathways for migrant workers and refugees since the slave trade in the 1830s. In the last twenty years, a rapid succession of crises – floods, droughts, rebellions, and national wars – have been capitalised on by commercial investors working with both state-allied and private security partners. These corporate interests have built a labour trap through layers of rents, taxes, fees and debts which restrict mobility, delimit access to safe land and homes, and instrumentalise flooding, conflicts and disease vectors to build a new working class. This growing cash labour market securitises oilfields, farms, mines, businesses and compounds, and provides the cheap manual work needed in farms, transport systems and markets, creating new dynamics of class exploitation.

This paper draws on research conducted in May and June 2024 in South Sudan's Unity State, in its villages, towns and Protection of Civilians (now IDP) camps; and across the Yida, Ajuong Thok and Pamir refugee camps hosting Nuba Mountains refugees from across the border in Sudan. The research was funded by the XCEPT project and conducted by a majority-women team. This paper seeks to explore how people are being 'fixed' into labour markets through the instrumentalization of climate change patterns and securitised corridors of (im)mobility. Academics have broadly theorised these processes as commercialisation, or as primitive accumulation: this paper seeks to complicate these analyses by drawing on our interviewees' own theories of migrant work, class stratification, cash and commercialisation on this frontier.

Harnessing Human Mobility in Lesotho: Rethinking its Internal and International Migration Dynamics for sustainable household livelihood and national development

Bereket Tsegay & Yoseph Araya

Human mobility has been the defining factor in the political and socio-economic landscape of Lesotho, a small, enclave country in the Southern Africa. The human movement within its borders and beyond is high and dynamic, changing in nature, scale and magnitude, particularly in tandem with changes in its economically advanced neighbour: South Africa. An estimated 400,000 citizens of Lesotho, from a total population of 2.3 million are believed to be working and living abroad, with > 99% in South Africa. Mobility driving factors include environmental degradation, adverse impacts of climate change, the closure of manufacturing plants, and the lack of local employment opportunities. Despite remittance comprising 21% of the GDP, the country lacks an institutional and policy framework to harness the opportunities migration can bring to its national development. To understand the interlinkages of migration, environment and climate change, a study was conducted by engaging over 80 representatives of local, national and international organisations and community members through elite interviews and focus group discussions from May to July 2024. This systematic study identified the key bottlenecks for the migration dynamics in Lesotho, including the prevailing inadequate policy and institutional framework at the national level and bilateral framework with South Africa, the question of free movement of people between these two countries, the punitive measures migrants experience by the South African authorities and cross border human trafficking. Furthermore, feminisation of migration which started with the decline of South Africa's

mining sector, and transition to domestic work was identified alongside its unique challenges. Suggestions for rethinking and reforming the internal and international migration of Lesotho and its citizens that mutually benefits the political, sociology-economic and cultural interdependencies of Lesotho and South Africa are made.

Mobility in the context of extreme heat

Hebe Nicholson

As our planet warms, the possible extremities of climate get pushed further and further outside our realms of imagination. Of increasing concern is extreme heat. It is understood that there are physiological limits to what temperature and humidity the body can tolerate. When these are crossed it is known as noncompensable heat. Noncompensable heat is already occurring in certain areas and is likely to increase if global temperatures increase. This has led to speculation over the future habitability of certain places, such as the Indus River Valley, that are projected to experience further noncompensable heat. How might people live in places where their survivability at certain times is dependent on having a means of cooling? In this paper we explore the growing interest in the future habitability of places in the context of extreme heat and the role that mobility might play within this. We set out initial results from engagements with communities in one of the hottest cities on earth: Jacobabad, Pakistan. Jacobabad already suffers from periods of noncompensable heat and whilst there has been significant media attention on heat in the region, there is limited scientific research. Of particular interest is the role that mobility could have in managing heat. Little attention within the climate (im)mobilities field has, as yet been paid to extreme heat. We suggest further directions for research that could aid understanding of, and improve preparedness for, noncompensable heat in Pakistan and other contexts.

