



# AMIS Newsletter

Centre for Advanced Migration Studies

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## Newsletter Spring 2025

**Dear friends of AMIS,**

With this Spring Newsletter we are happy to welcome new faces to AMIS: Warm welcomes to our new Tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Histories of Migration, Fabio Santos. With Fabio on board, we are looking forward to strengthening the historical dimension of AMIS. You can read more in the [interview with Fabio](#) below. At the same time, the Admin reform has necessitated a slightly new role for our Centre Coordinator Maria Frantzoulis: Maria will continue administering the AMIS Master of Arts programme, in the role as Academic Officer and not in the role as AMIS centre coordinator. We would like to use this opportunity to thank Maria wholeheartedly for her dedicated and always excellent work supporting AMIS researchers, while we are also very happy that she will be able to continue as being part of the educational admin staff related to AMIS. From March 1st we are happy to welcome student assistant Sofie Malou Mortensen, who will support AMIS' research activities.

Best wishes,

**Marie Sandberg**  
AMIS director



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**AMIS people**



### **Meet Fabio Santos – an interview**

Fabio Santos is the new Tenure-track Assistant Professor specializing in Histories of Migration at AMIS. In an interview, he shares insights into his academic journey, what drew him to the field of migration studies, his current and future research projects, as well as his teaching philosophy and plans. [See interview.](#)

**Lotte Pelckmans** has been affiliated as senior fellow at the [Heinz Heinen Centre for Advanced Studies](#), at the Cluster of Excellence in Slavery and Dependency Studies at the University of Bonn, where Lotte will further develop her project on 'ephemeral community archives' of the anti-slavery movement Ganbanaaxun Fedde (GF). As one of the first highly digitized and transnational anti-slavery movements in and from West Africa, the diasporic board of the movement GF is using several interconnected WhatsApp groups to communicate orally with its often-illiterate members. This 'platform' affords the collection of their testimonies (mostly movies and audio messages) and it also archives and maps content of the orally shared online testimonies. Her project aims to document the curation and uses of these 'e-phemeral WhatsApp archives', which hold new promises for counter-memory culture and claims to rights and citizenship.

**Sofie Malou Thomsen** - Welcome to Sofie, who will be our new AMIS Student Assistant. Sofie has a bachelor's degree in English, a bachelor's degree in Linguistics and is currently an MA student in Linguistics at the University of Copenhagen. You can contact her at [amis@hum.ku.dk](mailto:amis@hum.ku.dk).



**Emma Feil** – welcome to Emma, who is a new PhD Student at Saxo. The purpose of the PhD project is to investigate how antisemitism becomes a lived experience when individuals encounter it on social media in Denmark. The project is part of the research project *Code and Conspiracy: Antisemitism in Denmark After 1945*, where the overall aim is to examine the forms, content, and logic of antisemitism in Denmark after 1945, here Emma's PhD project has a specific focus on current digital antisemitism. The PhD project's primary field of study is SoMe users with Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds and their practices on social media, where the problem with antisemitism is particularly present. Specifically, the project seeks to investigate how antisemitic content is experienced by the recipient. With a focus on the recipients' experience of antisemitism, the aim is to create a language for how the argumentation logic and coded forms of antisemitism manifest and function on social media, how it is decoded and situated by the recipient, and what implications it has for the surrounding society.

**Mirjam Wajsberg** - Congratulations to former visiting scholar and external lecturer AMIS alumni Mirjam Wajsberg who successfully defended her PhD thesis at Radboud University: *Moving Edges: Migrant Infrastructuring Practices in Urban Spaces across Europe*, February 2025.

## **New research projects**

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## **AMIS director Marie Sandberg receives Carlsberg Monograph Fellowship**

The Everyday Life of Migration. Ethnological Perspectives on Borders and Migration in Europe

The aim of the book is to move beyond established narratives that represent migration as an urgency that needs to be met with ever-stricter policy regimes. Based on ethnographic case studies on the lived experiences of refugees and volunteers in Denmark after the '2015 refugee crisis', it presents concrete strategies for researching The Everyday Life of Migration in a European context.

### **Mapping as method: A global approach**

AMIS Associate Professor Zachary Whyte and AMIS-alumna Elena Horton has received seed-money from HUM:global to explore Mapping as Method. The project is a collaboration between AMIS and [Emergency Architecture & Human Rights](#).

While citing arts-based and participatory research has become a common feature of emerging literature in the humanities, how many academics have the knowledge or experience to engage with these methods? As part of a global approach to reduce inequalities in academic research and increase its transformative potential, we at the Centre for Advanced Migration Studies (AMIS) propose a full-day public event to explore Mapping as Method.

Including a lecture and two workshops, the event will highlight the value and uses of mapping, as well as providing practical tools to facilitate collaborative and counter cartography. This is an opportunity for KU students and staff to learn from the experiences of artists, academics and activists, as well as a chance to network with one another. To spread the seed further, data from the event will be synthesized into a large map to be exhibited on campus and through digital channels.

