

Annex 2

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Introduction

In January 2018, a few engaged VUB professors created the “Brussels Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Migration and Minorities” (BIRMM) in a bottom-up manner. A year later, BIRMM was recognized as a VUB centre of expertise. Since then, BIRMM has gathered over 100 researchers from over 13 research groups and 11 disciplines, all working on migration and minorities related research themes. By joining together in one centre of expertise, the creation of a website and news outlets and the organization of numerous thought-provoking events, BIRMM gave visibility to VUB research on migration and diversity previously clustered in silos. The creation of BIRMM and its activities (e.g. joint research days, interdisciplinary seminars) led to close synergy among BIRMM researchers across disciplinary boundaries, the set-up of collaborative research projects and to increasing international and national academic and societal recognition and impact. In this overview, we briefly present the 2019-2024 BIRMM activities, the BIRMM research projects and the publications by BIRMM members.

We present the BIRMM activities per year, and distinguish different types of activities such as outreach events (mainly geared to an external public beyond academic circles, seminars or more academic lectures), BIRMM research days (1 per year only for BIRMM VUB members, and 1 per year in cooperation with CESSMIR-UGent and CEMIS-UAntwerpen), PhD defenses, and PhD schools.

Activities

2024

Outreach Events.

Event title: (Panel Debate) Round table on street-level bureaucracy in migration studies (4 March 2024)

Speakers: Andrew Crosby (VUB).

Abstract: In recent years the street-level approach to migration policy implementation has been growing in migration studies. Lipsky's work has inspired scholars to study the practices of street-level bureaucrats to understand how migration policies are implemented. This has opened up a field of research focused on the practices of these street-level bureaucrats to understand the legal, organisational and even moral dilemmas they face when making decisions regarding the migrants

whose case they are handling. More recently, scholars have adopted this approach to study the practices of non-state actors involved in the overall implementation of migration policies, such as visa-processing companies or intermediary actors, often migrants on the move themselves. These various approaches point at some of the limitations of Lipsky's theory, but also open new perspectives. With this round table, we wish to discuss these perspectives and limits of the street-level approach in an attempt to develop it further and set a tentative research agenda for this timely field of inquiry. Participants are asked to prepare short notices on what they consider perspectives and limits of the street-level approach to policy implementation in migration studies."

Event title: (Public Lecture) Salongesprek 'Pioniers van het Antiracisme' (14 March 2024)

Speakers: Latifah Abdou (Enabel); Ilke Adam (VUB); Suzanne Monkasa (Platform van de Vrouwen van de Congolese Diaspora in België); Ayşe Işçi (DHKD); Francesco Muroli (Insieme siamo forti).

Abstract: De geschiedenis van het antiracisme in België is nog weinig beschreven of gedocumenteerd, in het bijzonder de geschiedenis van activisten met een migratieachtergrond. Nochtans is dit belangrijk voor een goed begrip van het antiracistisch middenveld vandaag. Naar aanleiding van een onderzoeksproject onder leiding van de Brussels School of Governance (VUB) organiseren we een intergenerationeel gesprek over het belang van antiracisme en erfgoed.

Event title: (Workshop) Workshop on (public) space in migration research (3 June 2024)

Speakers: Lucas Melgaço (VUB), Mattias De Backer (VUB), Lena Imeraj (VUB), Annelys De Vet (Subjective Editions), Floris Liekens (VUB), Hannah Kay (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Ana Dresler (VUB), Haris (Charalampos) Tsavdaroglou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), Olena Holubowska (KULeuven)

Abstract: The workshop on (public) space in migration research focuses on exploring the role of (public) space as a site of social research and a source of conceptual perspectives within the broader 'spatial turn' in the social sciences.

Migration and mobility are pre-eminently spatial phenomena, as they consist by definition of a movement through space. Scholars in this field often view their research through a spatial lens, via sites of study such as arrival cities (Saunders, 2011) or neighbourhoods (Hanhörster & Wessendorf, 2020), public spaces (Bhatti et al., 2009), everyday geopolitics (Benwell, 2016), semi-public spaces such as asylum- and reception centres (Griffiths, 2014), and soft arrival infrastructures (Boost & Oosterlynck, 2019) such as coffee bars or hair salons (De Backer et al., 2023).

Yet, the importance of (public) space in migration research is often left quite implicit. For this reason, this interdisciplinary workshop focuses on the role of (public) space in migration research, both as a site of social research, as well as an inspiring source of conceptual and theoretical perspectives.

BIRMM Research Days.

BIRMM Research Day (13 May 2024)

Speakers: Adriana Moreno Cely (VUB); Melz Owusu (University of Cambridge).

Abstract: For this BIRMM Research Day, **we have a full day of research presentations, keynote speeches, the screening of a movie and workshops!** On the program: a speed dating session to get to know VUB colleagues from different disciplines working on migration and minorities, parallel sessions of research presentations: new research, work-in-progress, project proposals, science outreach, ... and in the afternoon, two keynotes and a workshop with [Adriana Moreno Cely](#) and [Melz Owusu](#) on co-creative research, on how the challenges of hierarchies prevent real co-creation and how to prevent extractivism.

Keynote speech by Melz Owusu (University of Cambridge): “Can there be decolonial methods?”
Keynote speech by Adriana Moreno Cely (VUB): “Beyond dialogue: Breaking Monologues in Collaborative Research”.

BIRMM Research Day (18 October 2024)

Speakers: Omar Cham (VUB), Robin Vandevordt (UGent), Sorana Toma (UGent), Mieke Vandenbroucke (UAntwerpen)

Abstract: Words That Matter: Critical Reflections on Categorisation from Migration and Diversity Research

The research day CESSMIR-BIRMM-MIGLOBA 2024 will focus on categorisation relating to migration and diversity. Keynote speakers in the morning and afternoon workshop will explore how policy and institutional categories related to migration and ethnicity are used in different contexts (e.g. census, political discourses, legal and policy work) and how these categories affect the social world and the way people think of migrants and ethnic minorities. Sociological research, linguistic studies, law and political sciences are some of the perspectives that will be used throughout the day to explore the above issues.

Lecture Series: An Informed Choice in 2024/ Kiezen met Kennis in 2024.

Migration and the European elections: how to go beyond polarizing campaigns? (1 February 2024)

Speakers: Florian Trauner (VUB); Tineke Strik (MEP on behalf of the Dutch party GroenLinks); Juan Fernando López Aguilar (MEP for the Spanish Socialist Worker's Party); Blanca Garcés (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs); Virginie Guiraudon (Sciences Po); Francesco Vigneri (Istituto Affari Internazionali).

Abstract: Migration is set to become a key campaign subject for the next election to the European Parliament in June 2024. In particular far-right parties are mobilising with anti-migration themes and a discourse dividing 'them' vs 'us'. But how should other parties and societal actors respond to these polarising campaigns? Is an alternative and more positive narrative on migration possible?

Moet België meer arbeidsmigranten aantrekken? (27 March 2024)

Speakers: Amy Weatherburn (ULB); Eva Van Belle (VUB); Hassan Al Hilou (Capital vzw); Jan Knockaert (Fairwork Belgium); Stefaan Peirsman (ACV Migratie & discriminatie); Hind Riad (PROGRESS Lawyers Network); Gianni Duvillier (VOKA).

Abstract: Het migratiedebat focust vaak op vluchtelingen en gezinsmigranten, maar gaat weinig over arbeidsmigratie. Hoe ziet arbeidsmigratie in België eruit? Hoe organiseren we dit nu en in de toekomst? Welke arbeidsmigranten trekt België aan en waar liggen de uitdagingen?

Diversiteit en integratie: van grootstad tot dorp (18 April 2024)

Speakers: Ilke Adam (VUB); Soline Ballet (UGent); Bart Somers (Burgemeester van Mechelen); Hans Bonte (burgemeester van Vilvoorde); Agnessa Solovieva (welzijnsmedewerker in Ninove); Maret Dakaeva (Uit De Marge vzw).

Abstract: Grote steden hebben heel wat mogelijkheden om nieuwkomers te laten integreren en bij te dragen aan gelijke kansen voor hun superdiverse bevolking. Hoe pakken kleinere steden en gemeenten de integratie van hun nieuwkomers aan? Welk beleid en welke praktijken zetten ze daarvoor in – en met welke impact? Wat zijn de uitdagingen? Kunnen ze een motor zijn van inclusie

en wat zijn succesvolle recepten om van inclusie en diversiteit in grote en kleinere steden een succes te maken? En hoe kunnen Vlaanderen, België en Europa daarbij helpen?

Welk verschil maakt het? Impact en uitdagingen van het anti-discriminatiebeleid in 2024 (21 May 2024)

Speakers: Billie Martiniello (VUB); Abel Ghekiere (VUB); Laura Westerveen (Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam); Nyanchama Okemwa (ENAR); Nele Spaas (VVS); Omar Ba (diversiteitsconsulent); Kristin Henrard (VUB).

Abstract: Discriminatie van etnische minderheden is een hardnekkig probleem. De voorbije jaren was er nauwelijks een daling van discriminatie op de arbeidsmarkt of op de huurmarkt; en over discriminatie in onderwijs of gezondheidszorg hebben we zelfs geen zicht op langetermijntrends. Maar we weten wel dat de ongelijkheid er manifest - en structureel is.

Nochtans werden in de afgelopen legislatuur heel wat maatregelen genomen om discriminatie tegen te gaan: positieve actie werd mogelijk, er werd ingezet op praktijktesten op de Vlaamse arbeidsmarkt en op de huurmarkt in verschillende Vlaamse steden, en er werd zelfs geëxperimenteerd met anonieme CV's. Wat heeft dit opgeleverd in de strijd tegen discriminatie?

Bracing for a storm? Implications of the 2024 EU elections for anti-racist policy-making (28 May 2024)

Speakers: Folashade Ajayi (VUB), Nozizwe Dube (Maastricht University), Dr. Pierette Herzberger-Fofana (MEP), Loubna Reguig (#DiasporaVote), Nourhene Mahmoudi (ENAR), Selina Adedeji Morton (EP elections candidate), Ilke Adam (VUB)

Abstract: Polls indicate that (far-right) parties advancing migration and diversity-critical positions likely gain electoral support in the upcoming EU elections in June 2024. As a result, far-right parties are likely to increase the number of seats in their political group 'Identity and Democracy' in the European Parliament. This can have various effects on EU(ropean) anti-racism policies and civil society's activism.

In this panel discussion, researchers and policy practitioners specializing in EU anti-racism policies and civil society discuss challenges and possibilities linked to the following topics: The shrinking space of anti-racism on the Member State and EU level; The assessment of the 2020-2025 EU anti-racism action plan; The future of anti-racist policies in the EU in the post-election landscape.

This panel conversation is co-organized by ENAR, the European Network against Racism.

PhD Defenses

- 12 March 2024, PhD Defense Marijke Van Buggenhout : “Paper Borders. Children and Young People Inside the Belgian Asylum Procedure. A Multi-voiced and Performative Study”
- 11 June 2024, PhD Defense Omar N.Cham: “Understanding Narratives on EU Migration Control Policies in West Africa: The Case of The Gambia”
- 12 June 2024, PhD Defense Júlia Zomignani Barboza: “Undesirable unreturnables: the challenges of dealing with criminal migrants in need of protection. A solution based on the comparative analysis of Australia, Belgium and Canada through human right lenses”
- 28 June 2024, PhD Defense Hakki Demirkapu: “Advance care planning perspectives of older adults and their family members with Turkish and Moroccan backgrounds in Belgium”

2023

Outreach events.

Event title: (Seminar) BIRMM research seminar: "Deporting Children. Policy framing, legitimation and intersectional boundary work" by Laura Cleton (9 January 2023)

Speaker: Laura Cleton (UNU-MERIT, Maastricht University).

Abstract: Deporting non-citizens is widely perceived as an inseparable part of nation states’ right to control their borders and to determine who can become part of their community of members. This right is complicated, however, by illegalized children’s claims to belonging, the overarching children’s rights regime, and the imaginary of children’s innocence. In this seminar, Laura Cleton will draw on findings from her dissertation research that investigated how states that seek to deport children, in the face of such disputes, legitimize the need to do so to themselves and to the wider citizenry. Drawing on document analysis and interviews with deportation actors in Belgium and the Netherlands, she argues that actors in both countries deliberately draw attention away from the underlying moral-political conflict and the hardships deportation poses for children. Instead, they foreground the diligence of bureaucratic procedures and their compassionate way of working while simultaneously positioning children and their families as dangers to the citizenry in gendered, racialized and classed ways. While these securitizing narratives should serve to sustain the decision to deport, her dissertation finds that their exclusionary potential is mediated by a humanitarian, morally felt need to protect children from potential harm. This complicates the protection of territorial sovereignty and can instead delay, adjourn, or suspend deportation procedures. Her findings therefore complicate current accounts of the workings of securitization and humanitarianism in

migration control and highlights the analytical value of intersectionality for studies on deportation governance and the production of migrant deportability.

Event title: (Public Lecture) Book Presentation and Discussion: An Ugly Word. Rethinking Race in Italy and the United States (13 February 2023)

Speakers: Ann Morning (University of New York); Tundé Adefioye (Lucas School of Arts, Antwerp).

