

About GEMMA



GEMMA is a European project that aims to bring together different actors, such as policy makers, researchers, civil society organisations, and the media, active in the fields of Gender and Migration. Since migration—closely linked with the issue of gender—is one of the most significant global issues of our age, a closer and more intensive dialogue of these actors is needed in Europe to tackle the complex challenges arising from gender and migration effectively.

GEMMA wishes to facilitate this multilateral dialogue. To achieve this, the project partners have launched a number of services aimed at policy makers, researchers, civil society organisations, and the media. In the second half of 2009, all GEMMA partners organised workshops in their countries inviting researchers and policy makers for a dialogue. For the results and recommendations arising from the debates, please check the [project website](#).

GEMMA will organise a major event in 2010: the “**European Conference on Gender and Migration Research Policy**” will take place on 18 June 2010 in Rome.

To keep track of this and other upcoming events and services, please consult the GEMMA webpage regularly and subscribe to receive this newsletter at <http://www.gemmaproject.eu>

GEMMA is supported by the [Seventh Framework Programme](#) of the European Union.



News

GEMMA Policy Maker workshop in Paris 22 September 2009

All in all 35 researchers and policy makers took part in the GEMMA workshop organised on September, 22, at Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, France. Researchers came from various French and European universities and research institutes and political actors represented different French institutions (trade unions, HALDE, ACSE, Regional Council Ile-de-France, Economic and Social Council, Paris town hall, Ministry of Immigration). In three highly interactive round table discussions (Labour Migration, Migration and Politics, Migration and Identities) they exchanged their views on selected European and national projects on Gender and Migration (SERVANT, Civic Stratification, PROMINSTAT, GENDERACE, Les rôles et perspectives des femmes relais en France), policy and research priorities as well as research needs on the issue. The lively debates stressed an obvious



need for more frequent dialogues between researchers and policy makers on Gender and Migration, for a systematic presentation of results through short policy briefs and through a data base (translated into French), a discussion forum that can provide a long-term exchange and a dialogue that includes systematically policy makers, researchers AND representatives from non-governmental organizations.

Please consult the outcomes of the workshop [on the GEMMA website](#).

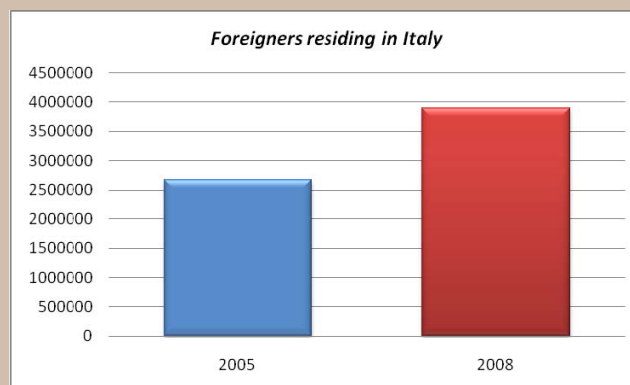


Policy maker workshop in Paris

4.5 million migrants in Italy produce 9.5% of the GDP

Despite the international crises, migration in Italy is still increasing.

In 2005 there were 2,670,514 foreign nationals residing in Italy, and by the end of 2008 their number raised up to 3.891.295, but including regular migrants not yet recorded at the registry office their number should be around 4.330.000 people.



Italy is now learning about the great social change that France and Germany have already experienced.

2008 was the first year when Italy, positioned above the European average for impact of foreign residents with respect to the total population, and, although still far from Germany and especially Spain (with affection of 8,2 % and 11,7%), outnumbered the United Kingdom (6.3%).

Migration as a resource

In Italy, 1 inhabitant out of 14 (7.2%) is a foreign citizen.

More than one fifth of the foreign population consists of children (862.453). The average age of foreigners is 31 years old compared to Italians, which is 43. Migration is therefore also a demographic resource for the Italian population, which is facing an evident aging phenomenon.



Migrants and the world of work



Foreign workers — highlights the Caritas Dossier on Immigration — are nearly one tenth of the employed and contribute to the creation of welfare in the country.

One out of 2 million migrant workers are women who takes care of Italian families.

According to Unioncamere (a public institution whose task is to represent and look after the general interests of the Italian Chambers of Commerce) the statistical data for 2007 show a substantial contribution of migrants to the Italian economy: 134 billion Euros, equal to 9.5% of the gross domestic product.

