

# Exploring the Multi-Directionality of Migration and Mobility: Barriers and Opportunities

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8<sup>th</sup> Neuchâtel Graduate Conference  
of Migration and Mobility Studies

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University of Neuchâtel, 8 – 9 July 2025

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Program

# **Neuchâtel Graduate Conference of Migration and Mobility Studies**

## **8 – 9 July 2025**

### **University of Neuchâtel**

**Conference Location:**

University of Neuchâtel  
Avenue du 1er-Mars 26  
2000 Neuchâtel  
Switzerland

**Website:** <https://nccr-onthemove.ch/events/neuchatel-graduate-conference-2025/>

Please **register by 28 June 2025** at this [link](#)

Scientific and organisational  
committee

The Neuchâtel Graduate Conference (NGC) is an international graduate conference organized by the nccr – on the move, Swiss National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) for migration and mobility studies. It provides a stimulating environment in which PhD and Postdoctoral fellows from different universities and research institutions can exchange ideas, establish networks, and initiate collaborative research.

The 8th edition will take place from 8 to 9 July 2025 in Neuchâtel, providing opportunities to meet other researchers in formal and informal gatherings. The topic of this year's Graduate Conference will be "Exploring the Multi-Directionality of Migration and Mobility: Barriers and Opportunities".

**Lucas Oesch** (Scientific Officer of the nccr – on the move), **Robin Stünzi** (Education, Careers and Equal Opportunities Officer of the nccr – on the move), **Valérie Baggi**, **Mélinda Dinh**, **Karin Vaagland** (University of Geneva), **Nina Khamsy**, **Livia Tomás** and **Great Udochi** (University of Neuchâtel).

## Program Overview

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### Monday 7 July 2025

18:00 – 19:40 Walking tour "**In the Footsteps of Slavery**" in Neuchâtel (max. 30 participants) ([PDF](#))

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### Tuesday 8 July 2025

08:30 – 09:00 Badge pick-up at Welcome Desk

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome Address and Introduction to the Panels

09:15 – 11:15 Parallel Panels Session I

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:30 Parallel Roundtables and Workshops (max. 30 participants each)

**Migration Research, Digital Media, and Journalism: Rethinking Pathways of Collaboration in Times of (Mis)Representations** ([PDF](#))

**NGOs in the Migration Field: Research, Practice and Early-Career Opportunities** ([PDF](#))

13:30 – 14:45 Lunch Break

14:45 – 16:45 Parallel Panels Session II

16:45 – 17:15 Coffee Break

17:15 – 18:45 Keynote Lecture: **Has Trump Resolved the Liberal Paradox?** ([PDF](#))

19:15 – 23:45 Conference Reception

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### Wednesday 9 July 2025

09:00 – 11:00 Parallel Panels Session III

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30 Roundtable: **How Can Demigrantization Apply to Integration Studies?** ([PDF](#))

12:30 – 13:15 Workshop (max. 30 participants): **How Can Demigrantization Apply to Integration Studies?**

13:15 – 14:45 Lunch Break

14:45 – 16:45 Parallel Panels Session IV

16:45 – 18:00 Final Apéro

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## Event Highlights

### Monday 7 July 2025

18:00 – 19:40 Walking tour: **“In the Footsteps of Slavery”** (max. 30 participants, please register by way of conference registration [form](#))

### Tuesday 8 July 2024

11:45 – 13:30 **Migration Research, Digital Media, and Journalism: Rethinking Pathways of Collaboration in Times of (Mis)Representations**  
Room C49 (max. 30 participants, please register by way of conference registration [form](#))

Roundtable with:

**Elodie Feijoo** (Responsible for the Comptoir des médias at asile.ch, Switzerland)  
**Saeed Husain** (Visiting Faculty at the Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan)  
**Saara Pellander** (Director of the Migration Institute of Finland)  
**Nicole Vögele**, Filmmaker, investigative journalist and Professor of Moving Image at the Dresden University of Fine Arts (HfBK Dresden)  
**Samson Yemane** (Vice-President of the Federal Commission against Racism, Co-President of the Eritreischer Medienbund EMBS, member of the Swiss Refugee Council OSAR and the Protestant Social Center CSP Vaud)

