

Social work with refugees: emerging prospects in education, research and practice

An IMASP meeting on 5–6 March 2018 in Neuchâtel, Switzerland

IMASP, an IMISCOE research group on *International migration and social protection*, has proposed a variety of research, training and debate initiatives over the last six years. In doing so it has brought together colleagues from several European countries, most of them with a disciplinary background in sociology, social policy and social work. With this new intensive workshop, IMASP aims to promote collaborative, reflexive and comparative analysis of the prospects and dilemmas of social work with refugees in Europe. It does so, by gathering up research data and theoretical reflections from colleagues and experts in social work with migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in six different countries: Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany, Belgium and Sweden. Besides enhancing mutual collaboration and collective reflection, this workshop will pave the way towards a joint publication project.

In practice, the workshop will result in four sessions – three thematic ones, plus a working group session. It will be led and facilitated by the convenors, i.e. Erica Righard, Paolo Boccagni and Claudio Bolzman. The workshop will take place in the premises of the *Forum suisse pour l'étude des migrations et de la population* in Neuchâtel.

PROGRAM

Monday, March 5th

Location: Université de Neuchâtel - Forum suisse pour l'étude des migrations et de la population, Rue A.-L. Breguet 2

12:00–13:30 LUNCH (we meet in the hotel lobby at 12:00)

13:30-13.45 *Introduction* | Erica Righard, Paolo Boccagni & Claudio Bolzman

13:45–15:45 *Session 1: From reception to local integration of refugees: the prospects for social work*

Exiles and social protection. Understanding issues related to the field of asylum in Switzerland | Claudio Bolzman

Refugee reception and integration in Malmö. Shifting paradigms. | Klara Öberg and Erica Righard

Work, health and education for refugees. New challenges for social work in Switzerland | Thomas Geisen

Working inside the asylum system in Italy: an anthropological perspective
| Davide Biffi

15:45–16:15 Coffee break

16:45–18:15 *Session 2: Informal actors and transnational developments*

Invisible welfare: An exploration of informal arrival infrastructures in Brussels | Mieke Schrooten

Creating “godparents” for “unaccompanied minor refugees”: a case study on how to engage “civil society” in refugee protection | Eberhard Raithelhuber

Flight and Return: Transnational Social Support for Refugees in the Face of Repatriation | Claudia Olivier-Mensah

19:00– IMASP dinner

Tuesday, March 6th

Location: Université de Neuchâtel - Forum suisse pour l'étude des migrations et de la population, Rue A.-L. Breguet 2

8:30–9.30: *Session 3: On conceptual tools and approaches*

Transnationalism and social work with refugees | Erica Righard

Homemaking and social work with refugees | Paolo Boccagni

9:30-10:30: *Session 4: Workshops*

Refugees and social work practice

Refugees and social work education

Refugees and social work research

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

11:00–12:00 *Wrapping up and conclusion* | Erica Righard, Paolo Boccagni & Claudio Bolzman

12:00–13:00 LUNCH and good bye

PARTICIPANTS

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Workshop venue

The workshop will be hosted by the National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) – The Migration–Mobility Nexus (<http://nccr-onthemove.ch>) at University of Neuchâtel.

Address: Rue Abram-Louis-Breguet 2, 2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

Accommodation

Rooms are pre-booked at Hotel des Arts (<https://www.hoteldesarts.ch>). Check-in is on March 5th and check-out on March 6th. Address: Rue J.-L. Pourtalès 3 , 2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland

International Migration and Social Protection (IMASP)

IMASP is a research group within IMISCOE (International Migration and Social Cohesion), the largest European network of scholars in the area of migration and integration. The annual

IMISCOE conferences is a key-moment in the agendas of many migration scholars in Europe and IMASP has organised a series of research panels on international migration and different aspects of social protection in these conferences since 2012. In addition, IMASP has organised independent round-table discussions and workshops. IMASP has facilitated the publications of a special issue on “Social Work and Migration in Europe. A Dialogue Across Disciplines” in *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies* (Vol. 13, No. 3) and a mapping section on “Transnational Social Work with Migrants” in *Transnational Social Review. A Social Work Journal* (Vol. 5, No. 3). More information can be found on the IMASP webpage¹. This workshop is funded by a grant from the IMISCOE network (www.imiscoe.org).

¹ <http://www.imiscoe.org/what-imiscoe-does/research/research-groups/282-international-migration-and-social-protection-mobility-and-diversity-as-challenges-to-welfare-rights-and-provision>