



BRUSSELS INTERDISCIPLINARY  
RESEARCH CENTRE ON  
MIGRATION & MINORITIES



## A New Wave of Anti-Racism in Europe? Aftermovie of the Book Launch & Panel at the IMISCOE Spring Conference 2026

We are pleased to share that you can now watch the aftermovie of the book launch of [A New Wave of Anti-Racism in Europe? Racialized Minorities at the Centre](#). This event was organised as part of the IMISCOE Spring Conference 2026 in Liège and brought together the editors and chapter authors of the volume for a panel discussion. In this video, you will hear insights from the contributors on why this book matters, why it should be read beyond academic circles, and how it contributes to current debates on anti-racism.

Watch the full video below!

> WATCH VIDEO



### International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Last week, we marked the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by publishing three op-eds by BIRMM members on racism, anti-racism, and the ongoing struggle for racial justice. Read their contributions below.



#### Healthy aging for whom?

Healthy ageing is often framed as a matter of lifestyle. But research shows that structural inequalities also shape how bodies age. In this op-ed, [Saloua Berdai Chaouni](#) explains how chronic exposure to racism can negatively influence the aging process.

Read the op-ed here in English and in Dutch:

> READ MORE



#### The pseudoscientific discourse of Cofnas pollutes sound genetic research instead of advancing it

In this op-ed, [Pieter Paul Verhaeghe](#) argues that academic freedom must be grounded in scientific rigor and evidence. Using the case of Nathan Cofnas, the piece shows how pseudoscientific claims about race and intelligence lack empirical basis and risk undermining legitimate genetic research.

Read the op-ed here (in Dutch):

[> READ MORE](#)

## European Migration Policies: Do they have a gender perspective?

In this op-ed, Nair Rodríguez questions whether European migration policies truly address the realities of migrant women. Despite ongoing debates about migration, EU policies often overlook the triple discrimination migrant women face.

Read the op-ed here in English:

[> READ MORE](#)

## Inside stories



## Migrant integration and housing: how to get out of the vicious cycle

In this new policy brief, [Louise Hantson](#) highlights the crucial role of stable and accessible housing in the integration of newcomers in Flanders. While integration policies increasingly emphasise individual responsibility, access to social housing has become more restrictive, creating a vicious cycle in which integration is required for housing, but housing is necessary for integration.

Click on the link below to read the full policy brief (in Dutch):

[> READ MORE](#)



## Research sheds new light on the role of Islam in Belgian prisons

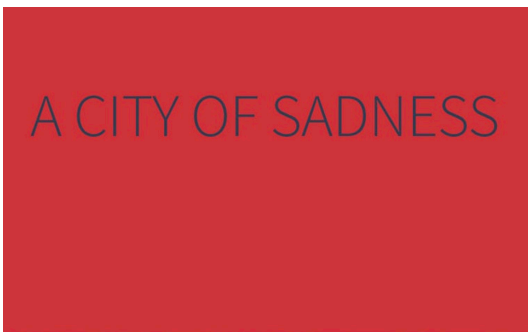
VUB research on Islam in Belgian prisons New doctoral research by BIRMM member [Elias Woodbridge](#) (VUB) offers a nuanced perspective on the role of Islam in Belgian prisons. The study calls for a more inclusive, rights-based approach to religion in Belgian prisons.

Click on the link below to read the full press release:

[> READ MORE](#)

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## Upcoming events



### Movies That Matter: Film screening A City of Sadness 08.04.2026 // 5PM - 7PM

BIRMM and [BRISPO](#) warmly invite you to a special edition of our joint film series [Movies that Matter](#) on 8 April at VUB. This edition will feature the screening of A City of Sadness (1989) directed by Hou Hsiao-Hsien. The screening will be followed by a short collective discussion.

