Dear subscribers,

I am happy to present the AMIS Newsletter June 2020. This has indeed been a spring of another kind; due to the Covid-19 pandemic AMIS courses and exams together with AMIS Brown bags and seminars were recomposed into online versions, field research was put on hold, and research projects had to be rethought and redesigned. Not least, our everyday life at the University including our shared feeling of an AMIS community was indeed put under pressure.

It is all the more impressive to see how creatively and consistently AMIS students and staff have managed to maneuver these constraints. In this issue of the AMIS Newsletter, you will meet the newly launched amisan alumni network: A huge salute goes to amisan, for organizing webinars and keeping us in the loop on the status of the wellbeing among our current AMIS students across the cohorts.

At AMIS, we rest assure that we will overcome this crisis, and we are thrilled with the prospect of soon being able to meet on campus again.

Yours,
Marie Sandberg, Director

1. AMIS research clusters – launch and invitation to join!
2. New AMIS people
3. New AMIS projects and an online guest lecture
4. AMISAN – new alumni network
5. Call for papers
6. New publications

Hackathon: As a parallel event to the DIGINAUTS conference a hackathon was run 24 October 2019 by TechFugees, a tech community and organization aimed at building sustainable technological solutions for refugees. AMIS students took part and came up with innovate migrant solutions.

1. AMIS research clusters

During autumn 2019 AMIS steering group and staff have elaborated on how to strengthen AMIS’ profile as an interdisciplinary center for migration research. As a result, we are happy to launch the new AMIS research clusters:
Launching these six AMIS research clusters, we wish to stimulate cooperation and community among migration researchers across disciplines and research themes within humanities and social sciences, and we hope to inspire research curiosity as well as consolidate ongoing research.

The clusters reflect AMIS as an interdisciplinary center for migration research based at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Copenhagen since 2013. The centre hosts cutting-edge research on a broad range of issues within the theory and practice of migration, focusing on moving populations and mobility practices as well as irregularized and forced migration.

AMIS offers a variety of complementary approaches to migration studies. A main emphasis is put on qualitative methods, such as ethnography, together with a keen interest in collaboration with partners in various sectors of society. At the core of our work is an ongoing critical and self-reflexive assessment of the exceptionality, irregularity and historicity of categories such as "refugee" and "migrant", in effect broadening the scope of migration research to incorporate the many ways of being on the move in often precarious life situations.

If you are interested in connecting with one or more of the AMIS research clusters, please contact the responsible researcher connected to each of the clusters listed under each cluster and briefly explain your research interests and how you would like to contribute.

Picture: Halfdan Pisket visited AMIS on 4 December 2019 for a dialogue on Migration as Comic.

2. New AMIS people – and so-long to Birgitte Schepelern Johansen.

AMIS is a dynamic work-place and change of staff is part of center’s cycle. After 5 years at AMIS, Birgitte Schepelern Johansen has decided to focus her teaching obligations at her home department, ToRS, Faculty of Humanities. We deeply regret missing out on Birgitte’s solid teaching skills, and not least we will miss her as part of the daily work of the AMIS-group. However, we have not said fully ‘goodbye’ to Birgitte, since we will continue cooperating with her on several levels. Thus, Birgitte is still part of our AMIS Research Clusters, and together with Marie Sandberg she is joint committee member of the COST Action ‘Entangled Histories of Emotions in the Mediterranean World’.

