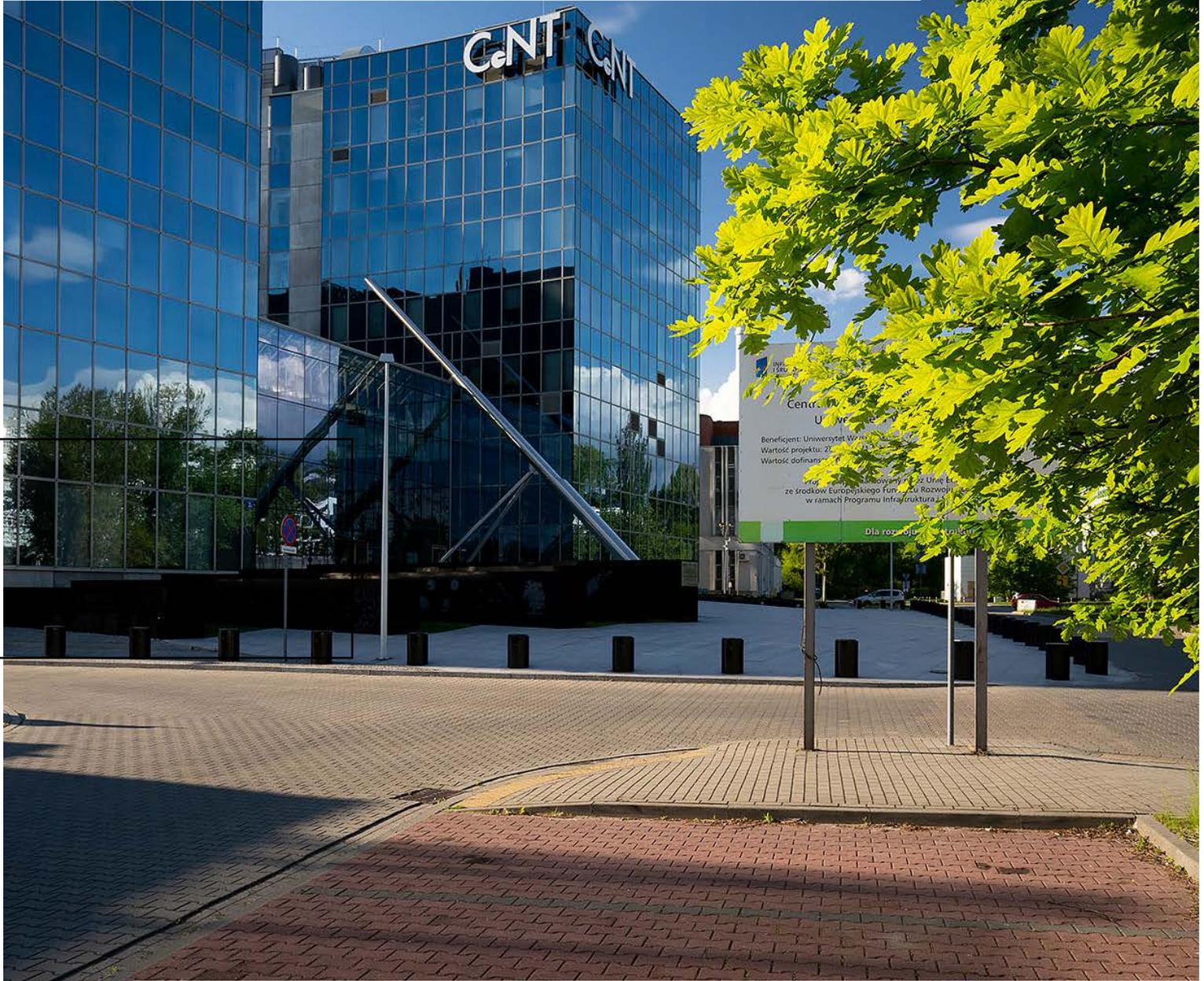


Digitization of Migration Research Methods: Promises and Pitfalls



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Digitization of Migration Research Methods: Promises and Pitfalls

Workshop booklet

Date: 30th May, 2022

Venue: Warsaw, Banacha Street 2c, Room 01.130

Please feel free to share information on and impressions of the workshop on Twitter using the hashtag:



#DigitMethWS

Workshop Agenda:

9.00-9.10 Introduction by Justyna Salamońska

9.10-9.55 “**Digital Data for Migration Research**” Keynote speech by **Ingmar Weber**, Qatar Computing Research Institute

9.55-10.10 Discussion

10.10-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-12.00 Session 1 **Digital traces as data – methodological and ethical reflections** (Chair: Evren Yalaz)

Digitization of migration research methods: promises and pitfalls; Katharina Tittel, Ettore Recchi

Data Innovation in Demography, migration and human mobility; Claudio Bosco, Sara Grubanov-Boskovic, Stefano Iacus, Umberto Minora, Sermi Francesco, Spyratos Spyridon

Ethical considerations in re-using private sector data for migration-related policy: a practitioners’ perspective; Niklas Sievers, Elizabeth Griesmer, Marzia Rango, Robert Trigwell

Who is left behind? Barriers to digital migration research and resulting sampling bias; Mariel McKone Leonard, Ramona Rischke, Zeynep Yanasmayan, Nazli Gökyokus, Banu Tiniç

Using Google Trends to study public opinion towards immigration; Álvaro Mariscal-de-Gante, Sebastian Rincken

12.00- 13.00 Lunch break

13.00-14.30 Session 2 **Mixing and/or combining – new considerations for the digital era** (Chair: Sebastian Rincken)

Use of non-traditional data sources to nowcast migration trends through Artificial Intelligence technologies; Diletta Goglia

From aspiration to action: estimating refugee’s capability to migrate; Haodong Qi, Tuba Bircan

Mixed-Method in Migration Studies: From Big Data to Small Data; Izabela Grabowska, Agata Jastrzebowska, Karol Chlasta, Dominika Winogrodzka, Ivanna Kyliushyk

A computational study of indian migration to Europe through a transnational, gender lens: a methodological intervention; Niveditta, Mayurakshi Chaudhuri, Chiranjoy Chattopadhyay

Integration online and offline spaces: self-organisational practices of Russian-speaking female migrants in Poland. Reflection on challenges in doing virtual ethnography; Kseniya Homel

14.30-15.00 Coffee break

15.00-16.30 Session 3 **Digitalisation of data collection – challenges and opportunities** (Chair: Steffen Pöttschke)

McGill Study of Nigerians at home and abroad; Thomas Soehl

Digital life stories: advantages and disadvantages of exploring lives through internet-mediated interviews; Yolanda López García

New research approaches in migration studies: Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Jordan as an example; Yafa Shanneik, Norma Deseke

Investigating the framing and making of the October 2018 migrant caravan; Rosario de la Luz Rizzo Lara

A critical reflection on the digital visualisation of migration to the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg; Machteld Venken

16.30 Closing of the workshop by Agata Górny

19:00 Dinner (SHUK mezze & bar, Grójecka Street 107, Warsaw)

Keynote speech by Ingmar Weber

Title: “Digital Data for Migration Research”

This talk gives an overview of our research using a variety of digital data sources to monitor and model international migration. Data sources discussed include (i) proprietary data on geo-located IP addresses of Yahoo users, (ii) “places lived” listed in public Google+ profiles, (iii) multi-year geo-tagged tweets, (iv) anonymous advertising data from Facebook and LinkedIn, and (v) counts of cars inferred from high resolution satellite imagery. The focus of the presentation will be on the different data sets and their relative strengths and weaknesses for (i) now-casting migration statistics, as well as (ii) obtaining qualitative insights into migration. References for published work can be found at <https://ingmarweber.de/publications/>.

Ingmar Weber is the Research Director for Social Computing at the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI). His interdisciplinary research uses large amounts of online data to study societal phenomena, including international migration and digital gender gaps. He works closely with stakeholders in the UN, and his work has had operational impact from Venezuela to the Philippines. He’s an ACM Distinguished Member.