Followed by a Workshop with:

**Elodie Feijoo** (Responsible for the Comptoir des médias at asile.ch, Switzerland)  
**Saara Pellander** (Director of the Migration Institute of Finland)  
**Inka Sayed** (Communication Officer nccr – on the move)  
**Nicole Vögele**, Filmmaker, investigative journalist and Professor of Moving Image at the Dresden University of Fine Arts (HfBK Dresden)  
**Samson Yemane** (Vice-President of the Federal Commission against Racism, Co-President of the Eritreischer Medienbund EMBS, member of the Swiss Refugee Council OSAR and the Protestant Social Center CSP Vaud)

11:45 – 13:30 **NGOs in the Migration Field: Research, Practice and Early-Career Opportunities**  
Room C56 (max. 30 participants, please register by way of conference registration [form](#))

Roundtable and Workshop with:

**Vanessa Ballarin** (Red Cross Switzerland)  
**Maelle L’Homme** (*Médecins Sans Frontières* Switzerland - MSF)  
**Catherine Woollard** (European Council on Refugees and Exiles - ECRE)

17:15 – 18:45 **Has Trump Resolved the Liberal Paradox?**  
Room C46 Keynote Lecture by **James Hollifield**, Southern Methodist University  
(Aula) Discussant: **Sandra Lavenex**, University of Geneva

### Wednesday 9 July 2024

11:30 – 13:15 **How Can Demigrantization Apply to Integration Studies?**

Room C46  
(Aula)

Roundtable with:

**Anna Amelina**, TU Chemnitz  
**Parvati Raghuram**, Open University  
**Anne-Kathrin Will**, Humboldt-Universität | Hochschule Zittau/Görlitz

The roundtable (11:30-12:30) is open to all and will be followed by a workshop (12:30-13:15) with a limited number of participants (30). Please register by way of conference registration [form](#).

## Tuesday, 8 July 2025 | Program Details

09:15 – 11:15

Panel #1

**Borders I**

Room B32

WEBEX link

Mentor: Christin Achermann,  
University of Neuchâtel

Chair: Anna Marino,  
University of Neuchâtel

**Frontex Between Meroni and Les Vert: The Liability of the Agency in Name of the Rule of Law Principle**

Alessio Laconi, University of Florence

**The Role of Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community (AFIC) in Border Security and Irregular Migration from Nigeria to Europe**

Peter Irabor, Osun State University

**Children and Youth in Transit: State Ambivalence, NGO Governance, and Migration Strategies of Unaccompanied Children and Youth in Egypt**

Amira Abdelaziz Elsaid, University for Continuing Education Krems (UWK)

**Sweet Escapes and Unscrupulous Smuggling: Navigating Criminalization on the Lebanon-Cyprus Route**

Nora Milch, University of Oslo

09:15 – 11:15

Panel #2

**Agency**

Room B29

WEBEX link

Mentor: Mihaela Nedelcu,  
University of Neuchâtel

Chair: Carol Pierre,  
University of Neuchâtel

**Agency in Exile: A Gendered Perspective On Redefining Structural Constraints and Belonging**

Mira Elham Hazzaa, University of Osnabrück

**Reconfiguring Masculinity in Motion: The Multi-Directional Adaptation of Bangladeshi Migrant Men's Familial Positionality and Domestic Roles in Transnational Contexts**

Abu Saleh Mohammad Sowad, Concordia University

**Navigating Mobility: Hospitality, Reciprocity, and Relational Agency Among Young Refugees**

Fathe Mubeen, Tampere University

**Where Do People Migrate and Why Not Elsewhere? Another Perspective on Migration Systems**

Yacine Ait-Larbi, University van Amsterdam and International Migration Institute

## Tuesday, 8 July 2025 | Program Details

09:15 – 11:15

Panel #3

**Education**

Room C49

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Parvati Raghuram,  
Open University