Abstract: BIRMM and EDGE are delighted to welcome Prof. Ann Morning (University of New York), one of the authors of the book and world-renowned sociologist, and Tundé Adefioye, African-American author, artist and intellectual with a long lived experience in Europe, to reflect on the meaning(s) of race and racism in contemporary societies on both sides of the Atlantic.

The relevance of race for analyzing and combating social exclusion and stratification worldwide has been a subject of heated controversy. In *An Ugly Word*, Ann Morning and Marcello Maneri propose a framework for analyzing concepts of descent-based difference in comparative perspective that provides more flexible, detailed and precise measures of such beliefs than "race" or "ethnicity" offer. The authors build on interviews with young people in an aspiring "color-blind" Italy and a United States that has been called "race-obsessed".

Event title: (Public Conference) Empowering regions and cities in migrant integration governance (28 March 2023)

Speaker: Ilke Adam (VUB). Omar Ba (diversity consultant), Verena Wisthaler (Eurac Research), Tiziana Caponio (University of Turin), Luca Barani (DG HOME, EC)

Abstract: The conference will present insights and recommendations based on previous and ongoing research on the multilevel coordination of migrant integration, carried out by the Eurac Research and Vrije Universiteit Brussel – BIRMM. It will also aim at addressing the current challenges of migrant integration, and explore how, by applying the intercultural approach, regions can foster inclusion and a sense of belonging. It will bring and discuss the main outcomes and policy tools developed within the AMIF funded project EU-Belong: Intercultural Integration of Migrants in Europe's Regions, led by the Assembly of European Regions (AER) and aimed at improving the socio-economic inclusion of migrants through the development of intercultural integration strategies.

By bringing together local and regional authorities, representatives from European Commission and other European institutions, academia, and civil society, this conference will represent a unique opportunity to discuss and come up with new proposals on how to respond to the increasing diversity

of our communities and foster the inclusion of migrants and refugees, intercultural interaction, and social cohesion.

This event was attended by approximately 400 people, in person, and the Committee of the Regions and online. The attendees were mostly representatives of cities and regions in Europe, and also included a minority of academics.

Event title: (Panel Debate) 'What if cities governed anti-racism?' (27 April 2023)

Speakers: Magid Magid (Union of Justice); Yassin El Attar (policy advisor Stad Leuven); Joandi Hartendorp (University of Humanistic Studies, Stad Amsterdam); Kathleen Van Den Daele (Levi).

Abstract: During the last decade, local governments in Europe have increasingly set up anti-discrimination, anti-racism or even decolonization policies. This happened particularly so in the wake of the Black Lives Matter Movement (BLM) in 2020, which created a pressure for change. At the same time, the increased success of far-right parties and discourses also created an atmosphere wherein there is a backlash against anti-racist civil society organizations, as experienced through threats and the loss of support for anti-racist organisations and policies in several countries. How do cities navigate between these two opposite pressures for change? What can cities do to foster racial justice? Can they replace or complement European and national anti-racism policies? How can they develop a long-term action plan and what should be in such a plan? How can they develop and evaluate policies with racialized citizens and anti-racist organizations at the table? Have their policies made an impact? And how to prevent a backlash and lack of implementation? These are all questions that we will tackle during this event! If you want to learn about building an anti-racist city, and how our speakers try to do so in various places in Europe, join us on Thursday 27 April (7 pm).

Event title: (Panel Debate) Can the EU discourage potential migrants from coming to Europe? An investigation of the impact of EU-funded information campaigns in the Gambia (10 May 2023)

Speakers: Ilke Adam (VUB); Omar Cham (VUB); Florian Trauner (VUB); Ndey Haddy Jeng Jeng (Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of the Republic of The Gambia in Brussels); Ismaila Ceesay (University of The Gambia).

Abstract: The EU has invested increasing amounts of money and energy to discourage potential migrants from coming to Europe. Yet, what are the effects of EU-funded information campaigns on the individuals targeted by them? Researchers from the VUB's Brussels Interdisciplinary Research Centre of Migration and Minorities (BIRMM) have explored this question for the case of the Gambia, a country in West Africa. The report was part of a larger project called "BRIDGES" exploring migration

narratives in and outside Europe. The report shows as to how the messages promoted by EU-funded information campaigns interact with and relate to locally held migration narratives. The results are then discussed with Gambian stakeholders in the migration field.

78 people participated in this event.

Event title: (Public Lecture) Book presentation: Migrant Academics' Narratives of Precarity and Resilience (16 May 2023)

Speakers: Olga Burlyuk (University of Amsterdam); Ladan Rahbari (University of Amsterdam); Memory Mphaphuli (VUB).

Abstract: The Brussels school of governance is inviting you to a talk with the book editors of "Migrant Academics' Narratives of Precarity and Resilience in Europe". This book offers a walk-through of precarity, racialization, systematic forms of discrimination and gendered hierarchies written and narrated by migrant academics working in universities of the Global North. Building on precarity as a critical concept for challenging social exclusion or forming political collectives, the authors move away from conventional academic styles, instead adopting autobiography and autoethnography as methods of intersectional scholarly analysis. This approach creatively challenges the divisions between the system and the individual, the mind and the soul, the objective and the subjective, as well as science, theory, and art.

BIRMM Research Days.

BIRMM Research day (13 January 2023)

Speakers: Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe (VUB); Elias Woodbridge (VUB); Honghui Pan (VUB); Ilke Adam (VUB); Billie Martiniello (VUB); Gaia Romeo (VUB); Lars Breuls (VUB); Marek Endrich (VUB); Rik Vosters (VUB); Jianwei Xu (VUB); Feyza Altinkamis (VUB); Mariska Jung (VUB); Jouke Huijzer (VUB); Aylin Gul (VUB); Irene Gutiérrez (VUB); Enid Guene (VUB); Rita Vanobberghen (VUB); Fred Louckx (VUB); Dirk Devroey (VUB); Jan Vandevoorde (VUB); Aurore Torsin (VUB); Florian Trauner (VUB); Ilke Adam (VUB); Omar Cham (VUB); Jihane Sliti (VUB); Hannah Sattlecker (VUB); Jasmien Bougrine (VUB); Kristof Verfaille (VUB); Karoline Da Silva Rodrigues (VUB); Natalia Galvao Lackeski (VUB); Silvia Almenara Niebla (VUB); Annabelle Van Nieuwenhuysse (Cinemaximiliaan project); Angela Al Suliman (filmmaker).

Abstract: With this one-day event, we want to foster and/or consolidate connections and interactions among VUB researchers who have been contributing to migration and minority studies from different disciplinary angles.

Why participate in the BIRMM Research Day? We strongly believe in the importance of interdisciplinary cross-fertilization. Discussing your work with researchers from different disciplines will give you new insights and challenge your ideas. Getting to know each other will also help to set up academic collaborations across disciplinary divides. Last but not least, we aim to increase the visibility of your work on migration and minorities in and outside VUB.

More than 20 researchers from different disciplines present their work in 6 panel sessions: 'Racialization and anti-discrimination', 'Migration policy and actors in a time of contestation', 'Multiculturalism', 'Migration processes and its experiences', 'The impact of migration discourses', and 'Racialization and urban inequalities'.

Netwerkevent 'Racisme en discriminatie bij lerarenopleidingen' (21 March 2023)

Sprekers: Raïssa Peeters (Levl), Dounia Bourabain (Universiteit Hasselt), Yoni Huijghe (teacher), Hannah Vermaut (VUB).

Abstract: Hoe zou een divers lerarenkorps niet enkel studenten met een migratieachtergrond, maar alle studenten ten goede komen? Wat zijn de ervaringen van geracialiseerde studenten wat betreft discriminatie en racisme in de lerarenopleiding? Wat kunnen beleidsmakers doen om te streven naar meer sociale rechtvaardigheid en inclusie binnen de lerarenopleiding? Welke factoren zorgen voor een hogere uitval van studenten met een migratieachtergrond? Hoe kunnen universiteiten en lokale overheden lange termijnplannen ontwikkelen en wat moeten de prioriteiten hierin zijn? Hoe en door wie moet dit onderwijsbeleid geëvalueerd worden?

Studiedag: Samenwerken aan een participatief lokaal integratiebeleid in kleine en middelgrote steden (31 March 2023)

Sprekers: Ilke Adam (VUB); Louise Hantson (VUB); Stijn Oosterlynck (Universiteit Antwerpen); Ona Schyvens (Universiteit Antwerpen); Gaëlle Mortier (Universiteit Antwerpen); Amina Kasmi (Levl); Cédric Fossé (Levl); Peter Cousaert (VVSG); Sabine Van Cauwenberghe (VVSG); Laura Westerveen (VUB); Lien Eerdeken (coördinator nieuwkomersbeleid Stad Leuven); Kathleen Boel (Agll).

Abstract: Lokale besturen in Vlaanderen hebben sinds 2012 de regierol toebedeeld gekregen in het vormgeven, coördineren en uitvoeren van integratiebeleid. Waar lokale actoren in grotere steden veel ervaring hebben met integratie, geldt dit minder voor kleine en middelgrote steden. Toch worden ook zij steeds vaker met de thema's migratie, integratie en anti-discriminatie geconfronteerd en dit doorgaans in een context van weinig middelen en een beperkte personeelscapaciteit. Hoe kunnen kleine en middelgrote steden best aan de slag gaan met een beleidsplan integratie of anti-

discriminatie? Hoe kunnen zij een langetermijnvisie rondom integratie als tweerichtingsverkeer ontwikkelen en hoe organiseren zij het best de beleidsinspraak en -participatie van doelgroepen? En ook, wat zijn de uitdagingen rondom het voeren van een transversaal integratiebeleid en hoe kan de samenwerking van lokale overheden met verschillende lokale belanghebbenden, andere steden, de Vlaamse en federale overheden versterkt worden? Dit zijn vragen waar we tijdens deze studiedag een antwoord op willen bieden. De studiedag is gericht op lokale beleidsmakers en actoren uit het middenveld in kleine en middelgrote steden en geeft hen de mogelijkheid om van elkaar te leren en om inspiratie op te doen voor een duurzaam lokaal beleid rondom integratie en anti-discriminatie gebaseerd op wetenschappelijk onderzoek, ervaring en expertise van migranten zelf en van collega's uit andere steden.

Research Day on Migration & Technology (7 November 2023)

Speakers: Tuba Bircan (VUB); Elisabetta Costa (University of Antwerp) ; Julien Jeandesboz (ULB); Jonas Wood (University of Antwerp); Dries Lens (University of Antwerp); Griet Steel (University of Antwerp); Soline Ballet (UGent); Imane Bendra (University of Antwerp).

Abstract: This year our joint Research Day focuses on the topic 'Migration and Technology'. Technological advances transform our societies in multiple ways and impact how migration is managed and how individuals, families and communities experience their own mobility and the mobility of others.

Our speakers will relate to a wide range of topics that connect both the way in which migrants use technology and the way in which migration is managed by the use of technology. Among the themes that will be discussed are social media, the use of (big) data, border surveillance, violence and seeking justice. We aim for a day full of inspiring talks and ample possibilities for networking.

PhD School.

IMISCOE PhD School: "Critical Reflections on Migration Studies, Racism and Discrimination" (24 April 2023 – 28 April 2023)

Speakers: Anissa Boujdaini (slam poet); Lisette Lombé (slam poet); Marco Martiniello (CEDEM, ULiege); Amal Miri (UAntwerp); Anders Neergaard (Linköping University); Patrick Simon (Sciences Po); Ilke Adam (VUB); Parvati Raghuram (Open University); Guia Guillardoni (Catholic University in Milan); Nikolett Szelei (KU Leuven); Giacomo Orsini (UGent); Floor Verhaghe (UGent); Pieter-Paul

Verhaeghe (VUB); Umut Erel (Open University); Sorana Toma (UGent); Zehra Colak (Utrecht University); Sarah Adeyinka (UGent); John Solomos (Warwick University); Milena Belloni (UAntwerp); Magid Magid (Union of Justice); Yassin El Attar (policy advisor); Joandi Hartendorp (policy advisor); Kathleen Van Den Daele (Levl); Francesca Sobande (Cardiff University); Stef Arends (Kif Kif); Hannah Vermaut (VUB).

Abstract: BIRMM proudly hosted this year's IMISCOE PhD school on “Critical reflections on migration studies, racism and discrimination”. The event took place from April 24th to 28th 2023. This joint educational event brought together 26 international PhD researchers. The PhD school proposed a multi-stakeholder approach consisting of keynote lectures, discussions, interactive panels with scholars, artists, activists and practitioners, an outreach event, reflections on policy advise and intensive feedback sessions. Alongside rich daily programs from 9 am to 5pm every day, BIRMM also hosted two evening events: the decolonial guided tour in Brussels and an evening panel debate. Participants testified that they were very pleased by the enormous progress in learning they acquired during the PhD school. They also created a ‘Race and Racism standing committee’ within the IMISCOE network on migration studies.

PhD Defenses.

- 27 January 2023, PhD Defense Philipp Stutz: “Unpacking EU Return Migration Policy”
- 3 March 2023, PhD Defense Rita Vanobberghen: “Medical monitoring and follow-up of hunger strikes in a population of undocumented migrants: a case-study in Brussels”
- 7 May 2023, PhD Defense Abel Ghekiere: “Better Luck Next Time... New Methodological Approaches to Understanding and Reducing the Mechanisms of Rental Discrimination”
- 10 November 2023, PhD Defense Ahmad Wali Ahmad Yar: “International Migration Data: Challenges, Improvements and Ways Forward”

2022

Outreach Events.