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Related publication:

Palotti J, Adler N, Morales-Guzman A, Villaveces J, Sekara V, et al. (2020) Monitoring of the Venezuelan exodus through Facebook’s advertising platform. PLOS ONE 15(2): e0229175. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0229175>

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/citation?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0229175>

Session 1: Digital traces as data – methodological and ethical reflections

1. Digitization of migration research methods: promises and pitfalls; Katharina Tittel, Ettore Recchi; KT - Sciences Po and Institut Convergences Migrations, ER - Sciences Po, EUI/MPC and Institut Convergences Migrations

The digitalization of migration research data and methods can temper shortcomings of traditional approaches –when more detailed or timelier data is needed to better address policy issues, and in emergency situations. Different non-traditional data sources differ significantly in terms of accessibility, information available, populations covered, geographical availability, representativeness bias issues, sensitivity; and in consequence in terms of who they reflect, the mobility events they capture, ethical issues, and their usefulness to provide information relevant for policy purposes. While in relation to issues such as health or the environment, information about mobility events provide key information and the characteristics of who moves may be secondary, in the context of migration, analytical or administrative categories, such as ‘migrant’, ‘foreign worker’, ‘internally displaced person’ or ‘refugee’, fundamentally shape the interactions between individuals and bureaucratic organizations. That connection is often obscured when computational methods and new data sources are used.

For models to be correctly specified and for estimations to be reliable, in-depth context-specific knowledge about the ways human mobility occurs on the ground as well as knowledge about quickly changing technology use among the populations of interest is fundamental, although difficult and costly to obtain, and has to be constantly updated. Errors or wrong assumptions can lead to misspecification and misinterpretation, particularly sensitive in a context where inaccurate estimates can cause confusion and be fuel for heavily contested public and political discourses. As regards migration, it is crucial that legal-policy definitions and normative frameworks are respected. In reality, the application of “new data science” in the study of migration often fails to take into account the most basic understanding of the topic. The bottom line is that any model of human movement should be carefully tailored to the specific local context. This makes the data collection and analysis process more expensive and less universal than sometimes suggested in relation to new data sources and their usefulness for policy-relevant analysis.

In an unpredictable world, where people move or not move for myriad reasons and these reasons may vary quickly, we encourage researchers to constantly re-assess if what is being measured reflects the social phenomenon that the measurement is intended to assess and to ensure that their analysis does not generate injustice by rendering people visible in ways that are damaging to their rights and freedoms. While visibility to institutions who are seen as potential allies might increase access to resources, defense of rights, and legitimacy and can hence be seen as an ethical imperative, invisibility may serve as a protective shield in the absence of true legal, political and social protection, and in contexts of xenophobic and majoritarian violence. The key here is to try to minimize people’s vulnerability in the face of radically unequal power relations. Researchers must be aware that precise, always-on data about individuals, often unobtrusively collected without informed consent, raise several issues concerning privacy and security. Associated risks largely depend on the legal, political, and social situations of the individuals or groups eventually covered by it, the actors handling this data, and their interests.“

Speaker's bio:

Katharina Tittel is a PhD candidate in Sociology at Sciences Po (OSC and Medialab). Previously, she worked in a German-Israeli tech startup and did her master's degree at the Paris School of International Affairs. Her work, which is financed by the Institut Convergences Migrations, applies mixed qualitative, quantitative and computational methods to questions of media framing and migration coverage, trying to better understand the collective process through which racialised hierarchies between different groups of migrants are (re-)produced in the (digital) public space. Her research interests include social media, computational social science, social inequalities, and migration. She is particularly interested in the shared challenges posed by power, technology, and democracy. As a volunteer, she is engaged with Utopia56, a humanitarian organization in France working with persons in the situation of exile.

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2. **Data Innovation in Demography, migration and human mobility; Claudio Bosco Sara; Grubanov-Boskovic; Stefano Iacus; Umberto Minora; Sermi Francesco; Spyrtos Spyridon; Joint Research Centre (European Commission)**

With the consolidation of the culture of evidence-based policymaking, the availability of data has become central to migration policymakers. Population and housing censuses, population registers, and surveys traditionally represent key data sources for population and social studies. However, these data sources alone do not always keep up with the growing demand for updated and spatially detailed datasets that accurately depict the migration-related phenomena. For this reason, many studies have explored the use of innovative, non-traditional data, including, but not limited to, mobile phones, social media, and satellite data.

This paper aims to contribute to the discussion on the potential of harnessing data innovation in order to advance knowledge and enhance evidence-based policymaking in the areas of demography, migration, and human mobility. For this purpose, the paper reviews over 300 articles and scientific reports, as well as numerous tools, that use one of the following non-traditional data sources for demographic, human mobility, or migration research: social media (Flickr, Twitter, LinkedIn, Reddit and Meta family of apps such as Facebook and Instagram), Internet activity (Web search data, online news), mobile payment apps, mobile phone data, air passenger data, and satellite imagery.

The paper highlights that innovative data is most extensively used to fill in the gaps in traditional population and migration statistics. In comparison to traditional data, the current competitive advantage of innovative data sources lies in their greater geographic and temporal granularity, (near-) real time availability, and their extensive coverage which makes more immediate international comparisons possible. The paper also points out to a growing literature adopting mixed methodologies, based on the integration of traditional with innovative data, to study migration-related phenomena.

Due to the potential to provide (almost) real-time, accurate, and detailed information on population and migration trends and/or related public opinion at different geographical scales, the domains in which data innovation has the largest potential are those of “situational awareness, nowcasting and response” and of “prediction and forecasting”. At the same time, the paper finds a limited application of non-traditional data for cause and effect analysis.

The paper shows also that some types of non-traditional data (mobile network operator data and satellite imagery) are potentially mature enough to exit the exploratory stage and enter a phase of systematic use for official statistics and policymaking. However, important challenges (e.g. ethics, privacy, data governance, data quality, bias, data access), still hamper the advent of an actual data innovation transition.

Related publication: Bosco, C., Grubanov-Boskovic, S., Iacus, S., Minora, U., Sermi, F. and Spyrtos, S., Data Innovation in Demography, Migration and Human Mobility, EUR 30907 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, ISBN 978-92-76-44518-0 (online), 978-92-76-46702-1 (print), doi:10.2760/027157 (online), 10.2760/958409 (print), JRC127369.

Speaker's bio:

Umberto Minora is a Data Scientist of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Varese (Italy). He holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences with a specialization in Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing. He has a sound background in Computer Programming and Big Data analysis. His main research interest involves using Machine Learning techniques on non-traditional data sources (such as mobile network operator or social media) to derive useful insights on Migration and Demography.

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3. Ethical considerations in re-using private sector data for migration-related policy: a practitioners' perspective; Niklas Sievers, Elizabeth Griesmer, Marzia Rango, Robert Trigwell; IOM's GMDAC10

In the information age, more data are produced than ever before. Over the past years, their volume nearly doubled from an estimated 33 zettabytes in 2018 to 71 zettabytes in 2021 – equal to the compound storage of 71 billion 1TB laptops. Until 2025, this amount is expected to grow to a total of 180 zettabytes (Statista, 2021). The exponential increase in data availability and processing capabilities has introduced an array of challenges and opportunities across many policy domains, including migration. The rapidly growing use of innovative data sources in the field of migration – including social media, mobile phone and satellite data, as well as innovative methodologies, such as those based on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning – has produced valuable insights that complement traditional data and enhance the understanding of migration-related topics at the local, national, and international levels (Zagheni et al., 2012; Flowminder, 2021; Pötzschke et al., 2017; Rowe et al., forthcoming; Spyrtos et al., 2019; Müller et al., 2020; Milano, 2017; Böhme et al., 2020). Looking ahead, several initiatives and discussions are currently developing new guidelines to mitigate the risks and exploit the potential of such “big data” for policymaking in various fields, including migration and human mobility (UNESCO, 2021; Franklinos et al., 2020; Floridi, 2018). In this effort, it will be critical to ensure the ethical and responsible use of big data at every stage of migration research and policymaking; for instance, Dignum (2018) suggests reflecting about ethics by, in, and for design, covering all aspects of the technological set-up, the analysis, and developers' certifications for using big data sources in migration statistics.

