



**Beyond Economic Contribution:  
Migrant Identities, Working Lives and Social Embeddedness**

MICaRD Research Network

University of Lincoln, 25-27<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**Venue:** Harvard Lecture Theatre, [David Chiddick Building](#), Lincoln International Business School.

**Book of Abstracts**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

**9.45-10.30am, Philomena de Lima Keynote Presentation, Harvard Lecture Theatre**

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**Title:** We are all migrants', thinking beyond categories.

**Author:** Philomena de Lima

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**Dr. Philomena de Lima** is a Sociologist and the Director of the Centre for Remote and Rural Studies at University of the Highlands and Islands, Inverness College, Scotland ([www.crrs.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.crrs.uhi.ac.uk)). The Centre was established in 2004 as the UHI PolicyWeb. Philomena's particular research interests include exploring the complex and intersecting relationships between 'communities of place' (remote and rural places in particular) and 'communities of interests', challenging normative assumptions about rural places and communities and focusing on diverse groups who are 'othered' on various grounds using qualitative methods. She has applied her interests to issues such as belonging and intersectional identities, migration and wellbeing, ethnicity and race, and to policy areas such as poverty and social exclusion and social welfare.

**Abstract:**

The call to think beyond categories and boundaries such as internal-international migrants, 'migrants' -refugees /asylum seekers, forced –voluntary, economic- lifestyle, etc, in migration studies is not new. However, addressing the socially and politically constructed nature of categorisations and boundary making has taken on specific significance in the context of a number of trends. These include recent migration trends and discourses in the EU, changing geo-politics in the EU, including Post BREXIT UK, and beyond and the rise of so called 'populism' in the EU, US and elsewhere. This presentation will seek to provide a reflective account drawing upon previous and ongoing research and identify some emerging questions and gaps in research as well as policy implications.

**11.45-12.30pm, Louise Ryan Keynote Presentation, Harvard Lecture Theatre**

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**Title:** Differentiated Embedding as a conceptual framework to understand dynamic processes of belonging in the context of Brexit

**Author:** Louise Ryan

**Institution:** University of Sheffield

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**Prof. Louise Ryan** joined the University of Sheffield in 2016, having previously been Professor of Sociology at Middlesex University, London, where she worked for 12 years. Louise is interested in a broad range of topics around migration, particularly intra-EU migration. Her research expertise is in the area of migration, social networks, gender and religion. Louise was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2015, and she is currently chair of the editorial board of the journal *Sociology*. Louise is a member of the editorial board of *International Migration* and a member of the advisory board of the *Irish Journal of Sociology*. She is also a trustee and currently treasurer of the British Sociological Association. Recently, Louise became a member of the ESRC Grant Assessment Panel. Louise is a series editor of the book series – *Sociological Futures* published by Routledge in association with the BSA.

**Abstract:**

In this paper I draw on my concept of differentiated embedding (see Ryan, *JEMS*, 2017) to analyse longitudinal data collected with participants before and after the Brexit referendum. I propose the concept of ‘differentiated embedding’ to explore how migrants negotiate attachment and belonging as dynamic temporal, spatial and relational processes. Embeddedness has been widely used across a range of disciplines to explain migration: ‘features of social embeddedness are among the most influential factors for migrant settlement, onward movement and return’ (Korinek et al, 2005: 794). However, embeddedness has been described as a vague and ‘fuzzy’ concept, lacking in precision and clarity (Hess, 2004). There have been calls for a clearer understanding of the qualities of embeddedness and the multidimensional nature of ties, as well as more research on the dynamism of this process over time (Hite, 2003; 2005). Rather than a static notion of embeddedness, we can suggest the more active notion of *embedding* (Ryan and Mulholland, 2015).

Differentiated embedding brings together micro, meso and macro dimensions of belonging, relationality and opportunity structures. This differentiation is important not only for understanding various dimensions but also diverse depths or degrees of embedding. People need not necessarily embed to the same extent and in the same way across different domains of society. Using a visual tool and in-depth interviews, I collected data on how migrants navigate specific domains including employment, neighbourhood, familial and friendships ties both locally and transnationally. In this way, my findings show that rather than a simple, one-dimensional form of *embeddedness*, migrants are negotiating *embedding* to different degrees across various domains. This dynamic approach is especially important in exploring the likely impact of Brexit.

**1.30-2.15pm, Anne Green Keynote Presentation, Harvard Lecture Theatre**

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**Title:** The changing place of international migrant workers in construction.

