



BRUSSELS INTERDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR
MIGRATION & MINORITIES

BIRMM Research Day

13 May 2024, 09:00-16:00

Pleinlaan 5, Floor -1, Rooms Lisbon & Rome

PROGRAMME

09:00 – 09:20

Registration, coffee and short introduction by BIRMM coordinator Hannah Vermaut

09:20 – 10:00

Speed dating: a fun and speedy way to get to know your VUB colleagues working on migration and minorities

10:00 – 10:20

Coffee break

10:30 – 12:15

Research presentations

Parallel session 1 : room Bruges

Presenters:

- **Valériane Mistiaen** (ECHO Media, Culture and Politics): Migration discourse at European level: scholarly discourse or expert discourse?
- **Chiara Rao** (Linguistics & Literary Studies): War, Migration, and Vicarious Trauma: The Case of Interpreters
- **Nadine El Dekmak** (Fundamental Rights Research Centre): The Legal Dynamics of Tied Visas and Exploitative Recruitment practices: Analyzing Their Impact on Labour Exploitation of Migrant Workers
- **Max Nagel** (Centre for Migration, Diversity & Justice, BSoG): Emigration, national economies, and the rise of populism: Advancing a new political economy of migration

Chair: Sarah Gerwens

Parallel session 2: room Lisbon & Rome

Presenters:

- **Ilke Adam** (Centre for Migration, Diversity & Justice, BSoG): Pioneers of anti-racism in Belgium

- **Marjolein Schepers:** (Social History of Capitalism): Between lovers, suspect houses and walking the streets: clandestine sex work and mobility in late 19th-century Antwerp
- **Folashade Ayaji** (Centre for Migration, Diversity & Justice, BSoG): Black Utopia in Berlin
- **Aurore Torsin** (Medicine and Pharmacy): Traction alopecia in women of African descent: development of a preventive action in primary care in Brussels

Chair: Louise Hantson

12:15 – 13:00

Film screening: Papieren Grenzen

Q&A with BIRMM researcher and film maker dr. Marijke Van Buggenhout

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch break

14:00 – 16:00

Keynote speeches and workshop on co-creative research methods

By **Adriana Moreno Cely** (VUB) and **Melz Owusu** (University of Cambridge)

Adriana Moreno is a postdoctoral researcher at the Educational Sciences department (VUB). She has worked with local and Indigenous communities for 15 years as a practitioner and activist. She combines collaborative research approaches and decolonial thought to build bridges between diverse knowledge systems. As a whole, her research focuses on how Indigenous and local knowledge can be engaged to transform the universities into more pluriversal spaces. Adriana is a co-PI on a VLIR-TEAMS project to create a Bolivian community learning research network in sustainable territorial governance.

Melz Owusu is a queer and transmasculine former-activist, scholar, author, consultant and life coach. They are the Founder of the Free Black University and a PhD researcher at the University of Cambridge. They have organised in a number of spaces such as Black Lives Matter UK, decolonising education and trans visibility. Their work explores decolonisation, the radical Black imagination and building transformative worlds. Melz has explored the topic of decolonisation with hundreds of audiences across the world and has also tackled the topic on the popular TEDx platform. Their passion is research, and they are currently undertaking a PhD exploring visions for collective liberation. Melz always endeavours to take this radical, decolonial, Black feminist analysis forward in all aspects of their life and work.