This paper seeks to assess the ethical risks of using new forms of digital data in migration, specifically from a practitioners' perspective. In particular, it outlines how the risks implied of re-using data collected by private sector organisations are (not yet) adequately covered by current standards and practices in this field, and carves out the central ele-

ments required in future frameworks to ensure their ethical and responsible use to inform migration policy. Based on this analysis, the paper concludes by underlining the need to develop further guidance and regulatory frameworks, in particular, due to the various risk implications for vulnerable individuals and groups as a consequence of migration-related research using “big data”.

Speaker’s bio:

Niklas Sievers works as Data & Knowledge Officer at IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) at the intersection of international migration and digitalization. He has contributed to several research and advocacy projects exploring the potentials and challenges of using innovative data sources, tools, and methods to inform migration-related policymaking. Before joining IOM’s GMDAC, he has worked in these areas with organizations such as PwC, Refugee Law Clinics, and authorities on the federal and communal levels. He graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) with an MSc in International Migration and Public Policy (top of class), and he holds two B.A. degrees – Political Science and Cultural Studies – from Leuphana University Lueneburg, funded by several scholarships including from the German National Merit Foundation (Studienstiftung) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

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4. Who is left behind? Barriers to digital migration research and resulting sampling bias; Mariel McKone Leonard, Ramona Rischke, Zeynep Yanasmayan, Nazli Gökyokus, Banu Tiniç; German Center for Integration and Migration Research

Increasing uptake of mobile devices and the expanding capabilities of mobile bandwidth alongside improvements in Big Data computing power and communication technology, provide opportunities for researchers to use mobile devices and smartphone technology to reduce respondent and researcher burden and resource requirements, improve longitudinal access and study retention, and even decrease measurement error. Scholars from the migration field have begun exploring the promises of digitisation for enhancing research with mobile and migratory populations, including refugees and economic migrants, and traditional migratory peoples. Studies have shown that migrants use smartphones and apps in their effort to integrate into the host society, including by learning the language of the host country (Bradley et al. 2017; Kukulska-Hulme et al. 2015), maintaining and building social networks (Gillespie et al. 2016; Alam and Imran 2015), and accessing occupational and employment opportunities (Alam and Imran 2015).

However, as migration researchers increasingly adopt the use of these technologies, some individuals and groups will be excluded, either due to concerns about data privacy and security, while others are excluded due to a lack of skills or comfort of use (the so-called “digital divide”; Hargittai (2002). Bloch (1999, 2007) found that many refugees do not trust the anonymity of surveys or data protection measures due to previous experiences of persecution. This may cause them to respond to questions in a biased way (Zimbalist 2018; Tannenberg 2017; Schulte von Drach 2016), or to decline to participate in digital data collection completely. For example, in a 2017 study with 529 refugees in in three districts of southwest Germany, Keusch et al. (2019) found that 20% of the original sample agreed to participate in mobile web surveys, but this participation was highly selective along important covariates (country of origin, education, reading proficiency, Internet use). Fur-

thermore, the authors found that willingness and ability to download and install a research app was rather small (approximately 5%) compared to willingness among the general population (Keusch et al. 2019). Researchers must address nonparticipation, due to possible consequences for sampling bias, measurement error, and exclusion of all groups.

In this paper, we consider several barriers migrants face to participation in digital research. Drawing on two surveys of Syrian and Afghan refugees in Turkey, we explore who among our respondents do and do not have digital access, including broadband, smartphones, and mobile data. We also consider the willingness of our respondents to share technological identifiers – such as mobile phone numbers and communication application usernames – with researchers for longitudinal follow-up. In addition to contributing to our general understanding of sampling bias and representativeness in digital device-enabled migration studies, the results of our pilot study will inform decisions about the viability of future studies of these refugee populations. In particular, we anticipate our findings will influence our future project plans and resource allocations with regard to sampling method (such as respondent-driven sampling or location sampling), as well as mode choices (such as face-to-face or mobile web).”

Speaker’s bio:

Mariel McKone Leonard is a postdoctoral fellow at DeZIM in the Cluster for Data, Methods, and Monitoring since October 2020. A trained survey methodologist, her main areas of research are methods of sampling hard-to-survey groups and reducing measurement error in studies of sensitive topics. Prior to moving to Germany, Dr. Leonard worked at Westat, supporting the design and testing of surveys.

Dr. Leonard studied political science at the College of William and Mary and Georgetown University. In 2020, she received her doctorate from the Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences at the University of Mannheim. Her dissertation focused on measurement error in identification of honour killings worldwide. Work from her dissertation has been referenced as evidence by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in the United Kingdom.

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5. Using Google Trends to study public opinion towards immigration; Álvaro Mariscal-de-Gante, Sebastian Rincken; Institute for Advanced Social Studies, Spanish Research Council (IESA-CSIC)

Digitalization has brought promising benefits to social science research, yet also entails some new methodological challenges. Whilst surveys are purposefully designed by researchers to suit their studies’ objectives, online data is user-generated and messy, thus requiring potentially burdensome repurposing to meet scholarly standards and goals which those “found” data were not originally supposed to pursue. Moreover, online and offline behavior are arguably far from equivalent: for instance, respondents commonly recognize having searched for sensitive content they would not be willing to share with others (Conti & Sobiesk, 2007). Hence, methodological approaches must not only account for different data types and related measurement issues, but also for distinctive behaviors or attitudes. This paper, which relates to the first author’s PhD project, aims to assess the characteristics of Google Trends data with a view to studying attitudes towards immigrants and immigration (ATII).

Google Trends is an easy-to-use tool which visualizes the relative frequencies, across customizable time frames, of up to five search query terms in national and subnational areas. This data has been successfully used to study unemployment, consumption and voting behaviour, detecting significant correlations between search query data and more traditional sources, such as surveys or administrative data (e.g., Stephens-Davidowitz, 2014; Jun et al., 2018; Corbi & Picchetti, 2020). A plausible relationship of search queries with discernible motivations is rather easy to identify in those cases: an online job search arguably implies readiness to take up employment. Analogously, if someone takes the trouble to run a search for “immigration” (or related concepts) there must be a stimulus significant enough to trigger this initiative, meaning an interest or concern about the topic: unlike answering survey questions, running an online search is a pro-active endeavour. However, beyond the intuitive link between search term frequency and issue salience, it is quite challenging to characterize the relationship between search queries and attitudes. Firstly, it is uncertain whether online searches express well-established attitudes, or rather play a role in the process of attitude formation. Secondly, it is also unclear to what extent unfavorable ATII are revealed by hate speech jargon and/or derogatory search terms.

As mentioned, a common practice to address such uncertainties is to probe for significant correlations between online search data and “validation” data: survey or administrative indicators are usually used as gold standard. However, there are numerous flaws to that strategy. For starters, surveys are known to be affected by reactivity issues (e.g., social desirability bias, context effect, interviewer effect) which arguably do not influence user-generated data. For their part, the latter may suffer from selectivity bias and are affected by platform effects, i.e., the formative impact of the interface design on the data obtained (e.g., Google search queries vs. Facebook posts).

Regarding the use of Google Trends data to study ATII, we strive to address key issues regarding both internal and external consistency. What type of information on immigration attitudes can we expect from Google search data? Is the “gold standard” strategy of external validation viable in this realm? What role might Google Trends data play in the methodological toolbox of ATII scholars?”

