

Latin American & Caribbean Migration and Diasporas Culture, People, Places

The Latin American and Caribbean Migration Research network (MIGRALAC) brings together researchers who are working on a broad range of issues relating to Latin American and Caribbean migration and diasporas. This event marks the inauguration of the network, which will create a space for discussion on issues of culture, class, gender and generation relating to the dynamics of Latin American and Caribbean migration.

Programme

- 14:00** **Welcome and Introduction**
Robin Cohen, University of Oxford
- 14.15-15.30** **Panel: Conceptualising Class, Gender and Generational Dynamics among Latin American and Caribbean Migrants**
Chair: *Maria Villares, University of Oxford*
- Re-imagining Migrant Generations**
Mette Louise Berg, University of Oxford
- Negotiating masculinised migrant rights and everyday citizenship in a global city: perspectives from Brazilian migrants in London**
Cathy McIlwaine, University of London
- Integration from below. An intersectional class analysis of migrant workers' engagements in Britain**
Davide Però, University of Nottingham
- 15:45-16:00** **Coffee break**
- 16:00-17:00** **Keynote: Migrating People, Migration Culture: Concepts, Methods, and Implications for Development**
Peggy Levitt, Wellesley College and Harvard University, Astor Visiting Lecturer
Chair: *Olivia Sheringham, University of Oxford*
- 17:00-18:00** **Drinks reception**

Please register for this event by emailing migralac@qeh.ox.ac.uk.

For further information please contact Olivia Sheringham (olivia.sheringham@qeh.ox.ac.uk) or visit www.migration.ox.ac.uk/migralac.shtml

ABSTRACTS

Re-imagining migrant generations

Mette Louise Berg, ISCA and COMPAS, Oxford

This paper argues the importance of taking migrants' pre-migration experiences and perspectives into account when analysing host society adaptation, homeland engagement and co-ethnic relations. With specific reference to the Cuban diaspora, I argue that if they are not taken into account, important aspects of diasporic diversity go unnoticed. For decades, the Miami-based Cuban diaspora successfully represented itself globally as a monolithic bloc, and influenced US policy vis-à-vis Cuba. Yet the success glosses over the diversity of the Cuban diaspora, not only in Miami but in the U.S. more widely, and globally. I show that diasporic Cubans who left Cuba with shared experiences, and settled in the U.S. and Spain, both adapted similarly, and relate to Cuba in similar ways, and differently from Cubans who emigrated at other points in time with different pre-migration lived experiences. The paper shows how historically grounded pre-migration experiences continue to shape and mould the ways in which diasporans relate to their homeland from abroad. Inspired by Karl Mannheim's pioneering work on historically grounded generations, I propose a rethinking of generation in migration studies and the social sciences more broadly.

Negotiating masculinised migrant rights and everyday citizenship in a global city: perspectives from Brazilian migrants in London

Cathy McIlwaine, School of Geography, Queen Mary, university of London

While the current interest in migrant rights to the city focuses on the importance of making claims and recognising migrant identities, it is curiously gender-blind, particularly in relation to migrant men's rights. In addressing this neglect, this paper focuses not only on the constructions of hegemonic masculinities in relation to migrant identities, but also on the negotiation of migrant rights manifested through everyday citizenship practices in terms of overall gendered patterns of inclusion and exclusion in the city in relation to civic participation and access to financial services. In so doing, the paper explores how masculinities among Brazilian migrant men in London intersect with processes of exclusion in relational ways vis-à-vis their female counterparts and, to a lesser extent, other Latin Americans, and how this affects migrant men's lived experiences of citizenship through their ability to exercise their rights. It argues that while recognising migrants' rights is central to understanding their citizenship practices, much more attention needs to be paid to the gendered nature of this. Indeed, while women's rights have been acknowledged in partial and incomplete ways, we argue that men's have been even more neglected. Thus, it is essential not only to recognise that women and men migrants are not always able to exercise their rights to the same extent but that their experiences of exclusion and inclusion in the polity,

economy and society also vary. Conceptually, it is therefore critically important to recognise how gendered identities underpin migrants' rights and citizenship practices and especially the paradoxical and fluid nature of men's positioning materially and ideologically in relation to women.

Integration from below: An intersectional class analysis of migrant workers' engagements in Britain

Davide Però, School of Sociology & Social Policy, University of Nottingham

This paper looks at the collective practices of integration of a group of migrant workers from Latin America in Britain. In particular it examines the role of class as an organizing category in these practices. In doing so the paper adopts a transnational, culturalist and intersectional perspective and questions the methodological nationalism of many studies of class and employment relations as well as the methodological ethnicity and institutionalism often found in studies of migrants' civic and political engagements.

Migrating People, Migration Culture: Concepts, Methods, and Implications for Development

Peggy Levitt, Department of Sociology, Wellesley College and Harvard University

The world is on the move. There are an estimated 214 million international migrants worldwide, up from 150 million in 2000. One out of every thirty-three persons is a migrant. Some people are easily integrated into their host country, while simultaneously remaining active in the economics, politics, and cultural life of the countries they come from. Others remain on the margins of their countries of origin and destination, never achieving a secure foothold in either. These dynamics radically alter how people raise families, earn livelihoods, and claim political rights and fulfil political responsibilities. Much social science is still based on the assumption that rooted and bounded individuals and communities are the norm, while mobility and connection are the exception. But as more and more people live transnational lives, we need new concepts and methods for understanding the relationship between migrating people and migrating culture, and how they affect poverty alleviation and development. As nations grow *hyperdiverse* and transnational, we must ask where the cultural building blocks and competencies come from to create successful diverse societies and new ways of conceptualising nations that are not nationally bounded. Finally, we need to understand where and how mobile people will be protected and provided for. The first part of this lecture will outline concepts and methods for understanding culture in motion. The second half will showcase findings from ongoing research in Latin America on different aspects of the relationship between migrating people and culture.