Sesiwn Gyfochrog 3 / *Parallel Session 3* – Dydd Mercher 9^{fed} Gorffennaf / Wednesday 9th July, 13:30-15:15

Medrus 1

***Thinking Beyond Colonially Inherited Framings Of The Citizen – Refugee Sense Of Belonging
And Contributing In Uganda Through A Lens of Everyday Performative Acts Of Civic Duty***
Tominke Olaniyan & Craig Walker

This paper is based on a four-year project grounded in a decolonial participatory research methodology. The PhotoVoice method was used with refugees in Kampala to explore issues of statelessness, citizenship and what it means to belong, or not, for those living in a continual state of precarity due to forced displacement. Uganda has some of the most progressive policies towards refugees in the world, giving; a right to work, freedom of movement and access to land. Uganda's citizenship laws that remain founded on the inherited colonial system from the British, however, precludes refugees from formally gaining citizenship. After interrogating the barriers to obtaining citizenship legally, participants were introduced to the notion of citizenship as a performative everyday act. The images taken by refugees and the meanings they attach to them demonstrably depict a sense of belong to community but, also, Uganda more broadly. We argue the images are expressive of the refugees consideration of themselves as active agents for development and social good in the country, despite being denied a legal right to remain as Ugandan citizens.

A Grounded Theory Exploration of wellbeing and liveable space for Uganda

Helen Harrison

This is a grounded theory exploration of wellbeing for women forcibly displaced by war and focussing on experiences of two groups of refugee women living in resettlement communities in Uganda. Key questions include how the women experience wellbeing within their life context and what can be learned from female displaced participants in the global south relating to gendered perspectives of wellbeing and liveable space. The methodology employed is constructive grounded theory combined with feminist standpoint, using unstructured in-person interviews as the data collection technique. The theoretical code is 'reimagining liveable space over time', with key categories of wellbeing, liveableness, temporariness, and community. The final outcome is an emergent grounded theory that gives a voice to women who represent those experiencing marginalisation and subjugation, both within their communities, and due to the positioning of those communities within the international hierarchy. This research is an innovative piece that weaves together feminist standpoint grounded theory with other key theoretical paradigms and demonstrates how the research can hold its own within a greater body of study. It also has its uniqueness in the way that it draws the four categories together and demonstrates their important relationship to each other in a relevant and pertinent way. Given the current global landscape of displacement this work is particularly timely.

Unpacking emergency evacuation in Scotland: Inter-governmental responses to the war in Ukraine

Dan Fisher

How different levels of government interact is rarely discussed in the context of forced migration. To be sure, some researchers have questioned the influence of national politics on how integration is managed locally and others have examined how some regions have negotiated governance exceptions concerning integration. Yet most of this work has tended to focus on published materials and does not account for unpublished interactions and decision-making between different scales of government. Additionally, research rarely considers the effects of local geography and/or refugee agency on forced migration governance locally – with national knock-on effects (beyond influencing new forms of border control). This paper responds to these lacunae by presenting the governance of refugee integration as a contested issue undergoing regular negotiation; complete with adaptive power relations between various levels of government and forced migrants. The paper draws on fieldwork that took place in Scotland during and following the emergency evacuation of people from Ukraine in Scotland caused by the Russian invasion. Scotland represents a unique context for the study of refugee governance due to its complex policy landscape; where the Scottish Government has published three integration strategies, local authorities have experience of delivering humanitarian protection programmes and where immigration policy is a reserved matter for the Westminster Parliament. Drawing on interviews conducted with government representatives, this paper demonstrates the differing aims, priorities, understandings of integration and human needs, as well as limited capacity to interact across the three levels of government. The paper also critically discusses the concept of refugee agency in the context of refugee reception where governments are particularly supportive of the forced migrant group in question.