**Author:** Anne Green

**Institution:** University of Birmingham

**Contact:** [a.e.green.1@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.e.green.1@bham.ac.uk)

**Prof. Anne Green** joined the University of Birmingham in June 2017 from University of Warwick. A geographer by background, Anne has substantial experience of researching employment, non-employment, regional and local labour market issues, migration and commuting, and associated policy issues. Most of Anne's research is applied in nature. Funders have included Government Departments and agencies. Internationally, Anne's research has been funded by the OECD and the European Commission. Anne has contributed to evaluations of welfare-to-work programmes and area-based initiatives and led the national evaluation of the City Strategy initiative. In 2016 she led a study on inclusive growth for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation focusing on international cities. She has also undertaken research funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on linking people in poverty to jobs, low pay and progression, what labour market projections mean for different ethnic groups, and on young people and place attachment. A recent Economic and Social Research Council project was concerned with 'Harnessing Growth Sectors for Poverty Reduction'.

**Abstract:**

Historically the construction sector has had a greater reliance than average on internal or international migrant labour. To some extent this reflects the project-based nature of major construction projects and contractors' needs for numerical flexibility amongst their labour force. Labour Force Survey data for summer 2015-spring 2016 show that 126,000 construction workers had entered the UK during the previous ten years, comprising 5.6% of the UK's construction workforce. Of these individuals 60% lived in London. The single largest numbers of recent arrivals were from Poland and Romania: both European Union (EU) Member States where, along with the UK, there is freedom of movement. The literature suggests that employing organisations value migrant workers for their flexibility, willingness to be geographically mobile vis-à-vis more locally embedded workers, work ethic, skills and for contributing to a diverse workforce and innovation. As such they make a significant contribution to the construction workforce at all skills levels.

There is considerable debate and ongoing uncertainty about the nature of the future UK immigration system in the wake of the majority 'Leave' vote in the June 2016 UK referendum on EU membership. The UK Government indicated that with Brexit free movement will be ended; so prompting discussion of a range of points-based systems, work permits, regionally differentiated, sector-specific and low-skilled worker schemes are being discussed. This paper discusses the drivers of internal and international migration in general, before profiling the main features and importance of international migrant workers in the UK construction sector, especially in London and south-eastern England. It discusses the concerns of migrant workers themselves and of key construction sector stakeholders with regard to how the sector will find the labour and skills it needs - in both the short- and long-term - to deliver major house-building programmes and large-scale infrastructure projects post Brexit.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April - 10.30-11.30am, Harvard Lecture Theatre**

**Theme: Gendered and Racialised Experiences of Migrant Workers**

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**Title:** Striking women: Struggles and strategies of South Asian women workers in the UK - from Grunwick to Gate Gourmet

**Author:** Sundari Anitha

**Institution:** University of Lincoln

**Contact:** sanitha@lincoln.ac.uk

**Abstract:**

Through a focus on two industrial disputes, the famous Grunwick strike (1976-78) and the Gate Gourmet dispute that erupted in 2005, this presentation will explore the nature of South Asian women's contribution to the struggles for workers' rights in the UK. It analyses how the histories of migration and settlement of two different groups of women of South Asian origin, their gendered, classed and racialised incorporation in the labour market, and the context of industrial relations, trade unions and the labour market in the UK in the two periods shaped the trajectories and the outcomes of the two disputes. Drawing on life history interviews with thirty-two women who participated in the two disputes, it explores the motivations, experiences and implications of these events, which also serve as a prism for examining particular continuities and changes in the industrial relations, trade union practices and their scope for action. Paying close attention to the events and contexts of these workplace struggles enables us to understand the centrality of work to South Asian women's identities, the complex relationships between these women and their trade unions and some of the challenges that confront trade unions in their efforts to address issues posed by gender, race and ethnicity.

**Title:** “Migrant women who clean in the UK”

**Author:** Nicola Chanamoto

**Institution:** University of Lincoln

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**Abstract:**

It is estimated that migrants constitute around a third of the cleaning industry workforce in the UK (1), covering commercial and private domestic cleaning, and this is increasing as the sector expands (2). Globally, private domestic work is highly feminized: 1 in every 25 female wage earners worldwide is employed in domestic work (3). The projected increase in migrant women employed in elementary cleaning occupations in the UK means this a fascinating and relevant context in which to explore the gendered practice and experience of cleaning work. Cleaning work is also a unique site at which to discuss issues of intersectional inequality amongst migrant populations. This paper contextualizes current doctoral research at the University of Lincoln by reviewing the existing literature on women migrant domestic workers in the UK. Migrant women undertaking cleaning work make not only an economic contribution to British society, but also a social contribution. This social contribution occurs in the wider context of paid care work, which sits at the boundary between productive and reproductive labour, public and private life. It is suggested that despite the perceived challenges associated with engaging under-researched populations, the co-production of research with migrant women (and other relevant stakeholders) has the potential to increase their visibility within British society.

