*Beyond work and family. The migration experience of seasonal Italian women in Switzerland against migration policies (1949-2002)*.

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**Abstract:** Though Italian labour migration in Switzerland is quite well researched, as far as women labour migration is concerned, a lot remains to be done. The aim of my research is thus to better understand the influence of Swiss and Italian migration policies – and legal regulations –in shaping the migration experience of seasonal women workers, more precisely this will happen by focusing on their attitude regarding work and family duties. This influence will be analysed in the evolving economical and social contexts of Switzerland and Italy in the second half of the XXth century by focusing on family strategies of seasonal women. Despite the strict Swiss regulations

which do not allow family re-unifcation, migration’s reality is more complex. Seasonal women, and in general migrant families, migrate and return –often illegally – following the pattern of chain migration. In this context different cases of separation will be analysed. More precisely, a large number of actors involved in this process act in a space that goes beyond national borders: migrants themselves but also labour and women associations, Swiss employers, and Italian labour offices are active in Switzerland and Italy at the same time. Therefore, this study challenges various historiographical cleavages: it discusses the arguable distinction between legal and illegal migration and underlines the variety of family configurations; furthermore, it emphasises the invisibility of women’s labour and women's migration. A part of the research is carried out in Italy in order to understand Italian migration policies and return migration, this will permit to overcome the “push and pull factors model” and reinforce a transnational approach. In regard to methods, the project follows an inter-disciplinary approach (history, sociology). The research combines the analysis of men and women's experiences with an intersectional approach (gender, class, ethnic criteria). Furthermore it puts together the political and institutional structures with the individual trajectories. Thus, the dissertation is grounded on different types of sources: not only institutional documents and unions’ reports, but also oral interviews.