

About GEMMA



GEMMA is an European project that aims to bring together different actors, such as policy makers, researchers, civil society organisations, and the media, active in the fields of Gender and Migration. Since migration—closely linked with the issue of gender—is one of the most significant global issues of our age, a closer and more intensive dialogue of these actors is needed in Europe to tackle the complex challenges arising from gender and migration effectively.

GEMMA wishes to facilitate this multilateral dialogue. To achieve this, the project partners have launched or will launch a number of services aimed at policy makers, researchers, civil society organisations, and the media.

The first GEMMA event to be organised in 2009 will be a workshop hosted by partner Middlesex University (UK). The workshop will include, as participants, civil society organisations and policy makers. For updated information, please check regularly the [project website](#).

To keep track of upcoming events and services that may be of interest to you, please consult the GEMMA webpage regularly and subscribe to receive this newsletter at <http://www.gemmaproject.eu>

GEMMA is supported by the [Seventh Framework Programme](#) of the European Union.



News

UN-INSTRAW Virtual Discussion

The UN International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) hosted the Virtual Discussion “Creating Gender Sensitive Migration Policy: Best Practices and Lessons Learned” between 3 and 21 November 2008.

The discussion brought together policy makers, government officials, financial experts, academics, and representatives from international organizations and NGOs who discussed how migration policy can promote development and the advancement of women. Specifically, participants looked at gender sensitive banking and co-development policies.

The discussion aimed to compile best practices and lessons learned for migration and development policy, with an emphasis on gender sensitive policies and to establish a virtual community for ongoing discussion and the sharing of resources.

The Virtual Discussion was held in English, conducted via email.

Posts are available [online here](#).

For more information please see the [Concept Note](#).



Chosen migration and equality – hard to combine?

UN-INSTRAW, founded in 1976, carries out research and training activities in collaboration with governments, civil society and the United Nations System on different topics at the national, regional and international levels. Specifically, the Institute highlights the gender perspective as an essential element in the analysis and implementation of programmes and projects aimed at achieving peace, sustainable development and good governance.

On 29 October 2008 the French High Authority for the fight against discrimination and for equality (Haute autorité de lutte contre les discriminations et pour l'égalité - Halde) published an advice on a government circular of December 2007, on request of the French NGO Cimade. It advances the opinion that the French government's labour migration strategy violates the principal of non-discrimination at employment, yet guaranteed in the penal code.

In the circular the government had listed a number of professions that have difficulties to find employees and which it explicitly opens to non-French persons: one list of 150 professions (qualified and less qualified) addressing EU citizens (mainly from Romania and Bulgaria) and one list of 30 professions, requiring in their great majority a high qualification, addressing third country nationals. Moreover specific labour migration agreements are fixed with countries such as Benin, Senegal or Gabon. For Halde, the modalities of selection that vary depending on the migrants' country of origin implies a selection of workers on the basis of their ethnic background. It recommends to the government to establish one uniform list of employment open to everybody. The debate illustrates the difficulty of combining a strategy of "chosen immigration" with the principle of equality.

More information is available at <http://www.halde.fr/-Actualite-.html>

Halde was established at the end of 2004 as an institution that is independent from government. It gives legal advice in the field of anti-discrimination and equality. It has a consultative role and provides its advice to the government, the parliament and the public authorities.

Events

Future events

The next **International Metropolis conference**, entitled "Migration and Mobility: National Responses to Cultural Diversity", will be held in **Copenhagen from 14 to 18 September 2009**. The conference will examine the role of policy in determining the outcomes of immigration and the presence of immigrants in different societies.

Additional information is available at <http://www.metropolis2008.org/future-events/index.php>

Celebrating Intersectionality? Debates on a multi-faceted Concept in Gender Studies **22-23 January 2009, Goethe-University Frankfurt (Germany)**

Over the last decade, the concept of 'intersectionality' has attracted much attention in international feminist debates. It was embraced as well as repelled by many scholars and at the same time, it has made an incredible international career. Twenty years after the concept was coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989, it seems appropriate to bring together protagonists as well as critics and discuss the 'state of the art' with those that have been influential in this debate.

For further information, contact: intersectionality@soz.uni-frankfurt.de



Past events

National Conference on YOUNG MIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES 27-28 November 2008, Ancona (Italy)

The conference featured expert speakers, a plenary session, 13 workshops and a final roundtable debate. In the morning of 27 November, Italian academic and experts discussed family migration policy in Italy, new migration flows, school proficiency of second generation students, and criminality among migrant youth. In the afternoon, representatives from Italian municipalities assessed local policies for migrants as well as best practices. On 28 November thirteen cross-cutting thematic workshops took place. Each workshop was devoted to a discussion of specific aspects of migration: migrants' access to health and social services, migrant youth school proficiency, cultural association and civic participation, minors, prostitution, Roma and travellers, transnational families, female migration, second generations in Italy, fertility and abortion among migrant women. In the afternoon, a roundtable session with policy makers and institutional representatives concluded the event.