Abstract references:

<sup>1)</sup> Warwick Institute for Employment Research, 2010. “Labour Market Information Future Trends: Cleaning Industry” [online]. University of Warwick: Coventry. Available at <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/ier/ngrf/lmifuturetrends/sectorscovered/propertyandfacilities/sectorinfo/subsectors/> [Accessed 02/02/18]

<sup>2)</sup> Rienzo, C., 2016. “Migrants in the UK Labour Market: An Overview.” Migration Observatory briefing, COMPAS, University of Oxford: Oxford. Available at <http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/migrants-in-the-uk-labour-market-an-overview/> [Accessed 02/02/18]

<sup>3)</sup> UN Women, 2016. *Infographic: Migrant Domestic Workers: Facts Everyone Should Know* [online]. UN Women: New York. Available at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2016/9/infographic-migrant-domestic-workers> [Accessed 02/02/18]

**Title:** Making a place to make it work: “Motility” and Gendered Work Cultures’

**Author:** Tanja Visic

**Institution:** Max Weber Centre for Social and Cultural Studies

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**Abstract:**

Based on an ethnographic study on gendered work cultures, the paper sheds light on Serbian female domestic workers who commute (in the three months visa regime) between Germany and Serbia in order to perform care and domestic in private households. The paper brings together the specific characteristics of irregular work and regular migration highlighting the specific position of Serbian care workers in German informal care market and necessity of better qualitative understanding of multiplicity of dimensions of social reality that shape migrant worker’s experiences and lives apart from gender – age, nationality, religion, different social and educational background and geopolitical location. Using the concept of “motility” – ability to move , paper explores individuals' capacities and skills that either directly or indirectly influence physical mobility, knowledge or the recognition for the need of knowledge – in this case circular migration can contribute towards the building of networks that include e.g., travel agents, recruiters, lodgers, border police, customs officers, and bus drivers and above all knowledge on how to cross border and how to stay mobile, redirects our attention to the aspirations and lives of women who, despite myriad impediments, move between German cities and their home communities. The concept of “motility” is used to show that mobility incorporates social, cultural, and political dimensions and goes beyond economic capital because it is the capital for itself. The analysis of in-depth interviews and participant observation shows that strategies these women use to be able to move for work (for example, changing the life styles, values and habits, gaining a new social and IT skills, acquiring a knowledge about movement regulations, etc.) is a basis for understanding influences that shape women’s decisions and opportunities to move, as these constitute an important basis for understanding their everyday experiences and practices which are not marked only by risks but also by personal transformations.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April - 10.30-11.30am, LM0102**

**Theme: Entrepreneurial Activities of Migrants**

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**Title:** Typology of women migrant businesses in Lincolnshire: Exploring the extent social networks enable business owners to benefit from different support systems.

**Author:** Mahdiah Zeinali

**Institution:** University of Lincoln

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**Abstract:**

This paper aims to develop a typology of networks within migrant women businesses and the extent these networks enable business owners to receive different forms of supports (commercial, communication and social) (Atterton, 2007). Typology has been developed based on different types of network mainly informed by the position of the business within external environment. It explores the extent business is localised or ethnicized, and the degree of embeddedness within rural communities to bring an insight into the relationship between position of the business and social networks of the entrepreneur. This paper argues that migrant women entrepreneurs draw on different resources and engage with different opportunity structure that ultimately enables them to benefit from different support networks. Four major systems of support network have been identified to enable migrants' social and economic integration through their businesses.

Different studies have been conducted that provide insights into the entrepreneurial process and how rural context and entrepreneur's social embeddedness within the local community (identified as the major differentiators between rural and urban entrepreneurship) both inhibits and enhances the entrepreneurial process (Statopoulou et al., 2004; Jack and Anderson, 2002, Uzzi 1996, Granovetter, 1985). However, the synergistic relation between position of the business within external environment and entrepreneur's network and how these two are constantly reshaping each other has been overlooked. This paper will explore the synergistic relation between positioning of the business, in term of defining resources and opportunity structure, and migrants' social network formation and the process through which these two reshape one another simultaneously.



**Title:** “Did I stay or did I go?”: The employment preferences of second generation migrants with a family business background.