The Mapping as Method event will be public, and date and place will be announced, so stay tuned!

## **Thesis Award**

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*Anuhita Basavaraju at the AMIS-MIM conference in Malmö Nov 2024. Photo by Cecilie Odgaard Jakobsen.*

Anuhita Basavaraju has been awarded the Thesis Award 2024 in Advanced Migration Studies for the thesis: *Unraveling Entangled Realities: Kinwork and Mechanisms of Relatedness Experienced by Daughters in the Indian American Nuclear Diaspora Family*. The award was presented at the annual AMIS-MIM graduate conference, which was hosted by Malmö University. Huge congratulations to Anuhita!

## **Writing retreat**

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*Photo by: Smidstrup Strand.*

In January, a group of researchers from AMIS went to Smidstrup Strand to do some intensive days of writing. A very nice way to start the new year!



*From the left: Line Steen Bygballe Jensen, Marie Sandberg, Cecilie Odgaard Jakobsen, Fabio Santos and Lotte Pelckmans. Photo by: Smidstrup Strand.*

## **Upcoming event**

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## **Book talk: Affective Bordering: Race, Deservingness and the Emotional Politics of Migration Control**

Time: 2 April 2025, 14.30-16:00

Place: 21.1.21, UCPH South Campus

The event will begin with a presentation by the author, Lecturer in Social Justice, at King's College London Dr Billy Holzberg, introducing the book's exploration of how affect and emotions work as a site of border making. Following this, a discussion with the panel (tba) and the audience will reflect on the book's key themes and their broader implications, offering an opportunity for rich dialogue and debate on the connection between affect, borders and racism. For more information about the book, visit [Manchester University Press](#).

All are welcome!

[Read more](#)

## **Featured publications**

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New special issue of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* has been published by the [Boundary work research project](#) led by Marie Sandberg in a collaboration with the [Tempro project led by Jessica Schultz](#), CMI, Norway:

**The temporary turn in asylum: a new agenda for researching the politics of deterrence in practice.**

*by Sandberg, M., Schultz, J., & Kohl, K.S. (2025)*

*Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 1-18.

While policies of non-admission, deflection and containment have animated Global North states' response to refugees since the 1980s, the past decade has witnessed a new turn towards post-entry measures making protection more temporary and limiting the rights previously associated with the grant of asylum.

This special issue explores recent deterrence strategies in Denmark and Norway, focussed on the revocation regimes adopted to withdraw or deny the extension of refugees' residence permits. It provides ethnographic insights into the everyday consequences of temporariness as well as the dilemmas it presents from a legal perspective. Building on existing literature on deterrence policies in refugee studies scholarship, this introduction will propose a new research agenda for studying newer dimensions of deterrence in practice. It broadens the scope of analysis to include multiple actors and levels, centered on the everyday imprints of deterrence following admission and the recognition of a refugee's need for protection.

Bridging juridical–political, socio-legal, and ethnographic approaches, the introduction will advance the field of international migration research by discussing the methodological, ethical and epistemological challenges of studying temporariness in refugee protection, while also presenting strategies for researching deterrence without uncritically reproducing the policy discourse aimed at deterring refugees. [Read the article.](#)

**"You are too expensive, you need to work faster!": Ukrainian agricultural workers navigating precarities in Denmark. *International Migration*.**

*by Horton, E. P., & Whyte, Z. (2024).*

Ukrainian migration to Denmark has been structured by national fast-track programmes, predominantly funneling Ukrainians towards low-skilled and precarious jobs in Danish livestock production. However, since the recent Russian invasion, the introduction of Law L145 has entitled Ukrainians in Denmark to similar employment rights as the European Union citizens through an SL1 visa. While this opens previously inaccessible areas of the Danish labour market, it also makes Ukrainians subject to the same restrictive legislation as other refugees and puts a hard end date to their visas, making their future status uncertain.

Drawing on in-depth interviews with nine Ukrainian agricultural workers living in Denmark at the time of the invasion, this article explores their attempts to navigate precarities of work, gender and legal status in Denmark. Precarities of work sprang from differences between agricultural sectors, as year-round work with livestock



involved a dependence on farmers, where workers accepted exploitative conditions to maintain their residence and work permits. Precarities of gender were reflected in the way women were made dependent on their partner through an "accompanying family members" visa, which shaped family lives and became problematic in the case of separations. Precarities of legal status were created by frequent legislative changes that made legal status uncertain and destabilized the long-term investments of Ukrainians planning to stay in Denmark. While the SL1 offered a way out of some of the precarities experienced by agricultural workers, it did so at the cost of added complications and continuing uncertainty, pushing people from one kind of precarity to another. [Read the article.](#)



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