Event title: (Seminar) BIRMM Research Seminar with Saloua Berdai Chaouni: Grasping Fading Memories of a Motherland: Capturing Dynamic care realities of older labor migrants with dementia (21 January 2022)

Speaker: Saloua Berdai Chaouni (VUB).

Abstract: BIRMM-member Saloua Berdai Chaouni is a researcher at the department of Educational and Psychological Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. She has a master in Biomedical Sciences and an advanced master in Gerontological Sciences. For this Research seminar she will be presenting her recently defended PhD-study that explored a multilayered image of the dementia

experience and dementia care provision among labor migrant families as well as methodological pathways to contribute to more ethical research involving this population.

Event title: (Seminar) BIRMM Research Seminar with Marjolein Schepers: Closed Gates And Dark Streets: Spaces Of Arrival And Transit At Night In 18th- And 19th Century Leiden (11 February 2022)

Speaker: Marjolein Schepers (VUB).

Abstract: As part of the BIRMM research seminar series, we are welcoming Marjolein Schepers to talk about her research. For this first research seminar, Marjolein will be presenting her current work-in-progress on the spatial patterns of city lighting and of locations of accommodation and entry routes for migrants in late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century Leiden.

Event title: (Public Lecture) A Master in Critical Diaspora, Race and Liberation Studies (23 March 2022)

Speakers: Latifah Abdou (UCOS), Tundé Adefioye (Lucas School of Arts, Antwerp), Soukaïna Benani (spoken word artist), Rita Afonso, Keltoum Belorf (journalist), Marthe Djilo Kanga (coordinator Massimadi-Bxl), Vjosa Musliu (VUB), FayB (dance performer), Maria Daulne (Zap Mama), Iman Lechkar (VUB)

Abstract: Calls to decolonize the university in South Africa and the United Kingdom starting in 2015, and have also been present in Europe. These calls grew gradually and intensified after the Black Lives Matter global uprising of 2020. Can universities be fully and structurally decolonized? What is certain, is initiatives can contribute to more racial justice for students and communities of colour. One of the possible initiatives in that strand is the creation of a Master Programme in Critical Diaspora, Race and Liberation Studies (Adefioye, 2021).

The idea to create such a master programme starts from the notion that racialized and marginalized people's lives are not sufficiently archived within Belgian society. The contribution of racialized minorities to the arts, sciences, philosophical debates, mobilizations for social justice is not known widely, and is not sufficiently taught at universities. The creation of a master programme in Diaspora, Race and Liberation Studies could archive, valorize and teach these contributions, create safer and braver spaces for racialized students and deliver a modest contribution to more racial justice and decolonized knowledge production.

This event was attended by approximately 80 people.

Event title: (Seminar) 'Families first? The mobilization of family norms in refugee resettlement'

Speakers: Saskia Bonjour (University of Amsterdam); Natalie Welfens (Hertie School of Governance); Laura Westerveen (VUB).

Abstract: on April 20, dr. Saskia Bonjour and dr. Natalie Welfens will join us to present their paper 'families first? The mobilization of family norms in refugee resettlement'. Laura Westerveen will moderate the discussion.

Event title: (Seminar) BIRMM Research Seminar with Catherine Xhardez: Immigration Federalism: Conceptualizing the Role of Constituent Units (27 April 2022)

Speakers: Catherine Xhardez (VUB); Djordje Sredanovic (ULB).

Abstract: Ever increasingly, governments at the subnational level are responsible for and/or taking part (or aspire to do so) in immigration matters, although this policy area was traditionally tied to the central state as a matter of sovereignty. This involvement is a major shift in and challenge to immigration and federalism study alike. Immigration federalism broadly refers to the involvement of multiple levels of government in immigration matters in federal contexts (such as Canada, Belgium, the US, Australia, India, etc.). Scholars studying immigration federalism have demonstrated the importance of considering the engagement of as well as the relationships between different levels of government in immigration policymaking, while yielding significant insights on how the politics of immigration plays out in federations. Yet, the very role and involvement of constituent units (CU) in federal systems raises critical questions: How are subnational units involved in immigration policymaking? Have constituent units become less or more active in immigration matters? Pointing to the need for an in-depth study of the subnational level, I argue that autonomy and asymmetry are key principles in conceptualizing the role of constituent units in immigration federalism, both from a theoretical and empirical perspective. First, building on migration studies insights, I develop a conceptual framework to analyze constituent units' role and involvement on five dimensions: selection, settlement, integration, enforcement, and citizenship. Second, to demonstrate the heuristic scope of this multidimensional framework, I empirically study the evolution of Canadian provinces' involvement in immigration. More generally, my presentation shows that immigration is an increasingly important topic for federalism scholars and reciprocally that federal institutions must be taken seriously by immigration politics scholars.

Event title: (Public Lecture) Book presentation by Katie Kuschminder – The Handbook of Return Migration (14 June 2022)

Speaker: Katie Kuschminder (University of Amsterdam).

Abstract: This presentation will provide an overview of the Handbook of Return Migration, discussing critical concepts in understanding return migration and the current state of the field. Structured into four parts, the Handbook maps the contemporary field of return migration, examining the effects and politicization of return migration, before moving on to explore the theme of reintegration and the impact of return migration on development in the migrants' countries of origin. Taking an intersectional approach, expert contributors delve into the economics of return migration, deportation, the psychological wellbeing of migrants, student mobility and second-generation 'return' migration. The Handbook opens up new avenues for research, including new theories and conceptualisations of return migration, and articulates key issues that should be considered, both for research and for policy and practice.

Event title: (Public Lecture) Research Methodology Course: Doing Research in Africa (14 June 2022 – 16 June 2022)

Speaker: Ismaila Ceesay (University of The Gambia).

Abstract: The aim of this course is to equip research students with some of the relevant skills required to undertake postgraduate fieldwork in Africa. The course introduces the principal methodologies and strategies that are commonly applied to academic research in the social sciences, and considers their practical application for students who might undertake postgraduate fieldwork in Africa. In essence, the course will introduce students to some standard research methods and approaches from a perspective that is constantly mindful of the African setting – a setting that can present quite different challenges from the (implied) northern/western setting of many research training courses. The course, which draws on the instructor's experiences of doing fieldwork in the Gambia, also discusses the hazards of doing fieldwork in Africa and general ethical issues and how they were dealt with.

Event title: (Panel Debate) The reintegration of return migrants: insights from West Africa (15 June 2022)

Speakers: Ismaila Ceesay (University of The Gambia); Ndey Haddy Jeng (Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of the Republic of The Gambia in Brussels); Ine Lietaert (UNU-CRIS, UGent); Florian Trauner (VUB).

Abstract: This panel debate will discuss the challenges of reintegrating return migrants in West Africa, with a particular focus on the Gambia. The EU has placed an emphasis on tackling irregular migration from West Africa including by returning them to their country of origin. It has also financed comprehensive "Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes" for West African migrants stranded on their way to Europe, most often in Libya. These migrants may not only receive support to get back but also to reintegrate again in their home societies. "Sustainable reintegration" has been defined as

one of the multidimensional objectives of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Yet, what are the actual experiences of returnees once they are back in their home country? Do local governments and European/international actors follow up once a return procedure is completed? Put differently, is “sustainable reintegration” a policy concept without much actual meaning or does it indeed impact the lives of returnees?

Event title: (Large-scale international conference) AfroEuropean Conference 2022 (22 September 2022 – 24 September 2022)

Speakers: a.o. Kehinde Andrews (Birmingham City University), Olivette Otele (University of Bristol), Mireille Tsheusi-Robert (BAMKO)

Abstract: This conference is hosted by Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), and co-organised by the Africa Platform of Ghent University Association (GAP), the Brussels Centre for Urban Studies (BCUS), the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), the Research Centre Gender, Diversity and Intersectionality (RHEA) and the Centre for Literary and Intermedial Crossings at VUB, and a wide variety of other institutions in Belgium. This conference is the result of a long collaboration between academics, writers, artists and activists that gave rise to the International AfroEuropeans Network.

The conference aims to consider how AfroEuropean communities are shaped by the intersections of ‘race’ and ethnicity with other markers of identification such as gender, class, sexuality, ability, age, citizenship status, language... Informed by intersectional thinking (Combahee River Collective, 1979; hooks, 1981; Crenshaw 1989) and its rejection of unidimensional perspectives in activism, policy and research, the conference explores how diverse processes of privileging and discrimination interact, making for complex and dynamic experiences of what it means to be AfroEuropean. It acknowledges that the racial and ethnic alterity of AfroEuropeans intersects with other identities (e.g. male, female, queer, working class, religious, disabled, aged...) and specifically seeks to examine to what extent these intersections create new alignments and opportunities. Of particular interest are the multiple ways in which AfroEuropeans challenge dominant modes of representation and knowledge production, for instance by claiming space and citizenship, altering taken-for-granted modes of knowing and organizing, and presenting their experiences and perspectives as part and parcel of European society and identity. The conference engages with the dynamism emerging from the growing decolonisation movements and their calls for rethinking dominant modes of knowledge production and representation. We invite reflection on the various layers of intersectional existence, activism, and scholarship with a special focus on the lives of Black Europeans with ancestry in Africa and African diasporic geographical locations such as the Americas and the Caribbean. Building on the notion of ‘subjugated knowledge’, the conference explores how marginalized positions may also give rise to innovative epistemological positions, resistance to and revision of the status quo, and inspire activism and reforms of institutions and policies in Europe and beyond.

Event title: (Seminar) Research Seminar with Louise Hantson and Laura Westerveen: preliminary findings from the Whole-COMM project, based on 4 small and medium-sized towns (7 October 2022)

Speakers: Louise Hantson (VUB); Laura Westerveen (VUB).

Abstract: Louise Hantson and Laura Westerveen 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 Whole-of-Community perspective conceives of migrant integration as an open-ended process that involves interactions between multiple actors – including citizens, long-term residents, and newly arrived migrants as well as state, market and civil society actors – and that takes place in specific local contexts. The Whole-COMM project is a collaboration between 12 partner organizations, coordinated by Collegio Carlo Alberto, Italy. The BIRMM-VUB team participates in several work packages and conducted fieldwork in 4 small and medium-sized towns in Belgium. You can read more about the project in the BIRMM Spotlight or on the project website.

Event title: (Seminar) BIRMM research seminar with Omar Cham and Florian Trauner: The role of EU-funded information campaigns and narratives on the decision-making of potential migrants in the Gambia (7 November 2022)

Speakers: Omar Cham (VUB); Florian Trauner (VUB).

Abstract: Omar Cham and Florian Trauner will present the latest findings from the BRIDGES project. The overall objective of the BRIDGES project funded by the EU's H2020 programme is to understand the causes and consequences of migration narratives in a context of increasing politicisation and polarisation. This presentation investigates the issue of migration narratives in a country of migrants' origin, namely the Gambia in West Africa. The study is based on focus groups and in-depth interviews with 60 Gambian respondents. In concrete terms, the project investigated, first, as to what is the dominant - the Master - narrative on migration and Europe in the Gambia. It then analysed how the Gambian participants react and perceive the particular narratives put forward in EU-funded information campaigns. The presentation reflects upon how the locally dominant and EU-promoted narratives interact and influence the decision-making processes of potential migrants in the Gambia.

Event title: (Public Lecture) Dissemination event: New insights on Return Processes & Return Governance (16 November 2022)

Speakers: Florian Trauner (VUB); Jean-Pierre Cassarino (College of Europe); Ine Lietaert (UNU-CRIS, UGent); Thomas Willekens.

Abstract: You are cordially invited to a UNU Migration Network research dissemination event on Return Processes and Return Governance. The event will offer an opportunity to discuss the policy findings and implications of two recently completed doctoral projects that focus on return decision-making, return policies, post-return experiences and the role of familial and formal support therein.

Belgium is facing a reception crisis since October of 2021. As a result, thousands of applicants for international protection have been refused a reception place. So far, the Belgian government has not been able to solve this issue despite numerous court decisions condemning the Belgian state and Fedasil (Federal agency responsible for the reception of applicants for international protection). Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen has been monitoring the situation since its beginning. What are the main causes for this reception crisis? What has been the impact on applicants for international protection, NGO's, lawyers, and courts? Why are the current measures not enough? What solutions need to be implemented? These are the main questions that Thomas Willekens will try to answer during this session.

Thomas Willekens is a policy worker at Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen since 2021. Before he worked at the Dublin Unit of the Belgian Immigration Office. As policy worker, his focus is on (access to) the asylum procedure and the reception network. This entails monitoring the day-to-day situation on the terrain, analysing policy and case law, and providing trainings to social assistants and lawyers.

Event title: (Public Lecture) BIRMM lecture 'Family reunification policies: How bureaucrats make them work?' with Carla Mascia and Amal Miri (19 December 2022)

Speakers: Carla Mascia (ULB); Amal Miri (University of Antwerp).

Abstract: 18 December is international migrants day. According to latest estimates from the Migration Policy Institute, there are over 280 million migrants around the world. When considering migration policies, however, we often think of the role of politicians and policymakers. But what about the role of bureaucrats who implement these policies? In this lecture, Carla Mascia will present the findings from her latest research on the street-level implementation of family reunification, which is the most common route for legal migration in the EU.