Speaker’s bio:

Álvaro **Mariscal de Gante Martín** works as a Phd candidate at IESA-CSIC. He studied Sociology and Political Sciences at the Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Seville) and holds a master’s degree in Equality and Gender. Álvaro has collaborated in several research projects, and, in 2019, he received the Universidad Pablo de Olavide prize for the best academic performance (Sociology, 2019/2020). He is currently working on his Phd on potential and limitations of big data to study negative attitudes towards immigration and immigrants and, since 2018, he participates in a project financed by the Spanish Government titled “Explaining Positive Attitudes towards Immigrants in Spain” (Explicando Actitudes Sosegadas hacia los Inmigrantes en España, EASIE).

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Session 2 Mixing and/or combining – new considerations for the digital era

1. Use of non-traditional data sources to nowcast migration trends through Artificial Intelligence technologies; Diletta Goglia; University of Pisa

Our work describes the use of non-traditional data sources (including social Big Data, such as online social networks), a new multi-feature dataset and a new measure that could significantly contribute to the study of migration and to forecast emerging trends using Artificial Intelligence technologies.

This approach is intended to find an alternative methodology to ultimately answer open questions about the human mobility framework (i.e., nowcasting flows and stocks, studying integration of multiple sources and knowledge and investigating migration drivers).

For this purpose, we provide the Multi-aspect Integrated Migration Indicators (MIMI) dataset that we built by integrating official data about bidirectional human mobility (traditional flow and stock data) with multidisciplinary features and original indicators, including the Facebook Social Connectedness Index (SCI), which measures the relative probability that two individuals across two countries are friends with each other on Facebook. The inclusion of SCI in the dataset enables it to be exploited as a non-traditional way to describe, understand and nowcast international migration.

We introduced a new indicator, the Bidirectional Migration Probability (BMP) index, which considers both the inflows and outflows shared by two countries and measures the relative probability of a person to be a migrant from country i to j and vice versa. BMP allows to portray and predict bilateral migration trends relying on the intensity of social networking, since it shows significant correlations with SCI.

We believe BMP, SCI and our integrated dataset can be employed to study migration drivers, along with other traditionally used measures, through Machine Learning techniques, so that to link and combine the statistical and computational study of migration phenomenon with interdisciplinary perspectives. Indeed, the knowledge combined in the dataset is designed to develop a ML model able to extract novel information, analyse patterns and, from the strength of Facebook connectivity, nowcast and forecast both present and future bilateral migration trends.

The long-term perspective of our research is to build trustworthy and reliable predictions for future changing by using new ways of measuring and characterizing international migration, as well as advanced technologies such as Artificial Neural Networks.

Related publication: Goglia, Diletta. “Multi-aspect Integrated Migration Indicators (MIMI) Dataset”. Zenodo, March 15, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6360651>.

Speaker's bio:

Diletta Goglia is currently a student of the Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence at University of Pisa. She previously received her Bachelor's degree in 2019 with the highest marks in Digital Humanities, where she focused on studying multidisciplinary applications of Computer Science. She won a position as researcher in Machine Learning and Big Data Science for migration studies and predictions at HumMingBird - Horizon 2020 EU

project. She currently deals with the use of non-traditional sources of data (in particular, social Big Data) to understand and forecast international migration emerging trends. Her research interests lie in the area of Data Mining & Analysis, Computational Social Science, Deep Learning, Neural Models and AI ethics.

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2. From aspiration to action: estimating refugee's capability to migrate; Haodong Qi - Malmö University, Tuba Bircan - Universiteit Brussel

Migration is a selective process; not all desired migratory movements can be realized. While, in 2010, about 14% people around the globe expressed their intentions to migrate (Carling and Schewel, 2018), the actual migrant stock only constitutes 3.17% of the world's population (IOM, 2020). However, there has been very limited empirical research on how migrants are (self-)selected along the migratory process. In this paper, we seek to examine refugees' capability to realize their desired migratory movements.

Building upon an emerging literature (Böhme, et al., 2020; Wanner, 2020; Carammia, et al., 2022), this paper uses Google search data to quantify migration intentions. By combining Google-based migration intentions and EUROSTAT statistics on asylum applications, we estimate the capability to migrate. Our key finding suggests that refugees' capability to migrate tend to increase with aspirations in a nonlinear fashion. The convex capability curve sheds light on the complexity of migration systems, in which the causal factors are likely to interact nonlinearly, and their respective effect sizes may differ between contexts and vary over time and space (De Haas, et al., 2019).

Speaker's bio:

Haodong Qi is an economic demographer well-versed in statistics and machine learning for social research. He is a research fellow at Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare, as well as a research affiliate at Stockholm University Demography Unit. He is also an associate editor for the Nordic Journal of Migration Research. Haodong is currently working as a work package leader within the HumMingBird Project (Enhanced Migration Measures from A Multidimensional Perspective) funded by European Commission's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.

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3. Mixed-Method in Migration Studies: From Big Data to Small Data; Izabela Grabowska, Agata Jastrzebowska, Karol Chlasta, Dominika Winogrodzka, Ivanna Kyliushyk; Kozminski University

The mixed-method approach is a "sweet spot" of migration studies on the juncture not only between qualitative and quantitative methods but also in the interplay between: Big Data, Middle Data and Small Data. In this paper we would like to present a dialogue between: (1) Big Data analysis of Facebook and Twitter to enquire into "new" migrant selectivity connected to personality traits; (2) an international comparative survey with design studying psychological, human and social capitals patterned by migration; (3) multi-sited ethnography involving asynchronous interviews with a special focus on return migrants and their ethnographic life spaces in Poland and Ukraine. The paper is based on the following methodological rules (Layder 1998): (1) the variegated nature of social reality; (2) a plural knowledge base to maximize understanding and explanatory power; (3) methodological pluralism, with various sets of techniques and protocols; (4) accommodation of

diverse approaches without abandoning the systematic method. The paper is based on the project BigMig: Digital and Non-digital Traces of Migrants and Human Capacities.

Speaker's bio:

Izabela Grabowska is sociologist and economist; full professor of social sciences; 2016-2021 director of Interdisciplinary Doctoral School of SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Poland; 2002-2019 Research Fellow at the Centre of Migration Research in Warsaw; 2008-2019 member of IMISCOE Executive Board and Board of Directors; former national expert of the European Commission in ESCO (Classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations) and European Mobility Partnership; publishes in highly impact factor journals, e.g.: *Work, Employment and Society*, *Journal of Ethnic Studies*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *International Migration*; author of *Movers and Stayers: Migration, Mobility and Skills* (Lang 2016), co-author of research monograph: *The Impact of Migration on Poland: EU Mobility and Social Change* (with White, Kaczmarczyk and Slany, UCL Press 2018) and *Migrants as Agents of Change* (with Garapich, Jazwinska and Radziwinowiczowna, Palgrave Macmillan 2017); co-editor of *Mobility in Transition. Migration Patterns After EU Enlargement* (Amsterdam University Press 2013). She has led research projects on: migrants' careers, social remittances, peer-groups & migration (ended in 2020), life courses of young migrants & Brexit (ends in 2021), migrant liquid integration (H2020 MIMY, in progress, ends in 2023). She is active in building international research consortia in EU Framework Programs and bilateral schemes.

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4. A computational study of indian migration to Europe through a transnational, gender lens: a methodological intervention; Niveditta, Mayurakshi Chaudhuri, Chiranjoy Chattopadhyay; IIT Jodhpur

The digital turn of the 21st century has offered new spaces for humankind to investigate culturally the construction of techniques and technologies across academic disciplines. In the context of migration research, the last few decades have witnessed an exponential growth in literature on the diverse forms, practices, and politics of migration to illuminate the economic, demographic, geopolitical, and cultural dynamics of movements. However, much of the existing research has concentrated disproportionately on understanding large-scale movements (such as those which could be deciphered from decadal Census data) and has largely ignored the various nuances that operate in intra-migration trajectories. While human movement has been a constant factor in human history, yet data to track mobility is significantly scarce. "Big data" or "digital trace data" has developed as a new form of migration measurement to supplement "conventional" census, administrative, and survey data. International migration is expected to rise further as the world gets more interconnected. Governments throughout the globe are engaged in forecasting future migration patterns and understanding the reasons for migration to plan, distribute funding, recruit workers and students, employ remittances, ease migrant integration, and control public opinion, among other things. Moreover, much of the existing research discusses the various quantitative aspects of migration. Still, it overlooks one or more of the policies mentioned above from a computational angle keeping in mind a sustainable development goal.

