

UNSETTLING COMMUNITIES

diversity, mobility and displacement
in an age of growing authoritarianism

IRIS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

MONDAY, 7 SEPT 2026 (PHD DAY) - EDGBASTON CAMPUS

Time	Activity	Venue
12.30-13.00	Registration, coffee & tea	Murray Learning Centre
13.00-13.15	Welcome & introduction: • Dr Laurence Lessard-Phillips, Director of PGR, School of Social Policy and Society, University of Birmingham • Prof Nando Sigona, Director of Institute for Research into International Migration and Superdiversity (IRIS), University of Birmingham	MLC, UG09
13.15-14.45	Roundtable Doing research in a hostile environment: Pathways to self-care and change Chair: Olivia Petie (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Dr Victorie Knox (Refugee Law Initiative, University of London) • Professor Jenny Phillimore (University of Birmingham) • Dr Melanie Griffiths (University of Birmingham)	MLC, UG09
14.45-15.15	Coffee & tea	MLC
15.15-16.45	Panel 1 Spaces of belonging, identity and home Chair: Professor Adrian Favell (University College Cork) Speakers: • Keira Pinqiao Wang (Swansea University) • Olivia Petie (University of Birmingham) • Orouba Othman (Birzeit University Université libre de Bruxelles) • Yunchong Bao (University of Birmingham)	MLC, UG09
	Panel 2 Creative representations and contestations Chair: Professor Cláudia Hilsdorf Rocha (State University of Campinas, UNICAMP, Brazil) Speakers: • Christine Vicera (National University of Singapore) • Clem Atkins (University of Birmingham) • Qinran Wang (University of Birmingham) • Filyra Vlastou Dimopoulou (National Technical University of Athens Paris 1 Sorbonne University)	MLC, UG07
17.00-17.15	Coffee & tea	MLC
17.15-18.45	Panel 3 (Ir)regularity, labour, and financial wellbeing Chair: Dr Laurence Lessard-Phillips (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Beatriz de Figueiredo (European University Institute) • Iram Amir (SOAS, University of London)	MLC, UG09

	- Tobiloba Afolabi (Aston University) - Vaibhav Ojha (online, Boston College)	
	Panel 4 Border regimes and resistance Chair: Professor Nando Sigona (University of Birmingham) Speakers: - Beth Richardson (University of Birmingham) - Irene Saggese (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa & Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Storici, Naples) - Kirstin Sonne (University of Edinburgh) - Nabila N. Islam (Brown University)	MLC, UG07
18.45-19.00	Comfort break	MLC
19.00-19.30	Discussion and feedback Professor Adrian Favell, Professor Cláudia Hilsdorf Rocha, Professor Nando Sigona, Dr Laurence Lessard-Phillips	MLC, UG09
20.00-21.30	Reception with drinks and nibbles	Joe's, Guild of Students, UOB campus

TUESDAY, 8 SEPT – THE EXCHANGE, BIRMINGHAM

Time	Activity	Venue
8.30-9.15	Registration	Atrium, The Exchange
9.15-9.30	Welcome and introduction - Professor Will Leggett, Head of the School of Social Policy and Society, University of Birmingham - Professor Nando Sigona, Director of IRIS, University of Birmingham	Assembly, The Exchange
9.30-11.00	Plenary 1 Coloniality and the politics of mobility and difference Chair: Dr Kamran Khan (University of Birmingham) Speakers: - Professor Anna Amelina (Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany) - Professor Adrian Favell (University College Cork, Ireland) - Professor Ipek Demir (University of Leeds)	Assembly
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	Atrium
11.30-13.00	Panel 5 Border Economies: Surveillance, Militarisation, and Resistance Chair: Dr Ćetta Mainwaring (University of Edinburgh) Speakers: - Dr Joe Turner (University of York) - Dr Travis Van Isacker (University of Bristol) - Dr Martin Lemberg-Pedersen (University of Warwick) - Dr Ćetta Mainwaring, Dr Thom Tyerman, Dr Andonea Dickson (University of Edinburgh)	Assembly
	Panel 6 Thinking through the potential of relational resistance Chair: Dr Lucy Mayblin (University of Sheffield) Discussant: Professor Óscar Prieto-Flores (University of Girona) Speakers: - Professor Gabriella Elgenius (University of Gothenburg) - Professor Aleksandra Grzymala-Kazłowska (University of Warsaw) - Dr Natasha Nicholls (University of Birmingham) - Dr Lucy Mayblin (University of Sheffield)	Stuart Hall