Based on an ethnography inside the administration (the Office des étrangers/Vreemdelingenzaken), her research highlights that selection, rather than restriction, is at the core of administrative practices. However, administration does not act into a vacuum and its decisions have to be legally grounded, which shape decision-making. Looking at the selection made on the ground of family reunification

policy, this lecture will seek to understand how these decisions are made by going beyond the traditional focus on the control of 'fraudulent' marriages. It will consider elements such as the economic logics and identity logics that contribute to the categorization of migrant families as desirable or undesirable; and assess the extent to which these logics are separable or, on the contrary, connected to each other.

BIRMM Research Days.

BIRMM Joint Research Day (BIRMM, EDGE, CESSMIR, CEMIS) (5 May 2022)

Speakers: Erene Kaptani (University of Greenwich), Paolo Favero (University of Antwerp), René Kreichauf (VUB), Landry Mawungu (Hannah Arendt Institute).

Abstract: We are welcoming you to our next Research Day, jointly organized by the Brussels Interdisciplinary Research centre on Migration and Minorities (BIRMM), the strategic research programme on 'Evaluating Democratic Governance in Europe' (EDGE) of the Vrije Universiteit Brussels, the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR) of Ghent University and the Centre for Migration and Intercultural Studies (CeMIS) of the University of Antwerp. This year, we will focus on the topic: "Visual, spatial & affective participatory research methods".

The Research Day will be held on the 5th of May 2022 from 9-17 am. In the morning, we will organize keynote lectures. In the afternoon, we will organize different parallel sessions and networking events. We will end the day, with another keynote lecture on the "Visual and affective methods in valorisation in migration studies". The Research Day will – if possible - be held in person at the VUB, Brussels (Pleinlaan 5). Everyone affiliated with the VUB, UA and UGent is welcome to participate.

Keynote speech by Erene Kaptani (University of Greenwich): 'The Moving Body: An affective knowledge and Reparative Practice for racialised and migrant women in social research'

Keynote speech by Paolo Favero (University of Antwerp): 'With Smartphones, Apps and iDocs as Research Companions: Techniques and Tools for Collaborative Research in a (Post)Digital World'

Keynote speech by René Kreichauf (VUB): 'Understanding Migration through Spatial Research: Implications, Methods and some Approaches from the Field'

Research colloquium Gaia Romeo: The concept of Safety and the safe third country principle in EU asylum policies and practices Gaia Romeo (24 May 2022)

Speaker: Gaia Romeo (VUB).

Abstract: We are welcoming Gaia Romeo to talk about her research project. For this first research colloquium, Gaia will be presenting her work focused on the concept of "safety" and on the safe third

country principle in EU and EU member states' policies and practices, as a mean to deflect asylum protection obligations. Serena D'Agostino will be the discussant.

Lecture Series: Fighting Racism Lecture Series (2021-2022).

Decolonizing (international) solidarity: A lecture by Olivia Rutazibwa (22 February 2022)

Speaker: Olivia Rutazibwa (LSE).

Abstract: Dr. Olivia Umurerwa Rutazibwa (1979) is a Belgian/Rwandan International Relations scholar and former journalist and Senior Research Fellow of the Johannesburg Institute of Advanced Studies in South Africa. She holds a PhD in Political Science/International Relations from Ghent University (2013, Belgium), was Senior Lecturer in European and International (Development) Studies at the University of Portsmouth (2013-21, UK) and now joins the LSE Department of Sociology as an Assistant Professor in Human Rights and Politics.

Approximately 200 people attended this online event.

Lecture Series: Migration Lecture Series

(Re)Thinking Europe's 'migration crisis' through the lens of the vernacular: A lecture by Nick Vaughan-Williams (9 March 2022)

Speakers: Nick Vaughan-Williams (University of Warwick); Omar Ba (diversity consultant); Florian Trauner (VUB).

Abstract: As a part of the new Migration Lecture Series, we are welcoming Nick Vaughan-Williams, professor at the University of Warwick. For this first Migration Lecture, professor Vaughan-Williams will talk about his new book, 'Vernacular Border Security'. Omar Ba, project coordinator at Bindus vzw and Diversity and inclusion consultant, will be the discussant for this lecture. Prof. Florian Trauner will moderate the discussion.

Repertoires of Migration Governance in the European Union: A lecture by Andrew Geddes (23 March 2022)

Speakers: Andrew Geddes (Migration Policy Centre); Raúl Hernández Sagrera (Cabinet of Commissioner Ylva Johansson); Tineke Strik (Member of the European Parliament); Florian Trauner (VUB).

Abstract: As part of the new Migration Lecture Series, we are welcoming Andrew Geddes, chair of the Migration Policy Centre. In this Lecture, Andrew Geddes will discuss various insights from his book 'Governing Migration Beyond the State' together with Raul Hernandez Sagrera (Cabinet of Commissioner Ylva Johansson) and Tineke Strik (Group of the Greens; Member of the European Parliament). Prof. Florian Trauner will moderate the discussion.

This event had approximately 50 attendees.

Ideational legacies and the politics of migration in European minority regions: Lecture by Christine Zuber (3 June 2022)

Speakers: Christina Zuber (University of Konstanz); Philippe Van Parijs (UC Louvain); Catherine Xhardez (VUB).

Abstract: As part of the BIRMM Migration Lecture series, we are welcoming Christina Zuber, professor of German Politics at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Konstanz. Professor Christina Zuber will talk about her new book, 'Ideational Legacies and the Politics of Migration in European Minority Regions'. We are honoured to have Philippe Van Parijs as a discussant. Catherine Xhardez will be the chair.

PhD Defenses.

- 12 August 2022, PhD Defense Yijia Huang: “The Effects of Identity on Political and Civic Participation - A Study on Moroccan Belgian Youth”
- 21 November 2022, PhD Defense Sibel Top: “The political offence exception clause to extradition in Europe: An analysis of its evolution and application with a special focus on the Catalan independence crisis”

2021

Outreach Events

Event title: (Panel Debate) Making regional citizens? Insights into subnational immigrant integration policies worldwide (28 January 2021)

Speakers: Verena Wisthaler (EURAC research); Anita Manatschal (University of Neuchâtel); Christina Zuber (Konstanz University); Giacomo Solana (Migration Policy Group); Varun Aggarwal (India Migration Now); Mulugeta Dinabo (University of Western Cape); Lucy Pedroza (The College of Mexico); Isabelle Coté (Memorial University of Newfoundland); Catherine Xhardez (VUB).

Abstract: Following the recent publication of a special issue in *Regional Studies* (2020, Vol 54, No 11) studying immigrant integration policies at the subnational level, this webinar will discuss the drivers and effects of subnational immigrant integration beyond the cases studied in the SI. While the SI has offered inspiring results regarding subnational integration policies in Europe and North America, the aim of this webinar is to adopt a more global outlook by discussing immigrant integration policies ‘worldwide’, i.e. with insights from other geographical areas (Africa, Asia, Latin America).

This online event had approximately 60 attendees.

Event title: (Panel Debate) Towards the decolonization of (EU) migration studies (3 March 2021)

Speakers: Darshan Vigneswaran (University of Amsterdam); Leila Hadj-Abdou (University of Vienna); Ilke Adam (VUB); Omar Cham (VUB).

Abstract: Calls for decolonizing the university have increased in the past years. The 2020 transnational Black Lives Matter movement has also reverberated these calls in the field of European migration studies. The current attention to decolonization reflects the gradual entry of formerly marginalized voices in public and academic debates. Because outside Europe, and in minority intellectual circles within Europe, debates on the decolonization of knowledge production, have been ongoing for decades. Decolonization is an intellectual endeavor that questions a Western knowledge production that obscures non-Western forms of knowledge, and it questions the European amnesia regarding the role of colonialism and race in understanding current social realities. In (EU) Migration studies, the role of race, racism and colonial histories have indeed been continuously and actively excluded as explanations of how and why the EU and European nation states reproduce hierarchized patterns of exclusion in migration and citizenship policies. However, can we fully understand current migration phenomena such as the so-called ‘European migration crisis of 2015’ and contemporary policy developments without this historical consciousness? In this seminar, our speakers will present their insights into what decolonization of (EU) migration studies might mean, why it is necessary and how researchers can contribute to this endeavor.

Approximately 150 people attended this online event.

Event title: (Public Lecture) Masterclass ‘Thinking Race and Religion’ with prof. dr. Anya Topolski (16 March 2021)

Speaker: Anya Topolski (Radboud University Nijmegen).

Abstract: In this Masterclass prof. dr. Anya Topolski briefly introduces the central tenets of her current research project. Topolski theorizes the ‘race-religion constellation’ which refers to the historical “practice of classifying people into races according to categories we now associate with the term religion” (Topolski, 2018, p.58). Consequently, she argues for the necessity to study the intersections between the ‘religion line’ and ‘colour line’ so as to be able to grasp contemporary racism in Europe. Following this brief introduction, a collective conversation with prof. dr. Topolski and the attendants of the masterclass takes place.

Event title: (Panel Discussion) Decolonising the University (22 March 2021)

Speakers: Christil Asamoah (VUB); Tundé Adefioye (VUB); Iman Lechkar (VUB); Sofia Xavier Villafañe Santos (LASCOM); Chantelle Juanita Motsi (ASCOM); Ange-Vanessa Nsanzineza(WeDecolonizeVUB).

Abstract: The call by student organisations, scholars and activists to decolonise universities, including our own VUB, is growing louder. In the recently published book 'Migration, Equality & Racism-44 Opinions', several authors denounce the current state at Belgian Universities where education is stuck in colonial, Eurocentric Research and thinking. The underrepresentation of racialised minorities among students, university personnel and top management is manifest, and university policies and practices are still insufficiently addressing (structural and institutional) racism.

Approximately 120 people attended this event.

Event title: (Public Lecture) On Race, Species and Becoming Human (25 March 2021)

Speakers: Zakiyyah Iman Jackson (University of Southern California); Tundé Adefioye (VUB).

Abstract: As part of its Series of More-Than-Human Encounters (2020-2021), the VUB CrossTalks invites you to its event with Zakiyyah Iman Jackson. Zakiyyah will share her innovative thinking on the intricate relations between race, species and the idea of ‘the human’. Tundé Adefioye (co-editor of the VUB Poincare Book on Migration, Equality and Racism: 44 Opinions) will be the host. You can learn more about the speaker for the event and get your tickets at the VUB Crosstalk website.

This program is organized by the Race & Research Network at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, in cooperation with RHEA, VUB Crosstalks, Kaaitheater and the Race-Religion Constellation project at Radboud Universiteit in the Netherlands.

Event title: (Seminar) BIRMM Seminar: Awareness and Information Campaigns Targeting Migrants (07 June 2021)

Speakers: Julia Van Dessel (ULB); Florian Trauner (VUB); Ilke Adam (VUB).

Abstract: The European Union (EU) has been investing an increasing amount of money and efforts into persuading migrants not to come irregularly to Europe. How are these awareness and information campaigns being set up and what is their impact on the decisions of migrants? This event brings together a ULB and a VUB project dealing with this field of research. Julia Van Dessel (ULB) will present her Ph.D. project entitled “What does the EU tell migrants throughout their journey? A look back at 20 years of awareness campaigns to deter irregular immigration”. Florian Trauner (VUB) will introduce the H2020 project “BRIDGES - Bridges to assess the production and impact of migration narratives”. The VUB team leads a work package analyzing the Impact of EU-funded information campaigns on potential migrants’ decisions. The event will be chaired by Ilke Adam (VUB).

Event title: Black Europe in Brussels (1-15 July 2021)

Speakers: a.o. Samira Rafaela (MEP), Pierrette Herzberger-Fofona (MEP), Monica Semedo (MEP), Ojeaku Nwabuzo (ENAR)

This event is part of the international and interdisciplinary AfroEuropeans Network and is organized in anticipation of the 8th Biennial AfroEuropeans Network Conference “Intersectional Challenges in AfroEuropean Communities”, which is postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19.

The online interdisciplinary conference ‘Black Europe in Brussels’ consists of a range of inspiring activities taking place between 1-15 July 2021. The conference brings to the forefront the AfroEuropean communities and Brussels, the capital of Belgium and Europe. It engages with the dynamism emerging from the growing decolonisation movements and their calls for rethinking dominant modes of knowledge production and representation. This is particularly pertinent as Brussels is a cosmopolitan city wherein various transnational diasporic and AfroEuropean communities move, make space and resist. The conference is interdisciplinary and intersectoral in nature, which is reflected in the series of events focusing on various themes including AfroEuropean arts, AfroEuropean communities and the European Parliament, care and racial inequalities & Black histories. ‘Black Europe in Brussels’ aims to be an academic, activist and intellectual space bridging the boundaries between institutions, practices and epistemologies. This is a conference for, by and with AfroEuropeans with the contributions of their allies and in dialogue with other marginalized communities.

Event title: (Public Lecture) ONLINE: White Privilege and Racism in Higher Education - an evening with Kalwant Bhopal (21 September 2021)

Speakers: Kalwant Bhopal (University of Birmingham); Fatma Zehra Colak (Antwerp University); Stéphanie de Maesschalck (Ugent); Latifah Abdou (WeDecolonizeVUB); Ines El Jasouli (Umoja Ghent).