Chair: Livia Tomás,  
Université de Neuchâtel

**Intersectional Experiences in International Academia**

Tugay Durak, University College London (UCL)

**From Students to Refugees: Students' (Im)mobility in the Wake of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine**

Ezenwa Olumba, Royal Holloway University of London

**From Study Abroad to Staying Abroad: The Unintended Migration Pathways of Turkish and International Students**

Yussif Issah, Ankara University

**The Japa Syndrome in Nigeria's Migration Landscape: Interrogating the lived Experiences of Nigerian Migrants in the United Kingdom**

Samuel Okunade, University of Johannesburg

09:15 – 11:15

Panel #4

**Climate and Rurality**

Room C56

WEBEX [link](#)

Mentor: Suzy Blondin,  
University of Neuchâtel

Chair: Nora Bardelli,  
University of Neuchâtel

**Environmental Change and Adaptive Migration: A Study of Urban-to-Rural Movement in Ghana's Akwapim North Municipality**

Eric Gyampoh, University College of Management Studies, Accra

**"Trapped" Despite Flood Disasters: (In)Voluntary Immobility among Climate Vulnerable Population in Ghana's Savannah Region**

Sandra Obiri-Yeboah, University of Ghana

**Pathways of Mobility in Times of Climate Change and War: Exploring the "Lived Experiences" of Displacees in Gaza**

Zeina Moneer, American University in Cairo

**Small and Medium-Sized Towns (SMT), Mobilities and Rural Diversification: An Institutional Analysis of Resource Access in Katete and Mumbwa, Zambia.**

Becaye Dione, Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD)

## Tuesday, 8 July 2025 | Program Details

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #5

### **Borders II**

Room B32

WEBEX link

Mentor: Saara Pellander,  
Migration Institute of Finland

Chair: Nina Khamsy,  
University of Neuchâtel

### **Narratives' Variation of "Migration Crises" at Europe's Southernmost Borderscapes: the Case of Melilla and Lampedusa**

Anna Marino, University of Neuchâtel

### **Affective Dimensions of State-Sanctioned Violence: An Exploration of Australia's Border Policies Through the Lens of Violence, and Its Attendant Societal Harms**

Simon Metcalfe, University of New South Wales

### **Migration Governance and Migrants' Agency: The Case of Sub-Saharan Irregular Migrants in Algeria**

Fella Djilaili, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University

### **Suspended Futures: Bureaucratic (Im)mobility and the Politics of Exclusion in Assam's NRC Regime**

Debasreeta Deb, University of Hyderabad

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #6

### **Space, Subjectivity and Mobility**

Room B29

WEBEX link

Mentor: Anna Amelina, TU Chemnitz  
and Hind Al-Shoubaki, FHNW

Chair: Carol Pierre,  
University of Neuchâtel

### **Architecture of Migration: From Paper Models to Public Spaces, How Collaborative Making Shapes Identity, Integration and Community Building for the Romanian Diaspora**

Ecaterina Stefanescu, University of Central Lancashire

### **Decentering the Cartography of Migration Trajectories: Rethinking the Visual Representation of the "Balkan Route"**

Silvana Maeder, University of Geneva

### **Migrant Subjects, Diasporic Subjects**

Clare Maxwell, Graduate Institute, Geneva

### **'Jamia Nagar is a Muslim ghetto': Economy, Ecology and the making of a Muslim Colony in Delhi**

Ali Istikhar, Venu Charitable Society

## Tuesday, 8 July 2025 | Program Details

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #7

### **Labour Migration**

Room C49

WEBEX link

Mentor: Eric Crettaz, Hautes écoles de travail social (HETS) Geneva

Chair: Livia Tomás,  
University of Neuchâtel

### **Labour Migration to Gulf Countries as an Alternative Strategy for Improving Livelihood Opportunities: A Case Study of Murshidabad District, West Bengal, India**