The proposed research will address this lacuna in scholarship by bringing into the conversation a computational understanding of migration using a transnational gender lens. As

a theoretical framework, we acknowledge the fluid nature of ‘gender’ (as opposed to static ‘sex-roles’ that conventionally had been used in early migration literature), and we particularly use this fluid lens to focus on gender dynamics of contemporary family constellations of Indian migrants to Europe. In this proposed research, we offer a mixed-method approach using both primary data in the form of ethnography and secondary data using social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. We intend to adopt a Grounded Theory approach to acquire and analyze our primary data and simultaneously engage in quantitative and computational understanding. An emerging field of inquiry, research on social media brings to the fore the various negotiations across transnational social spaces, albeit virtually. Using social media trace data as a digital substitute, this research aims to offer a new understanding of transnational relations and networks in digital spaces. In this research, we acknowledge the fluidity of digital spaces and the data that it provides. In this study, we propose using the digital trace data derived from Indian migrants to European countries in the last decade, from 2011 to 2021, and offer avenues to explore longitudinal, comparative understandings of similar dynamics. We propose approaching this study by designing a graph-based migration network and applying social network analysis to observe patterns and find hidden insights to contribute to more effective migration-oriented policy-building.

Speaker’s bio:

Ms. **Niveditta** is currently pursuing an M.Tech-Ph.D. dual degree at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, at the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India. She is a Junior Research Fellow, working under the guidance of Dr. Mayurakshi Chaudhuri and Dr. Chiranjoy Chattopadhyay. Her current research interests include the interdisciplinary area of Digital Humanities, particularly in the domain of Gender Studies, Migration and Mobility, and Social Network Analysis. Ms. Niveditta is also an active member of Women in Technology International (WITI), a leading organization for the advancement and inclusion of women in business and technology. She is a holder of the Leighton Carolyn Scholarship, awarded in June 2021, as a female student in the tech, from the Asian-Pacific (APAC) region. Niveditta has served as an associate software developer with GlobalLogic, a Hitachi Group product engineering company, based out of Noida, India, where her primary responsibility was as a database developer of a leading US-based property-technology client of GlobalLogic. She also takes interest in application-based projects that integrate Computer Vision, Natural Language Processing, and Deep Learning.

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5. Integration online and offline spaces: self-organisational practices of Russian-speaking female migrants in Poland. Reflection on challenges in doing virtual ethnography; Kseniya Homel; Center of Migration Research (University of Warsaw)

Spatially dispersed and with different migratory experiences female migrants communicate to share practical information, to help each-other overcome daily challenges, to reduce social alienation and the feeling of loneliness, to find new friends or business partners, and, finally, to boost self-esteem and self-confidence. Their forms of self-organisation bind online and offline contexts. To reach each other, women form groups on social media and maintain contact online. From online conversations they move to face-to-face meetings. Some of them arrange local picnics, “women-only” evenings with beauty rituals or regular Sunday brunches, others decide to establish more formalised clubs or

social associations. Nevertheless, embedded in economic, social and institutional contexts of migrant and broader social environment, their self-organisation activities remain constrained. Less formal and more formalised organisational models reveal social processes within and beyond migrant communities, while underrepresented groups challenge perpetuated neo-liberal and masculinised constructs of social visibility and self-organisation. The research of female migrant self-organisational practices gives the evidence that women create virtual and offline places of meaningful interactions. Both contexts are interlinked and it is important to understand online communication rather as a complementary social phenomenon of migrant community-building process than “detached from the rest of the migratory experience” (Gius 2019). The research aimed to grasp the mutual penetration of these forms of interaction.

Mixed qualitative methods have been applied in aim to answer the research questions, achieve multi-angled view on self-organisation and social networking, aim to achieve deeper comprehension of social dynamics within and beyond migrant communities. The research was partly based on virtual ethnography and included e-content analyses and participant observation of online communication on social media (closed Facebook groups and Instagram profiles).

Application of virtual ethnography allowed to take a closer look at the inner world of social interactions of a particular group. Focus on the closed Facebook groups allowed to better understand the mundane context of challenges, experience, needs of migrant women and the infrastructure of transnational network (ex. Poland-Ukraine, Belarus-Ukraine etc.). Nevertheless the application of online research presents a range of challenges. One of them is the amount of material and difficulties related to the appearance of updated posts and comments. In my research the e-content analyses was limited to selected entries: posts tagged (#meeting) and the usage of filters within the group. The second challenge is related to the non-textual context (emojies, pictures, gifs). For the purpose of the research the analyses was limited only to textual entries, although non-textual context might be important. Also, what might effect the results of the research, is that Facebook groups are moderated and are based on internal rules. The role of the group moderator and his/ her position in the virtual community should be taken into consideration. Finally, a contentious issue of ethics of the online research rises questions of how to gather and process the data.

Speaker's bio:

Kseniya Homel is a doctoral candidate, Institute of Applied Social Science, University of Warsaw, researcher at the Centre of Migration Research (University of Warsaw) and at the Institute of Public Affairs. Research interests include issues of social activity of migrant women, their participation in the life of the host society, forms of self-organization and agency manifested in formal organizations and informal social networks, the mechanisms of support networks in areas where there are no systemic solutions from the state and the mainstream society.

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Session 3 Digitalisation of data collection – challenges and opportunities

1. McGill Study of Nigerians at home and abroad; Thomas Soehl; McGill University

In this paper I will present initial findings and methodological reflections from a global study of the Nigerian Diaspora that uses targeted Facebook advertising to recruit study participants.

This approach allows us to turn the conventional ‘immigrant research’ design by 180 degrees, and rather develop a study of emigrants from one country of origin (Nigeria) in a number of destination countries (e.g. Ghana, Canada, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, and the UK) while also collecting a comparison sample of Nigerians who stayed at home. This “one origin to many destinations” research design combined with large scale, representative multi-sited data is crucial to overcoming the methodological nationalism that still haunts much migration research. Nigeria offers a compelling research subject because of its continental significance, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity, high rates of emigration, and complex historical and current political landscape, in addition to the lack of comparative research on Nigerian migrants.

While the main wave of data collection is planned for the spring and early summer of 2022 we already have data from pilot studies in Canada, Ghana and Nigeria. Using these data we can provide initial reflections on the methodological advantages and limitations of this approach. At least in our pre-tests the collection of survey responses of migrants was quite successful. For example, in the case of Nigerians in Canada we are able to compare the demographic characteristics of our sample to a Census-data “gold standard” showing overall good representativeness of our data. In other contexts no comparison data that would allow an assessment of response quality and representativeness is available. Collecting representative data is a bigger challenge is surveying the “stay at home” comparison population where we are systematically missing the non-trivial share of the population that is not-literate.

Related publication: Erlich, Aaron, Thomas Soehl, and Annie Y. Chen. “Discriminatory Immigration Bans Elicit Anti-Americanism in Targeted Communities: Evidence from Nigerian Expatriates.” *Journal of Experimental Political Science* (2021): 1-12.