2 million migrant workers contribute to the creation of the “Italian welfare system” and their number increases every year in order to

face the decreasing labour force in our country.

For any further information, please click [here](#).

**How to support
third country
nationals and
persons with immi-
grant background
to start or run a
business?
7 December 2009,
Paris, France**

On December, 7, the French Agency for Business Start-Up ([Agence pour la Création d'Entreprise, APCE](#)), together with the French Ministry of Immigration and the [National Agency for Social Cohesion and Equal Chances \(ACSE\)](#) organized a Conference on “Business support for entrepreneurs from third countries and persons with immigrant background” in Paris. The event highlighted the important contribution of third country nationals as entrepreneurs in France (11% of all new enterprises belong to foreigners), but also found that they experience specific difficulties, i.e. in getting skills recognized and accessing business support and finance, sometimes caused by (unconscious) discrimination. Female immigrant entrepreneurs face specific problems, including sexist attitudes, an overall entrepreneurship-hostile education and orientation towards business sectors perceived as female. Ruth Padrun from IRFED Europe claimed that support structures need to apply an approach, discourse and method for female immigrant business owners that differ from men's, even if women subsequently need the same tools to run their business. More generally, speakers stressed that the negative perception of immigrants urgently needs to change, not least in order to take full advantage of their huge potential. For more information: <http://www.apce.com/cid92816/comment-accompagner-les-personnes-migrantes.html?pid=335>

Events

Future events

World Diversity Leadership Summit – EU 11-13 March 2010, Vienna, Austria

The World Diversity Leadership Summit has been an important gathering of senior corporate, government and non-governmental organisation officials, focused on the complex challenges and opportunities related to global diversity management. For the first time, this summit will take place in Vienna, Austria and focus more specifically on issues related to diversity in Europe, in the context of the globalised world in crisis. More information on the event is [available here](#).

“Migrations, pluralization and ethnicisation in contemporary societies”: New empirical and theoretical prospective 26 – 28 April 2010, Brussels, Belgium

This colloquium, related to the activities of the Work Group 18: “Ethnicity, migrations et citizenship” of the International Association of French Speaking Sociologists (AISLF), is



expected to be the occasion of a review on new researches prospective on migratory movements and processes of ethnicisation in societies, related or not with the issue of migration.

In the past years, theoretical approaches of those two subjects have become more and more diverse. Whereas migratory movements and paths have been seen as stiff and unambiguous for a long time, the new approaches (transnationalisme and migratory "traffic") insist on the dynamic of those phenomenons.

This colloquium aims at questioning those subjects as widely as possible by discussing recent approaches and analyses coming from empirical studies on the following issues:

- New contemporary migrations et plural economy
- National and supranational migration policies
- The renewal of the idea of "assimilation" and the end of multiculturalism
- National and supranational integration policies
- Ethnicisation and racialisation in contemporary societies

More information: <http://www.ulb.ac.be/socio/germe/>

Beyond Citizenship: Feminism and the transformation of Belonging 30 June - 2 July 2010, Birkbeck, University of London

This international and interdisciplinary conference invites debates on the following questions: Can the concept of citizenship encompass the transformations that feminist politics seek? What are the restrictions and exclusions of contemporary forms and practices of citizenship? How does the concept of citizenship deal with power, inequality, and difference? What are the problems with framing our desires and visions for the future in terms of citizenship in a globalizing world of migration, mobility, armed conflict, economic crisis and climate change? Does the concept of citizenship restrict our imaginations and limit our horizons within nation-state formations? Can it ever really grasp the complexity of our real and longed-for attachments to communities, networks, friends and loved ones? Is it able to embrace the politics of embodiment and of our relationships with the non-human world? How have feminists historically and cross-culturally imagined and prefigured a world beyond citizenship? Is a feminist, queer or global citizenship thinkable, or should we find a new language for new forms of belonging?

A limited number of bursaries will be available. For further information about the conference, visit: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/bisr/beyondcitizenship>

Beyond Citizenship: Feminism and the Transformation of Belonging is organised by [FEMCIT](#), an EU FP6 integrated research project on "Gendered citizenship in multicultural Europe: the impact of contemporary women's movements", in collaboration with the Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, at Birkbeck, University of London, Rokkansenteret, at the University of Bergen, and is sponsored by the Norwegian Research Council.

