



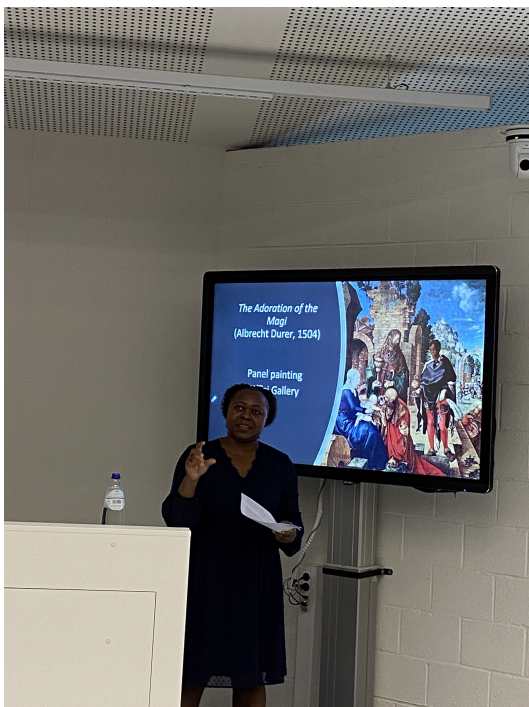
BRUSSELS INTERDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR
MIGRATION & MINORITIES

Snapshots from the 2022 AfroEuropean conference

On 22-24 September, VUB hosted the 2022 AfroEuropeans Conference, partnered by BIRMM. This 2022 edition of the AfroEuropeans Conference set up by the AfroEuropeans Network focused on “[Intersectional Challenges in AfroEuropean Communities](#)” in Brussels as an academic, activist, and intellectual space. It centered Blackness in Europe—including Black identity, Black art, Black politics and Black struggle.

In the course of three full days, the conference provided a platform to over 200 speakers and participants, no fewer than 38 panels and roundtables took place across 8 thematic streams, in addition to 3 evening programmes and 3 distinguished keynote lectures. The keynote speakers were Olivette Otele, Kehinde Andrews and Mireille-Tsheusi Robert. The VUB BIRMM Team supported the organizational committee in the co-organization of the conference and several BIRMM members also participated as speakers or panel chairs.





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Inside stories



Migration Talks Podcast: check out our latest episode!

You have not listened to our latest podcast yet? Wait no more! In our latest Migration Talk, Mariam Ait Hmeid (LEVL policy officer) and Andrew Crosby (BIRMM researcher) discuss the topic of "What **NEETS NEED**: how can the policy better reach youth with a migration background". NEETS is the (EU) policy term used to address youngsters who are Not in Education, Employment or Training. This podcast outlines the key challenges racialized youth in the less privileged neighborhoods of Brussels face in employment and education, and why they drop out. It also points to possible policy changes. Listen to the full episode on [Soundcloud](#) or [Spotify](#)!

You can also discover and listen to previous episodes of the podcast:

- [Receiving and accommodating refugees in European cities: what shall and shall not be done?](#) With René Kreichauf and Louise Hantson
- [Big data and artificial intelligence for migration research](#) with Tuba Bircan

- [Racism and discrimination in \(health\) care](#) with Saloua Berdai Chaouni and Enata Mushimiyimana (in Dutch)
 - [The EU's temporary protection regime for Ukrainians: How does it work?](#) With Hanne Beirens and Florian Trauner
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1, 2, 3 PhD defences over the summer!

On 12 August, [Yijia Huang](#) successfully defended her PhD on “The Effects of Identity on Political and Civic Participation A Study on Moroccan Belgian Youth”. Congratulations Yijia!

On 8 September, [Dounia Bourabain](#) publicly defended her PhD in Sociology on “Everyday Sexism and Racism in the Ivory Tower. The Struggles and Resistance of Women Early Career Researchers in Belgium”. Congratulations Dounia!

Other PhD alert! On 9 september, [Laura Emery](#) also publicly defended her PhD in social sciences (Sociology and Linguistics) entitled “New to the Game. A system analysis of the orientation process of newly arrived migrant students in Flemish secondary education”. Congratulations Laura!

Forum for democratization and EU relations on Africa. European and African perspectives on migration and democracy

On 19 September 2022, a VUB debate took place among migrant scholars and activists from the Global South on their perspective on migration and democracy. While the topic has long been capturing headlines, the voices of African experts all too often receive not enough attention. This forum sought to remedy that by providing a platform for African experts to share their view on migration and democracy. More information on this event [here](#)!



Upcoming events



07.10.2022 // 11:00-12:30

BIRMM research seminar with Laura Westerveen and Louise Hantson!