Medrus 3

Towards More Just Mobilities and Work: the making and circulation of imaginaries of work among internationally mobile health care workers

Sarah Hartmann & Susan Thieme

Ongoing crises in healthcare systems have heightened debates about working conditions, labor shortages, health worker migration and the pursuit of more just and sustainable healthcare work. Dealing with

imaginaries and realities of the profession is not only relevant on an individual level, but also addresses key issues in our society when it comes to expectations, experiences and negotiations in working environments on what is “good”, sustainable and just work. Thereby, the circulation of professional imaginaries – shared ideas, expectations, and perceptions about medical work – and the mobility of healthcare professionals seem to be co-constituent. These imaginaries are shaped by and, in turn, shape mobility at various scales, influencing career choices, institutional practices, and transnational labor flows.

This paper examines empirical data on career aspirations, work conditions, and migration decisions of students and doctors in and from Romania who plan to go abroad or work abroad already, exploring how these imaginaries and professional trajectories are constituted and shaped. The findings provide empirically valuable insights into how professional imaginaries and mobilities are co-constituted and which trade-offs and injustices exist from the perspectives of workers, students, healthcare and educational institutions. Conceptually, we contribute to developing further debates on mobility justice (e.g. Janker and Thieme 2022, Sheller 2019) at the intersections of work and professional education, as well as how scale and translocality can be systematically addressed in justice debates.

‘Driving Nurses out’: Analysis of Out-Migration Intentions of Student-Nurses in the University of Cape Coast, Ghana

Razak Jaha Imoro

Migration of Ghanaian nurses abroad to seek greener pastures is not new. Given that health professionals from the country are rated among the best in Africa, demand for their services abroad, especially in Europe is ever-increasing. Post-COVID demand for health professionals especially in Europe and America has witnessed a surge in numbers as more nurses are leaving the shores of the country, attracted by better conditions of service. In this paper we examine out-migration intentions of student nurses in the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, focusing on how structural conditions in Ghana’s healthcare sector influence migration intentions of students undergoing training to become professional nurses. Drawing on a range of quantitative data collection techniques, a sample of 149 undergraduate nursing students at the University of Cape Coast were drawn to answer a survey questionnaire. Findings revealed student nurses are driven to seek opportunities abroad due to poor working conditions in the country ($M=1.4388$; $SD=.68036$). Additionally, inadequate facilities and equipment ($M=1.4694$; $SD=.68628$), discrepancies in salary structure ($M= 1.4898$; $SD=.85446$), and inadequate allowances and other benefits ($M= 1.4694$; $SD=.74203$) show significant influence on student nurses' migration intentions. However, unemployment ($M=1.8061$; $SD=.78933$) exerted least influence on intention to migrate, contrary to several findings in the literature attributing nurses out-migration to unemployment in sending country. We call on stakeholders in the health care sector especially the government to address systemic and structural issues affecting healthcare professionals in the country. Reforms in the sector particularly in training, recruitment, and working conditions of nurses could encourage student nurses to want to remain in Ghana after completing their studies and contribute to efficient healthcare delivery.

They keep on coming back – asylum seekers and refugees’ post-reception support seeking from facilities’ staff. A case study from Italy

Giulia Bisogni

This paper presents findings from my research in the practices of care-giving and receiving between asylum seekers and refugees (ASRs) and staff inside reception facilities in a north-western Italian province. The research is qualitative, with interviews complemented by observation, it is rooted in ethics and practices of care (Gilligan 2003, Kittay 2002, Tronto 2010) and aims at shifting the focus of the representation of reception as exclusively oppressive (Acocella and Turchi 2020, Bello 2021, Kivijärvi and Myllylä 2022, Schultz and Kaytaz 2021).

