

Call for Papers

MRG-PhD Network End of Year Workshop

Alternatives and Criticality in Researching Migration

When

Thursday 28th November 2024

Where

The University of Sheffield, Broad Lane Block LT8. In person only

Background

The PhD Network of the Migration Research Group at the University of Sheffield is organising this workshop to bring together a small group of PhD candidates engaged in migration studies to discuss critical issues emerging from their research.

Overview

As governments across the globe target people on the move as a 'problem' to be solved, and simultaneously scapegoat immigrant populations for domestic issues, the space for critical migration studies has never been more important. The securitisation of borders and borderzones through the deployment of technologically advanced mechanisms of policing, the use of degrees of 'deservingness' to differentiate across multiple 'categories' of people, and border externalisation processes work in tandem to 'other' specific groups of people.

In a politically charged environment, how can emerging scholars in migration engage critically with ongoing debates? What new perspectives or different ways of knowing or 'situated knowledges' can we offer and learn from? How can we historicise but also situate the current processes and everyday bordering as a continuous process seeking to marginalise racialised bodies? What kinds of new methodological approaches could challenge our ways of thinking and knowing?

This workshop aims to delve into some of these questions by creating a space for PhD candidates to reflect and share alternative, critical perspectives emerging from their own work and experiences. The objective is to share these perspectives and ideas in an enabling space and to engage in mutual learning.

To this end, we have identified three key themes we wish to discuss at this workshop:

Critical perspectives on theoretical frameworks and epistemes

Papers engaging with the question of whose knowledge is still absent in migration discourses, what alternative perspectives, 'situated knowledges' can be considered within migration studies; and how these alternative epistemes/theoretical lenses change/shift our thinking on migration?

Methods, approaches, ethics of 'doing' research

Papers engaging critically with pitfalls of seemingly non-hierarchical forms of data collection including participatory methods, the extractive nature of research and the limits to 'transformative' experiences for researchers and participants; reflections on ethical and moral dilemmas of engaging in research. Papers based on personal experiences of data collection are highly encouraged.

Praxis and impact

Papers can engage with ideas such as how to re-think, (re)imagine sharing the findings beyond the scope of a dissertation and publications, how to re-shape the contours of what is considered impact; how to realistically engage with people on the move and/or communities from whom the data has been collected and, reflections on bridging the academic-practitioner divide.

Share your abstract

If you are interested in presenting, use [this google form](#), to share with us a brief write-up of your *proposed presentation*, highlighting how it seeks to answer one of these key themes (maximum of 500 words).

Please also include *at least two questions or points for discussion* around your topic to help guide the theme's roundtable discussion, alongside *a short bio* (maximum of 100 words).

Please note that spaces are limited to enable deep, small group discussion on the day.

If you would like to attend without presenting, please use the same [google form](#) and make this clear in your application. Please note that attendance only places are very limited.

Deadline for submission

Monday 4th November 2024, 5pm.

You will hear the outcome of your application no later than Friday 8th November.

Please note food and drinks would be provided. We are unable to cover the costs of accommodation and travel to and from Sheffield.

Any questions?

Please reach out to either of us via email:

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