2024 wordt hét verkiezingsjaar in België. Op 9 juni vinden zowel de Europese als de Belgische regionale en federale verkiezingen plaats. Op 13 oktober zijn er gemeenteraadsverkiezingen. Het is nu al duidelijk dat migratie heel relevant, zo niet het meest relevante thema zal worden in de verkiezingscampagnes.

Met deze **vier panelgesprekken** zal BIRMM wetenschappelijk onderbouwde input leveren voor het debat over migratie en diversiteit. We presenteren state-of-the-art onderzoek over migratie en diversiteit en gaan gesprek met beleidsmakers en iedereen concrete beleidsvoorstellen voorbereidt voor de volgende bestuursperioden.

PROGRAMMA EN INSCHRIJVING

Migratie en de Europese verkiezingen: hoe kunnen we voorbijgaan aan polariserende campagnes?

Moet België meer arbeidsmigranten aantrekken?

Migratie en diversiteit: doen steden het beter zelf?

Welk verschil maakt het? Impact en uitdagingen van het anti-discriminatiebeleid in 2024

BIRMM PODCAST FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

On the occasion of [International Migrants Day](#) we would like to highlight 4 episodes of our [Migration Talks Podcast](#). This podcast presents and discusses migration and minorities related research conducted by VUB and non-VUB scholars in an easily understandable language. The podcast is **organised by BIRMM** and available on [Soundcloud](#) and [Spotify](#)!

PODCAST 1
Why you shouldn't worry about overpopulation

Why do people fear overpopulation? And where did this idea originate, why is it so persistent, and how did it get linked to migration, anti-migrant discourses, and migration policies?

We discuss overpopulation with [Soumaya Majdoub](#), Ph.D. researcher at Interface Demography at VUB. Joining the conversation are [Florian Trauner](#), co-director of BIRMM, and [Sibel Top](#), former ad interim coordinator of BIRMM.

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PODCAST 2
Big Data and Artificial Intelligence: a curse or a blessing for migration research?

How are Big Data and AI used by social scientists in migration research? Can Big Data and AI predict future developments in migration? And what are the potentials and risks of using technologies in migration and migration research?

In this episode, [Florian Trauner](#) and Tuba Bircan discuss the use of Big Data and AI in migration research. [Tuba Bircan](#) is a BIRMM member and research professor at the Interface Demography research group of the Department of Sociology at VUB. Bircan discusses the opportunities and limitations of using cutting-edge technologies, as well as its current applications in social science and migration research.

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PODCAST 3
Kan de dokter meer gelijkheid voorschrijven?

In deze aflevering van Migration Talks gaan we in gesprek over racisme en discriminatie in de zorg. Recent nog legde de covid-pandemie pijnlijk bloot dat er ongelijke uitkomsten zijn in gezondheid en gezondheidszorg voor etnische minderheden. Maar hoe komt dat, en kunnen we het oplossen?

Om deze vragen te verkennen, gingen we in gesprek met Dr. Saloua Berdai Chaouni, onderzoeker aan het departement Psychologie en Educatiewetenschappen van de VUB, en Enata Mushimiyimana, studente Farmaceutische Wetenschappen aan de VUB en oprichtster van AfroMedica.

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PODCAST 4
Vreemdelingen in 't Stad: wat we kunnen leren van het Antwerpse migratiebeleid van de 19e eeuw

Hadden mensen in de 19e eeuw gelijkaardige gedachten en zorgen over migratie? Hoe zag het migratiebeleid er concreet uit? In deze aflevering gaan we in gesprek met VUB onderzoeker, Ellen Debackere over haar boek "Welkom in Antwerpen? Het Antwerpse vreemdelingenbeleid, 1830-1880". Dit boek is een historisch verslag van hoe het Belgische stad Antwerpen omging met de komst en integratie van nieuwkomers.

Aan het gesprek nemen Florian Trauner, co-directeur van BIRMM en Hannah Vermaut, coördinator van BIRMM, deel.

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Inside stories
⌄

Research day
Migration & Technology
MIGLOBA · CESSMIR · BIRMM

Throwback to the Research Day on Migration & Technology

We would like to **throwback** to an inspiring <u>Research Day on Migration and Technology</u>. It offered BIRMM researchers the opportunity to connect with fellow academics from partner universities and to explore new, burgeoning academic research strands investigating the manifold linkages between migration and technology from a variety of perspectives. **BIRMM co-organized this event together with** <u>CESSMIR</u> **(Ghent University) and MIGLOBA (Antwerp University) on the 7th of November.**

> READ MORE

Joint call for immediate ceasefire in Gaza by The VUB and Hannah Arendt Institute