**Author:** Richard Telling

**Institution:** Sheffield Hallam University

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**Abstract:**

It is well documented that migrants are over-represented in self-employment numbers compared to their native counterparts. Able to realise their self-employment aspirations often in marginal areas of economic activity (see Deakins, 1999), they aspire for a better life not only for themselves but for their children also. While some groups have encouraged the next generation into professional and salaried careers, empirical work has demonstrated that other offspring have followed in their parents self-employment footsteps, albeit in new and non-traditional sectors such as ICT and finance. An employment option receiving less academic attention is the decision to remain in the business founded by their parents, thus forging a family business. The paper presents findings from qualitative research conducted among five Italian families operating in the catering sector, with particular attention given to the stay/go decision made by offspring. While the literature implies that more lucrative employment opportunities exist beyond the remit of the family business (go), the paper illustrates that some offspring remain in the family business (stay) precisely to reinforce their cultural identity, even in cases where previous generations have made conscious efforts to shed this.

**Title:** Changing Dynamics of Migrant Entrepreneurial Activities: Implications for the African Diaspora and the UN SDGs.

**Authors:** Nnamdi Madichie and Chinedu Madichie

**Institutions:** London School of Business and Management and Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation Europe

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**Abstract:**

This paper presents a radical departure from what is now replete, and well documented in the literature - i.e. ‘mom and pop’ shops in European migrant populations. Rather our focus is on budding returnee migrants, and transnational entrepreneurs, who have navigated away from traditional means of remittances to their home countries to forging, and leveraging, more structured diasporic connections/ networks as alternative foreign investment mechanisms in and out of ‘home’ and ‘host’ countries. Indeed, from our combined experiences as practitioners and scholars, such missed opportunities need to be acknowledged by key stakeholders in order to mainstream the contribution of the diaspora towards the attainment of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) especially in the light of the missed targets of its predecessor, the millennium development goals (MDGs). In this context, we use the illustrative case of Nigerians in the Diaspora, tapping into the Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO) activity network, as well as other similar experiences under the broader framework of the African Diaspora Network Europe (ADNE). Overall the study highlights the medium to long-term implications of these trends/ developments, for the attainment of key pillars of the SDGs in the region of interest – sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Diaspora, Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO), Diasporic networks.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April - 2.30-4.00pm, Harvard Lecture Theatre**

**Theme: Employment Experiences, Mobilities and Career Trajectories**

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**Title:** “I am not a number”: the commodification and wellbeing of seasonal workers in agriculture.

**Author:** Heidi Saxby

**Institution:** Newcastle University

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**Abstract:**

This presentation offers preliminary findings from an ethnographic case study about seasonal agricultural workers in the labour-intensive production of fruit and vegetables in Yorkshire, England.

Industry cost effectiveness relies on a flexible labour force which has for many years been provided by eastern European workers. Such workers often adopt a ‘turnstile’ existence characterised by moving back and forth between their home and the UK in response to work availability. This ongoing transience and the precarity of the agricultural work may be detrimental to their wellbeing. On-farm conditions can create an additional wellbeing challenge, since workers typically do physically demanding, uncomfortable and tedious tasks and are socially isolated both at work and in their temporary accommodation on the farm.

Since UK food production operates within tight economic margins and sometimes with punitive contracts, labour may be producers’ only negotiable cost, leading to workers being treated as commodities. This research suggests workers whose personal identity was obscured by their economic ‘worth’ felt their wellbeing was compromised, and that this disinclined them from returning to that farm in future years. Returnee behaviour of workers appears to be mutually beneficial since farm efficiency is increased and workers and farmers both enjoy a more satisfying social experience.

Whilst significant for workers’ wellbeing and employment choices, there are also implications for the longer-term viability of UK produced fruit and vegetables. An existing labour shortfall in the industry has worsened since the EU referendum, with returnee workers numbers dropping significantly. Farm business cycles are typically calculated in years rather than months and if access to labour is threatened farmers are less likely to commit to capital outlay to sustain or expand the business.

**Title:** Migrating to learn: Occupational mobility and skills development amongst “lower-skilled” European migrants in the London region.