Abbasuddin Sk and Subrata Purkayastha, North-Eastern Hill University

### **Bridging Cultural Gaps: A Study on Second-Generation Migrant Hiring Practices in the Netherlands**

Ao Yin, University of Groningen

### **Navigating In-Between Spaces: Comparing Experiences of Romanian and Polish Mobile Workers in Brandenburg**

Cristina Buza, University of Amsterdam

### **Remote Work Policies as a Vector of Workplace Discrimination: Cross-Border Employees in a Swiss Public Hospital Post-COVID-19**

Samuel Pacht, University of Lausanne

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #8

### **Health**

Room C56

WEBEX link

Mentor : Joëlle Schwarz,  
Unisanté, Lausanne

Chair: Nora Bardelli,  
University of Neuchâtel

### **‘Sick Enough?’ The Production of (Un)Deportability and (In) Eligibility for Humanitarian Visa through Health in Switzerland**

Gesa Teigelkötter, University of Neuchâtel

### **Pregnancy, Birth and Postpartum as a Unique Transition to (Not) Belonging**

Irina Radu, University of Neuchâtel

### **Navigating (Im)mobility: Systemic Barriers in Im/migrant Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health Care in British Columbia, Canada**

Aysan Dehghani, University of British Columbia

### **The Mental Wellbeing of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Fragile, Transient-Cum Permanent Displacement Settings in the Global South: Evidence from Tongogara Refugee Settlement in Zimbabwe**

Norman Pinduka, Africa University



## Wednesday, 9 July 2025 | Program Details

09:00 – 11:00

Panel #9

**Policies I**

Room B29

WEBEX link

Mentor: Sanda Lavenex,  
University of Geneva

Chair: Great Udochi,  
University of Neuchâtel

**Differentiated Inclusion and Mobility: Comparing Accommodation Access for Ukrainian Refugees and Other Migrant Groups in the EU**

Viktoryia Vaitovich, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

**"Provisional and Transitory: Case Study on the Creation and Application of the 'S Protection Status' in Response to the Balkan War"**

Adis Sabanovic, University of Lausanne

**Temporary Protection Directive and Its Implementation: Creating Opportunities or Barriers to Mobility of Persons Displaced from Ukraine?**

Maja Lysienia, University of Lausanne and HES-SO Valais-Wallis

**"Unaccompanied Minors' Governance: a Pendulum Between Protection and Control. Comparative Analysis Among Democratic Systems"**

Isabella Miano, University of Catania

09:00 – 11:00

Panel #10

**Belonging and Identity**

Room B32

WEBEX link

Mentor: Ayca Arkilic, Victoria  
University of Wellington and  
Anne-Kathrin Will, Humboldt  
Universität

Chair: Valérie Baggi,  
University of Geneva

**Mapping Our Fragmented Journeys: 1.5-Generation Iranians' Experiences of Belonging and Well-being**

Shiva Mazrouei, McMaster University

**Smoke and Mirrors: Navigating Religion, Class, and Migration Among Zimbabwean Middle-Class Pentecostal Migrants in South Africa**

Tinashe Chimbidzikai, Leiden University / Goettingen University

**Silenced National Identity: Case Study of Russian Migrants in Japan**

Marina Obukhova, Waseda University

**Making Morocco Home: The Dynamics of Immobility and Multidirectional Migration of Nigerian Migrants**

Chaimaa Radouani, Leiden University

## Wednesday, 9 July 2025 | Program Details

09:00 – 11:00

Panel #11

**Circular Migration**

Room C49

WEBEX link

Mentor: Livia Tomás,  
University of Neuchâtel

Chair: Vestin Hatagekimana,  
University of Neuchâtel

**Circular Migration of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan: Patterns, Drivers, and Policy Implications**

