

European Sociological Association Conference “Sociological Knowledges for Alternative Futures” - Abstract submission for the 15th ESA Conference in Barcelona/Spain, 31 August – 3 September 2021 is open!

For details on the conference theme, format, submission procedure, venues and other practicalities please visit the conference website: <https://www.europeansociology.org/esa-conference-2021-in-barcelona>

ESA will communicate by the end of January whether the conference will be hybrid or online-only.

Submit your abstract via ConfTool 2021: <https://www.conftool.pro/esa2021/>

The deadline for abstract submission is on 15 February 2021.

RN35 Call for Papers for the 2021 ESA conference

Few topics trigger as heated debates on the state of the world today and on the alternative futures we should aim for as the issues of borders, migration, and belonging. The salience of migration issues is further increased by its interplay with other burning questions, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, global social inequalities, the digital transformation, the rise of neo-nationalism and the new right, or climate change. At the same time, this issue can be the testing ground for thinking about alternative futures. The 15th ESA Conference provides an important opportunity to discuss these pertinent issues and any related challenges.

The Research Network 35 “Sociology of Migration” invites abstracts that discuss how migration is entangled with current political and social dynamics. Possible topics include the following:

- migration and epidemics (including in historical perspective)
- refugees, asylum, and forced migration
- migration and care work
- migration and social inequalities
- migration and education
- migration and the labour market
- migrant vulnerability and victimization
- seasonal work and temporary migrant worker programmes
- political participation, new solidarities, and migration-related social movements
- anti-migrant politics and their implications
- the reordering of borders and mobilities
- migration in the current European context
- reflexivity in migration research

Priority will be given to abstracts that clearly state their theoretical anchoring; empirical papers additionally need to indicate their methodological underpinning in a concise manner. RN35 encourages a reflective, non-essentialist use of categories. Papers with a European relevance, in the broadest sense of the term, are particularly welcome.

In addition to the general call for papers RN35 organizes four Joint Sessions with other RN.

RN16-RN35: Health and migration. Migrants “under” the COVID-19 pandemic

Chairs: Lia Lombadri, University of Milano, Italy (RN16) and Fiammetta Fanizza, University of Foggia, Italy (RN 35)

This joint session will explore the impact of COVID-19 pandemic towards migrations flows in comparison with European healthcare strategies. Starting from the "global uncertainty" affecting people all over the world, included migrants with their specific problems and vulnerabilities, the focus involves how pandemic and lockdown affect migrants' life and how their right of asylum will be performed. Moreover, the session argues about how social distancing, hospitals policies and settlements of emergency units all over the Europe shape the relationship between migrants and native people in Europe

In the view to discuss the healthcare European systems, including the EU healthcare policy addressed to migrants, the intention is to highlight both the migrant conditions and their difficulties to become part of local communities. For these reasons, this joint session invites abstracts that actively engage with and critically discuss about migrants' health and healthcare European policies under COVID-19 pandemic. Topics included are the following:

- migration and pandemic (including in historical perspective)
- the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on migrants and their everyday life
- health and healthcare of refugees, asylum seekers and forced migrants
- migration, social inequalities and health inequalities
- Physical and mental health of migrants and vulnerable migrants
- migration and care work
- migration and health between vulnerability and victimization
- reflexivity on migration and health research
- EU health policies for migrants

Theoretical and empirical papers are both welcome, better with a broadest European view and relevance.

RN 33 - RN35: Gender, care and migration: policies, mobilizations, and resistances in the context of the health crisis

Chairs: Lise Widding Isaksen, Department of Sociology, University of Bergen, Norway (RN33) and Kaja Skowrońska, University of Tours, France (RN 35)

The current health crisis brings into stark focus a nexus existing between issues of gender, migration, and care. Gender and migration interact in shaping individual migrant biographies. Their intersection can be observed in the sphere of public policy, be it specifically in fields such as migration control and promotion of gender equality, or more indirectly in other domains of state intervention. The conjunction of the two concepts also informs the way in which public debate is framed and is present in grassroots mobilizations around those issues.

In many cases, the question of care is at the heart of those intersecting dynamics. There is a distinct gendered dimension in the manner in which migrants are cast in the global economic and political order as both providers of care for the benefit of host societies, and receivers of (often imperfect) care on the part of states, international institutions, and civil society organizations.

The health crisis exacerbates vulnerabilities and fears, but also gives a new urgency to a search for alternatives. As such, it invites a renewed discussion on the complex links between those three terms – a discussion this session aims to initiate.

Transnational migration in old age

Joint session RN35 'Sociology of Migration' & RN01 'Ageing in Europe'

Chairs : Monica Serban, Sarah Ludwig-Dehm & Ruxandra Oana Ciobanu

There has been written a lot on transnational practices and on transnationalism among older migrants. The literature has gone into detail discussing various forms of transnationalism such as maintaining contact through the use of information and communication technology, sending remittances, voting in home country elections, travelling to the home country, property ownership and so on. This session would like to apply a transnational lens to the study of older populations more broadly, including those who have had a migration experience, but also those who did not have a direct experience of international migration, such as older persons who have not migrated during their life but whose adult children or friends experienced migration or were influenced by migration in a broad sense. Further, we would like to broaden our understanding of transnationalism by focusing on other locations than the home country, and include other places where one has family or friends, places of recurrent visiting, places where one accesses services and so on. Particularly, we are interested how the COVID-19 pandemic, having a special repercussion on older populations, has impacted their transnational practices.

Theoretical and empirical papers, with European relevance, are equally encouraged.

Patterns and paradoxes of forced mobility and confinement in urban space

Joint Session RN35&RN37

Chairs: Patrícia Pereira and Margit Fauser

In this joint session, co-organized by RN35 (Sociology of Migration) and RN37 (Urban Sociology) we propose to debate diverse patterns of both forced mobility and forced immobility and confinement, two realities that coexist in many urban spaces in the present time. This joint reality puts the dichotomy of (forced) mobility and (intended) spatial fixity into question, creating paradoxes in empirical and theoretical terms.

Forced mobility in urban spaces can be related to refuge seeking, from war or other situations, but it can also occur within the urban space: displacement from one's permanent or temporary housing, to search for shelter, food, security, or for means of subsistence. While such movements will result from choices within constraint contexts others are rather due to external pressures and this distinction is often difficult to make. In addition, the current CoVID 19 pandemic caused hardship for many urban populations and enhanced social inequalities, creating even more occasions of forced displacement as well as immobilization. The weeks or months of confinement imposed by many governments in reaction to the pandemics were and are being experienced differently by people in uneven social conditions. Key questions for this session are: how do those who live in dwellings with precarious conditions experience the confinement? What does this situation mean for those who lost their jobs and can no longer provide for their families? And how does the pandemic situation shape the urban lives of those who are forced to continue being mobile, taking daily health risks? We invite contributions that tackle these and related questions and advance our sociological understanding of the paradoxical situations of forced mobility and confinement.