Pivoting on first-hand accounts and observation I present the topic of the influence of reception practices on ASRs lives during and after reception (Khalil and Tjiaden, 2025) through the care lens. I argue that the care supplied inside reception centre, affects ASRs' mobility, not fulfilling its goal of autonomy (Zagor, 2015), but creating a dependency that fosters the conditions for ASRs to engage in a physical, and non, movement back and forth from the facilities and their staff looking for support long after they have left. Inside reception centres basic needs are catered for and, I found, staff build personal relationships with residents even reporting to feel like mothers (for Sweden see Slujs, 2024). This infantilises ASRs (see also Zavaroni et al., 2021) but also offers a cocooned environment starkly clashing with the hostility of Italian society (Nese, 2022).

For those reasons, ASRs resort to tacking between the outside and the facility and staff they have known for so long as a strategy to fulfil their long-term migration project.

The maternity care experiences of people seeking sanctuary in Wales

Alix Bukkfalvi-Cadotte, Sioned Gwynn, Ashra Khanom, Amy Brown & Helen Snooks

In Wales, the living conditions and experiences of people seeking sanctuary are shaped by a particular regional context: the British immigration system strictly regulates the asylum process, while the devolved Welsh Government has put in place policies promoting the inclusion and protection of people seeking sanctuary through its Nation of Sanctuary Plan.

Refugees and asylum seekers often face obstacles in accessing healthcare, including communication barriers and experiences of discrimination. In maternity care specifically, women seeking sanctuary can experience lack of continuity of care and lack of familiarity with clinical practices. To explore the maternity care experiences of people seeking sanctuary in Wales, we are conducting semi-directed interviews with refugees and asylum seekers who recently gave birth in Wales. In these interviews, we address the maternity care journeys of participants, including their needs, expectations, experiences, and their views of the services they received. We are using thematic analysis to organise the data into themes reflecting patterns across cases.

Preliminary insights from the qualitative data gathered to date highlight the importance of a holistic view of maternity experiences which includes the mother's material environment and resources (i.e. housing, access to prams or nappies) as well as the broad and interconnected network of agents providing support, including healthcare providers and family members, but also third-sector organisations and other community members.

I will be presenting the results of this qualitative study, providing insights into the relationship between migration and health, focusing on the maternity care experiences of women seeking sanctuary in the Welsh context.

International migration and the future of elderly care: Perspectives of University students in Ghana

Vyda Mamley Hervie & Priscilla Attafuah

Introduction: International migration among young people and population ageing are demographic trends with profound implications. In African countries, the responsibility of elderly care usually falls on adult children, rooted in a social norm that expect adult children to assist their ageing parents in facing various social, health, and financial challenges. Recent discussions regarding high emigration rates of young Africans to OECD countries have emerged as a pressing issue. Yet, Ghana has limited exploration, particularly in the Greater Accra Region, of how young people's emigration intentions affect elderly care.

Method: This qualitative study investigated the international migration intentions of final-year university students and their effects on elderly care. A purposive sampling method was used to recruit 66 participants, with data collected through in-depth individual interviews (IDIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).

Analysis: Thematic analysis revealed a strong desire among students to emigrate, driven by push factors such as inadequate employment opportunities and lack of funding for postgraduate studies. Pull factors included aspirations for personal growth, efficacy of systems abroad, financial independence, and the ability to support ageing parents via remittances. However, participants expressed concerns regarding their ageing parents' emotional, physical, and mental well-being following their purported emigration.

Conclusion: A substantial number of final-year university students plan to emigrate soon, which poses risks to elderly care. Local and international stakeholders must address the impact of youth emigration on elderly care to guide the development of supportive policies and research for the ageing population.

Sesiwn Gyfochrog 4 / Parallel Session 4 – Dydd Mercher 9^{fed} Gorffennaf / Wednesday 9th July, 15:30-16:45

Medrus 1

The future of Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region: assimilation or isolation?

Faruq Abdul Mawlood

The Syrian refugee crisis has captured a lot of attention and has been highlighted in a number of studies and researches due to the repercussions of this crisis on neighbouring countries and countries that have received a large number of refugees. However, most of these studies focused on the security and humanitarian aspects regardless of the future of refugees and the difficulties they face in assimilating into host countries. Therefore, the aim of the article is to analyze the reality of Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region through the prism of the assimilation theory, this paper addresses the questions: what is the level of assimilation they have reached, and what is the future of their presence in the Kurdistan Region? This is done by selecting a random sample of camp residents and residents outside the camps in all governorates of the region.