Abstract: Join us for a thought-provoking evening with Prof. Dr. Kalwant Bhopal discussing white privilege and racism in higher education. Kalwant Bhopal will talk about how higher education institutes reinforce white privilege and continue to marginalise ethnic minorities. Diversity policies and statements against racism following the 2020 BLM protests nonetheless, the status quo in higher education remains intact. She will go into dialogue with Belgian students and researchers. Anissa Boujdaini will be the moderator.

Kalwant Bhopal is a Professor of Education and Social Justice at the University of Birmingham. Her recent research focuses on the position of minority ethnic academics in higher education. She specifically explores how processes of racism, exclusion and marginalisation operate in predominantly white spaces with a focus on social justice and inclusion.

An estimate of 80 people attended this event.

Event title: (Panel Discussion) Avenues of Cooperation between the European Union and Turkey in the Area of Migration (15 October 2021)

Speakers: Eli Hadzhieva (Dialogue for Europe); Florian Trauner (VUB); Selim Kunalalp (Ambassador (retired)); Tuba Bircan (VUB); Koert Debeuf (VUB); Idil Cetin (TOBB University); Samuel Vesterbye (European Neighbourhood Council).

Abstract: While cooperation in the field of migration became an important pillar in the EU-Turkey relations, it also led to populist discourse against “migrants” and increasing fear against “the other” in most EU countries. Combined with the terrorist threat and preoccupations about possible job losses, the phenomenon of migration largely contributed to the rise of right-wing parties in the EU.

The Brussels School of Governance in cooperation with the Brussels-based Dialogue for Europe (DfE) and with the support of the Ankara-based European Union and Global Research Organisation (ABKAD) cordially invite you to a conference followed by a lunch reception (depending on Covid-regulations) at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel to discuss the integration of refugees in Turkey and the EU, the root-causes of migration and its possible societal effects, new challenges caused by the Afghanistan crisis, EU-Turkey migration deal and future relations.

Event title: (Panel Discussion) One year after the adoption of the EU anti-racism action plan. A Panel Conversation with Ms. Michaela Moua - EU Anti-Racism Coordinator (1 December 2021)

Speakers: Michaela Moua (EU Anti-Racism Coordinator); Julie Pascoët (ENAR); Kathleen Van Den Daele (Levl, NAPAR Belgium).

Abstract: What opportunities and challenges face us in progressing towards racial equality in the EU today? On the one hand, the Black Lives Matter Movement (BLM) has created pressure for change, the EU Commission's President Von der Leyen underlined this in June 2020, and we saw the adoption of the first ever Anti-Racist Action Plan in September 2020, the organization of the first ever Anti-Racism Summit in March 2021 and the appointment of the first EU Anti-Racism Coordinator in May 2021. Never before had the EU recognized the existence of institutional and structural racism in Europe as it did now. On the other hand, far-right political discourses and parties have increased their power in Europe, and there is a backlash against antiracist civil society organizations, as experienced through threats and the loss of support in several countries.

BIRMM Research Days

BIRMM Research and Networking day (8 June 2021)

Speakers: Floor Verhaeghe (UGent); Hannah Vermaut (VUB); Lore Van Praag (Erasmus University Rotterdam).

Abstract: The Brussels Interdisciplinary Research centre on Migration and Minorities (BIRMM) of VUB, the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR) of Ghent University and the Centre for Migration and Intercultural Studies (CeMIS) of the University of Antwerp invite you to their Research and Networking Day. During this joint Research & Networking Day, you can get to know what BIRMM, CESSMIR and CEMIS's counterpart research centres around Flanders are doing and their ongoing research projects. Participants will have the chance to meet & greet researchers working on similar thematic focuses and discuss new ideas to cooperate together.

BIRMM Research day (17 December 2021)

Abstract: The Brussels Interdisciplinary Research centre on Migration and Minorities (BIRMM) is welcoming all VUB researchers to present their work on migration, minorities and all diversity related themes at the next BIRMM Research Day, which will be held ONLINE on December 17, from 10.30 am to 4 pm. With this one-day event, we want to foster and/or consolidate connections and

interactions among VUB researchers who have been contributing to migration and minority studies from different disciplinary angles.

More than 20 researchers from different disciplines present their work in 5 panel sessions: 'Migration Politics and Policy Making', 'Racialization, Identities, and Heritage', 'Migrant Women and Inclusiveness', 'Accommodation and Housing', and 'Arrival and Transit'.

Lecture Series: Fighting Racism Lecture Series (2021-2022).

First introductory lecture to book "Migration, Equality & Racism: 44 opinions" (23 November 2021)

Speakers: Kehinde Andrews (Birmingham City University); Philomena Essed (Antioch University, Utrecht University); Olivia Rutazibwa (LSE); Naïma Charkaoui (author).

Abstract: What is everyday racism? How big is the problem today? How does racism relate to equality as basic universal right? Who are perpetrators and victims, and can we make this distinction at all? What about racism in higher education? And above all: how can we get rid of racism in the world? The seventh edition (2021-2022) of the VUB interdisciplinary Reason and Engage course explores issues related to racism. During four evening lectures, it explores the topic of racism from various perspectives. The evening lectures are accessible to all.

This Reason and Engage lecture series was created in collaboration with BIRMM and many other partners: deMens.nu, Humanistisch Verbond - department Brussels, Wtnschp, Crosstalks, WeDecolonizeVUB, UPV, Citizenne, The World needs you, Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union & De Wetenschapswinkel – Brussels.

This event had around 70 participants.

The New Age of Empire: Book presentation and discussion by Prof. Kehinde Andrews (23 November 2021)

Speakers: Tundé Adefioye (VUB); Kehinde Andrews (Birmingham City University).

Abstract: The New Age of Empire takes us back to the beginning of the European Empires, outlining the deliberate terror and suffering wrought during every stage of the expansion, and destroys the self-congratulatory myth that the West was founded on the three great revolutions of science, industry and politics. Instead, genocide, slavery and colonialism are the key foundation stones upon which the West was built, and we are still living under this system today: America is now at the helm, perpetuating global inequality through business, government, and institutions like the UN, the IMF,

the World Bank and the WTO. The West is rich because the Rest is poor. Capitalism is racism. The West congratulates itself on reducing poverty by increments in the developing world while ignoring the fact that it created these conditions in the first place, and continues to perpetuate them. The Enlightenment, which underlies every part of our foundational philosophy today, was and is profoundly racist. This colonial logic was and is used to justify the ransacking of Black and brown bodies and their land. The fashionable solutions offered by the white Left in recent years fall far short of even beginning to tackle the West's place at the helm of a racist global order. Offering no easy answers, The New Age of Empire is essential reading to understand our profoundly corrupt global system. A work of essential clarity, The New Age of Empire is a groundbreaking new blueprint for taking Black Radical thought into the twenty-first century and beyond.

This event was attended by approximately 100 participants.

A new wave of antiracism in Europe? An intergenerational conversation with Philomena Essed (23 November 2021)

Speakers: Philomena Essed (Antioch University, Utrecht University), Latifah Abdou (WeDecolonizeVUB); Ines Seddiki (Gett'up France); Jelena Jovanovic (European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup); Jean Beaman (UC Santa Barbara).

Abstract: 'We are witnessing the force and momentum of what can be called a new, second wave of Dutch anti-racism, since the 1980s' writes Philomena Essed in 2014. Whilst Essed writes about Dutch developments during the past decade, we can observe similar developments elsewhere in Europe. The Black Lives Matter movement of 2020 and far earlier calls to act against islamophobia, to decolonize museums, public spaces and educational institutions all evidence the resurgence of race and racism as a topic forcefully entering public and political debates. To what extent do European countries experience a second, third or fourth wave of antiracism? Was there ever a first wave? If yes, how do these waves compare? Who is doing the organizing during different waves of antiracism, around which claims and what are the means of struggle? What is their theoretical inspiration, and what are the characteristics of the ensuing public debates on racism?

This event had around 70 participants online and offline.

PhD School.

SEASONAL SCHOOL – cooperation BIRMM (VUB), CEMIS (UA), CESSMIR (UGent) (20 September 2021 – 24 September 2021)

Speakers: Patrick Simon (Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques); Victoria Esses (University of Western Ontario); Ipek Demir (University of Leeds); Bambi Ceuppens (VUB); Didier Ruedin

(Université Neuchatel); Arnfinn Haagensen Midtboen (University of Oslo); Kalwant Bhopal (University of Birmingham); Matthew Clair (Stanford University); Michele Lamont (Harvard University); Sorana Toma (UGent); Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe (VUB); Nikolett Szelei (UGent); Eva Derous (UGent); Olga Petintseva (UGent); Ines Saudelli (VUB); Serena D'Agostino (VUB); Elisabeth Bekers (VUB); Kristin Henrard (VUB).

Abstract: The seasonal school will focus on the topic of “Contemporary forms of racism and discrimination”. Both overt and more subtle expressions of racism and discrimination are prevalent in our societies. An important challenge for scholars is to conceptualize and measure their manifestations - particularly the more diffuse and systemic contemporary forms –as well as their consequences, at both individual and societal levels.

In addressing this challenge, creative approaches are needed to move beyond asking the same old questions in the same old ways. These innovative approaches should also strive to have a pragmatic component and contribute in a relevant way to tackle racist and discriminatory processes. To achieve these goals, scholars of racism and discrimination must cross disciplinary boundaries and professional settings in search of fresh inspiration and guidance.

Book launch.

Book Launch- Migration, Equality & Racism- 44 opinions (21 January 2021)

Abstract: More than 80 VUB academics and co-authors joined forces for this book. Philosophers, lawyers, psychologists, health scientists, sociologists, geographers, criminologists, communication and political scientists ... look at migration, equality and racism from different disciplinary angles. Together they aim to contribute to an exercise of humanism as a praxis of criticism or a ‘technique of troublemaking’, in the words of Edward Said.

Through 44 thought-provoking and informed opinion pieces, they question widespread beliefs on migration, equality and racism and propose solutions that might disturb. Let this book be a source of inspiration for those who want to spark an informed debate on the ever more salient issues of migration, equality and racism, for those who want to learn more on how and why humanism has often remained an empty box for migrants and racialized groups. Or for those who are in search of inspiration for a just future for all. Migration, Equality and Racism is the work of Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) think tank POINcaré and was created under the direction of Ilke Adam, Tundé Adefioye, Serena D'Agostino, Nick Schuermans and Florian Trauner.

The book launch, which was supposed to take place in the Brussels' theatre KVS, finally took place online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, hundreds of people joined the livestream show

(1200 responded to the invitation, 1800 saw the video). The show included interviews with authors, as well as dance and slam performances.

PhD Defenses

- 8 January 2021, PhD Defense Dirk Lafaut: “The ethics of bordering healthcare: A study on healthcare access of undocumented migrants in Brussels (Belgium)”
- 10 June 2021, PhD Defense Wanda Van Hemelrijck: “Cancer by migrant background in Belgium. A registry-based study on patterns and determinants”
- 10 June 2021, PhD Defense Fatma Sevgi Temizisler: “Politicization of EU Migration: Policies and its Effect on European Integration”
- 21 June 2021, PhD Defense Lingyu Xu: “Changing China's Immigration Policy - Which factors have driven China's development of a more comprehensive policy approach?”
- 13 October 2021, PhD Defense Saloua Berdai Chaouni: “Grasping fading memories of a motherland: capturing dynamic care realities of older labor migrants with dementia”

2020

Outreach Events

Event title: (Seminar) “Context Matters! How to Change the Context of Discrimination and Racism?” Symposium (8 September 2020)

Speakers: Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe (VUB); Naïma Charkaoui (author); Arwen Hoogenbosch (RADAR vzw); Bauke Fiere (RADAR vzw); Abel Ghekiere (VUB, UGent); Fanny D’Hondt (UGent); Charlotte Maene (UGent); Roselien Vervaeet (UGent); Mieke Van Houtte (UGent); Peter Stevens (UGent); Dounia Bourabain (VUB); Ikrame Kastit (Uit de marge vzw) Els Keytsman (Unia); Martina Temmerman (VUB); David de Coninck (KU Leuven); Bart Meuleman (KU Leuven); Géraldine André (UC Louvain); Chiara Giordano (ULB); Louis Lippens (UGent, VUB); Stijn Baert (UGent); Eva Derous (UGent); Jaspe Van Assche (UGent, KU Leuven); Hannah Vermaut (VUB).

Abstract: Racism and discrimination are major problems in our society. They are often considered in terms of individual perpetrators and victims. Discriminatory employers and real estate agents should, for example, be punished and victims should make formal complaints. This individual approach is reaching its limits. Racism and discrimination do not emerge in a societal vacuum. People are social beings who act within the context of a company, school, neighbourhood, municipality or broader society. Context matters! Let’s contextualize racism. Which factors on the level of an organization, neighbourhood or municipality might have an impact on discrimination?

Which roles play the political discourse and the media? How are our innate tendencies to think in boxes stirred up in the society and how can we contain them?

Once we deeply understand the contextual dynamics of racism and discrimination, we might change this context too. Many other societal problems are tackled both individually and collectively. Let's do the same with racism. This symposium aims to bring together academics, policy makers, civil society organizations around this theme.

This event took place in a hybrid format. Approximately 100 people participated.

Event title: (Panel Debate) #BlackLivesMatter in Europe: panel debate (2 December 2020)

Speakers: Noa Milman (University of Copenhagen); Rachael Moore (RainbowHouse Brussels, Rainbow Nation); Jeff Kwasi Klein (EOTO Berlin); Folashade Ajayi (VUB).