During this spring we have had the pleasure of affiliating with associate professor, Manpreet K. Janeja from ToRS (UCPH), who has engaged in the Module Integration at AMIS, together with Tore
Holst. Manpreet K. Janeja holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from Queens’ College, University of Cambridge (U.K.), and an M.A. in Sociology from the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University (India). Her work engages with three major concerns that straddle the ‘public’ and ‘private’ domains: (1) normality/not-normality; (2) trust/mistrust/distrust; (3) waiting. Through the lens of qualitative and ethnographic studies of food in cities in the Global North (Europe) and Global South (South Asia), these three research clusters have facilitated engagement with issues ranging from migration, borders, religion, globalization, and conflict to gender, youth, cities, public health and time. This has resulted so far in the publication of: the monograph Transactions in Taste: the Collaborative Lives of Everyday Bengali Food (2010; paperback 2013), the co-edited volumes Imagining Bangladesh: Contested Narratives (2014), and Ethnographies of Waiting: Doubt, Hope, and Uncertainty (2018; paperback 2019), together with articles, book chapters, and several international conference and seminar papers, panels, presentations, and public lectures. Her second monograph The Aesthetics of School Meals: (Dis)Trust, Risk, and Uncertainty (under contract) is in the works. She is currently Associate Professor at the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies at Copenhagen University, Affiliated Research Fellow at IIAS Leiden University, and Visiting Senior Fellow at the Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics. She has also served on the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 Expert Review panels on Migration and Radicalisation.

New visiting AMIS scholar

Annika Lindberg holds a PhD in sociology and is joining AMIS as a visiting postdoctoral researcher with a project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation 2020-21. Her doctoral research project, ‘Governing the deportation limbo’, traced the enforcement of policies designed to deter and control deportable migrants via an ethnography of detention and departure centres in Denmark and Sweden. Her current research focuses on the use of spatial, temporal and social forms of regulating migrants and marginalised citizens, and she is further interested in issues of border and migration control, social welfare regulation and inequality, and street level bureaucracy. She is coauthor of the collaborative ethnography Migrants Before the Law: Contested Migration Control in Europe (2019) and of the report Stop Killing us Slowly: A research report on the motivation enhancement measures and criminalisation of rejected asylum seekers in Denmark (with the Freedom of Movements Research Collective, 2018).

Picture: AMIS-MIM conference: 5 December 2019 AMIS hosted the 6th AMIS-MIM Masters conference organized in collaboration with Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare (MIM), Malmö University. The conference theme was Climate related displacement which was introduced by an excellent keynote by Assistant Prof. Miriam Cullen from UCPH Faculty of Law, on: Climate-related displacement: how developments in the law took people, or left them, in 2019

3. New projects at AMIS and an online guest lecture

Archiving the Future: Re-Collections of Syria in War and Peace
This research project makes the representation of Syria in war and peace the object of an ethnographic inquiry of image construction. It examines how images and memories reconfigure what Syria was and is and what it is in a process of becoming for Syrians themselves by focusing on the active establishment of archives and the processes of archiving. The project will focus on personal archiving of families in exile, collective archiving and institutional archiving. Postdoc Nina Grønlykke Mollerup from AMIS will carry out research on collective archiving looking in particular at the website syrianarchive.org.

Picture: 13 December 2019 Professor Gregory Feldman, University of Windsor, gave a guest lecture on Migrants, citizens, and states: Relocating the source of empowerment in a precarious world. Feldman visited AMIS as part of the DFF research project Remote Relocations. Work, Precarity and the Inclusion of Newcomers on Lolland.

Remote Relocations: Work, Precarity and the Inclusion of Newcomers on Lolland

This project started up during autumn 2019 and explores how the everyday inclusion of newcomers in a Danish rural area is shaped by precarities of work and place. Through collaborative ethnography among recognized refugees, international work migrants, unemployed national migrants, and relocated state employees on Lolland, four subprojects explore these precarities in relation to a fifth, cross-cutting subproject on local infrastructure. Academically, the project uses precarity and infrastructures to conceptualize and ground migratory formations not commonly analyzed together. The project thus rethinks integration debates in socially broad and conceptually novel terms. Simultaneously, it invokes a rural case to develop international research on the relationship between multiple precarious positions and the ways they are emplaced. Practically, the project builds awareness among local partners of the experiences among and across particular newcomers, contributing to efforts at labour integration and newcomer retention.

From AMIS associate professor Zachary Whyte and postdoc Martin Ledstrup are participating in the project.