**Author:** Laura Moroşanu, Russell King, Aija Lulle and Manolis Pratsinakis

**Institution:** University of Sussex and University of Oxford

**Contact:** L.Morosanu@sussex.ac.uk

**Abstract:**

This paper examines narratives of occupational mobility and skills development amongst ‘lower-skilled’ migrants in the London region, based on forty in-depth interviews with medium-educated young movers from six EU countries: Greece, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain. Whilst much research on occupational mobility focuses on ‘high-skilled’ migrants, we seek to redress the balance and explore the less-known trajectories of ‘lower-skilled’ migrant workers. As some scholars caution, the latter have typically been depicted as ‘trapped’ in precarious jobs or victims of exploitation, with few opportunities for upward mobility. In contrast, we show how our participants often acquire and use a variety of valuable technical and non-technical skills, which may help them advance occupationally. Furthermore, we examine how these lower-educated migrants make sense of their occupational success, by highlighting the importance attributed to work ethic and readiness to acquire new skills, but also, in some accounts, to the imagination, courage, and ability to steer away from ‘dead-end’ jobs and identify occupations which promise better conditions and routes for upward mobility. Our findings contribute to recent efforts to problematise rigid distinctions between ‘high-’ and ‘low-skilled’ workers, and calls for a broader understanding of human capital, beyond formal qualifications and technical knowledge. This enables us to capture the often-neglected trajectories of those who may ‘get ahead’ within occupational sectors that don’t normally require tertiary qualifications, as well as migrants’ own assessment of their ‘success’, providing a more nuanced picture of intra-EU youth mobility.

**Title:** Migrant workers' access to talent development opportunities within the global hospitality industry.

**Author:** Karina Zheleznyak

**Institution:** Sheffield Hallam University

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**Abstract:**

The hospitality industry is forecasted to experience further growth, which will be particularly evident in terms of the development and expansion of major hotel chains. However, with a growing concern over skills and labour shortages across both developed and developing countries, there is the question of how these shortages can be addressed, and some of the increasingly utilised solutions are the use of migrant labour as well as the concept of Talent Management. My PhD research explored the practices used by a global hotel organisation for employing migrant labour across different countries and at different levels - from operational level through to senior management level. The research draws on data collected through semi-structured interviews with senior managers above country level, and also hotel managers and employees from three different countries, including Russia, Turkey and the UK. Findings reveal significant differences in the employment and perceptions of different groups or segments of migrant workers across the organisation, with the practices being influenced by a number of external and internal factors.

I would like to focus on my research in all the three countries, but with the emphasis on migrant workers' ability to access talent and career development opportunities within a global hotel organisation, and what drives or limits that access. I would like to contribute to the conference in a form of presentation to show a range of Talent Management models which I have developed as part of my PhD research. In addition, the findings from my research in the UK will be considered in the context of the current political debates on Brexit.

**Title:** Academic Mobility or Brain Drain? Current Trends and Future Perspectives in Higher Education in Europe

**Author:** Charalampos Giousmpasoglou, Evangelia Marinakou and Sokratis Koniordos

**Institution:** Bournemouth University and University of Crete

**Contact:** cgiousmpasoglou@bournemouth.ac.uk

**Abstract:**

The European Union (EU) academic mobility initiatives provided the opportunity to a great number of academics, researchers and students to enhance their skills and improve their career potential in the past three decades. The popularity of particular member states such as Germany and the U.K. has created an influx of highly skilled academic staff in these countries. The changes in the EU Higher Education (HE) and Research frameworks initiated in the late 1990s in conjunction with the internationalisation of HE have left many countries behind since they failed to reform their national HE systems. The 2008 economic crisis has triggered an exodus of academics and researchers, mainly from the countries that suffered more. This paper critically discusses the impact of temporary and long term academic mobility from both sending (brain drain) and receiving (brain gain) member states' perspective. The paper also explores the impact of BREXIT in the UK's higher education.

**Keywords:** Higher Education; Europe; Brain Drain; Brain Gain; Brain Circulation; Academic Mobility

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April - 2.30-4.00pm, LM0102**

**Theme: Migrant Identities and Belonging**

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**Title:** Identity negotiations of a minority within a minority: Second Generation Youth in South Tyrol, Italy.

**Author:** Johanna Mitterhofer and Martha Jiménez-Rosano

**Institution:** Institute for Minority Rights, Eurac Research

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**Abstract:**

Second generation youth (2GY) are often described as living “between two worlds”: their parents’ country of origin and the country where they raised. However, this binary characterization of belonging and identity neither reflects the myriad creative processes in which 2GY shapes and redefines what it means to (not) belong across different worlds, nor does it render justice to the complexities of identity and belonging within these two worlds (eg. Alba & Nee 1997; Ambrosini & Molina 2004; Colombo 2010; Crul et. a. 2012; King & Christou 2010; Lewitt 2009; Portes & Rumbaut 2001; Wessendorf 2013).