Abstract: The killing of George Floyd by the police in the United States sparked protests that quickly developed into a global phenomenon. In Europe, people protested on an unprecedented scope in several cities like Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam or Vienna to express that black lives matter. Black individuals and organizations, usually an 'invisible visible' minority in Europe, were at the heart of these protests. Not only did they call for solidarity and actions against police violence and (structural) racism in the United States, they also highlighted similar concerns for People of African Descent (PAD) in Europe. Also in Europe, People of African Descent face high levels of discrimination. Black organizations in countries like Germany or France have for a long time lobbied for anti-discrimination policies but only received little attention. The recent #blacklivesmatter protests in Europe might serve as a catalyst for debates on racism and the need to tackle it. How is anti-black racism addressed in European public spaces? How is the transnational protest translated differently in different local and national contexts? Which demands are picked up by policymakers and which policies are developed? And what visions for racial/ethnic equality do these responses, or the lack thereof, convey?

This event happened online. Over 200 people attended.

Event title: (Panel Debate) The disproportionate negative impact of COVID-19 on the health and socio-economic participation of minorities and migrants (11 December 2020)

Speakers: Catherine Woollard (ECRE); Rasha Sba (Minority Rights Group International); Tena Simonovic Einwalter (ECRI Croatia); Amy Weatherburn (ULB, FRANET); Els Keytsman (Unia); Rita Vanobberghen (VUB); Kristin Henrard (VUB).

Abstract: The dark cloud of the corona crisis has been upon us for most of 2020. While this is a global pandemic, posing a threat to us all, it does not affect us all equally: the most vulnerable among us are hit more severely. When we zoom in on minorities and migrants, it is striking how they tend to face double jeopardy, because of the systemic discrimination they tend to suffer. Systemic discrimination resulting in a weaker socio-economic position, and poor health conditions, make these groups not only more susceptible to contracting the virus but also disproportionately hit by the ensuing economic crisis.

BIRMM and VUB's Fundamental Rights Centre invite you – at the occasion of Human Rights Day, to a lunch panel on December 11 that brings together experts from international and national civil society as well as academics to reflect upon "the disproportionate negative impact of COVID-19 on the health and socio-economic participation of minorities and migrants". Representatives of the Belgian Equality Body UNIA, Minority Rights Group International, the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, a rapporteur for EU's Fundamental Rights Agency and an academic with medical background each will offer their insights on this complex matter. We invite everyone to join the online panel and partake in the discussion.

BIRMM Research Days

BIRMM research day (30 October 2020)

Speakers: Marjolen Schepers (VUB); René Kreichauf (VUB); Rose-Lima Van Keer (VUB); Dirk Lafaut (VUB).

Abstract: We invite all VUB researchers to join our next BIRMM Research Day on October 30! We will be teaming up with the Minderhedenforum and discussing latest research from BIRMM members.

The first part of this Research Day consists of presentations of completed PhD research of BIRMM members, followed by discussions.

Dr. Marjolein Schepers (History) *Membership Revisited. Negotiating Migration Regulation and Access to Welfare in Eighteenth-Century Flanders*

René Kreichauf (Geography) *Forced Migration Spaces: The Spatial Negotiation of Asylum in European and U.S. Cities*

Dr. Rose-Lima Van Keer (Medicine and Pharmacy) *Communication and decision making in critical medical situations in hospital within the context of an increasingly multi-ethnic patient population*

Dr. Dirk Lafaut (Philosophy) *The ethics of bordering healthcare. A mixed method study on healthcare access of undocumented migrants in Brussels (Belgium)*

The second part of this Research Day consists of two parallel sessions with Minderhedenforum to discuss joint policy advocacy initiatives and possible joint research interests.

PhD Defenses.

- 9 October 2020, PhD Defense Laura Westerveen: Ethno-racial (In)equality in Belgium and Germany: Understanding Policy Frames.
- 18 November 2020, PhD Defense René Kreichauf: “Forced Migration Spaces: The Spatial Negotiation of Asylum in European and U.S. Cities”
- 23 November 2020, PhD Defense Malasree Neepa Acharya: “Anchoring Circulation of India’s Diaspora Entrepreneurs: Creating Cosmopolitan Home and Lifeworlds in Bangalore’s Interconnected Entrepreneurial Ecosystem”

2019

Outreach Events

Event title: (Public Lecture) Queer Migrations with Wim Peumans (1 April 2019)

Speakers: Wim Peumans (author); Dino Suhonic (Queer support the migrants BXL); Dounia Jarf of Maruf (Queers support the Migrants BXL).

Abstract: The lecture is given by dr. Wim Peumans based on his book ‘Queer Muslims in Europe’ followed by a conversation with Belgium and Dutch representatives of civil society organisations, such as Dino Suhonic and Dounia Jari of Maruf, a platform for queer Muslims in the Netherlands and the collective Queers support the Migrants BXL in Belgium.

Event title: (Panel Debate) EU-African Cooperation on Migration: What are the African Interests? (3 April 2019)

Speakers: Madelein Hosli (UNI-CRIS); Ilke Adam (VUB); Florian Trauner (VUB); Ilse Ruysen (UGent); Sara Salomone (VUB); Leonie Jegen (VUB); Omar Ba (diversity consultant); Ndey Haddy Jeng (Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of the Republic of The Gambia in Brussels); Kumut Imesh (documentary maker, ACSORE).

Abstract: Discussing EU-African cooperation on migration most often happens from a Eurocentric perspective, emphasizing the EU’s core interest of having orderly and managed migration. But what

do African states want in the migration field? What are their interests and positions vis-à-vis the EU's agenda? The UNU-CRIS project 'African Migration: Root Causes and Regulatory Dynamics (AMIREG)' has explored this. Building upon extensive fieldwork and numerous interviews conducted in Ghana and Senegal, it elaborates on what drives African actors and African migration. This Policy Forum will present and discuss the key findings of the project with African policymakers and civil society representatives.

Event title: (Seminar) Lunch seminar "How (street-)level bureaucrats construct immigration policies?" (7 October 2019)

Speakers: Carla Mascia (ULB & VUB); Andrew Crosby (VUB).

Abstract: At the end of August 2019, Carla Mascia and Andrew Crosby both defended their PhDs on the concrete implementation of immigration policies by (street-)level bureaucrats. Carla Mascia was a joint PhD student at (GERME) Université Libre de Bruxelles and (IES) Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Andrew Crosby studied at VUB, did his PhD at (GERME) ULB and recently started as postdoctoral researcher at (IES) VUB again. On 7 October, during a short and informal brown-bag lunch seminar (from 1 to 2 pm, VUB, Pleinlaan 5, Lisbon Room, floor: -1), they will present the main findings of their PhDs and discuss them with you.

Event title: (Public Lecture) Research Methodology: Doing Research in Africa (8 October 2019)

Speaker: Ismaila Ceesay (University of The Gambia).

Abstract: The aim of this course is to equip research students with some of the relevant skills required to undertake postgraduate fieldwork in Africa. The presentation introduces the principal methodologies and strategies that are commonly applied to academic research in the Social Sciences and considers their practical application for students who might undertake postgraduate fieldwork in Africa. In essence, the course will introduce researchers/students to some standard research methods and approaches from a perspective that is constantly mindful of the African setting – a setting that can present quite different challenges from the (implied) northern/western setting of many research training courses. The presentation, which draws on my experiences of doing fieldwork in the Gambia, also discusses the hazards of doing fieldwork in Africa and general ethical issues and how they were dealt with.

Event title: (Public Lecture) Migration Aspirations: Strategies of Young Africans in a State of 'Involuntary Immobility' (10 October 2019)

Speakers: Ismaila Ceesay (University of The Gambia); Florian Trauner (VUB).

Abstract: Migration, irregular low-skilled emigration from developing countries in particular, has attracted a lot of academic and political attention. In many low and middle-income countries, migration is a prominent and sought-after prospect. However, the vast majority of would-be migrants never leave (involuntarily immobile) leading to a stark mismatch between the global demand for migration opportunities and the restrictive immigration policies of the desired destination countries. This mismatch appears set to grow in the coming decades, with swelling youth cohorts in Africa, especially, and strong anti-immigrant political currents in much of the Global North. Drawing from ethnographic fieldwork in West Africa, this presentation explores the strategies that young people, who find it increasingly difficult to migrate to the West, employ to fulfil their aspirations of social and economic advancement. These aspirations are shaped by intervening social, cultural and religious obligations and expectations.

Event title: (Panel Debate) Scaling Fences - Voices Of Irregular African Migrants To Europe (14 November 2019)

Speakers: Ahunna Eziakonwa (UNDP Africa); Mohamed Yahya (UNDP Nigeria); Ine Lietaert (UNU-CRIS, UGent); Ilse Ruyssen (UGent); Omar Cham (VUB); Ortun Merkle (UNU-Merit) Ilke Adam (VUB).

Abstract: Responding effectively to the large-scale movement of peoples has become one of the greatest challenges of our time. The changing patterns and visibility of the numbers of people seeking refuge as well as better lives and opportunities across borders have all profoundly impacted the global political environment.

The Scaling Fences report focuses specifically on contemporary irregular African migrants arriving to Europe. In efforts to bring the voices of this contemporary group of travelers to the forefront of policy making, UNDP Africa has interviewed thousands of Africans who have travelled through irregular means to Europe.

The event will present findings and recommendations of the Scaling Fences research project and open a space for debate on irregular migration among academic experts and participants.

This event was attended by approximately 50 participants.

Event title: (Seminar) The Politicization Of Immigration In Portugal Between 1995-2014: A European Exception? (12 December 2019)

Speaker: João Miguel de Carvalho (University Institute of Lisbon).

Abstract: Immigration is envisaged as part of an ‘emergent cultural cleavage’ across Western Europe. This public seminar focuses on the politicization of immigration in Portugal between 1995 and 2014. Politicization is interpreted as being formed by two distinct dimensions: salience and polarization of the political claims found within news articles extracted from newspapers. Notwithstanding the doubling of the foreign population settled in the country in the early 2000s, the diminished salience and the absence of significant political conflict suggest that immigration failed to become politicized in Portugal. Drawing on a comparative analysis with seven other European states (including new countries of immigration like Ireland and Spain) between 1995 and 2009, Portugal observed the lowest rate of politicization. Rather than being related with socio-economic factors, the lack of politicization of immigration was associated with the strategies of the mainstream parties, which successfully prevented the emergence of this topic as a significant political cleavage.

Event title: (Panel Debate) What if Mayors Ruled Migration? (13 December 2019)

Speakers: Tiziana Caponio (University of Turin, Migration Policy Centre; Mohamed Ridouani (Mayor of Leuven); Wim Dries (Mayor of Genk); Eric Corijn (VUB); Ilke Adam (VUB).

Abstract: Immigration governance has become so polarized these days that the EU and the European nation-states have difficulties agreeing on the way forward. Let’s try to imagine what would happen if they would decide to transfer considerable policy-making autonomy for migration to cities. Cities organize in international networks like the Mayors Migration Council, as they did on the occasion of the intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Migration Compact, in December 2018. Can cities rescue states and the EU from their failure in dealing with migration and diversity issues? Would migration governance be more progressive if it would be initiated by cities? More pragmatic? More efficient? And how to deal with policy divergence? This panel debate with academics and mayors digs deeper into this provocative thought-experiment on one of the most salient policy issues of today.

This event attracted approximately 120 participants.

BIRMM Research Days

First BIRMM research day (26 April 2019)

Speakers: Ilke Adam, Serena D’Agostino, Laura Emery, Karen Stoffelen, Dounia Bourabain, Liesbet De Backer, Jasmien Bougrine, Lena Imeraj, Géraldine André, Laura Westerveen, Pascal Verhoest, Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe, Anne Winter, Deniz Ay, Shilpi Pandey, Honghui Pan, Katrien Vanthomme, Hadewijch Vandenheede, Saloua Berdai-Chaouni, Ann Claeys, Liesbeth De Donder, Hakki

Demirkapu, Dirk Devroey, Lieve Van den Block, Dirk Lafaut, Rita Vanobberghen, Fred Louck, Jan Vandevoorde, Zhuyun Song, Rosella Marino, Omar Cham, Kristof Gombeer, Sara Silvestre, Bart Lambert, Florian Trauner, Torsten Feys, Ayfer Erkul, Safaa Charafi, Iman Lechkar

Abstract: We strongly believe in the importance of interdisciplinary cross-fertilization. Getting to know each other will allow us to set up academic collaborations across the disciplinary divides. This can help us to conduct innovative research and to tackle societal challenges. Both in the morning and the afternoon, we will run a couple of sessions with short presentations, followed by informal roundtable discussions. Rather than choosing for parallel sessions, we have opted to work with very short presentations (5 minutes!). In this way, you will get an overview of all research that is conducted at VUB on the theme of migration and minorities. At the end of each session, we will organize roundtable discussions. For each of the presenters in the session, there will be a separate table. Members of the audience are expected to move to the table(s) of the presenter(s) they would like to engage with through comments or questions. In this way, we provide space for informal encounters and more in-depth discussions.

More than 30 researchers present their work in 6 panel sessions: 'Youth and education', 'Segregation, Polarisation and Discrimination', 'Policy Making: Cities and Nation States', 'Ageing and Health', 'Asylum, Diaspora and Forced Return', and 'Policing, Border Control and Security Threats'.

Newsletters

External Newsletter.