Masculine/Feminine : new issues for geography 16-18 September 2010, Bordeaux, France

While publications on gender issues are ever more common in social sciences, it seems important to focus specifically on what they contribute to geography, understood as a social science that deals with human societies' spatialities. How can a gender approach challenge our understandings of spatial organizations, and agents' spatial experiences? Can geography still be seen as reflecting an androcentric viewpoint and naturalizing sexual divisions of space? How can we reflect critically on gender relationships, in the light of other approaches which emphasize the postcolonial, the effects of globalisation, and migrations? The aim of our conference is to bring out the epistemic dimension of gender, and the ways in which it can challenge geographical knowledge generally, whether produced by spatial analysis, a study of social practices, regional science, cultural studies, etc.



One-page abstracts (300 words at most), along with a brief resume specifying your institution and position, and mentioning any recent publications in relation with the theme of the conference, should be sent before April 15th, 2010; both to k.mariusgnanou@ades.cnrs.fr and y.raibaud@ades.cnrs.fr.

EU Policy on Gender and Migration

The European Social Watch Report 2009 on Migration Policies

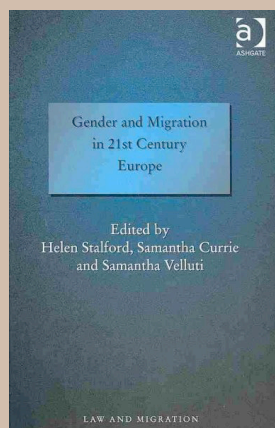
The report, entitled “Reframing Immigration, Integration and Asylum Policies from a Gender Perspective: Ensuring Gender-Fair Policies”, states that a new gender-based migration approach is urgently needed to address the inequalities and discrimination that migrant women suffer. Written by Amandine Bach of the European Women’s Lobby, the report deals with labour and family immigration policies, the gender perspective in asylum policies, and issues of migrant women’s integration. It also formulates recommendations for each of the topics above in the hope of helping reframe the migration policies of the European Union. These policies, the report argues, must “take into account the real situation of women”.

The full document is [available here](#).

Research in Gender and Migration

Selected Publications

Gender and Migration in 21st Century Europe



“This collection provides new interdisciplinary and empirically-grounded insights into the issues surrounding gender and migration into and within Europe. The work presents a comprehensive and critical overview of the historical, legal, policy and cultural framework underpinning different types of European migration. The authors analyze the impact of migration on women’s careers; the impact of migration on family life; and gender perspectives on forced migration. The volume also examines the consequences of EU enlargement for women’s migration opportunities and practices, as well as the impact of new regulatory mechanisms at EU level in addressing issues of forced migration and cross-national family breakdown. Recent interdisciplinary research also offers new insight into the issue of skilled migration and the gendering of previously male-dominated sectors of the labor market”.

Part II is dedicated to the gendered labour market of foreigners in Italy.

More information: <http://www.deastore.com/book/gender-and-migration-in-21st-helen-stalford-samantha-velluti-samantha-currie-ashgate/9780754674504.html>



Working to Prevent and Address Violence Against Women Migrant Workers

Almost half of migrant workers in the world today are women. It is important to acknowledge that labour migration may benefit them through economic and socio-cultural empowerment; however, due to their dual vulnerability as migrants and women, they are still disproportionately exposed to a variety of risks arising from their mobility. At every stage of their migratory experience, women migrant workers may be more exposed to human rights violations such as discrimination, exploitation and abuse compared to their male counterparts.

This publication presents the approach that the International Office for Migration (IOM) takes toward the protection and empowerment of women migrant workers. By displaying key IOM activities in that area, the report seeks to better inform policy makers, practitioners and the public of the vulnerability of these women and of good practices for the protection of their human rights throughout the labour migration cycle.

The document can be [downloaded from the GEMMA website](#).

Conference News: The Political and Social Economy of Care

The way in which the provision of care is organized and divided across household, market, state and non-profit institutions has important implications for who accesses adequate care and who bears the burden. Feminist scholars and activists have repeatedly pointed out that current divisions of care labour are far from even. Instead there exists what economists would call a “free-rider” problem, with some individuals and social groups (mostly women and girls, especially those in low-income households) doing the bulk of the work and the rest of society benefiting from the outputs of this work. That most care work is done on an unpaid basis does not mean that it comes without costs. Because women and girls take on the lion’s share of unpaid care, they have less time for paid employment, self-care, rest, leisure, organizing and political participation. The political and social economy of care is therefore central to gender equality.

