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The hottest migration news from IMISCOE Warsaw!

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Welcome to CMR Spotlight, published by the Centre of Migration Research of the University of Warsaw. Our first issue coincides with two important events: official start of CMR's 25th anniversary (more to follow soon) and the IMISCOE Spring Conference, which took place in Warsaw on March 1-2, 2018.

The IMISCOE Spring Conference will be the leading topic of this issue. Inspiring presentations were devoted to the economic integration of various groups of migrants: from Europeans in the United States 150 years ago to present-day Ukrainians in Poland and aspiring opera singers from the post-communist bloc in Italy and Germany.



University of Warsaw library/ M.Kaźmierczak



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Participants of the IMISCOE Spring Conference braved -12°C temperatures to reach the University of Warsaw library and give a number of thought-provoking presentations on the labour market incorporation of migrants in Europe and across the Atlantic .

During the plenary sessions we heard three speakers. Prof. Stephen Drinkwater from the University of Roehampton spoke about the labour market incorporation of immigrants in the UK. He brought forward some very interesting data, for example demonstrating that a large proportion of EU8 and EU2 migrants in London are [self-employed](#), which is not the case for the rest of the UK, and that the proportion of highly educated persons among Poles in the UK is rising.

Prof. Constanza Biavaschi from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology took us across the Atlantic to present historical data from the US and demonstrate that the gap in wages between migrants and natives today is much wider than 150 years ago. She also argued that we can increase welfare in developed countries by selecting immigrants, similarly to the system operating in Canada. But should we do so, knowing that [welfare in source countries will decrease as a result?](#)

Yves Breem from the OECD led a workshop during the plenary mobilising all participants to think about how to measure the integration of migrants and presented the OECD approach and [report](#) on the issue.

Four parallel sessions followed, during which a number of presentations focused on the labour market integration of migrants and refugees in Poland, Germany, Czechia, Italy, Switzerland, Israel and elsewhere and the factors which favour (or hamper) such an integration.



Prof. Constanza Biavaschi presenting at the IMISCOE Spring Conference

Dr Michał Burzyński of the University of Luxembourg continued the discussion regarding who benefits from migrations by demonstrating, using a new model, that immigration from Mexico to the US leads to an increase of wages among the top 30% of Americans, but decreases them for the remaining 70%.

Dr Paweł Strzelecki claimed that the wage gap between locals and Ukrainian immigrants in Poland depends very much on regional factors and local migration patterns, e.g. inequality in Lublin in the east of Poland is much lower than in Warsaw, and wage discrimination of Ukrainians there is also much lower than in the capital.

A study devoted to refugees in Germany presented by Jannes Jacobsen from DIW Berlin demonstrated that the residence title is the most important factor influencing labour

market integration and that the recognition of vocational and academic certificates is also crucial.

Nicolas Thorens from Université de Fribourg argued, based on a participant observation study in Switzerland, that cultural-economic capital is the key to success in the Swiss labour market. He defined it as the “implicit cultural knowledge about the requirements of the new capitalist economy”, such as the expectation in Western societies that one will have a personal life project, instead of just being willing to work hard at unpleasant tasks to immediately earn money. Asylum-seekers who fail to understand this do not profit from internships offered to them as a way of incorporating them into the labour market.

Dr Chiara Paola Donegani from the University of Wolverhampton analysed the role of having a local or immigrant partner in labour market performance and demonstrated that having a native partner reduces the earnings disadvantage. She – similarly to prof. Drinkwater - demonstrated that migrants from A8 countries of Central Europe still earn much less than natives in the UK, a disadvantage which is not shared by EU14 migrants from the ‘old’ European Union of pre-2004.

Two presentations based on studies conducted at CMR on Ukrainian migrants in the Warsaw area concerned factors which influence migrants’ settlement intentions and migrants’ labour market mobility. Dr Sabina Toruńczyk-Ruiz and dr Zuzanna Brunarska argued that legal status and language proficiency were not related to settlement intentions, but emotional social capital and place attachment were strong predictors of such intentions to settle. They concluded that “having a group of close friends in the destination country may be a stronger

incentive for settling there than structural factors”. Prof. Agata Górný, who looked at the importance of social networks in labour market mobility claimed that “people who have emotional support in Poland are more likely to be mobile, to change job”.

Dr Irina Isaakyan from the European University Institute in Florence awoke the imaginations of the audience by presenting the strategies of a particular group of elite migrants to Italy and Germany: aspiring opera singers from the former communist bloc. As she has found through 60 narrative biographic interviews, some resort to strategic marriages and alliances with influential opera figures, others have double careers in cleaning/tourism and singing to further their careers.



Celebrating the 25th anniversary of CMR with our guests – conference participants and members of IMISCOE Board of Directors

IMISCOE News:

It was decided that the 2019 IMISCOE Spring Conference will be organized by [CEDEM](#) in Liège, and the annual 2019 conference by the [Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration \(MiM\)](#). [Sarah Spencer](#) from the University of Oxford’s Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) was elected as the new Chair of the IMISCOE Board of Directors.

Call for papers

The Central and Eastern European Migration Review is now accepting abstracts for its special issue on „International migration and socio-economic transition in Central and Eastern Europe”.

The logo for CEEMR (Central and Eastern European Migration Review) features the acronym "CEEMR" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below it, the full name "Central and Eastern European Migration Review" is written in a smaller, lighter font. The "M" in "CEEMR" is stylized with a vertical line through it.

The goal of the Special Issue is to demonstrate the contribution of the research on migration in the region to broadly defined migration literature. Among the topics that deserve attention in this regard we find:

- the perspective of the sending countries (return migration, the role of remittances – both social and economic – for sending areas, etc.) in the context of the migration-development nexus;
- the role of the EU enlargement (lifting of legal barriers for labour migration in the context of high emigration pressures) in shaping migration strategies of CEE migrants (and in the context of the European migration system);
- the formation of migration policy both as a response to the need for its harmonisation with the EU requirements and as an outcome of country- and region-specific processes;
- the role of political changes in shaping migration patterns (EU accessions, enlargement of the Schengen Area, changes in visa requirements, etc.);
- the notion of integration in the context of fluid and temporary forms of emigration and immigration;
- attitudes towards ethnic diversity / foreigners in countries with low-scale immigration and few experiences with the inflow of foreigners (especially in the context of recent developments in this regard related to the migration crisis in Europe);
- methodological challenges in studying high-scale emigration and low-scale (mainly temporary) immigration.

For more details see www.ceemr.uw.edu.pl

Deadline for abstracts submission: 31 March 2018

Deadline for manuscripts submission: 30 June 2018

Abstracts of no more than 500 words should be sent to: ceemr@uw.edu.pl.

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