- 2024
 - (11/04/2024) BIRMM Update April ([BIRMM Newsletter: Keep up with the latest news! | VUB Birmm](#)).
- 2023
 - (08/03/2023) March BIRMM Newsletter (<https://mailchi.mp/vub/birmm-newsletter-march>)
 - (14/06/2023) June BIRMM Newsletter (June BIRMM Newsletter: Keep up with the latest news! | VUB (paddlecms.net)).
 - (25/10/2023) October BIRMM Newsletter (<https://mailchi.mp/vub/keep-up-with-all-things-birmm>)
 - (18/12/2023) December BIRMM Newsletter (<https://birmm.research.vub.be/birmm-newsletter-keep-up-with-the-latest-news-0>)
- 2022
 - (10/02/2022) January/February Newsletter (<https://mailchi.mp/vub/whats-happening-at-birmmfeb22>)

- (25/05/2022) BIRMM Newsletter (BIRMM Newsletter: Keep up with the latest news! - VUB Birmm (paddlecms.net)).
- (06/10/2022) October BIRMM Newsletter (October BIRMM Newsletter: Keep up with the latest news! | (paddlecms.net)).
- (12/12/2022) December BIRMM Newsletter (December BIRMM Newsletter: Keep up with the latest news! | (paddlecms.net)).
- 2021
 - (27/04/2021) April Newsletter (<https://mailchi.mp/vub/whats-happening-at-birmm>)
 - (20/10/2021) October Newsletter (<https://mailchi.mp/vub/what-s-happening-at-birmm>)
- 2020
 - (16/10/2020) October Newsletter (October Newsletter: What's been happening at BIRMM? (paddlecms.net)).

Internal Newsletter.

- 2024
 - 23/01/2024 BIRMM Update (<https://mailchi.mp/vub/birmm-update>)
 - 20/02/2024 BIRMM Update (<https://mailchi.mp/059e5826f1bd/birmm-update-1338821>)
 - 05/03/2024 BIRMM Update (<https://mailchi.mp/270c2c58d185/birmm-update-nrng6c1cxn>)
- 2023
 - 16/01 ([BIRMM WU 16-01-2023.docx](#))
 - 02/02 ([BIRMM WU 16-01-2023.docx](#))
 - 21/03 ([BIRMM UPDATE 21.03.23.docx](#))
 - 24/04 ([BIRMM UPDATE 24.04.23.docx](#))
 - 04/04 ([BIRMM UPDATE 04.04.23\[13\].docx](#))
 - 16/06 ([BIRMM UPDATE 16.06.2023.docx](#))
 - 01/09 ([BIRMM UPDATE September 2023.docx](#))
 - 24/10 ([BIRMM UPDATE October 24 2023.docx](#))
 - 14/11 ([BIRMM Update 14 November 2023.docx](#))
- 2022
 - 11/01 ([WU 11.01.2022.docx](#))
 - 25/01 ([WU 25.01.2022.docx](#))
 - 01/02 ([WU 01.02.2022.docx](#))
 - 15/02 ([BIRMM WU 15.02.22.docx](#))
 - 22/02 ([BIRMM WU 22.02.22.docx](#))
 - 01/03 ([BIRMM WU 01.03.22.docx](#))
 - 08/03 ([BIRMM WU 08.03.22.docx](#))
 - 15/03 ([BIRMM WU 15.03.22.docx](#))
 - 22/03 ([BIRMM WU 22.03.22.docx](#))
 - 29/03 ([BIRMM WU 29.03.22.docx](#))

- 12/04 ([BIRMM WU 12.04.22.docx](#))
- 19/04 ([WU 19.04.2022 VERSIE 2.docx](#))
- 25/04 ([WU 25.04.2022.docx](#))
- 03/05 ([WU 03.05.2022.docx](#))
- 10/05 ([WU 10.05.2022.docx](#))
- 17/05 ([WU 17.05.2022.docx](#))
- 24/05 ([WU 24.05.2022.docx](#))
- 31/05 ([WU 31.05.2022.docx](#))
- 14/06 ([WU 14.06.22.docx](#))
- 28/06 ([WU 28.06.22.docx](#))
- 09/09 ([WU 09.09.22.pdf](#))
- 17/10 ([WU 09.09.22.pdf](#))
- 08/11 ([BIRMM WU 08.11.2022.docx](#))
- 2021.
 - 05/01 ([BIRMM weekly Update week 10 -Jan. 2021.docx](#))
 - 12/01 ([BIRMM weekly Update week 11 -Jan 11. 2021.docx](#))
 - 19/01 ([BIRMM Weekly Update week 12- Jan 18.docx](#))
 - 26/01 ([BIRMM weekly update 12-Jan 25.docx](#))
 - 02/02 ([BIRMM weekly update- 1st feb.docx](#))
 - 08/02 ([BIRMM weekly update- 8th feb.docx](#))
 - 15/02 ([BIRMM weekly update- 15th feb.docx](#))
 - 23/02 ([BIRMM weekly update- 22nd feb.docx](#))
 - 01/03([BIRMM Weekly Update 1st March 2021.docx](#))
 - 09/03 ([BIRMM weekly update 9 March 2021.docx](#)).
 - 15/03 ([BIRMM weekly update 15 March 2021.docx](#)
 - 22/03 ([BIRMM weekly update 22 March 2021.docx](#)).
 - 29/03 ([BIRMM weekly update 29 March 2021.docx](#))
 - 19/04 ([BIRMM weekly update 19 April 2021.docx](#)).
 - 18/05 ([BIRMM weekly update- 18.5.21.docx](#))
 - 21/06 ([BIRMM weekly update- 18.5.21.docx](#))
 - 06/07 ([BIRMM Weekly update 6 July 2021.docx](#))
 - 13/07 ([BIRMM Weekly update 13 July 2021.docx](#))
 - 31/08 ([BIRMM WU-31.08.21.docx](#))
 - 07/09 ([BIRMM WU-07.09.21.docx](#))
 - 05/10 ([BIRMM WU-05.10.21.docx](#))
 - 12/10 ([BIRMM WU-12.10.21.docx](#))
 - 16/11 ([BIRMM WU-16.11.21.docx](#))
 - 23/11 ([BIRMM WU-23.11.21.docx](#))
 - 30/11 ([BIRMM WU-30.11.21.docx](#))
 - 07/12 ([WU 07.12.2021.docx](#))
 - 21/12 ([BIRMM WU 21.12.21.docx](#))

- 2020.
 - 27/10 ([BIRMM Weekly bulletin.docx](#))
 - 03/11 ([BIRMM Weekly update w2.docx](#))
 - 10/11 ([BIRMM Weekly update w3.docx](#))
 - 17/11 ([BIRMM Weekly update w4.docx](#))
 - 24/11 ([BIRMM weekly update w6.docx](#))
 - 01/12 ([BIRMM weekly update w7.docx](#))
 - 08/12 ([BIRMM weekly update w8.docx](#))
 - 15/12 ([BIRMM weekly update w9.docx](#))

Migration Talks Podcast.

2024

The impact of migration narratives on EU policymaking.

Speakers: Florian Trauner (VUB); Gaia Romeo (VUB); Omar Ba (diversity consultant).

Abstract: In this podcast episode, we explore how migration narratives shape the upcoming European elections and influence policymaking in Brussels. These narratives are central to discussions and policies across Europe, especially as far-right parties amplify them as security threats for electoral gains. What are the prevailing migration narratives within the EU, and how do they impact the policymaking processes of the European Union? These and more questions will be answered by our guests Florian Trauner, Co-director of BIRMM and Omar Ba who is a community organizer, activist and politician. This episode is moderated by VUB researcher Gaia Romeo.

2023

The importance of heritage languages and multilingualism in Belgium with Jianwei Xu and Rik Vosters

Speakers: Sibel Top; Ilke Adam; Jianwei Xu; Rik Vosters.

Abstract: In today's episode, we discuss the idea of heritage languages and the importance of transmitting them. We discuss this topic with Jianwei Xu and Rik Vosters who are both working on a project that seeks to develop an online tool to help minority communities teach and maintain their

heritage language. Joining the conversation are Ilke Adam, co-director of the BIRMM research center, and Sibel Top, Coordinator of the BIRMM research center.

Everyday sexism & racism in the ivory tower: the struggles & resistance of researchers in Belgium with Dounia Bourabain

Speakers: Ilke Adam; Sibel Top; Dounia Bourabain.

Abstract: In today's episode, we discuss the struggles faced by early career researchers in Belgium. We discuss this with Dr. Dounia Bourabain, who defended her PhD in September 2022 titled 'Everyday Sexism and Racism in the Ivory Tower. The struggles and resistance of early career researchers in Belgium'. In her thesis, she clearly debunks the myth of the university as the ideal meritocratic institution, wherein individuals can succeed and thrive on the basis of their individual merit, hard work, and skills. Dounia's PhD, however, also touches upon a pressing societal challenge, namely, how to foster real equality in the ivory tower. Joining the conversation are Ilke Adam, co-director of the BIRMM research center, and Sibel Top, Coordinator of the BIRMM research center.

Een historische blik op de Belgische migratiepolitiek with Ellen Debackere

Speakers: Hannah Vermaut; Florian Trauner; Ellen Debackere.

Abstract: In deze aflevering gaan we in gesprek met VUB onderzoeker, Ellen Debackere om te praten over haar boek "Welkom in Antwerpen? Het Antwerpse vreemdelingenbeleid, 1830-1880". Dit boek is een historisch verslag van hoe een Belgische stad omging met de komst en integratie van nieuwkomers. Hadden mensen in de 19e eeuw soortgelijke gedachten en zorgen over migratie? Wat kunnen we leren van een historische blik op migratie? Deze vragen zullen in deze aflevering aan bod komen. Aan het gesprek nemen Florian Trauner, co-directeur van het BIRMM-onderzoekscentrum en Hannah Vermaut, coördinator van het BIRMM-onderzoekscentrum deel.

2021

Big data and artificial intelligence for migration research with Tuba Bircan.

Speakers: Florian Trauner; Tuba Bircan.

Abstract: In this episode, Florian Trauner discusses the potential and the risks of using big data and artificial intelligence for migration research with Tuba Bircan. She is a BIRMM member and research professor at the Interface Demography research group of the Department of Sociology at the Vrije

Universiteit Brussel. She has more than 15 years of experience in quantitative and mixed research methods and published widely on issues of migration, gender and inequalities.

Racisme en discriminatie in de zorg with Saloua Berdai Chaouni and Enata Mushimiyimana

Speakers: Hannah Vermaut; Saloua Berdai Chaouni; Enata Mushimiyimana.

Abstract: In deze aflevering van Migration Talks hebben we het over racisme en discriminatie in de zorg. De covid-pandemie maakte duidelijk dat er ongelijke uitkomsten in de zorg en gezondheidszorg voor etnische minderheden zijn. Is er sprake van racisme en discriminatie in de zorg? Hoe uit zich dat, waar komt het vandaag en wat kunnen we er tegenover stellen? We gaan erover in gesprek met dr. Saloua Berdai Chaouni (onderzoeker aan het departement Psychologie en Educatiewetenschappen van VUB) en Enata Mushimiyimana (studente Farmaceutische Wetenschappen aan VUB, oprichtster van AfroMedica).

The EU's temporary protection regime for Ukrainians: How does it work? With Hanne Beirens

Speakers: Hannah Vermaut; Florian Trauner; Hanne Beirens.

Abstract: In this episode, we talk about the EU's response to the displacement of Ukrainians. The EU member states have opened their borders and welcomed Ukrainians. The EU as a whole has taken the decision to provide all newly arrived Ukrainians with a temporary protection status.

This has been a historic decision. Thus far, the EU's asylum system was based on an individual assessment of protection claims. This will no longer be the case for Ukrainians – they will be protected as a group in the EU. What are the implications of such a temporary protection regime? What does this decision imply for the EU's asylum policies at large?

We discuss this with Hanne Beirens, the director of Migration Policy Institute Europe, and Florian Trauner, co-director of the BIRMM research centre at VUB.

What NEETs need: hoe kan het beleid jongeren met een migratieachtergrond beter bereiken? With Andrew Crosby and Mariam Ait Hmeid

Speakers: Hannah Vermaut; Mariam Ait Hmeid; Andrew Crosby.

Abstract: In deze aflevering gaan we met Mariam Ait Hmeid (beleidsmedewerker LEVL) en Andrew Crosby (onderzoeker BIRMM) in gesprek over jongeren met een migratieachtergrond en de

moeilijkheden die ze kunnen tegenkomen om een plaats te vinden op de arbeidsmarkt of in de maatschappij.

Vanuit het beleid wil men maar al te graag de afstand tot de arbeidsmarkt voor deze jongeren dichten, zeker nu, in tijden van arbeidsmarktkrapte. Maar wat gebeurt er daar eigenlijk? Kunnen we die kloof verklaren en waarom gaat het specifiek over jongeren met een migratieachtergrond? Werkt zo'n beleid? En ook, welke ervaringen hebben jongeren zelf? In deze aflevering vertellen Mariam Ait Hmeid en Andrew Crosby wat de belangrijkste uitdagingen zijn en wat het beleid beter kan doen.

Over-or underpopulation? Mobilization and persistence of Malthus framings debated with Soumia Majdoub

Speakers: Florian Trauner; Sibel Top; Soumaya Majdoub.