Dynamics of refugee and immigrant integration and citizenship (Economic, social, cultural etc., for diverse groups)

Richard Osei Bonsu, Nana Oboadie Boateng Bonsu & Eric Adom Frempong

The Sub-Saharan African continent each day loses hundreds of unaccountable youth to irregular migration, not as a result of seeking refuge, but risking all to death in seek of greener pastures from the highly impoverished political economy in their country of origin. Postcolonial and decolonial approaches have opened fruitful conceptual and theoretical notions such as entangled (im) mobilities, connected histories and sociologies, and multidirectional memories, which together spotlight varied movements and influences beyond those of hegemonic groups. Migration is a universal phenomenon, but the trend of these irregular migration represents one of the biggest humanitarian tragedies daily, rendering most African youths who were intellects and vision holders to be hopeless within the scope living as undocumented migrants for which they constitute the greater work force of their nation. Twenty-first (21st) century promises to be a new age of migration. African migrants will risk all certain to death to reach the West (The Americas or Europe), their dreamland of greener pastures 'the land of Paradise',

thirty percent (30%) will be confronted with death while seventy percent (70%) do make it but are soon confronted with shattered dreams. Through empirical research, this paper identified the most important factors which contribute to the amplified migration among African youths. We have also highlighted the motivational elements for returning to homeland, when the socio-economic situation is favorable. The paper includes also a set of recommendations that could create a proper framework to attract talented, skilled and creative youth, regardless their origin country to voluntary return to their country of origin to start afresh.

Representing (Im)mobility through Proximity: Narratives of Migration and Displacement during a Global Health Crisis

Marina Morani

Four years after the pandemic's peak, the ongoing UK COVID-19 inquiry invites reflection as it provides insights into the pandemic's handling. The crisis profoundly disrupted human mobility, exposing vulnerabilities and exacerbating inequalities. While restrictions/border closures were deemed necessary, they also led to situations of involuntary 'immobility,' such as suspended asylum processes, creating uncertainty around humanitarian protection and resettlement.

Media coverage in times of crisis plays a pivotal role in shaping public understanding of humanitarian challenges. This study examines how UK television news reported on migration/ displacement during the pandemic's peak. Drawing on Galtung and Ruge's news value of 'proximity' (1965) and Chouliaraki's typology of news narratives on distant suffering (2006), the study analyses coverage of (im)mobility in 1,347 evening news bulletins (April–May 2020) from major UK broadcasters.

Our analysis revealed four key frames that reflect different levels of geographical/cultural/ emotional proximity between audience and subject: (i) UK domestic (im)mobility; (ii) intra-EU utilitarian labour mobility; (iii) cross-Channel securitised (im)mobility; (iv) international compassionate (im)mobility. Ultimately, compassion was distributed by proximity, with local migration events at national borders framed as securitised, and international stories receiving greater compassion.

Television, a widely consumed news medium during times of crisis (Ofcom, 2020), plays a vital role in social responsibility, especially under public service obligations. This study aims to contribute to discussions on the urgent need for informative, ethical reporting amidst misinformation in humanitarian crises, highlighting media representation's continued significance in today's uncertain world.

Medrus 3

Thinking from the border: a critical methodology and agenda for research

Katy Budge

Critical and reflexive approaches to border and migration studies are increasingly pointing to the ways in which academic research is itself implicated in sustaining the racialised structures and dynamics of the border, and complicit in reproducing the logics and language that operate to consolidate and conceal exclusionary violence (see for example Lindberg 2024).