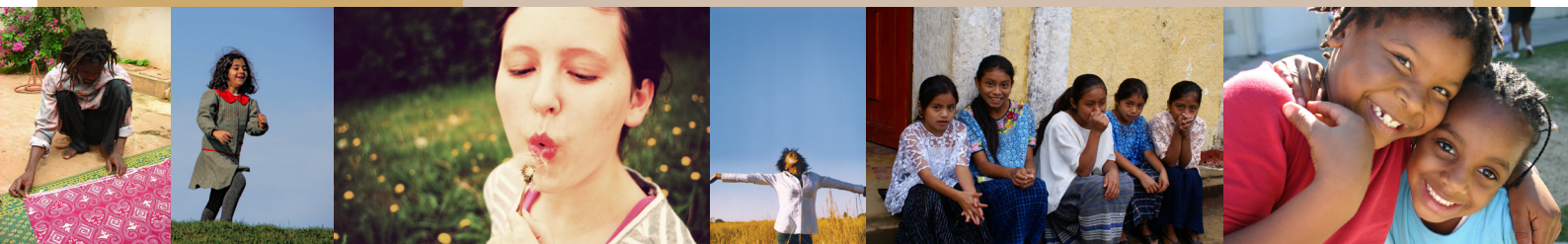
The document is [available here](#).

Undocumented Immigrants and Rights in the EU: Addressing the Gap between Social Sciences Research and Policy-making

By [Sergio Carrera](#) and [Massimo Merlino](#)
CEPS Liberty and Security in Europe, 2009

Undocumented migrants are one of the most vulnerable groups in the EU. This report assesses the main findings and synergies of a selection of EU-funded research projects on irregular immigration and the status of undocumented migrants. It reveals that the results emanating from social science research contrast with the EU policy documents adopted in light of the forthcoming Stockholm Programme – the third multi-annual programme on an Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. The authors argue that acknowledgement of the findings of independent research is lacking in EU policy, which continues to promote a control-based approach to migration that has profound ethical and human rights implications. The report concludes with a set of policy recommendations aimed at overcoming the current inconsistencies in EU and national policies as well as in practices on irregular migration under the mandate of the Stockholm Programme.

The document is [available here](#).





The CEPS "Liberty and Security in Europe" publication series offers the views and critical reflections of CEPS researchers and external collaborators with key policy discussions surrounding the EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. The series encompasses policy-oriented and interdisciplinary academic studies and commentary about the internal and external implications of Justice and Home Affairs policies inside Europe and elsewhere throughout the world.

Children in immigrant families in eight affluent countries: their family, national and international context

During recent decades most affluent countries have experienced large increases in the number and diversity of immigrants, and accordingly it is anticipated that children in immigrant families will play an increasing role in these societies. However, while their social, economic and civic integration is of critical policy relevance, there is little statistical evidence available on this segment of the population. The study helps to fill the knowledge gap by presenting internationally comparable statistics on children in immigrant families in eight affluent countries – Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The analysis examines family composition, educational background, language, educational and employment status of parents, housing conditions, school and labour market participation and poverty status, among other dimensions, identifying disparities between the situation of these children and that of native-born children. The report calls for policies that facilitate integration and social inclusion of children in immigrant families, focusing particularly on those from low- and middle-income countries who often face greater challenges in assimilation.

Separate reports for each country are [available here](#).

Selected Ongoing Projects

PRIMTS – Prospects for Integration of Migrants from “Third Countries” and Their Labour Market Situations: Towards Policies and Action



Many migrants from “third countries” are recruited to the European Union labour markets for unskilled labour. They contribute to the growth of the EU economy by filling in positions that are unattractive to the “native” workforce, responding to job demands where many are exposed to abuse, violations of contracts or exploitation in the informal market. Current

integration policies declare integration as a two-way process that should equalize the migrants’ opportunities with those of the “nationals.” However, these policies often remain at the descriptive level, lacking mechanisms that would enable and accelerate integration. The PRIMTS project responds to these challenges by considering precarious labour market positions of “third country nationals” and analyses these from the perspective of integration bills with the purpose to contribute to long-term benefits of “third country nationals,” particularly male and female workers in lower sectors of economy. A further objective is to establish proposals for comparable flexible integration policies at the EU level tailored to specific needs of “third country nationals” who are faced with deskilling and hardship in the labour market.

