



AMIS Newsletter

Centre for Advanced Migration Studies

Welcome to the AMIS Autumn Newsletter



Dear AMIS Newsletter subscribers

In this newsletter you will find news about our visiting scholars, new research initiatives, and publications by AMIS' researchers.

From August 17-19 AMIS hosted **the 21st Nordic Migration Conference** on "RE:Migration. New perspectives on movement, research, and society." More than 250 delegates representing universities in 28 countries gave witness of a truly international event. A huge salute goes to AMIS Associate Professor **Zachary Whyte** and the AMIS alumni, **Maria Kennedy** and **Teresa Bengtsson** without which this conference would not have been such a success.

Farewell to **Simon Turner**: After 8 years at AMIS, Associate Professor Simon Turner has accepted a professorship in Anthropology at the University of Lund, Sweden. Huge congratulations! We will be missing Simon in our teaching program and as a part of the daily life at AMIS. However, we are certain that we will continue cooperation across the Sound.

Welcome to our new AMIS PhD student, **Amin Younes Aoussar**, who will be commencing on the project "Peripatetic Precarity: An Ethnographic Investigation of Unaccompanied Moroccan Minors".

This autumn we are looking forward to **the 9th annual Master's Conference** on Comparative Research in Migration Studies to be held at Malmö University, 24th of November 2022. The conference is organized in cooperation with Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare (MIM), and AMIS with the aim of bringing master's students from AMIS and MIM together. Thanks to MIM for hosting this year!

The new homepage for the **UCPH Migration Research Platform** has finally been released with the aim of creating stronger collaboration on refugee and migration issues both within UCPH and across international networks. Please visit <https://migration.ku.dk>.

Stay tuned for future events!

Yours

Marie Sandberg, director of AMIS



Audience at the NMR conference 2022 waving at online Keynote speaker Ghassan Hage.



Roundtable with Gavan Titley, Mette Andersson, Anna Lundberg and Martin Bak Jørgensen, Migration research as a politicized field, NMR22.



New PhD student: Amin Younes Aoussar

Amin Younes Aoussar is a new PhD fellow at the Centre for Advanced Migration Studies at the Saxo Institute. His project is entitled 'Peripatetic Precarity: An Ethnographic Investigation of Unaccompanied Moroccan Minors' and investigates how unaccompanied migrant minors move from rural households to urban centres and into the EU, and how they survive once there.

Migration has attracted particular political and scholarly attention in recent decades, however, there is little ethnographic research on unaccompanied migrant minors. This research project aims to develop such insights via its ethnographic approach and research design. It fills the knowledge lacunae through a study that follows the movement of unaccompanied migrant minors through highly politicised and criminalised transnational landscapes. In doing so, the project delivers a novel ethnographic analysis of the relation between possibility and exploitation for vulnerable migrant minors and sheds light on the social and political dynamics and implications of irregular migration.

Supervisor: Associate professor Zachary Whyte. The Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen.

Co-supervisor: Professor Henrik Vigh. Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen.



Visiting post doc: Jacob Lind

Jacob Lind completed his PhD in 2020. His doctoral dissertation, [The politics of undocumented migrant childhoods](#) (2020, Malmö University), discussed the experiences of undocumented migrant children and families everyday lives, comparing Sweden and the UK.

He has received an international post doc grant from FORTE and will spend 1.5 years at AMIS starting September 2022. During his post doc he will compare the experiences of young adults in Sweden and Denmark who spent part of their childhoods as undocumented migrants.

During his PhD studies, he interviewed children and families who were in an undocumented situation at the time, and his post doc follows up on this work by focusing on the retrospective narratives of young adults (who now have a resident permit) as they reflect on their childhoods.

In the last two years, Jacob has also lead the Swedish part of the Horizon 2020 project MIMY (mimy-project.eu). In MIMY, he has together with colleagues in Malmö and across Europe, studied the experience of young migrants in vulnerable conditions of building a life in Sweden.

[A collection of Jacob's publications can be found here.](#)



Guest researcher: Rebecka Söderberg

Rebecka Söderberg is a PhD student in her final year at Malmö University, at the research centre Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare (MIM). She holds a MA degree in European Ethnology from University of Copenhagen.

Her doctoral thesis explores how urban diverse neighbourhoods are problematised in Danish and Swedish urban and integration policies. Furthermore, based on ethnographic fieldwork, it explores how residents in a multi-ethnic public housing neighbourhood in Copenhagen, Denmark, experience their neighbourhood and interventions for social mix, which are taking place as a result of the 'ghetto legislation'.

Currently, she is working on a paper that emphasises how the discursive, material and psychological violence of un-homing affects residents on multiple scales.

Rebecka joins AMIS as a visiting scholar from October 2022 to January 2023.