This paper explores how 'thinking from the border', as both a methodology and a research agenda, can challenge and resist these dynamics. It does so by engaging with 'real, symbolic and imaginary borders' (Balibar 2004), both as sites of violence *and* positions from which to interrogate and resist that violence. The paper illustrates how the decolonial approach of 'border-thinking' (Anzaldúa 1999, Mignolo 2000) can reject the exclusionary implications of the border as *ontology* through an approach that instead mobilises

the border as *epistemology*; that is, as a standpoint that draws in people and perspectives that are marginal, indeed marginalised, in most accounts. More specifically, 'thinking from the border' centres the perspectives of the 'irregularised migrants' subject to the material and epistemic violence of the border.

Drawing on empirical, collaborative research that operationalises 'thinking from border' as method, the paper shares findings that emphasise not only the normative and political imperative of engaging with perspectives that are systematically silenced and invisibilised, but also the analytical value of centring the 'epistemic privilege' (Boochani 2019) of those with lived experience. In doing so, it reveals how 'thinking from the border' provides crucial insights that help us to discern the racialised and colonial contours borders, exposing realities that are obscured by dominant narratives and much traditional migration literature.

Gendered Mobilities and Misyar Marriages in Globalised Istanbul

Semra Akay

This work examines the interplay between migration, mobility, and gender through the experiences of individuals involved in misyar marriages in Istanbul, Turkey. Misyar marriage, an unregistered and often temporary marital arrangement, has gained prominence in the Sunni Muslim world over the last few decades. In such marriages, women voluntarily relinquish certain rights typically associated with traditional Islamic marriages, such as financial support or cohabitation. Although relatively unfamiliar to Turkish society, this form of marriage has become widespread in Istanbul, fuelled by the influx of immigrants following the Syrian civil war and Turkey's growing role as a destination for both short-term and long-term migration from the Muslim world. This research aims to deeply analyse the distinct mobility experiences of men and women within these marriages, the implications of these experiences on power dynamics, and how they collectively transform the nature of misyar marriages in a globalised urban context like Istanbul. Employing a qualitative research design, the study is based on in-depth interviews with individuals who have had such marriages and representatives from NGOs with direct knowledge of these practices. The findings explore how misyar marriages shape migrant women's experiences of mobilities and immobilities while simultaneously reinforcing asymmetrical power structures between men and women. Ultimately, this work provides a nuanced understanding of how migration, transnationality, gender, and mobility intersect within the framework of misyar marriages, shedding light on their complex social implications and the reproduction of power inequalities.

In Limbo – on intersecting experiences of migration with disabilities and post-Soviet (un)belonging

Toni Iman Kania

How do we migrate from post-Soviet regions struggling with renegotiating their practices and theories of belonging to the countries that imagine our states and identities as perpetually 'under construction'? What if, on top of that, our disability is produced outside of our agency?

My presentation lies at the intersection of migration studies, post-Soviet studies, and critical disability studies, aiming to amplify the call to readdress the gaps in knowledge regarding (im)mobilities and disabled voluntary migrants. The topic of 'East-West' mobilities within Europe is mostly framed as an issue of 'simple' economic migration and part of the systemic 'transition' towards neoliberalism. This tendency overlooks the complexities of power imbalance, occidental imaginaries of the post-Soviet landscape, and neocolonial mechanisms which create the backbone of modern immigration industrial complex. In this work I address the social model of disability through the above questions, demonstrating how the socially constructed process of 'disabling' contributes to the oppression of all migrants regardless of their (dis)abilities.

In the second part, I advocate for challenging the dominance of Western-centric knowledge and neoliberal 'identity politics' in both disability movements and disability politics, presenting the similarities of this debate with current conversations within critical migration studies.

Basing on existing literature and own experiences as a Polish disabled migrant and activist, my work proposes a critical epistemological reflection on how the lens of disability praxis can inform decolonial theories of mobility and migration, as well as the collective and intersectional fight for dismantling immigration industrial complex.