Speaker’s bio:

Thomas Soehl is Associate Professor of Sociology at McGill University and holds the Canada Research Chair in International Migration. His research examines the socio-political attachments of migrants, the ways host societies transform migrants, and how migration challenges modern nation-states. His recent book “Origins and Destinations” (Russell Sage 2018) co-authored with Renee Luthra and Roger Waldinger provides the most comprehensive theoretical framework to date for understanding the trajectories of the children of immigrants, showing how their paths are socially structured not only by the contexts they grow up in but also by the contexts of emigration. In addition, he has published twenty articles in leading sociology and migration journals. His work has been funded by the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council, the Fonds de Recherche Quebec Science et Culture, and the France Canada Research Fund. Currently he is the PI of the “Tajribati Canada Study” - a longitudinal study of 2000 Syrians resettled to Canada and the “Study of Nigerians at Home and Abroad” - a global study of the Nigerian diaspora and its engagements with the home-country.

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2. Digital life stories: advantages and disadvantages of exploring lives through internet-mediated interviews.; Yolanda López García; Friedrich Schiller University of Jena

In the field of migration studies, the life story method has proven to be very valuable because on the one hand, it allows one to explore the realm of values, representations and subjectivities (Franceschini, 2001; Mallimaci & Giménez Béliveau, 2006) from a person-centered perspective, which makes it possible to describe the world as it is experienced by the subjects (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2009; Schriewer, 2014). On the other hand, it is also an excellent tool for collecting an extensive body of empirical material concerning the life trajectories, strategies, change processes and decision-making of the participants, while it also allows other unexpected themes to emerge. Through the participants' narratives and their own reflections as they tell their story, it is possible to investigate the complex web of meaning that links individual perspectives and the social world.

Traditionally, research on life story interviews states that they should be conducted in a face-to-face format. Considering that, if additional information is required, it can be collected using other media (Atkinson 2001, 2009).

In this contribution I aim to discuss the experiences in conducting life story interviews in the framework of my research on imaginaries of migration based on the lives of Mexican migrants in Germany (López García, 2021). Initially, most of the life stories were planned to be conducted face-to-face, as the traditional method states. Due to unforeseen circumstances, three life histories had to be conducted online using Skype. This scenario occurred in a pre-Covid-19 pandemic context, without the 'normalization' of internet-mediated communication and without the current technological advances in communication platforms such as Zoom, WhatsApp, Teams and others. What at first seemed an 'unfortunate' circumstance for the conduction of the interview in an online format, turned out to be a fortunate experiment that allowed me to explore an understudied field of research (Illingworth, 2006), such as the 'digital life story interview'.

Therefore, the main objective of this contribution is to reflect upon the advantages and disadvantages of the digital life story method in comparison to the face-to-face format. Furthermore, both the promise of this method and the possible pitfalls that this format may present concerning the debate on digitization in migration studies will be discussed.

Speaker's bio:

Yolanda López García is a researcher and lecturer at the Department of Intercultural Studies and Communication at the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany. Her academic background is interdisciplinary: PhD in Philosophy from the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, MA in International Migration and Intercultural Relations from the University of Osnabrück (Germany) and BA in International Relations from the Jesuit University of Guadalajara (ITESO) (Mexico). She has been an international exchange student at the University of Leipzig (Germany) and at the University of Murcia (Spain).

In her doctoral research entitled "Imaginaries of Migration: Life Stories of Mexican Migrants in Germany", (2021 transcript), she explored the lives and perceptions of Mexican migrants in Germany. Combining theories of interculturality, social imaginaries and the life story method, she investigated the role of quality of life imaginaries as a motivation to migrate, the role of banal nationalism in re-imagining Mexico from Germany and the dynamic re-construction of identity(ies) in both their processes of "Germanization",

“Mexicanization” and interculturality, i.e., the construction of new imaginaries distanced from national containers. Her postdoctoral research interests are the role of digitalization in everyday life, digital interculturality and digital social imaginaries.

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3. New research approaches in migration studies: Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Jordan as an example; Yafa Shanneik, Norma Deseke; YS - Lund University, ND - University of Cambridge

Millions of refugees fleeing from civil unrest and war in Syria and Iraq have found refuge in various neighbouring countries in the Middle East and in Europe. Arts-based and arts-informed research are creative approaches for studying migration and the lived experiences of families and young people. We argue in this paper that we need to create new combinations of research approaches and representations as well as interdisciplinary academic and non-academic collaborations in order to understand and examine the refugees' lives and experiences.

This paper uses aesthetic forms of research in form of art and virtual reality (VR) as a methodology for enhancing our understanding of the diversity and complexity of human experiences. The first part of the paper introduces body mapping (Solomon et al., 2005) which is an artistic technique for creating life-sized images that traces the contours of the individual's body. The act of creating a body tracing allows participants to directly communicate a story about their body. Body mapping has proven to be very useful in providing refugees with an alternative tool to share their own experiences of displacement (Shanneik 2018). The second part, discusses the production of virtual reality in which the refugees we worked with become co-producers of knowledge directed to its user. The paper engages critically with the use of creative approaches during various stages of the research process, from inception to dissemination, and the kind of knowledge produced about migration.

The paper is based on ethnographic fieldwork and participatory research conducted among Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Jordan since 2018 and is part of the on-going project on Narratives of Displacements funded by the British Academy.

Related publication: Yafa Shanneik (2021) Displacement, humanitarian interventions and gender rights in the Middle East: Syrian refugees in Jordan as a case study, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 47:15, 3329-3344, DOI: 10.1080/1369183X.2021.1926944

Speaker's bio:

Yafa Shanneik is Professor of Islamic Studies at Lund University. Since 2017, she has been leading two major research projects funded by the British Academy on Iraqi and Syrian refugees in Europe and the Middle East. The research sheds new light on gendered power dynamics within conflict-induced displacement. It thereby contributes to debates about humanitarian and state interventions on displaced people from the Middle East. Yafa uses unconventional research approaches in studying migration and displacement including the use of expressionist art through body-mapping, augmented and virtual reality. These artistic techniques allow individuals to articulate their narratives of displacement through aesthetics means. Yafa's new monograph on the aesthetisation of politics entitled: *The Art of Resistance in Islam: The Performance of Politics among Shi'i Women in the Middle East and Beyond*, is published by Cambridge University Press (2022).

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4. Investigating the framing and making of the October 2018 migrant caravan; Rosario de la Luz Rizzo Lara; Freie Universität Berlin

What were frames articulated to mobilize migrants before and during the October 2018 Caravan that left from Honduras to the United States? How do these resonate with the participants of the movement? On October 12, 2018, around 200 Hondurans gathered at the bus station in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, to trek together to the US (Arroyo et al., 2018). Since mid-September, a flyer had been circulated through social media calling for people to join the “Caminata del Migrante” (Frank-Vitale & Núñez Chaim, 2020; Parlow, 2018; Rizzo Lara, 2021; Varela Huerta & McLean, 2019). The flyer stated the time and place of departure and the statement, “We are not leaving because we want to; we are driven out by poverty and violence.” As the group moved forward, hundreds of Hondurans, Guatemalans, Salvadorians, and Nicaraguans joined the group. A week later, on October 19th, more than 4,000 migrants and asylum seekers arrived at the Mexico-Guatemala border, demanding a “free pass” through Mexico (Ahmed et al., 2018; Colectivo de Observación y Monitoreo de Derechos Humanos en el Sureste Mexicano, 2019; El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, 2018).

I use a combination of research methods to identify and analyze the frames articulated in the prelude and during the movement and how these resonated with participants of the movement. In other words, rather than exploring individual experiences of (and reasons for) migration (i.e., poverty, insecurity, violence, or political instability), (Frank-Vitale & Núñez Chaim, 2020; Garibo García & Call, 2020; Ruíz-Lagier & Varela-Huerta, 2020; Salazar Araya, 2019; Torre Cantalapiedra, 2019; Torre Cantalapiedra & Mariscal Nava, 2020; Varela Huerta & McLean, 2019), I analyze a) the messages (frames) and mobilization efforts of one de-facto leader of the movement, and b) participants’ justifications for joining the movement. Specifically, I look at the messages conveyed to mobilize Hondurans to leave their country collectively, the framing of the caravan as a humanitarian crisis, and the proposed solutions for participants’ claims. Then, I investigate how these frames resonated with Hondurans and, to a lesser extent, Guatemalans, Salvadorians, and Nicaraguans. Central to this study is analyzing the context in which the frames were articulated.