Sidra Sidra, Azad Jammu & Kashmir University of Bhimber

**Transnational Family Networks and Cross-Border Trade: Roles of (im)Mobile Family in Herbal Medicine Practices Along the West African Migration Corridor**

Oluwasegun Ajetunmobi, University of Ibadan

**Stuck, Stayed or Remigrated: Forced and Voluntary (Im)mobility Among Overseas Filipino Workers Returnees and Affective Wellbeing During COVID-19**

Kristel May Gomez-Magdaraog, University of Geneva

**A Slice of Aspiration of Labour Migrants: Circular Move to Stay Put from Indian Sundarbans**

Sourina Bej, University of Bonn

14:45 – 16:45

Panel #12

**Measuring Public Opinion, Preferences and Economic Outcomes**

Room C56

WEBEX link

Mentor: Marija Dangubic,  
University of Lausanne and  
Anita Manatschal,  
University of Neuchâtel

Chair: Tugay Durak,  
University College London

**Anti-democratic Penalties Against Government Critics in South Africa - the Role of Mixed Stereotype Content**

Daniska Tampise Klebo, University of Neuchâtel

**The Politics of Fairness: How Migrant Legal Status and Social Service Provision Shape Immigration Preferences**

Trummel Taylor, University of California Santa Barbara

**How Occupational Histories Shape Immigrants' Economic Outcomes: Evidence from Linked Employer-Employee Data in Germany**

Jeremy Kuhnle, University of Lausanne

## Wednesday, 9 July 2025 | Program Details

<p>14:45 – 16:45 Panel #13 <b>Policies II</b> Room B32 WEBEX link</p> <p>Mentor: James Hollified, Southern Methodist University</p> <p>Chair: Great Udochi, University of Neuchâtel</p>	<p><b>Global Mobility Ginis: Studying the Inequality of Transnational Mobility between Countries</b> Tobias Grohmann, European University Institute (EUI)</p> <p><b>(In)Security, Silencing and Hindered Parenting: How the Europeanization of Swiss Migration Policy Perpetuates Reproductive and Epistemic Injustices</b> Victor Santos Rodriguez, Sciences Po Paris</p> <p><b>Guest Worker Programs and Female Employment: Dutch Labor Supply Policies, 1960–1980</b> Jacob Alabab-Moser, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam</p> <p><b>India-EU Migration and Mobility Partnerships - Policy Innovations and Future Prospects</b> Gatha Nautiyal, Consultant, Government of India</p>
<p>14:45 – 16:45 Panel #14 <b>Skilled Mobility</b> Room B29 WEBEX link</p> <p>Mentor: Laure Sandoz, University of Lausanne</p> <p>Chair: Mélinda Dinh, University of Geneva</p>	<p><b>Spatial Aspirations of Skilled Migrants in Europe: What Drives Aspirations to Live Transnationally?</b> Julia Reinold, Erasmus University Rotterdam</p> <p><b>From India to Japan and Beyond? Quest Migration and the Multi-Directionality of Skilled Mobility</b> Sakshi Narang, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies</p> <p><b>Through time, space, and in-between: Migration decision making among highly skilled serial migrants</b> Rica Agnes Castaneda, Toronto Metropolitan University</p> <p><b>Skilled but Stranded: Vietnamese Migrants' Lived Experiences of Job Mismatch and the Trap of Social Immobility in Japan</b> Vy Vu Hong Huynh, Waseda University</p>