Sesiwn Gyfochrog 5 / *Parallel Session 5* – Dydd Iau 10^{fed} Gorffennaf / *Thursday 10th July, 10:45-12:30*

Medrus Mawr

Understanding & solving the information gaps for asylum seekers wanting to access higher education in Wales

Laura Shobiye

This qualitative research study is part of a broader project to address misinformation and barriers to higher education access for asylum seekers in Wales. It continues the recommendations from my PhD (Shobiye, 2023), highlighting significant misinformation affecting sanctuary seekers seeking formal education and its negative impact on their mental health and well-being (Shobiye, 2022).

Judith Nkwopara, an asylum seeker I mentored, proposed a service to provide information to asylum seekers wishing to access higher education as part of a City of Sanctuary project. I was her mentor for that project and her proposal aligned with my PhD recommendations. Therefore, we developed this project together and received support from the Welsh government and key stakeholders.

This participatory research study is co-designed with Judith, utilizing a co-production model from the Voices Network (British Red Cross, 2023), an advocacy group for sanctuary seekers. Our methods will include dialogical interviews and creative approaches, targeting two participant groups: 5-10 recent asylum seekers who have sought access to higher education and 2-3 professionals supporting sanctuary seekers in universities.

This abstract, drafted initially at the start of the project, aims to reflect our ongoing work. We plan to present our early findings at the International Conference on Migration and Mobilities in July, demonstrating how these insights will inform the development of a dedicated service for asylum seekers pursuing higher education.

Migrant Language Education in a Nation of Sanctuary

Mike Chick

Recent reports and research evidence on the organisation and provision of language education for migrants in the UK have illuminated numerous shortfalls. This article argues that the adoption of a participatory pedagogy to the ESOL classroom can facilitate a syllabus that is closer to migrants' needs and provides examples of how such an approach can transform the way language education for migrants is currently realized. Drawing on reflections from a pilot course of teacher education in Wales, the article details how the inclusion of a multilingual, participatory pedagogy provides the tools for ESOL classrooms

to be based around issues of relevance to those making a new home in Wales while at the same time providing space in the syllabus that frees participants from the pressure of exam or assessment preparation. First the author examines how the focus on evidencing linguistic progression, through the employment of a rigorous testing regime, often leaves little or no time to foster a sense of belonging or inclusion amongst migrants desperate to build new lives. Then, the Welsh context in particular is discussed, with specific attention to the role of the Welsh language and the Welsh Government's Nation of Sanctuary aspiration. To end, the author provides reflections from a course of teacher education grounded in participatory pedagogy. It details the benefits of moving away from an outcomes-focused, prescribed syllabus to one based on the learners' own needs, interests, motivations and backgrounds, and which, it is argued, can transform the parameters of how migrant language education is understood and enacted.

Inside Asylum Court Appeals: Access, Participation and Procedure in Europe

Nicole Hoellerer; Nick Gill; Daniel Fisher

(co-author: Jessica Hambly)

Appeals at court or appeals bodies are a crucial part of Europe's asylum system but they remain poorly understood. Building on insights and perspectives from human and legal geography, anthropology and socio-legal studies, The ASYFAIR project (www.asyfair.com) shines a light on what takes place during asylum appeals in some European countries, and puts forward suggestions for improving their (spatial and legal) accessibility. Drawing on hundreds of ethnographic observations of appeal hearings, as well as research interviews, our work paints a detailed picture of the limitations of refugee protection governance available through asylum appeals.

Refugee law can appear dependable and reliable in policy documents and legal texts. However, our work offers the unique insight that, in reality, myriad spatial, social, political, psychological, linguistic, contextual and economic factors interfere with and frequently confound the protection that refugee law promises during its concrete enactment. In our presentation we draw on evidence from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and the United Kingdom, published in our recent open access book 'Inside Asylum Appeals', to offer a clear sense of the fragility of legal protection for people forced to migrate to Europe, which will be relevant for scholars of migration studies, legal geography, legal studies, and the social sciences generally, as well as practitioners in asylum law throughout Europe and beyond.