The unprecedented escalation of violence between Israel and Hamas and its devastating toll on civilians made the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in collaboration with the Hannah Arendt Institute to call for an **immediate ceasefire.**
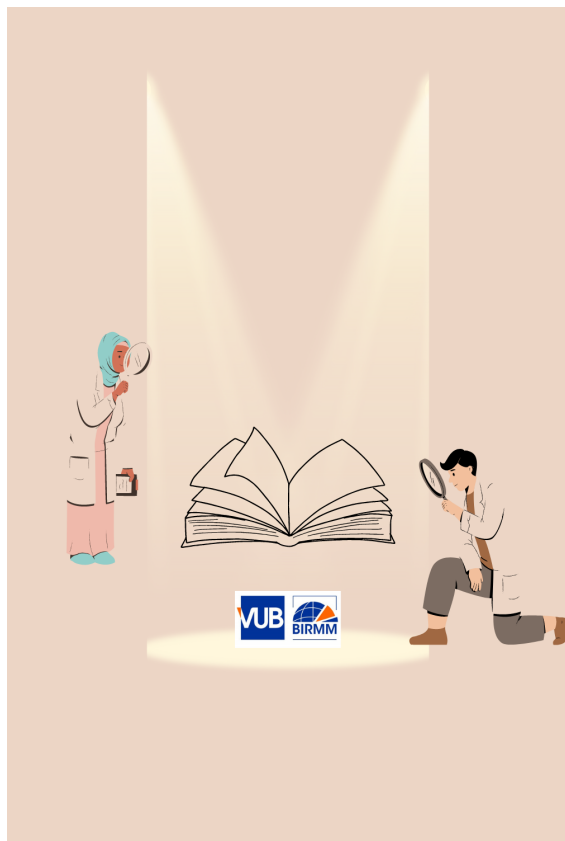
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Recent publications

Spotlight on BIRMM publication: counter documentation by migrants without legal residence status in Brussels

How do **migrants without a legal residence** in Brussels perceive their **representation in mainstream media**? How do they defy and deconstruct stigmatising labels, such as the ones of sans papiers or mensen zonder papieren, and the predominant discourse that

frames them as undeserving or unwanted migrants?

BIRMM researchers Kevin Smets and **Lisa Ahenkona** tried to answer all these crucial questions by giving a voice to some members of a socially marginalized group.
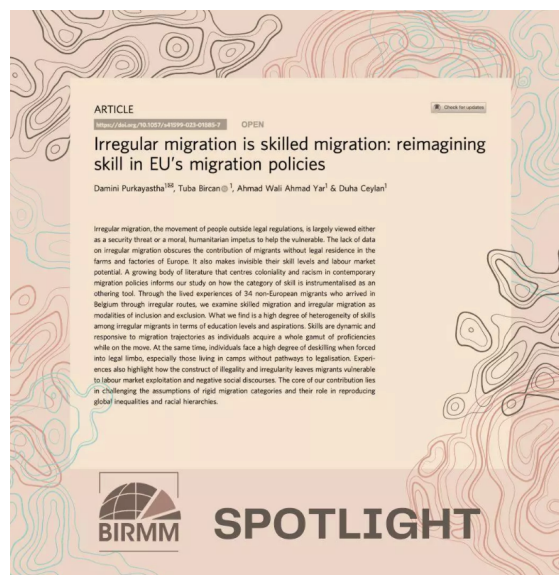
Interested in finding out more about this research project? Read more here!

> READ MORE

Spotlight on BIRMM publication: "Irregular migration is skilled migration: reimagining skill in EU's migration policies"

In recent years, **attracting and retaining talent and highly skilled migrants** from third countries has become an increasingly relevant **priority for the European Union**. At the same time, preventing irregular migration remains another core pillar of the EU's migration policy. Irregular migrants are often framed as undesirable, if not as a threat to their host societies.

However, are irregular migrants by definition low-skilled and undesirable or vulnerable people in need of support and training in Europe?

This illuminating paper, co-authored by BIRMM researchers **Damini Purkayastha,** Tuba Bircan, **Ahmad Wali Ahmad Yar** and Duha Ceylan examines how the skilled migration discourse remains blind to the skills and potential of migrants coming through other channels - including those who arrive irregularly. Their research unpacks how rigid and simplistic **categorisations of migration are politically and legally constructed.** Would you like to learn more about this study? Then, at the link below you can find the article.

> READ MORE

Advance care planning among older adults with a Turkish background and palliative care needs: a qualitative interview study
Demirkapu, H., Van de Block, L., De Maesschalck, S., De Vleminck, A., Zehra Colak, F. & Devroey, D. | **British Journal of General Practice**

FRANET SR82 An update on developments regarding civic space in the EU and an overview of the possibilities for human rights defenders to enter EU territory (2022)
Julia Zomignani Barboza & Paul De Hert | **FRA**

MentalHealth4All: Mapping and Assessing Existing Multilingual Resources in Mental Healthcare
Gutiérrez, R., et al. | **OSF**

Social inequality in mortality associated with neurodegeneration: a population-based study in Belgium
Janna Dinneweth & Sylvie Gadeyne | **European Journal of Public Health**

"That way there are. no surprises in the end": The cooling our function of reception education for newly arrived migrant students in Flanders
Laura Emery, Bram Spruyt & Piet Van Avermaet | **Educational Review**

When and why people prefer higher educated politicians: In-group Bias, Deference, and Resistance
Jochem van Noord, Toon Kippers, Bram Spruyt & Russel Spears | **Sage Journals**

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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