The project involves “third country nationals” as partners in communication, its main objective being to propose advanced policy mechanisms with positive effects on marginal situations of “third-country nationals”. This is expected to result in implementation of more flexible policies, more secure working environment and diminishing discrimination towards migrants.

More information: <http://primts.mirovni-institut.si/>



Civil Society in Gender and Migration

Equal Rights, Equal Voices. Migrant Women in the European Union

The Equal Rights, Equal Voices. Migrant Women in the European Union Project, launched in 2006-7, is currently in its third stage (December 2008-August 2011).

The objectives of the third phase are to:

- Produce 15 shadow reports and an EU report on the gendered impact of integration policies
- Empower migrant women through support and information
- Make visible the positive contribution of migrant women to society.

The [FEM EU-Link](#) conference has now created national platforms and held seminars in 15 states. The UK National Seminar was held on 15 December 2009 in Leicester. It was organised by [Fatima Women's Network](#) which also acts as the Secretariat and co-ordinates the national platforms.

At the meeting, Eleonore Kofman, co-ordinator of the UK GEMMA team, presented an overview of national and EU priorities relating to gender and migration, gendered aspects of the UK Points Based System for labour migration, recent changes in legislation concerning family migration, and implications of the proposed earned citizenship. Participants felt that too much attention was devoted by policy makers to a few selected topics, such as female genital mutilation, forced marriages and sex trafficking, which affected a relatively small number of women and tended not to address more mainstream issues.

The discussion focussed on the following topics:

1. Health, such as access to services, pre and post maternity, sexual health, physical activity and well being, female genital mutilation and the role of health professionals;
2. Economic integration, such as business support, care and flexible work, employment rights and low wages; and
3. Earned citizenship, such as pressure and barriers to volunteering and access to language classes.

The aim of the FEM EU-Link is to put together a report from the different national meetings and to launch a European Migrant Women's Network in 2010.

People in Gender and Migration

Interviews with participants from the GEMMA Event "Promoting the Dialogue between Research and Politics", 6 November 2010, Vienna



Participants at the Vienna workshop



Wolfgang Michalek, Co-ordination Unit of the Austrian Territorial Employment Partnerships

Gender and Migration is a cross sector topic, and many different actors are affected. It is important to involve them stronger in the discourse. One central aspect is that we have to learn to meet on the same level. It may sound trivial; in fact, it is an extremely difficult task to be tackled. The second point – which is frequently neglected in political debates – is how close I can approach a political barrier. Both aspects are crucial in the debate of research cooperation between policy makers and researchers.

Gulag Cataltepe, District Councillor of the Green Party

Beside the theoretical background, research must have practical relevance. Non-representative surveys are not applicable for decision-making processes, therefore statistics are important. Research results have to be delivered in a short and concise form (please don't call them always "newsletter" – this is really boring). For researchers, it is important to recognize that they have the obligation to provide and not only the obligation to collect information.

Zohreh Ali-Pahlavani, Federal Chamber of Labour

Research enforces your arguments in political debates. The best way to deliver research findings to policy makers is to invite them to presentations of results and have a discussion about them afterwards. For the future, I wish more independent research and more funding for migration related research.

Please watch the full interviews on the [GEMMA website](#).

How to Get Involved

Debate: "Lesbians, migrations, exiles and racism"

Numerous lesbians - migrants, exiled or descendants of migrants - are present in France and in Europe. They are, or not, organized in informal networks, in autonomous groups or in other groups, for practical and political reasons (e.g. for obtaining a residence permit, against lesbophobia, against racism in the lesbian movement or in French society, etc.). However, they are rarely visible. For this reason this day of expression, exchanges and reflection took place at Paris 8 University on 12 December 2009.

Speakers came from the academic and associated background. An exchange took place around three main issues: (in-)visibilities and affirmation; migratory policies, asylum, connections of power; and migrations, exiles and the (de)construction of oneself.

To receive more information on similar initiatives and for the conference report contact the organizers: lesbiennesenmouvement@gmail.com

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