Contact details and programme are available [here](#).

New Face for Europe. Minority Ethnic and Migrant Elders across Europe - from Challenges to Opportunities. First European Conference 30 September 2008 – 02 October 2008 in Bonn, Germany

Forum 9 was dedicated to the topic "migrant elders - gender matters?" Often, older female migrants are in better physical and mental shape than their male counterparts. Unlike the tendency among older male migrants, women are more successful in cultivating important social contacts. The incorporation of gender specific approaches and projects into the development of offers and services can be very important for their success. It is interesting to find out whether among older migrants, too, women are the ones who have the decisive influence in the choice of consumer goods, household and care services etc. in order to be able to adapt and optimize services and products accordingly.

The programme is available [here](#).

International Symposium 22. & 23. October in Vienna, Austria Work – Migration - Rights | Strategies against women trafficking

The two-day event focused on the further development of competencies and action models combating the trafficking of women. The question, what measures should be taken in Europe to achieve a sustainable and credible politics against the trafficking of women, has been put forward from an international perspective.

The programme is available [here](#).

International conference 20 and 21 November 2008 in Vienna, Austria Framing the Muslim headscarf: Policy debates and regulations in Europe

The conference presented research results of the FP6 project Values, Equality and Differences in Liberal Democracies (VEIL). Papers were delivered by the VEIL consortium and invited keynote speakers. International scholars commented on the project findings and added further perspectives to the issue of veiling.

The programme is available [here](#).

Le genre au coeur des migrations, Paris 29-30th June 2008

The Group "Genre et Migrations" / GTM (Genre, Travail, Mobilités)-CNRS-Paris 8-Paris 10 has organised an international conference on "Le genre au coeur des migrations" (Gender in the heart of migrations) on 29-30 June 2008 at University Paris-VIII Saint Denis. The convener wanted to establish a state of the art in gender and migration research, to deconstruct the male-centred view on migration analysis and to engage a re-conceptualisation of this research field. The panels dealt with the following subjects: 1. Gender and migration: general questions; 2. Class, Race and Gender relations: Perspectives, 3. Migrants and labour, 4. Representation and mobilisation. The full program (in French) can be found [here](#).



The Cité Nationale de l'Histoire de l'Immigration, a museum for migration history, organised a **film festival on "Women, Cinema, Migration"**, from November 14th to 22nd at Palais de la Porte Dorée in Paris, France, with free entry to all sessions. The program can be found here: [site Internet](#)

The 13th **International Metropolis conference** held in **Bonn 27-31 October 2008** on the theme of Mobility, Integration and Development in a Globalised World included several sessions on gender and migration. For the first time, a plenary session addressed the Gender Dimensions of International Labour Migration, Development and Integration. In this session, lectures examined the changing migratory landscape in Asia, the role of social policy in conjunction with migration policy as well as their interaction, and the assessment of the costs and benefits of the Live in Caregiver Programme under which 22,000 carers entered Canada in 2006.

In addition, four workshops were also devoted to the theme of gender and migration. The first two were on "High" skilled, "low" skilled: gender dimensions of migration and integration and Gender, migration and citizenship: balancing labour market imperatives and care. These two workshops included a number of papers on migrant women and different forms of care work as well as the implications of gender differences on the impact of immigration policies in states such as Canada and the UK. The third workshop, Family immigrant women and employment: a gender perspective, examined the reasons for the low level of labour force participation of certain female migrants entering through family migration routes in Norway, Denmark and Germany. Gendered geographies of migration: segregation as a consequence highlighted the different patterns of female migration in labour and family migration. For example, the experiences of women and men of Turkish origin as sponsors and spouses in Denmark may be quite different.

More information on the conference:

http://www.metropolis2008.org/welcome_note/index.html

EU Policy on Gender and Migration

Euro-African Ministerial Conference in Paris on Migration and Development

On 25 November 2008, Paris, France hosted the second Euro-African Ministerial Conference on migration and development. The Paris Conference forms part of the process launched in Rabat in July 2006 at the first Euro-African Conference on migration and development. The Rabat process brings together the European Union Member States and the West African states, and is a unique and innovative example of regional cooperation in the field of migration between countries of origin, transit and destination on a given migration route.

The European Union is eager to promote the various levels of dialogue which it considers should be frank and open, and based on the reconciliation of reciprocal interests.

The Paris Conference and the Cooperation Programme to be adopted at it offer the European and African partners an opportunity to confirm their political commitment to work together on migration issues along the entire West African route.

More information on the conference is available [here](#).