## Wednesday, 9 July 2025 | Program Details

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14:45 – 16:45

Panel #15

**Digital Migration**

Room C49

WEBEX link

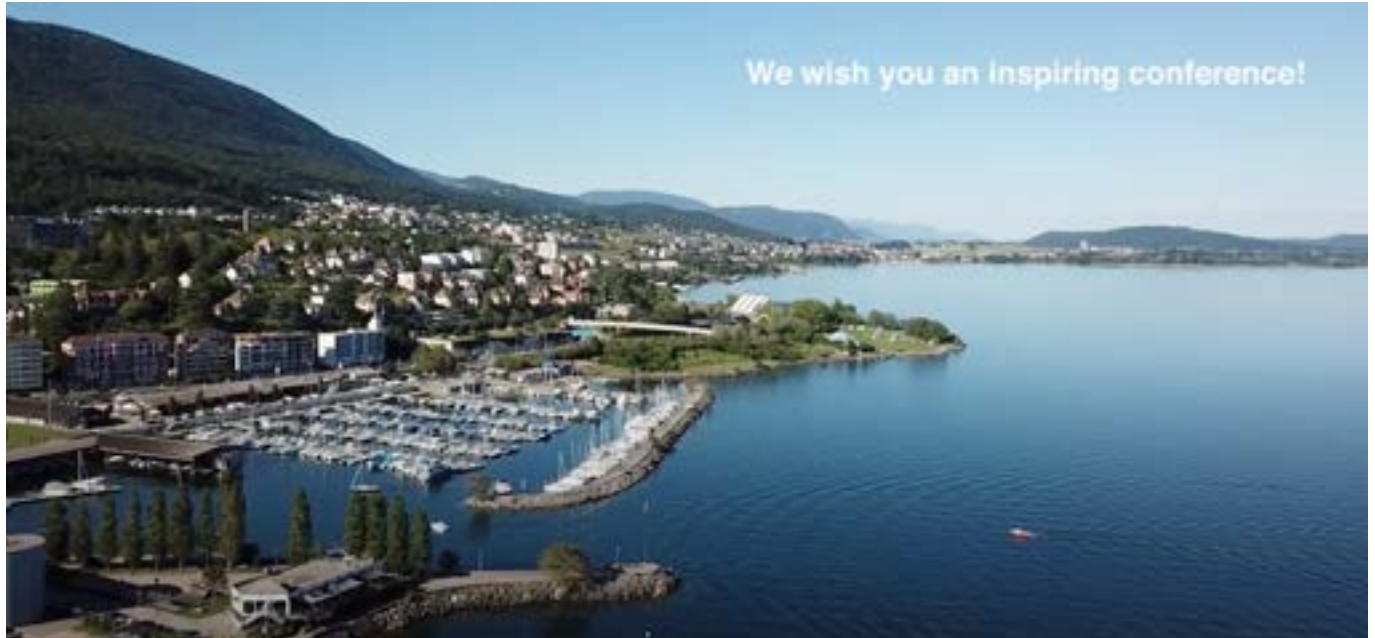
Mentor: Nina Khamsy,  
University of Neuchâtel

**Analyzing Migration Intentions in Switzerland through Reddit Data**

Vestin Hategekimana, University of Geneva

**Theorizing Queer Migrant Joy on TikTok**

Paul Mart Jeyand Matangcas, Northwestern University



### **NGC Bag Photo Contest – Snap, Share & Win!**

Pick up your NGC bag at the registration desk and enter our photo contest for a chance to win up to CHF 200! Show us your creativity, your unique style, and your travels!

Prizes: 1st: CHF 200 | 2nd: CHF 100 | 3rd: CHF 100

Deadline: 15 December 2025

More info and how to enter: <https://nccr-onthemove.ch/snap-share-and-win-the-neuchatel-graduate-conference-bag-photo-contest-is-back/>

Have a look at our website [www.nccr-onthemove.ch](http://www.nccr-onthemove.ch), to discover the **Blog Series**, the visualizations of the **Migration-Mobility Indicators**, the short video clips on **Overcoming Preconceptions**, our researchers' **Vlogs on YouTube**, and our **Podcast on Immobility**.

To stay informed on upcoming events and new blog texts, **subscribe to our E-News** and **Blog Notifications**.

For the latest updates on the Neuchâtel Graduate Conference, follow us on X **@nccr\_onthemove**, hashtag **#neuchgradconf25**.

We hope you have challenging discussions and wish you a good time in Neuchâtel!