

Call for Papers – January 2014

Migration to the Centre International Conference

Beyond Borders: Migration and (In)Equality in Central Europe in Comparison

Faculty of Humanities, Charles University Prague (FHS UK Praha) – Jinonice, January 23-24, 2014

Multicultural Center Prague invites submission for papers to be given at an international conference as part of a transnational project *Migration to the Centre*¹, including the Czech Republic and its Visegrad Group partners – Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, and Slovakia represented by the following institutions: People in Need (CZ), Center for Independent Journalism (HU), The Institute of Public Affairs (PL), The Peace Institute (SLO), and The Human Rights League (SK). The conference is organized in partnership with the Faculty of Humanities at Charles University in Prague (FHS UK Praha).

Theme: The conference will contribute to the broad range of issues that emerged throughout the project relating to immigration within the larger region of Central Europe. These issues include migrants' entry into and rights within the job market, reunification of migrant families, education and training of international students, migrants' human rights in the face of state security control, migrant sentiment of belonging to the host society as equals and first class citizens (apolitical citizenship), and migrant health status. All of these pressing topics of contemporary migration have to be contextualized within the framework of ever-changing European Union legislation, the policies of individual states, and the liberal paradox of economic freedom and political control.

Disciplines, institutions, and individuals to whom the invitation extends include, but are not limited to, scholars, analysts, practitioners, state officials, migrants, and activists in the fields of sociology, social work, anthropology, political studies, medicine, governmental institutions, integration centers, and other non-governmental organizations.

Format: The conference will be divided into two days and five panels (see their detailed description and the subtopics to each panel below). Each presentation is limited to twenty minutes, and each panel will be followed by comments from an established scholar and a practitioner or migrant worker. There will be two morning sessions each day and two afternoon sessions the first day. One of the afternoon sessions will be a block of three workshops running concurrently. The sessions will be divided by coffee breaks and lunch to provide guests with time to relax and further discuss presented topics. The end of the first day will be closed by a series of short film screenings followed by debate and refreshment in the center of Prague.

Submission: Proposals should be no more than 300 words. Please indicate the panel you want to be reviewed for and the focus of your research topic, the critical/analytical approach that you take toward the research topic, and the significance of your research beyond the academy. In evaluating

¹ Find detailed information about the project at: <http://migrationtothecentre.migraceonline.cz>

proposals, we will give preference to those papers that are well developed and keep a more diverse audience in mind. Financial contribution toward travel and accommodation will be available to selected participants coming from outside Prague. Presenters and authors will be also invited to submit their paper for a collective peer-reviewed volume. Please indicate if you are interested in publishing within this volume.

Send your proposal, with a short bio of no more than two pages, to daniela.penickova@mkc.cz.

Deadline: Proposals must be received by December 1, 2013. Speakers will be notified of the vetting committee's decision by December 10, 2013. Confirmed speakers will be asked to provide the conference organizer with their PowerPoint (or other software) presentation and final draft of their papers by January 10, 2014.

Individual Panel Descriptions:

Migration, Citizenship and the Politics of Belonging

This interdisciplinary panel invites papers that investigate the interplay between forms and modes of contemporary citizenship, migration governance, and the politics of belonging. We would like to explore the different experiences of citizenship by various groups of citizens based on gender, age, migrant status, class, and ethnicity. In particular, we are interested in work that engages with, but is not limited to, the following questions:

- the re-conceptualization of citizenship theories
- the relationship between legal status, rights, and belonging
- the tension in policy and practice between coexisting traditions, and regimes of rights
- the intersection of legal status and race, class, and other social cleavages
- the position of citizen children of undocumented migrant parents, unaccompanied asylum seeking children, people with dual citizenship, 'failed' asylum seekers, and stateless people
- migrant citizenship experiences and its interaction with specific life phases, careers, or status passages.

Human Rights in the Context of State Security and Migration Control

Due to the secretive character of the functioning of state security agencies, there is limited information about the way they influence the rights of migrants and asylum seekers. This issue has become salient in a number of CEE countries in relation to recent legislative changes that empower institutions, such as the state information services, in the decision making process on who gets to stay in the country of destination and who may be labeled as "questionable" or "dangerous" and refused for residency. The functioning of state security agencies also tends to constrain the role of courts in overseeing such decisions. This panel thus invites papers that explore these issues, in addition to:

- recent debates on legislative changes pertaining to the role of state security agencies and information services in migration control
- the role of municipal, regional, national, and international courts (such as the European Court of Human Rights and Court of Justice of the EU) in ensuring just practice of state institutions
- cases of violation of human rights by state security agencies and the public's reaction
- other impacts and implications of the process of securitization in the EU countries

Migrant Workers Inside and Outside of the Labor Code: A Case of the Electronics Industry

This panel is centered around the observation that in spite of the economic crisis, manufacturing, such as the electronics industry, has remained an important economic sector of employment for migrants in the EU industrial peripheries. We are seeking papers that discuss how specific companies in the CEE countries have managed their migrant labor force in the context of their business strategies and global productions. Specifically the papers may discuss the following questions:

- What impact do the different legal arrangements used to organize flexible production have on migrant workers?
 - These arrangements include, but are not limited to:
 - Temporary contracts
 - Self-employed work
 - Agency work and other kind of “non-employment” contracts
- What are the interrelations between employment in venues such as the electronics industry and migrants' legal status?
- How has the meaning of “employment” changed in the recent decade from the perspective of migrants, temp agencies, lead contractors, or state control agencies?
- To what extent have the precarious working conditions been generalized? What ways of resistance have there been among migrant workers?

Migration and Health in the European Union

While migrants are considered comparatively healthy, they often face particular health challenges and are vulnerable to a number of threats to their physical and mental health. These stem from the fact that communication between healthcare providers and migrant clients often remains poor and health systems are not prepared to adequately respond to the need for culturally-sensitive and responsive care. This panel invites healthcare practitioners and analysts who can contribute to closing the gap presented by eminent lack of data on understanding the migrant health and healthcare conditions in the EU. The topics include, but are not limited to:

- the phenomenon known as the “healthy migrant effect” and its impact
- increasing efficacy in monitoring migrant health and occupational health
- employment of interpretative and phenomenological approaches in migrant health research
- understanding migrant communicable and non-communicable disease
- development and changes in the migrant health policies in Europe



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