Abstract: In today's episode, we discuss the idea of overpopulation. Where and how it originated, why it is so persistent, and how it got to be linked to migration, anti-migrant discourses, and migration policies.

We discuss this topic with Soumaya Majdoub, who is focusing on these topics as a Ph.D. researcher at Interface Demography, and at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. She just published a truly inspiring and eye-opening essay called 'Consuming like rabbits', which is now available in Dutch from ASP. Joining the conversation are Florian Trauner, co-director of the BIRMM research center at VUB, and Sibel Top, Coordinator of the BIRMM research center.

2020

Receiving and accommodating refugees in European cities with René Kreichauf and Louise Hantson.

Speakers: Hannah Vermaut; Florian Trauner; René Kreichauf; Louise Hantson.

Abstract: In the first episode, we discuss how refugees are received and accommodated in European cities. Who is responsible for welcoming and accommodating refugees? Are there differences in the ways in which this is handled across Europe? Hannah Vermaut and Florian Trauner welcome two VUB researchers, who are highly qualified to discuss these questions: René Kreichauf (Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research - VUB) and Louise Hantson (project researcher at BIRMM for the Whole COMM project).

BIRMM Spotlights.

(Social) Media	Spotlight on Research
2024	
LinkedIn	(29/01/2024) Cham, O. N., & Adam, I. (2023). Justifying opposition and support to EU-Africa cooperation on deportation in West Africa. <i>Governance</i> , 1–20. https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12846 (https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7157754635510829057)
BIRMM Website LinkedIn	(11/03/2024) New research on the accommodation and support of refugee minors in Belgium: Liesbet De Backer, Ilse Derluyn & Nick Schuermans (2024). The accommodation and support of unaccompanied refugee minors in Belgium: factors that complicate interprofessional collaboration, <i>European Journal of Social Work</i> , 27:1, 165-176. DOI: 10.1080/13691457.2022.2145598 (https://birmm.research.vub.be/new-research-on-the-accommodation-and-support-of-refugee-minors-in-belgium)
Upcoming	(05/04/2024) Imeraj, L., de Valk, H. A. G., & Gadeyne, S. (2024). Parental education and neighbourhood-effect heterogeneity in educational attainments of native and minority youth in Belgian metropolitan cities. <i>Population, Space and Place</i> , e2756. https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.2756
2023	
BIRMM Website LinkedIn	(16/11/2023) BIRMM Publication – Counter-documentation tactics: participatory, visual and walking research with undocumented migrants by Kevin Smets and Lisa Ahenkona (https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7130921731212369921)
BIRMM Website LinkedIn	(27/11/2023) BIRMM Publication – Irregular migration is skilled migration: reimagining skill in EU's migration policies by Damini Purkayastha, Tuba Bircan, Ahmad Wali Ahmad Yar and Duha Ceylan (https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7134997449923784704)
BIRMM Website LinkedIn	(18/12/2023) BIRMM Research for international migrants' day – The role of narratives in migratory decision-making: Analysing the impact of EU-funded information campaigns in the Gambia. (https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7143563184086384641)
LinkedIn	(20/12/2023) Lafaut, Dirk & Coene, Gily (2023). Autonomy Without Borders? Understanding the Impact of Undocumented Residence Status on Healthcare Relationships in Belgium. <i>International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics</i> , 16 (2):1-25. (https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7143185826301054977)
LinkedIn	(21/12/2023) El Moussawi, H. (2023). 'Finding housing was an illness': refugees' sense of continued displacement in Belgium. <i>Housing Studies</i> , 1-22.

	(https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7143563184086384641)
2021	
BIRMM Website	(01/03/2021) Shifting the gaze: A research on how people with a migration background want to be portrayed. With Lisa Ahenkona (https://birmm.research.vub.be/spotlight-shifting-the-gaze)
BIRMM Website	(26/04/2021) Whole-COMM with Laura Westerveen (https://birmm.research.vub.be/birmm-spotlight-whole-comm)
BIRMM Website	(29/06/2021) BRIDGES with Omar N Cham (https://birmm.research.vub.be/birmm-spotlight-bridges)
BIRMM Website	(24/11/2021) Blueprint study for Master Critical Liberation/Ethnic Studies with Tundé Adefioye and Latifah Abdou (https://birmm.research.vub.be/birmm-spotlight-blueprint-study-for-master-critical-liberationethnic-studies)
BIRMM Website	(08/12/2021) The administrative power of immigration officers: A study of discretionary decision-making in the enforcement of immigration laws with Lars Breuls (https://birmm.research.vub.be/birmm-spotlight-the-administrative-power-of-immigration-officers-a-study-of-discretionary-decision)

BIRMM Projects

International Funding

Title	Funding Source	Participating BIRMM Professors	Project years
POLSTOPS: Understanding police stops and search practices in Europe	European Union, COST Action	Sofie De Kimpe	2018 – 2023
HumMingBird: Enhanced migration measures from a multidimensional perspective	European Union, HORIZON2020	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe & Tuba Bircan	2019 – 2024
The Whole-COMM: Exploring the integration of post-2014 migrants in small and medium-sized towns and rural areas from a whole of community perspective	European Union, HORIZON2020	Ilke Adam	2021 – 2023
BRIDGES-Assessing the production and impact of migration narratives	European Union, Horizon2020	Florian Trauner and Ilke Adam	2021 – 2024

MIRREM: Understanding and assessing irregular migration	European Union, Horizon2020	Tuba Bircan	2022 – 2025
EQUALSTRENGTH: From one closed door to another: Cumulative discrimination and prejudice against marginalised groups in Europe	European Union, HORIZON Research and Innovation actions	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2023 – 2026
Reel Borders: Fiction film and borderlands	European Union, European Research Council	Kevin Smets	2023 – 2026

National Funding

Title	Funding Source	Participating BIRMM member	Project years
A Holistic, Restorative and Gendered approach to Guide Returnees to their Home country	Nationaal Instituut voor Criminalistiek en Criminologie	Iman Lechkar	2021 – 2024
The pioneers of anti-racism in Belgium	Equal	Ilke Adam	2022 – 2023
FedDiverse – Ethnic diversity in federal public services in Belgium	BelSpo & BO/SA	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2022 – 2024
Digitalizing the police: internal and external challenges for the police organization in an inclusive society	BelSpo	Sofie De Kimpe, Lucas Melgaço	2022 – 2026
IGICOJUST-2 Military Violence and its (Dis)Contents in Colonial Congo: Sharing the Record, Writing the History	BelSpo	Benoît Henriët	2023 – 2027

Regional/Local Funding

Title	Funding Source	Participating BIRMM member	Project years
Discriminatie op de arbeidsmarkt van het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest	Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2022 – 2024
Meerjarenovereenkomst voor het uitvoeren van praktijktesten discriminatie op de professionele huurmarkt en de arbeidsmarkt op sectorniveau in de Stad Antwerpen.	City of Antwerp	Pieter Paul Verhaeghe	2019 – 2024
Meerjarenovereenkomst voor het uitvoeren van praktijktesten discriminatie op de professionele huurmarkt en arbeidsmarkt, op sectorniveau.	City of Antwerp	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2019 – 2024
Discriminatie op de huurwoningmarkt van Stad Brugge	City of Bruges	Pieter Paul Verhaeghe	2021 – 2021
Nulmeting naar discriminatie op de huurwoningmarkt van Stad Brugge	City of Bruges	Pieter Paul Verhaeghe	2021 – 2021
Research into discrimination in the rental housing market in the Limburg mining municipalities	City of Genk	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2020 – 2024
Discriminatie op de huurwoningmarkt van Gent	City of Ghent	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2022 – 2023
Discriminatie op de woningmarkt van Kortrijk	City of Kortrijk	Pieter Paul Verhaeghe	2022 – 2022
Discriminatie bij aanwerving bij de Vlaamse overheid en lokale besturen	Agentschap Overheidsper soneel – Vlaamse Overheid	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2022 – 2022
Onderzoek naar discriminatie op de private huurwoningmarkt in Leuven	City of Leuven	Pieter Paul Verhaeghe	2020 – 2020

Centraal Expertencomité Monitoring Discriminatie	Agentschap Binnelands Bestuur – Vlaamse Overheid	Pieter Paul Verhaeghe	2020 – 2020
Onderzoek naar discriminatie op de private huurwoningmarkt in Leuven: de opvolgmeting	City of Leuven	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2023 – 2024
Onderzoek naar discriminatie op de private huurwoningmarkt in Mechelen	City of Mechelen	Pieter Paul Verhaeghe	2019 – 2020
Academische praktijktesten naar discriminatie op de woningmarkt van Sint-Niklaas	City of Sint- Niklaas	Pieter Paul Verhaeghe	2023 – 2023
Expertenadvies bestrijding discriminatie en racisme op de arbeidsmarkt: ontwikkeling van een onafhankelijk en academisch monitoringsinstrument voor toepassing in sectoren	Departement Werk & Economie – Vlaamse Overheid	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2020 – 2024
POLSTOPS: Inside the asylum procedure for children. Researching experiences of young asylum seekers	FWO	Els Dumortier & Marijke Caroline Van Buggenhout	2019 – 2022
The immigration-federalism nexus: Taking the subnational level seriously	FWO	Ilke Adam	2020 – 2024
Conceptualizing hybrid-fiction, the emerging genre in migration narratives	FWO	Kevin Smets	2020 – 2024
Islam in Brussels prisons in the aftermath of terrorist attacks: an ethnographic study on Islam, prison policies, experiences and masculinities	FWO	Iman Lechkar	2020 – 2025
Forced Migration as Urban Development: The Emergence of Formal and Informal Planning Approaches for the	FWO	René Kreichauf	2021 - 2024

Arrival and Settlement of Refugees			
The administrative power of (cr)immigration officers. A study of discretionary decision-making in the enforcement of (cr)immigration laws	FWO	Kristel Beyens	2021 – 2023
Holding together or tearing apart? Exploring cross-ethnic voting and vote-seeking in Brussels	FWO	Silvia Erzeel	2021 – 2025
Contextualizing ethnic discrimination on the rental housing market: the role of local factors to explain and tackle rental discrimination	FWO	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2022 – 2025
They are not like us. The perception of differentness, polarization amongst citizens and dissatisfaction with representatives	FWO	Karen Celis	2022 – 2025
Satire across borders: production, content, and audiences of pan-Arab news satire	FWO	Kevin Smets	2022 – 2025
Childcare Needs of Newcomer Migrants and Refugees	FWO	Duha Ceylan	2022 – 2026
Social and ethnic inequalities in intergenerational social mobility: The role of the educational macro context	FWO	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2022 – 2026
The Affective Epistemology of Dislocated Journalists: Emotions as knowledge among journalists exiled, displaced, and repatriated in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian War	FWO	Kevin Smets	2023 – 2026

From Camp to Campus: Social Investment in Refugees and Newcomers through Higher Education	FWO SBO	Tuba Bircan	2023 – 2027
Keeping women out of politics? The (in)direct impact of violence against women in politics	FWO	Karen Celis	2023 – 2027
Sustainable Rural Communities: Comparing migrant receptivity and the revitalisation of two rural towns in Spain and Ireland	FWO	Lena Imeraj	2023 – 2027
Governing religious diversity at the local level in Europe: moving beyond the nationalist and localist theories	FWO	Ilke Adam, Louise Hantson	2023 – 2027
Intergenerational social mobility and welfare state regimes from a gendered perspective	FWO	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2023 – 2027
Misafir. The size and social composition of non-registered populations in Brussels Capital Region	Innoviris Brussels	Pieter Paul Verhaeghe	2018 – 2022
Inequalities of Shared Short-Term Rentals in Brussels	Innoviris Brussels	Pieter Paul Verhaeghe	2019 – 2023
Practical tests on the Brussels labour market	Innoviris Brussels	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2022 – 2024
Demographic Challenges of the 21st Century.	Strategic Research Programs (SRP)	Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2012 – 2024
Evaluating Democratic Governance in Europe (EDGE) -	Strategic Research Programs (SRP)	Karen celis, Gilly Coene, Ilke Adam & Iman Lechkar	2017 – 2023

WP 3 Intersectional Inequalities and Democratic Innovations			
Crime and Society: New Challenges	Strategic Research Programs (SRP)	Sofie de Kimpe	2017 – 2024
SRP-Onderzoekszwaartepunt research project "Inequality, Migration and Social Relations in Urban Brabant and Flanders, c. 1350-1914"	Strategic Research Programs (SRP)	Anne Winter	2019 – 2024
FAR RIGHT FICTIONS: THE MEANINGS OF AUDIOVISUAL FICTION AMONG 'EMERGING CITIZENS' WITH FAR-RIGHT SYMPATHIES	Strategic Research Programs (SRP) Growth Funding	Kevin Smets	2022 – 2027
'Gendering Ethnicity and Ethnicizing Gender in Policy and Politics'	VUB Research Council	Karen Celis, Ilke Adam, Gily Coene	2014 – 2019
'Cities and Newcomers: Arrival Infrastructure, Multi-Scalar Statehood and Professional Intermediaries	VUB Research Council	Anne Winter, Bas Van Heur, Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe	2018 – 2025

Publications

Below you can find the link to the over 1000 number of publications of BIRMM members on migration and minorities related themes.

<https://researchportal.vub.be/en/organisations/brussels-interdisciplinary-research-centre-on-migration-and-minor/publications/>