First Austrian Report on Combating Human Trafficking

In accordance with the Austrian "National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking", the First Austrian Report on Combating Human Trafficking has been published recently. As a transit country and as a destination due to its location at the very centre of Europe, Austria participates intensively in the fight against the crime. In combating human trafficking, the Austrian approach comprises national coordination, prevention, the protection of victims, prosecution and international cooperation.

In addition to ratifying all relevant international treaties, in 2004 Austria established the "Human Trafficking Task Force" between ministries together with governmental independent experts, chaired by the Foreign Ministry. Its tasks encompass the coordination



Integration Ministerial Conference in Vichy, France

of Austrian activities, the provision of information on relevant projects, the early recognition of trends and the trends and the strengthening of cooperation between all participation actors. In March 2008, the Ministerial Council adopted the Action Plan to improve the fight against human trafficking at the national level. Numerous Austrian Development Cooperation projects are devoted to promoting the rights of victims of human trafficking. The report comprises 30 pages and the English version can be accessed [here](#).

On 3 and 4 November 2008, the [third Integration Ministerial Conference](#) took place in Vichy (France). Integration Ministers from the 27 EU Member States agreed on a common declaration intended to give particular attention to several themes when defining and implementing their national integration policies: promotion of the European Union's fundamental values, the integration process, access to employment and the promotion of diversity, the integration of women and the education of children, intercultural dialogue at the service of integration and integration policy governance. Download the approved declaration [here](#).

AER General Assembly adopts the "Tampere Declaration on Migration and Integration": European regions commit to mutual understanding and respect



Regional politicians from across the wider Europe agreed on 14 November 2008 in Tampere, Finland that the rewards of welcoming new migrants "far outweigh the negative examples of misunderstandings and prejudices". Those rewards, according to AER's "Tampere Declaration on Migration and Integration", include the "richness of society" and "competitive workforce" enjoyed by regions that are successfully integrating

migrants into their societies.

Following the adoption of the Tampere Declaration at AER's General Assembly, Michèle Sabban, AER's newly elected president and vice-president of the Ile-de-France region (F), said: "Our declaration sets out policy initiatives the regions have committed to in order to better integrate migrants into their societies. These initiatives are based on the principle that integration is not a one-sided process, but one of mutual learning and respect. As a migrant myself, I will use my personal experiences and commitment to these principles as a basis in urging the European Commission, the Parliament and the European states to follow the regions' lead."



More information on the declaration is available [here](#).

The [Assembly of European Regions](#) (AER) is the largest independent network of regions in wider Europe. Bringing together more than 270 regions from 33 countries and 13 interregional organisations, AER is the political voice of its members and a forum for interregional co-operation.

Research in Gender and Migration

Selected Publications

"The Role of Migrant Women at the Labour Market: Current Situation and Future Prospects"

This is a study project that was launched under the EIM programme (Employment Incentive Measures) in 2007 with the objective to provide a better understanding of the issues related to migrant women participation in the EU labour market. The draft final report was presented and discussed in an expert seminar organised on 1 March 2008 in Brussels.

The final report can be found [here](#).



**Jürgen Nautz / Birgit Sauer (Ed.)
Frauenhandel. Diskurse und Praktiken
Transkulturelle Perspektiven 6
2008, 187 pages, paperback**

In the past decade, trafficking in women has evolved into one of the most lucrative businesses. Criminal networks can make more profit through the sale and acquisition of women than through illegal drugs or arms trade. Women from poor regions of the world are trafficked into precarious and unsafe working arrangements in the industrialised countries – into housework, the hospitality industry, and in most cases prostitution. As a general rule, these slave-like relations are characterised by physical violence and psychological abuse.

The contributions of this volume analyse the topic of trafficking in women in the Central and South European regions from various theoretical and disciplinary perspectives. Since the collapse of Real Socialism, this region has become the source, target and transit region for trafficked women. The contributions focus on questions concerning the emergence of markets, the motives of sex clients, victim protection, and the collaboration between public institutions and the civil society's organisations as regards the prevention and suppression of traffic in women. Other contributions deal with the topic's representation in the media and in political discourse. Finally, a third major field is the history of women trafficking networks and of the regulation of their trade.

The editors:

Dr. Jürgen Nautz is Adjunct Professor of Economic History at the University of Vienna. Dr. Birgit Sauer is Professor of Political Science at the University of Vienna.

Selected Ongoing Projects

European Women's Lobby: Equal Rights, Equal Voices. Migrant Women in the European Union (an EPIM 2008-2011 project)

Building on earlier work, the overall objective of this project is to open up debate and encourage a broader commitment to the development of constructive integration policies at the EU level and to promote effective linkages between these policies and those of Member states at both the national, regional and local levels.