This paper draws on an ongoing study (2016-2019) of the transition from school to employment of 2GY in South Tyrol, a predominantly rural province in Northern Italy with a large German-speaking minority. In South Tyrol, identity and belonging are highly politicized and constantly re-negotiated in public and private and discourses of national Italian cultural identity compete with a very strong sense of regional identity. Within this context, 2GY adopt a variety of strategies to create their own spaces of identity and belonging, which sometimes overlap with “local” categories of belonging but often don’t, and which they enter and exit strategically. By analyzing these strategies in a context where they are particularly visible – the transition into a labor market where local roots and family ties often matter more than professional skills – this paper highlights the complex negotiations that go into young people’s attempts to find their place as a minority within a minority. The paper addresses the perspectives of both young people themselves and of those adults working for or with them through over 50 interviews conducted with young people with and without migration background, and second, local actors in the fields of education, employment, youth work and social affairs.

**Title:** Fluctuating migrant identities in host countries: a social navigation strategy.

**Author:** Dieu Hack-Polay

**Institution:** University of Lincoln

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**Abstract:**

This research examines identity formation, change and use of multiple identities among forced migrants. The research, is based on discussions and interviews with 12 migrants who were involved in identity shifts. The research found that identity can be constructed individually through personal decision to shape selves according to the migrant's preferences and situational factors. This suggests that identity expression is situated and contextual. Though individual migrants can make deliberate choices about which identities to be associated with, choices are often constrained by social and environmental factors which led the participants to identities that are favourable from a social transaction perspective. Identity formation in our sample of participation was constrained by needs to maintain tangent forces native identity and the need to temporarily borrow or permanently espouse host-country identity or imagined identities. This represents a strategy to attempt successful navigation of the new society and manage the effects of displacement and loss.

**Key words:** identity formation, displacement, migrant, social navigation, social integration



**Title:** Translating Cultures, Adapting Lives: Belonging and Identity (Re)creation among Polish Migrant in the East Midlands

**Author:** Renata Seredyńska-Abou Eid

**Institution:** University of Nottingham

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**Abstract:**

Much of the research on Polish post-Accession migrants focuses on establishing the reasons for the life-changing decision of migrating individuals and remittances; however, there is less attention paid to underlying aspects of everyday life, such as cultural adaptation or language. With an aim of emphasising cultural and linguistic intricacies of migration as opposed to sheer statistical data, this presentation focuses on a selection of findings of a doctoral qualitative research study *Translating Cultures, Adapting Lives* regarding aspects of identities that Polish migrants experience in the host culture, particularly in the East Midlands. Since everyday existence of newcomers features sense of belonging and identity (re)creation, having a home away from home often forces migrants to (re)define their attachment and affiliation. Consequently, identity construction processes manifest as crucial elements of adaptation to a new socio-cultural environment. The conclusion reiterates that the Polish communities in the UK retain, re-create and redefine their identities, and more vaguely their Polishness, through those traditions, customs and habits that they brought to the UK as well as those they have acquired while living in the East Midlands.

**Title:** Unpicking constructions of otherness: exploring alterity, sameness and differences within post industrial communities.

**Author:** Paul White and Jocelyn Finniear

**Institution:** Swansea University

**Contact:** p.j.white@swansea.ac.uk, j.finniear@swansea.ac.uk

**Abstract:**

In this paper we unpick constructions of otherness as a means of understanding self, place and community.

Drawing upon the early stages of an ethnographic project examining the Welsh notion of *hiraeth* (longing and belonging in a ‘real-and-imagined’ sense; *cf.* Soja, 1998), we make explicit how security and insecurity are accomplished as mundane practices within post-industrial communities of South Wales. Specifically, we examine the ways in which otherness has particular effects that are felt intimately and shaped collectively as means of making ‘common sense’ (Garfinkel, 1967).

For the purposes of this study, rather than align with a *neophilia* of difference, we show how political economic change unconceals impolitic ontologies (Anderson, 2011; *cf.* Essed, 1990; Van Laer *et al*, 2011), among those experiencing precarity, where both immigrants and the local population labour forms of security into social relations. We connect the personal, political and normative shaping of the social order as a means of showing how a real-and-imagined ‘migrant’ citizen is constructed as a threat to both individuals and communities.