GCRF-UKRI project on Protracted Rural Displacements: Forced Internal Migration and Slavery Mobilisations in Mali and it’s Diaspora

This project aims to uncover the complex intersections of protracted displacements and internal slavery in the Kayes region (Mali) from a longue-durée perspective, to better understand under which socio, economic and political circumstances displacements due to mobilization on (legacies of) slavery may occur. The project analyses how and why despite their regular occurrences in the past 100 years, those ‘fugitive’ displacements to escape slavery have been largely invisibilised until today, thereby reinforcing the economic and social marginalisation of those forcibly displaced communities whose protracted displacements continues to limit their access to essential resources, notably land, which prevents them from living sustainable lives.
From AMIS postdoc Lotte Pelckmans, international Co-PI, will research activism and the anti-slavery organisations, mainly among the Soninke Diaspora in France.

**Online Guest Lecture by Paolo Gaibazzi – June 26th**

In connection with the launch of the project on Slavery, Diaspora Mobilisations and Protracted Rural Displacements from Kayes, Mali AMIS will host an online lecture on June 26th 2020 with anthropologist Paolo Gaibazzi, who will present his latest work on the afterlife of slavery in West African migrant transnationalism. Dr Gaibazzi, currently Associated Researcher at the ZMO-Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin, has published on migration and border governance in West Africa and in Southern Africa, including on Europe’s externalization policies vis-à-vis Africa. He has a longstanding interest in West African post-slavery, and has worked on the role of fate, fortune and contingency in the economy.

Please see the AMIS calendar and Facebook for further information.

**4. AMISAN – AMIS alumni network is up and running!**

Here follows a short presentation by the network including a resumé of the two webinars on “COVID-19 and its implications for migration and human mobility” organized and hosted by AMIS this spring.

**Purpose statement**

amisan is a student-led, for students organization. Our mission is to strengthen networking opportunities between past, present and future AMIS students, to support students to pursue their interests and goals, and to deepen and broaden the discourses we have together about migration. We achieve this by being a point of contact between AMIS students and faculty, organizing events with and for past and present AMIS students, using our website to share research by AMIS students, and publishing our bi-monthly newsletter.

**Webinars**

In response to the current COVID-19 quarantine period, amisan has begun a series of webinars under the them “COVID-19 and its implications for migration and human mobility”. The aim of this series is to use our platform to foster a productive and discursive space by inviting other students, specialists and researchers in the field of migration studies to present on the many and varied impacts of the pandemic on migrant and refugee settings.

The first webinar, conducted on April 8th, introduced a wide range of geographical contexts, from the realities of living in asylum detention centres in Denmark during COVID-19, to the desperate situation and health risks of Moria camp on Lesbos, to the way in which Venezuelan migrants are caught between rising xenophobia and closed borders in Colombia, and their own countries utter systemic collapse. The second webinar, conducted on April 29th, hosted an asylum and migration attorney from a non-profit in California, who discussed the multiple levels of vulnerability now facing the undocumented population of Latino migrants her organizations serves, which range from the inability to access government aid, to lack of wifi or computers for homeschooling children, to fear of utilizing public health services in case of immigration raids.

Amisan hosted another webinar on May 20th, please see the website www.amisan.org for more info.

**5. Call for papers**


A Workshop of the "Program Point Sud", funded by Goethe-University of Frankfurt am Main and the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Submission of proposals (max 500 words) and a short CV (max 2 pages): 7 June 2020 (by email to both organizers).
Notification of Acceptance/Rejection: 30 June 2020

Deadline for full papers: 15 November 2020

See call for papers through this link.

6. New publications

2020


2019

Andersen, D.J, Aparna, K & Sandberg, M: Mellemværende: Solidaritetsarbejdet skæringspunkter i frivillig flygtningehjælp. I: Social Kritik: Tidsskrift for social analyse & debat, 31, 157, s. 4-10


Conference presentations, a selection


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