The specific objectives are:

1. To expose issues affecting migrant women's integration to influence national and European policy-making

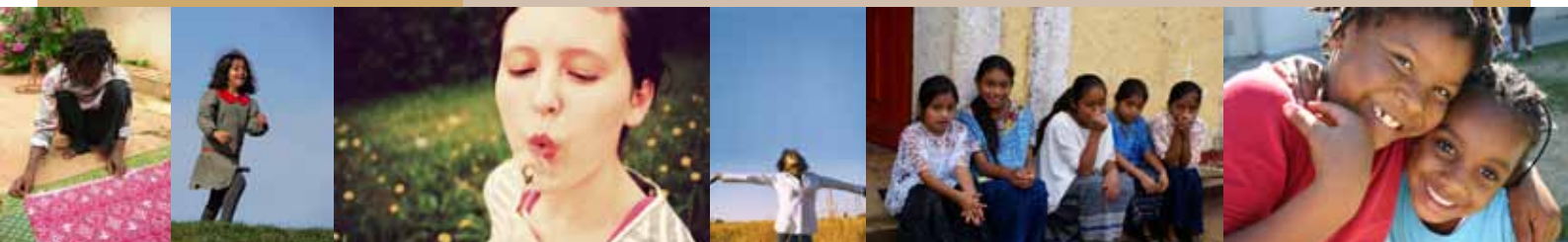
Exposing issues is essential to highlight the specific needs of migrant women so that a gender and women's rights perspective will be integrated into integration and migration policies at the national and European level.

2. To empower migrant women through mutual support and sharing of information. Self-esteem and support is essential to encourage migrant women to participate.

3. To make visible the positive economic, social and cultural contribution of migrant women to the society. This is essential to lead to a change in perceptions of migrants, especially migrant women.

More information on the EPIM grants is available [here](#).

EPIM is the [European Programme for Integration and Migration](#), initiated in 2005 by a group of foundations from different European countries. It aims to strengthen the role played by NGOs active on migration and integration issues in advocating for a European agenda that benefits migrants and host communities.

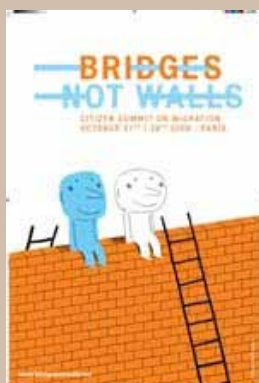


Gender Knowledge in Economic Migration Theories and Migration Practices

Helen Schwenken and Pia Eberhardt (University of Kassel) have recently published the working paper “Gender Knowledge in Economic Migration Theories and Migration Practices” (available [here](#) in pdf format) as part of their work in the Network of Excellence **Global Governance, Regionalisation and Regulation: the role of the EU (GARNET)**. GARNET’s aim is to develop a world-class multi-disciplinary network of scientific excellence of researchers, analysts and practitioners with expertise in key issues and themes in global and regional governance.

Civil Society in Gender and Migration

Citizens’ Summit about Migration



In view of speaking with a concerted voice regarding the ministerial EU-Africa summit on migration and development of 25 November 2008, some 250 African and European organisations gathered in Paris on 17-18 October at the summit “Bridges, not walls” (« Des ponts, pas des murs »).

The civil society organisations (CSOs) met in order to find constructive responses to the new guidelines of the European immigration policy—perceived as very restrictive and contradictory to the fundamental human rights of migrants.

The CSOs place concepts such as “chosen immigration”, the focus on “illegal immigration” and “voluntary return” and the emphatic link between migration and development in a wider context of increasing poverty and inequalities in the South and the North. Beside workshops about the North–South rela-

tions, models of development and migration, the concept of “chosen immigration” and migrants’ rights, the liberty of movement, minor migrants and asylum, one workshop concerned women migrants. This workshop insisted on the fact that the view of women migrants as victims of violence is too simplistic. Women rather play an active role in migration which often means a changing of roles and modification of family schemata. The workshop illustrated the mechanisms that contribute to the precariousness of women migrants, such as bi-lateral recruitment programmes in the countries of origin and immigration laws that provoke a dependency on the husband.

The summit closed with the adoption of a declaration called “Déclaration de Montreuil” on 18 October. This declaration puts forward twelve recommendations largely shared by the civil society organisations working in the field of migration. They concern various claims, such as migrants’ access to civil rights, the right to development, the annulling of debt, the de-militarisation of frontiers, stopping the “externalisation” of asylum queries, the creation of independent mechanisms to control detention camps, adopting a wider definition of “refugee”, protecting women victims of violence, a real visibility of concrete actions of women migrants in the countries of origin, transit and reception and, finally, the protection of minor migrants.

To visit the conference website, please go to <http://www.despontspasdesmurs.org/>

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