AMIS Research Intern Louise Roesen Abildgaard

Louise Roesen Abildgaard is a third semester MA student with AMIS and is currently working as an intern for the research project on Slavery and Forced Migration in Mali hosted by Lotte Pelckmans. Her contribution includes a blog report and analysis focusing on linguistic matters e.g. grassroots literacy, the challenges of illiteracy and native language use (Soninke, West Africa) in generating understanding, publicity and wider society outreach for the transnational social movement of Gambana, or the slavery and race discourse in the context of Mali. She will also participate in the editing and communication of a documentary series, research literature and perform administrative tasks.

Louise graduated from a Bachelor in European Ethnology from the University of Copenhagen in 2019 and has a great interest in art and languages, has obtained a C1 diploma in French and has just started to learn Arabic.

New UCPH Migration Research Platform

The University of Copenhagen Platform for Migration and Refugee Research (UPCH Migration Research Platform) is a cross-faculty initiative open to researchers based at UCPH from all discipline. The aim is to create stronger collaboration on refugee and migration issues both within UCPH and across international networks. Each term, the UCPH Migration Research Platform will organize external and internal activities related to migration research, in the shape of seminars, roundtables, science slams, lectures etc. [Please read more](#)

NJMR Best Article Prize in 2020-2022



Marie Sandberg and Dorte J. Andersen have been awarded the NJMR Best Article Prize in 2020-2022 for the article "*Europe Trouble: Welcome Culture and the Disruption of the European Border Regime*" (med Dorte J. Andersen). The article introduces to a special issue of the Nordic Journal of Migration Research (NJMR) on civil society refugee relief during the European refugee reception crisis 2015. The special issue is an outcome of the research network "Helping Hands Research Network on the Everyday Borderwork of European Citizens", funded by the Danish Research Council for Independent Research 2017-2019. [Read the article](#)

New projects and research initiatives



Lotte Pelckmans has become part of the COST network 'Women on the move', a network that is mapping and documenting all forms of female migration in the space of Europe over the past centuries. COST networks are prestigious European union funded networks that are bringing together European scholars working on a similar topic, and these networks are quite ambitious in both scope and scale.

The WEMOV network has a website that is updated every now and then, with for example the latest added important landmarks related to female mobilities. [See the website here](#). While the website in and of itself will become a very rich and interesting resource for migration scholars, there is also a transfer of knowledge by training future scholars on women and migration with summerschools and a diversity of educational activities: MOOC, co-teaching, training schools and workshops, among other pedagogical resources, some of which will be available online from 2023. The network is currently also working towards a final exposition/museum exhibit at Trinity museum in Dublin, for 2024.

Lotte has more specifically joined the working group 4, which is making a documentary movie based on short testimonies of female migrants in Europe. Her expertise on African migrants in Europe and current research on female activists will come in useful here. Together with research intern Louise Abildgaard, Lotte is also adding and contributing with data for all working groups on both Denmark and Belgium.

The last meeting of the network took place half September in Sofia, Bulgaria where we enjoyed a guided tour through a temporary exhibit organised by the network in the ethnographic museum, but also presentations by some of the members and some collective 'transcribathons' to discuss, gather and transpose new data for the website collectively, all the while the statue of Sophia was watching over us.

Featured publications

How do irregularised migrants establish trust during their perilous journeys?

In the book chapter, "'Fast trusting' – Practices of Trust During Irregularized Journeys to and Through Europe", Nina Grønlykke Mollerup and Marie Sandberg investigates the challenges of establishing trust on irregularised journeys – trust which at the same time is crucial in order for people to act, yet also extremely difficult to establish. Trust in these situations needs to be established continuously, but irregularised migrants can only to a limited extent depend on trust that has been built over time. That is, trust needs to be established in very short time. The chapter argues that trust is practiced not only through interpersonal relations, but also through socio-material connections established between social media platforms, digital devices, smartphones, solidarity networks, narratives and information flyers—what is termed hybrid alliance building.

The chapter establishes that there are at least four different modes of fast trusting at play: relay trust, positional trust, institutional trust, and desperate trust. *Relay trust* is a mode of trusting that can be 'passed on' from one person to another, so a person can assume another person's trust in a third person. It thus ties into other modes of trusting and cannot stand on its own as it depends on previously established, reenacted trust. *Positional trust* is a mode of trusting that relies on the trusted person's reputation based on experience or background. Positional trust can be granted to people regardless of personal relations though it does necessitate a recognition of (or trust in) position enabling the trust. *Institutional trust* is grounded in perceptions of established entities such as the United Nations, the police, or companies, which can enable trust in people and situations beyond these entities. At times, institutional trust interestingly can make digital platforms work for new purposes. Lastly, *desperate trust* is a sporadic mode of trusting which is not based on relations with people or entities, but on a need for urgent solutions to basic needs and a lack of alternatives - a mode of trusting that enables action in situations where it is hard to know or trust.

The chapter is part of the book, *The Migration Mobile: Border Dissidence, Sociotechnical Resistance, and the Construction of Irregularized Migrants*, edited by Vasilis Galis, Martin Bak Jørgensen and Marie Sandberg, published by Rowman and Littlefield.

[Download the full book](#) (go to 'features' to download for free)

[Check out all AMIS Publications](#)