Rather than simply examining *hiraeth* as a phenomenon of investigation, we follow an anthropological tradition of drawing upon key concepts as a lens through which accounts of migrant identities can be understood. Developing an approach which is in some respects locally and culturally specific to an imaginary of national identity, we show the ways in which the emotions, attachments and cultural practices of longing and belonging, not only shape migrant identity, but are taken on, reproduced and practiced by migrants. What we witness are ways in which *hiraeth* is ambivalent, partial and provisional, but crucially, it acts as a force for both the demonstration of *sameness and difference* within communities, distancing as much as bringing communities together. Within the contemporary political economic climate we see a darker side to a concept of *hiraeth* that works to distance belonging and reformulate it as a technology of distance.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April - 9.30-10.45am, Harvard Lecture Theatre**

**Theme: Social Embeddedness, Spatiality and Place**

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**Title:** Crisis, conflict and conviviality: the narrative construction of community relation in Brexit Britain

**Author:** Jan Dobbernack

**Institution:** Newcastle University

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**Abstract:**

Dynamics among new migrant, post-migrant and non-migrant populations in the UK have received new attention after the Brexit referendum. In this context, popular accounts of community relations often visualize groups' relational experiences by highlighting different dimensions of "crisis". This includes narratives attached to the "working class" and its community life, to residential or educational patterns among ethno-religious post-migrant communities or to European migrants' experience of Brexit. There is new interest in particular groups' experience of fragility and insecurity but also in relational patterns, which tend to be sketched out in terms of conflict, foregrounding the scarcity of resources, the experience of being "left behind", the ownership of space or the integrity of community life that immigration is said to disrupt. In addition to ideas about the impact of migration on "the majority", there is now some acknowledgment that European migrants experience their own crises in the shape of discrimination and anxiety about their prospects. Such accounts coincide with well-established conceptions of crisis that are attached to "multiculturalism" and, in particular, British Muslim life.

The aim with this paper is to explore—and, in a first step, conceptualize—narrative constructions of crisis with an interest in how they shape the relational micropolitics of Brexit Britain. The paper considers the presence of crisis constructions across three levels: their production and circulation at the national level; their application in geographically specific circumstances; and the extent to which they are (and can be) inhabited by situated actors that they implicate as objects of crisis. Regarding the latter, the paper pays particular attention to the following domains: (a) the subjectivities that work with—and against—available narrative constructions; (b) the social/political agency that draws on crisis experiences; and (c) the potential for relational solidarity on the basis of shared experiences of critical circumstances.

**Title:** Growing more complicated: migration patterns into rural Lincolnshire

**Author:** Ian Barnes

**Institution:** University of Lincoln

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**Abstract:**

This paper looks at the migration from Central and Eastern Europe into Lincolnshire a predominantly rural country in Eastern England. In Boston, one of the main population centres, migrant workers amounted to 25% of the working population, a significant proportion of which were involved in either the agricultural sector.

Until the Brexit vote in June 2016, the smooth progress of workers and their families into the area seemed assured with good transport links and affordable flights to and from the migrant's country of origin. A significant social infrastructure started to develop quickly after 2004 with the availability of goods and services and support organisations that made it seem more like home. Many workers choosing to move their families and raise their children in the UK. With the borderless EU, migration into the UK seemed less like international migration and more as if it were within a single state.

The threat of the re-imposition of borders changed the situation almost overnight. Whilst there had always been some anti-immigrant sentiment, this became more apparent after the vote to leave the EU. There are early indications of an emerging labour shortage in key areas as workers choose not to return because many workers feel their employment rights are under threat.

This paper is based upon on-going field research and examines the impact of migrants returning upon the developing social infrastructure within the country and specifically in two of the main population centres, Boston and Lincoln. It will look at the way that the small business enterprises which provided much of the social infrastructure are having to change and adapt to meet the potentially more complex regulatory environment for migrants.

**Key words:** Brexit, social infrastructure, returning migrants

**Title:** Different perspectives on how migrants contribute to the rural development: the case of the municipality of Petrovac, East Serbia.

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**Abstract:**

The aim of this paper is to explore the influence that labour migration have on development of chosen rural community in the last 50 years, i.e. from the starting point of economic emigration from ex YU member states. The migration and development nexus was analysed from the perspective of the migrants themselves, returnees, autochthons as well as the local authorities. Republic of Serbia has traditionally been a source country of labour migration to the Western Europe, starting from mid 1960s. Population mobility has increased since 1990s due to unfavourable political and economic situation characterized by structural changes and transition to market economy with regional implications of deindustrialization. That deepened the spatial and socio-economic gap with strong reflection on demographic processes, in the first place high share of emigration implicating population decline and aging. Large share of migrants were from rural areas in the eastern part of the country which is traditional region of emigration.

This paper has in focus the effects of the migration on the rural community of Petrovac municipality in East Serbia. This municipality was selected based on the high share of migrants living abroad in total population which is 25 per cent, but in number of rural villages is even higher. The idea is to explore how migration contributes towards the development of rural communities through remittances and the involvement of the migrants in community development projects. Special attention was paid on return migration process, the causes and effects of people coming from abroad, in the first place prior to retirement. Data were obtained using mixed methods approach comprising quantitative data from population censuses and internal migration statistic complemented with semi structured interviews and questionnaire surveys. We have collected the feedbacks from the three chosen target groups. Thirty migrant-sending households were sampled for the study. This research shows how migration determinants and impacts affect contemporary rural change and rural development.