On 7 October, [Laura Westerveen](#) and [Louise Hantson](#) will present preliminary findings from the Whole-COMM project. [Whole-COMM](#) is a Horizon Europe 2020 project that explores the integration of post-2014 migrants in small and medium-sized towns and rural areas. The project studies the integration of these migrants through a Whole-of-Community perspective. The latter considers migrant integration as an open-ended process that involves interactions between multiple actors. They include citizens, long-term residents, and newly arrived migrants as well as state, market and civil society actors. In the presentation, the main findings of the ongoing Whole-COMM project will be presented, focusing on four small to medium-sized towns in Belgium (two in Flanders and two in

Wallonia). Want to know more on this? [Click here!](#)



24-28.04.2023

IMISCOE PhD school

We are happy to announce that BIRMM co-organizes the next IMISCOE PhD school on **Racism and Discrimination in Migration Studies**. BIRMM co-organizes the PhD school together with [CeMIS](#) (University of Antwerp), [CESSMIR](#) (Ghent University) and [CEDEM](#) (University of Liège). The PhD school will take place at BIRMM-VUB from 24-28 April 2023. Stay tuned for the call for participation!



03-05.05.2023

European Union International Affairs conference - CALL FOR PAPERS

On 3-5 May 2023, the Brussels School of Governance (VUB) will hold its yearly [European Union International Affairs](#) (EUIA) conference. This year's focus is on the diverging pathways for the EU's engagement or disengagement with the world including on how to deal migrants from outside the EU. To foster an interdisciplinary and international debate, the organisers invite contributions from all policy domains and actors involved in the redefinition of Europe's place in international affairs. Contributions on migration are particularly welcome! The call for paper is still open until 15 October, do not miss it! More information [here!](#)

In the media





Docu-series 'Generation BX'

BIRMM member [Jasmien Bougrine](#) conducts research on ways in which Brussels youth identify and categorize themselves as well as others. In this context, she collaborated with [BRUZZ](#) to co-create the docu-series 'Generation BX' (in Dutch). The series follows four young people who took part in the study: Rina, Romana, Solina and York. These young people give insights into their daily environment in Brussels that are very different from one another. The series contains seven episodes of 10-15 minutes and can be viewed via [Youtube](#) or via the BRUZZ channel. If you want to know more on the series and the young people in it, read [this article](#)!



Participatory documentary 'Paper Borders'

In the context of the doctoral research of BIRMM member [Marijke Van Buggenhout](#), a participatory documentary was realized by a group of young newcomers.

Paper Borders shows how a group of young newcomers decided to make a film together. They undertook a symbolic journey to the sea; a journey that leads to stories about their flight, their arrival in a new country, and their grueling asylum procedure. Paper Borders takes the viewer into the world of these teenagers and shows how they struggle with the uncertainty about their future, continuously oscillating between happiness, hope and despair.

These young people got to work with the camera themselves and worked on the stories and their film adaptation in co-creation with Marijke Van Buggenhout and filmmaker Marjolijn Prins. On June 23, 2022, they introduced the film to their entourage. At that presentation at VZW Cinemaximiliaan, the project received the Lydia Chagoll Prize 'For a child's smile' from the King Baudouin Foundation.

The next screening of the film is scheduled for an afternoon study on asylum and children's rights on 6 December (in Dutch). This afternoon is organized for criminology students, but is also open to other interested parties.



Recent publications



Discriminatie op de huurwoningmarkt van Brugge

[Billie Martiniello](#), [Abel Ghekiere](#), [Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe](#) | Stad Brugge
(commissioned report)



An analysis of mortality rates for estimating undocumented migrants in Belgium

[Johan Surkynn](#), [Ahmad Yar](#), [Duha Ceylan](#), [Katrien Vanthomme](#), [Tuba Bircan](#) |

HumingBirdProject



Werken aan terugkeer in vreemdelingenbewaring ? Een blik op de werkpraktijken van terugkeerfunctionarissen en hun interacties met opgesloten personen

[Lars Breuls](#) | Justitiële verkenningen



Connecting feminist, antiracist and animal politics: A bridge too far?

[Mariska Jung](#) | Tijdschrift voor genderstudies

Mainstreaming or retrenchement? Migration-related diversity in Dutch and Flemish

**education policies**

[Laura Westerveen](#), Ilona van Breugel, [Ilke Adam](#) & Peter Scholten | **Comparative Migration Studies**

**Between Sympathy, Fascination, and Powerlessness. The Experiences of Health professionals during the Medical Monitoring of a Hunger Strike Among Undocumented Migrants**

[Rita Vanobberghen](#), [Dirk Lafaut](#), Freddy Lucky, [Dirk Devroey](#), Jan Vandevoorde | **Frontiers**

The Brussels Interdisciplinary Research centre on Migration and Minorities (BIRMM) unites over 100 VUB researchers from 11 disciplines (including political science, law, sociology, criminology, geography, medical sciences, communication sciences, linguistics, psychology and educational sciences, philosophy, and history) working on migration and diversity related topics.

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