Click on the link below for more information and registration:

[> GO TO EVENT](#)



**APPROCHES CRITIQUES DE LA RACE**  
**CRITICAL APPROACHES TO RACE**

**2025-2026**

The Postracial Discursive Contract: Complicity and collaboration in the (un)hearing of race



**Sarah Gerwens**

**23 April 2026 from 10am- 12pm**  
VUB, Pleinlaan 5, -1 floor, room Lisbon/Rome or Online/Teams  
ENTRÉE LIBRE/FREE ATTENDANCE

ULB Faculté de Philosophie et Sciences sociales VUB BIRMM BRUSSELS INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY OF GOVERNANCE & INNOVATION I a m c OBSERVATOIRE DES SOCIÉTÉS REPI

## The Postracial Discursive Contract: Complicity and collaboration in the (un)hearing of race **23.04.2026 // 10AM - 12PM**

We are delighted to invite you to the next seminar in the [Critical Approaches to Race Seminar Series 2025-2026](#), featuring a lecture by Sarah Gerwens titled: The Postracial Discursive Contract: Complicity and collaboration in the (un)hearing of race.

This seminar will take place on April 23rd, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, at VUB (Pleinlaan 5), -1 floor, room Lisbon/Rome, with the option to join online via Teams.

Click on the link below for more information and registration:

[> GO TO EVENT](#)



## Communicating migration in a polarised world: What works and what fails **15.04.2026 // 5PM - 6:30PM**

We are pleased to invite you to the second edition of the Migration Research to Policy Forum, co-organised with [Migration Research to Policy](#), the [EUI Migration Policy Centre](#), and the [Brussels School of Governance](#). This session will explore how migration narratives shape public opinion, and why some messages resonate while others fail. Bringing together insights from political science, behavioural science, and data analytics, the discussion will examine the role of framing, misinformation, and emotions in shaping perceptions of migration.

Click on the link below for more information and registration:

[> GO TO EVENT](#)

## In the media



### Gaia Romeo discusses EU Return Policy in Le Soir

BIRMM member [Gaia Romeo](#) was recently featured in Le Soir, where she discussed the vote of the European Parliament's LIBE Committee on the proposed new EU regulation on returns. In the interview, she highlights concerns that the regulation could introduce highly punitive measures and risk undermining fundamental rights.

Read the full article below (in French):

[> READ MORE](#)



### New research by Sofie De Kimpe on diversity in Brussels police featured in Bruzz

BIRMM member [Sofie De Kimpe](#) (VUB) was recently featured in BRUZZ following new research on diversity and discrimination within the Brussels police. The study, conducted in collaboration with researchers from ULB, highlights how officers with a migration background continue to face subtle forms of racism and limited career opportunities within the police force.

Read the full article below (in Dutch):

[> READ MORE](#)



## Do migrants really return voluntary? Laure Deschuyteneer explains in Bruzz

BIRMM member [Laure Deschuyteneer](#) (VUB) was recently featured in BRUZZ, presenting new research on the Belgian return policy for migrants. Her study questions the “voluntary” nature of return, showing how administrative procedures and subtle forms of pressure can shape migrants’ decisions.

Read the full article below (in Dutch):

[> READ MORE](#)

## Recent publications



[Dismantling urban sanctuary and the ‘migrant crisis’: the political economy of solidarity and providing support to asylum-seeking migrants in New York City](#)

René Kreichauf | **City**



[The European Commission’s response to national emergency regimes within the EU’s asylum system: from rejection to accommodation](#)

Florian Trauner and Federica Zardo | **Journal of European Public Policy**



[Intentions, Strategies, and Actions: How Refugees Exert Agency in the Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Process from Jordan and Turkey to Germany](#)

Hanna Schneider | **Refuge**



[Jonge nieuwkomers aan het woord in België over asiel, migratie, wachten en vastzitten in existentiële onzekerheid](#)

Marijke Van Buggenhout | **Crimmigatie en Recht**



[Penale macht in het terugkeerbeleid: De beleving van vreemdelingenrechtelijke beslissingen door niet-verblijfsrechtelijke personen in migratiedetentie](#)

Lars Breuls | **Panopticon**

The Brussels Interdisciplinary Research centre on Migration and Minorities (BIRMM) unites over 130 researchers from 12 disciplines to tackle pressing issues of migration, diversity, and inequality. As a recognized Network for

Societal Impact through Research (NSIS), we combine academic excellence with real-world engagement—working in close collaboration with civil society to make research matter.



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