**Keywords:** labour migration; return migration; mix methods; rural development; local communities;

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April - 9.30-10.45am, LM0102**

**Theme: Integration and Community Cohesion**

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**Title:** Welcoming Voices: evaluating the musical practices of migrant communities.

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**Abstract:**

Welcoming Voices is a mixed-method research project evaluating how migration affects musical practices. It's being carried out by researchers in the School of Fine and Performing Arts alongside colleagues from the University of Loughborough, local government, arts organisations, and project partners in Lithuania, Latvia and Poland. The main research enquiry asks: What do we learn about migration and community cohesion from studying communities' engagement with musical practices? We are considering everyday listening practices, participation activities within local, amateur and community groups, and social uses of music at professional events and venues. We are engaging with ordinary people (non-musicians) but also with those that facilitate activities (venue programmers, community leaders) and practice music professionally (teachers, bands, promoters). More widely, we are engaging not only with immigrants to the UK, but also existing British communities, and countries in Europe from which people have emigrated. This presentation will outline the parameters of the project and present initial findings from preliminary interviews conducted with Polish and Lithuanian migrants in Lincoln and Boston.

**Title:** Migrant subjectivities and experiences of social isolation, connectivity and loneliness: a systems theory approach to understanding processes of social inclusion/exclusion and embeddedness.

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**Abstract:**

Migrants and people from minority ethnic backgrounds face particular risks of unwanted social isolation and loneliness. These risks are linked both to the concentration of socioeconomic deprivation among these groups and to exclusionary processes and structures associated with migrant/ minority ethnic identities. Cumulative exposure to racial discrimination can increase social isolation and mental ill-health for these groups, while wider societal discourses and negative media portrayal are likely to undermine self-worth and a sense of belonging, particularly within a 'national imagined community', but also more locally within everyday spaces and wider community contexts. Broader policies relating to housing and resettlement, immigration and entitlement to public services and welfare have been shown to have an impact on social relationships and social connectivity for migrants and people from minority ethnic backgrounds. At the same time, however, migrants' and ethnic minority people's social connectedness has also been found to be shaped within their more localised everyday contexts, including actively by migrants and ethnic minorities themselves. In line with such observations, unwanted social isolation and loneliness are increasingly conceptualized as emergent properties of socio-ecological systems within which processes operating at individual, family, community and population-level are intimately connected. According to this approach, there is a need to develop new understandings of how socio-ecological systems operate and how they can be 'disrupted' to create opportunities for positive social connections. This paper describes an innovative systematic review methodology that employs systems thinking to identify system processes and structures that shape migrant and minority ethnic people's social connectedness and social embeddedness. The paper presents the methods and findings from the first phase of the project, including an early systems model.

**Title:** The Role of the States on Integration Process of Migrants into the Host Community: The Case of Syrian Migrants in Turkey

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**Abstract:**

The debates on International migration usually focus on the challenges of migration to host countries' policies. The inclusion of a moral approach into the politics of integration becomes vital for 'legal inclusion' of migrants into the host communities. This paper looks into the role of the states on integration process of migrants within the host community by focusing on three key dimensions; the theoretical analysis of 'legal integration' of migrants and the 'community' through a 'moral perspective'; the analysis of the role of the states in this process; and the empirical study of Syrian migrants in Turkey. The paper uses cosmopolitan moral approach in conceptualising 'legal integration' and 'the community' and attempts to define these notions through the 'concept of values'. It argues that the terms 'migrant', 'integration' and 'community' are value laden which are created and transformed within a community. The values of the community can arguably be challenged by the universal values which can pose a policy dilemma in host countries. In this context, the role of the states is crucial in balancing both national and universal values through integration of a 'moral dialogue' in policy making process. Such a moral dialogue can be possible through the inclusion of state and non-state actors in decision making process which has a significant impact on the integration process of migrants in host countries. In order to place the theoretical arguments into a context, the paper presents an empirical analysis that focuses on the legal integration of Syrian migrants and the evolution of moral dialogue in policy making in Turkey. The paper uses the data from legal official documents and semi-structured interviews carried out in Turkey in 2015. The paper concludes that policies of integration in Turkey indeed are value laden which results with a mixed policy approach to legal integration of Syrian migrants into the community.