This paper analyzes in further detail the methods I employed to research frames and frame resonance. The paper is divided into four sections. First, I explain the case study and the rationale for its selection. Second, I present my research design composed of a combination of online research methods, such as internet-mediated semi-structured interviews and analysis of social media data (Facebook posts). Third, I explain my sampling strategy, recruitment criteria, and practices. This section elaborates on the pros, cons, and challenges of online research. Finally, I reflect on my positionality as a researcher and how this affects the research project.

Related publication: Rizzo Lara, R. de la L. (2021). La Caminata del Migrante: A social movement. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 47(17), 3891–3910. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2021.1940111>

Speaker’s bio:

Rosario Rizzo Lara is a PhD student and Marie Curie Fellow. She is currently based at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her research focuses on Central American migration. It mainly looks at the so-called “Caravan of Migrants” from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador that crossed into Mexico in 2018 to reach the U.S. The research aims to understand the so-

cial, economic, cultural, and political factors that influenced the movement. More importantly, she understands this phenomenon as a social movement and uses the tools offered by Social Movements to analyze it.

Rosario received her B.S. in International Business Management from Universidad Veracruzana in 2007 in Mexico. She completed her M.A. in Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin in 2010. Her thesis focused on analyzing the resilience mechanisms used by corn farmers to cope with the implementation of NAFTA and the neoliberal model in Mexico. Aside from the thesis, she worked on implementing a community-based solid waste management project in the Dominican Republic. Also, she holds a Post-Graduate Certificate in US-Mexico Border Studies from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte. For that, she looked at unaccompanied children from the Northern Triangle of Central America that were identified and detained in transit through Mexico.

Her most recent publication is “La Caminata del Migrante: a social movement” (2021), *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 47:17, 3891-3910, DOI: 10.1080/1369183X.2021.1940111

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5. A critical reflection on the digital visualisation of migration to the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg; Machteld Venken; Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History

Since the late 19th century, all foreigners moving to Luxembourg have been required to declare their residency at the local municipality within a few days of their arrival. This procedure has allowed for a more effective and increased surveillance of foreigners, who are particularly mobile and therefore suspect in the eyes of the state. Vast archival collections of forms were produced, especially in Luxembourg’s industrial districts. New digital technologies have made it possible to analyse the wealth of information contained in these sources in detail on a large scale.

In the last two years, a first digital analysis of a selection of declaration forms of arrival completed by migrants when they arrived in the two young Luxembourg municipalities of Dudelange and Differdange in the mid-1920s was conducted. The mid-1920s was a pivotal period during which migratory flows to the Minette region, one of Europe’s most dynamic industrial regions of iron mines and ironworks, were increasing and diversifying. Time has come to reflect upon the quality of the new scientific insights gained through mapping, as well as the obstacles encountered while working digitally.

This article offers a critical reflection on the development of a data model, the insertion of data in the database, and the exploration of various visualisation options in the Nodegoat virtual environment in cooperation with students during an MA course in migration history. The article uses digital source criticism in order to evaluate the choices, difficulties and opportunities involved in using the Nodegoat virtual environment to develop a data model and online handbook with guidelines that are both detailed enough to include individual migratory cases and sufficiently user friendly for students to insert and interpret bigger collections of data. Among the questions asked are: How to ensure scalable reading throughout the database and visualisations while mapping data from different physical archives? What historical knowledge can be gained from mapping historical migration paths without the availability of accurate historical maps? What are the possibilities and obstacles of the software program Nodegoat while mapping migration to Luxembourg? And: How do students evaluate working digitally with migratory sources? This methodological reflection will support the further development of our

work on the data model and database while including historical data from more municipalities (also on the other side of the Luxembourg-French border) and from a wider time frame.

Speaker's bio:

Machteld Venken is a Professor of Contemporary Transnational History at the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH). She studied Slavic Languages and Cultures, European Studies and History in Belgium, Poland and Ukraine. Venken earned her PhD in 2008 at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) and her habilitation in 2018 at the University of Vienna (Austria). She has been a Principal Investigator of eight research projects funded in four European countries. Venken joined the University of Luxembourg in November 2019 after a Visiting Scholarship at the Imre Kertesz Kolleg / Institute of Advanced Studies at the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena (Germany) and an Attract Brains for Brussels Fellowship at the Vrije Universiteit Brussels (Belgium). Her main research interests are transnational, transregional and comparative histories of Europe, migration, borderlands, oral history, the history of families and children, and citizen science.

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Organising Committee:

- 1. Justyna Salamońska** is Associate Professor at Kozminski University, Department of Management in Networked and Digital Societies. Justyna holds a PhD in Sociology from Trinity College Dublin. She previously carried out research and taught at Trinity College Dublin, European University Institute, University of Chieti-Pescara and University of Warsaw. Justyna works in the area of contemporary migrations and cross-border mobilities in Europe using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Currently she serves as the PI on two research projects on multiple migrations, [MultiData](#) and [MULTIMIG](#), financed by the National Science Centre Poland. She was also a Polish team leader on research projects in the area of migration and posting of workers, financed by the European Commission (under Horizon2020 and EaSI programmes). Justyna chairs IMISCOE Standing Committee Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research (Meth@Mig).
- 2. Agata Górny** is an associate professor at the University of Warsaw where she holds positions of the head of the Population Economics and Demography Chair at the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Deputy Director of the Centre of Migration Research. She is also the deputy president of the Committee for Migration Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. An economist and sociologist by education, her research interests include the methodology of migration research – especially survey methodology - contemporary migration processes, primarily immigration to Poland and Central and Eastern Europe, and socio-economic integration of migrants in the host society.
- 3. Laila Omar** is a Sociology PhD Candidate at the University of Toronto. Her research interests include international migration and qualitative methods, with a special focus on the integration process of refugees and immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa in Canada. More specifically, Laila explores how Syrian refugee mothers and teenagers experience time and conceptualize their futures after their resettlement in the host country and during different stages of uncertainty. Her research is funded by the SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship and is published in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.
- 4. Steffen Pötzschke** is a postdoctoral researcher and deputy team leader of the GESIS Panel at the GESIS – Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences in Mannheim (Germany). Furthermore, he is a corresponding member of the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (University of Osnabrück, Germany). Steffen holds a master's degree in International Migration and Intercultural Relations and a doctorate (Dr. phil.) from the University of Osnabrück. Steffen participated in several migration research projects and has profound practical knowledge in designing and implementing cross-cultural surveys. In his recent research, he investigates the possibility of using social networking sites as tools to sample hard-to-reach populations.
- 5. Sebastian Rinken** (PhD, European University Institute, 1996) is deputy director of the Spanish Research Council's Institute for Advanced Social Studies (IESA-CSIC) in Córdoba. He has published widely on immigrant populations' social integration and natives' attitudes toward immigration and immigrants, addressing issues such as the relation between ideological polarization and anti-immigrant sentiment, as well as the methodological challenge of eluding social desirability bias, among many others. His methodological repertoire includes qualitative approaches, probability-based surveys, non-probability sampling for on-site and online surveys, and survey experiments.

- 6. Evren Yalaz** is a senior researcher at Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration, University of Pompeu Fabra (GRITIM-UPF). She holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science at Rutgers University. Her research interests include qualitative research in migration studies, research ethics, migrant transnationalism, political integration, and social movements. She also works as a consultant in AI ethics, algorithmic bias and fairness. She is specialized in developing methodological frameworks in algorithmic auditing and algorithmic impact assessments.

Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw

The Centre of Migration Research (CMR) is an interdisciplinary inter-faculty research unit of the University of Warsaw, specialising in studies on migration processes in Poland and in Europe. Within the group over 60 researchers, researchers with sociological and economic backgrounds predominate but such fields as demography, political science, administrative law, social anthropology and cross-cultural psychology are also represented. Academic and research activities were the main goal of the CMR since the origins. The major research fields covered by CMR studies include:

- Theories and methods in migration studies,
- Determinants of migration decisions on different analytical levels,
- Causes and consequences of emigration from Poland,
- Inflow and operation of foreigners on the Polish labour market,
- Formation, development and integration of immigrant groups in Poland,
- Migration policy in Poland and the UE,
- Borders and irregular migration,
- Social mobility of migrants.

The CMR has regularly organized national and international seminars and conferences on migration issues concerning Central and Eastern Europe, promoting project results and integrating the community of migration researchers. As of 2007, the CMR is a member of IMISCOE Research Network (till 2009 known as IMISCOE Network of Excellence), which associates some 39 leading European institutions in migration research.

The CMR is also involved in teaching ([Postgraduate Studies in International Migration Processes](#)) and publishing ([CEEMR](#), [CMR Working Papers](#), [CMR Spotlight](#)).

IMISCOE Standing Committee

Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research (Meth@Mig)

The Standing Committee Meth@Mig provides a forum for discussing methodological approaches and tools in migration research and assessing the best options available for tackling manifold methodological challenges. The Standing Committee takes on a pluralist perspective as it addresses (1) issues relevant across a wide range of research methods in migration studies, such as obtaining informed consent in cross-cultural settings, gaining access to hard-to-reach populations, operationalising relevant concepts, and leveraging the potential of new communication technologies, as well as (2) issues relevant for specific research approaches (be they quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods or experimental) as applied to the study of international migration in all its facets and dimensions.

The Standing Committee places special emphasis on sharing innovative procedures and on interconnecting researchers from different methodological schools as well as migration scholars and experts in research methodology. The activities include research promotion and publications, training events and management of network of scholars interested in migration research methods, including meetings at the IMISCOE annual conferences, other events as well as presence in social media.

We invite you to join Meth@Mig. To do so please fill in the online application [here](#).

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/METHatMIG>

Visit our Website: <https://www.imiscoe.org/research/standing-committees/methodological-approaches-and-tools-in-migration-research>

Video series

Meth@Mig curates the video series “Digitization of Migration Research Methods: Promises and Pitfalls”. This video series aims to stimulate debates on advantages, disadvantages, and challenges that the emergence of new methods and the availability of new data types entail for migration research and migration scholars worldwide.

You can find the first two episodes in our Youtube channel:

“Digital trace data can never be used on its own” - An interview with Albert A. Salah (January 18, 2021)

Digitization of Migration Research Methods – An interview with Marzia Rango (July 8, 2020)

Meth@Mig Publications

Qualitative Research in European Migration Studies

Edited by : [Ricard Zapata-Barrero](#), [Evren Yalaz](#)

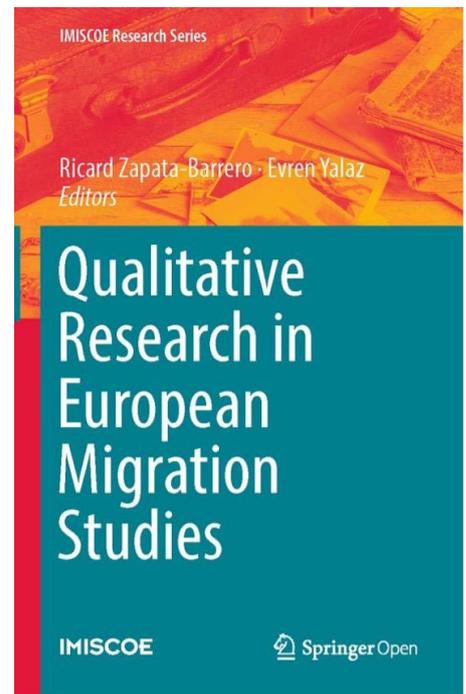
Publisher: Springer - IMISCOE Research Series

Year: 2018

Open Access: <https://www.springer.com/gp/bo...>

Review

This open access book covers the main issues, challenges and techniques concerning the application of qualitative methodologies to the study of migration. It discusses theoretical, epistemological and empirical questions that must be considered before, during, and after undertaking qualitative research in migration studies. It also covers recent innovative developments and addresses the key issues and major challenges that qualitative migration research may face at different stages i.e. crafting the research questions, defining approaches, developing concepts and theoretical frameworks, mapping categories, selecting cases, dealing with concerns of self-reflection, collecting and processing empirical evidence through various techniques, including visual data, dealing with ethical issues, and developing policy-research dialogues. Each chapter discusses relative strengths and limitations of qualitative research. The chapters also identify the main drivers for qualitative research development in migration studies. It is a unique volume as it brings together a multidisciplinary perspective as well as illustrations of different issues derived from the research experience of the recognized authors. One additional value of this book is its geographic focus on Europe. It seeks to explore theoretical and methodological issues that are raised by distinctive features of the European context. This volume will be a useful reference source for scholars and professionals in migration studies and in social sciences as well. The publication is also addressed to graduate and post-graduate students and, more generally, to those who embark on the task of doing qualitative research for the first time in the field of migration.



The Practice of Qualitative Research in Migration Studies: Ethical Issues as a Methodological Challenge

Guest Editors: Ricard Zapata-Barrero, Evren Yalaz

Journal: Qualitative Research Journal

Year: 2020

Link: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/1443-9883/vol/20/iss/3>

This Special Issue (SI) aims to bring research ethics debates in QR and MS studies together. In particular, it has two main objectives: First, it aims to map the distinctive ethical challenges that Qualitative Migration Research (QMR) faces, which are not often addressed by standard ethical guidelines. Second, it aims to provide guidance for these ethical issues against the background that many researchers deal with ethical challenges on a case-by-case basis and general frameworks might not adequately address the particularities of each case.

Qualitative Research Journal

The Practice of Qualitative Research in
Migration Studies: Ethical Issues as a
Methodological Challenge
Guest Editors: Ricard Zapata-Barrero
and Evren Yalaz

Meth@Mig (Upcoming) Publications

Steffen Pöttschke,

Sebastian Rinken (eds)

Migration Research in a Digitized World

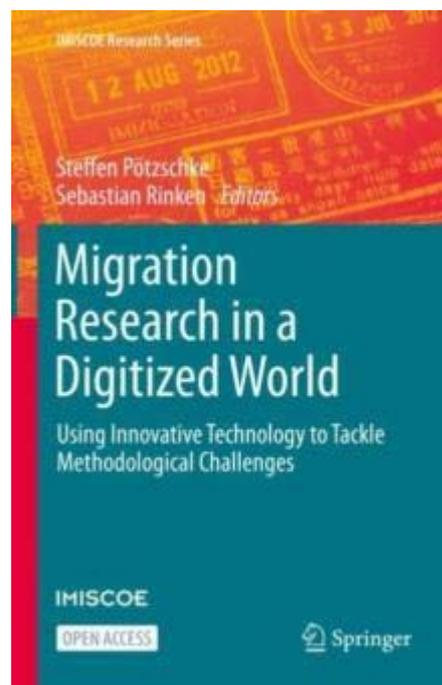
Using Innovative Technology to Tackle Methodological Challenges

OPEN ACCESS (<https://link.springer.com/book/9783031013188>)

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This open access book explores implications of the digital revolution for migration scholars' methodological toolkit. New information and communication technologies hold considerable potential to improve the quality of migration research by originating previously non-viable solutions to a myriad of methodological challenges in this field of study. Combining cutting-edge migration scholarship and methodological expertise, the book addresses a range of crucial issues related to both researcher-designed data collections and the secondary use of "big data", highlighting opportunities as well as challenges and limitations. A valuable source for students and scholars engaged in migration research, the book will also be of keen interest to policymakers.

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