	Panel 7 Migrant labour and migration regimes Chair: Dr Seb Rumsby (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Dr Analisa Smythe (The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust), Dr Jon Gorry (Nottingham Trent University) and Daphne Laing (Build a Bridge Ltd) • Andi Holik Ramdani (Hashimoto Foundation Societas Institute) • Dr Heila Sha and Professor Chris Forde (University of Leeds) • Camila Orbegozo, Dr Ceren Ozgen, and Professor Matt Cole (University of Birmingham)	Mary Sturge
	Panel 8 Refugees, diaspora and citizenship Chair: Dr Laurence Lessard-Phillips (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Professor Caroline Oliver (UCL) • Dr Catherine R. Craven (University of Sheffield) • Dr Erasmo Sossich (Independent Researcher) • Arwanto Arwanto, Dr Laura Loyola Hernandez, and Dr Deirdre Conlon (University of Leeds)	Dhani Prem
	Panel 9 Un/welcome: The structural and discursive positioning of migrants by host communities Chair: Dr Rachel Ayrton Speakers: • Dr Franka Zlatić (University of Zadar) • Dr Melati Nungsari and Dr Kirstine Varming (Asia School of Business) • Dr Frank van der Velden (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz) • Dr Katarzyna Bylow (Adam Mickiewicz University).	Benjamin Zephaniah
13.00-14.00	Lunch	Atrium
14.00-15.30	Semi-plenary 1 Enforcement, deportation and bordering Chair: Professor Nando Sigona (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Professor Ernesto Castañeda (American University, Washington DC) • Dr Lucy Mayblin (University of Sheffield) • Dr Četta Mainwaring (University of Edinburgh)	Assembly
	Semi-plenary 2 Policy, advocacy and story telling Chair: Professor Daniel McNeil (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Zoe Bantleman (Barrister and Legal Director, University of Oxford JUSTICE) • Daniel Trilling (Writer) • Danai Papachristopoulou (Refugee and Migrant Centre) • Dr Mihnea Cuibus (Migration Observatory, University of Oxford)	Mary Sturge
15.30-16.00	Coffee break	Atrium
16.00-17.30	Panel 10 Digital Borders and Migrant Futures: AI, Language and Everyday Connectivity in Contemporary Migration Regimes Chair: Professor Cláudia Hilsdorf Rocha (UNICAMP, Brazil) Discussant: Dr Angelo Martins Junior (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Professor Cláudia Hilsdorf Rocha, Dr Angelo Martins Junior, Professor Ruberval Franco Maciel (State University of Mato Grosso do Sul) • Professor Ana Cecilia Cossi Bizon and Louise Hélène Pavan (UNICAMP) • Dr Stefano Piemontese (University of Birmingham) and Lawrence Jabs (University of Bologna)	Assembly

	Professor Igor José de Renó Machado (Federal University of São Carlos).	
	Panel 11 Spatial governance and experiences of asylum accommodation Chair: Dr Paolo Novak (SOAS University of London) Discussant: Professor Jonathan Darling (Durham University) Speakers: - Dr Anna Lindley (SOAS University of London) - Professor Giorgia Donà (University of East London) - Dr Charlotte Sanders (SOAS University of London) - Dr Paolo Novak (SOAS University of London)	Mary Sturge
	Panel 12 Mixed-heritage relationships and racialised boundaries in European societies Chair: Dr Elizabeth Mavroudi (Loughborough University) Speakers: - Dr Iris Wigger (Loughborough University), Dr Margaret Byron (University of Leicester), and Dr Elizabeth Mavroudi - Dr Margaret Byron, Dr Iris Wigger, Professor Rebecca King-O'Riain (Maynooth University), Dr Tony Sandset (University of Oslo), Professor Tracey Owens Patton (University of Wyoming), and Elizabeth Mavroudi - Dr Bolaji Balogun (SOAS) - Dr Tony Sandset (online, University of Oslo)	Stuart Hall
	Panel 13 Settling and unsettling communities: Multiculturalism, conviviality, adaptation, and resistance Chair: Dr Kamran Khan (University of Birmingham) Speakers: - Dr Rachel Ayrton (University of Birmingham) - Dr Robert Higgins (Kwansei Gakuin University) - Dr Ijeoma Mercy Amaugo (Abia State University) - Dr Charlene Rose (University of Birmingham)	Dhani Prem
	Panel 14 Bordering and de-bordering Chair: Professor Irina Kuznetsova (University of Birmingham) Speakers: - Dr Marie Godin (University of Leicester, University of Oxford) and Dr Derya Ozkul (University of Warwick) - Professor Rachel Humphris (Queen Mary University of London) - Dr Mir Abdullah Miri (University of Exeter) - Holly Rooke (University of Sheffield) and Professor Corinne Squire (University of Bristol) - Dr Camilla Spadavecchia (Tilburg University).	Benjamin Zephaniah
17.30-17.45	Comfort break	
17.45-19.15	Workshop 1 Opening the Black Box: Authoritarianism and the Making of Migration Chair: Professor Anna Amelina (Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany) Speakers: - Tetiana Havlin (Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany) - Professor Irina Kuznetsova (University of Birmingham) - Paula Wallmeyer (University of Luxembourg) - Dr Vera Messing (Central European University)	Assembly

	Workshop 2 Beyond Academic Borders: Knowledge Production in Times of Crisis Chair: Kirstin Sonne (University of Edinburgh) Speakers: • Dr Ćetta Mainwaring (University of Edinburgh) • Dr Teresa Piacentini (University of Glasgow) • Gee Manoharan (Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees) • Bryony Nisbet (University of Edinburgh)	Stuart Hall
	Workshop 3 Doing Ethnography in Convulsive Times: Patchwork Ethnography and Co-produced Knowledge in Migration Research Chair: Dr Andrea Verdasco (University College London) Speakers: • Dr Maggie Neil (Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford) • Dr Lucy Leon (COMPAS, University of Oxford) • Dr Sabina Barone (University College London) • Dr Andrea Verdasco (University College London)	Mary Sturge
	Workshop 4 The irregular migration industry and lived experiences of Vietnamese migrants to the UK Chair: Dr Seb Rumsby, University of Birmingham Speakers: • Dr Tamsin Barber (Oxford Brookes) • Dr Julien Le Hoang (EHESS) • Dr Chung Pham (West Yorkshire Polices and Locate International) • Dr Seb Rumsby (University of Birmingham)	Dhani Prem
	Panel 15 Unsettling Humanitarianism: Islamic Philanthropy, Power and Protection in Contexts of Displacement Chair: Dr Sandra Pertek (University of Birmingham) Discussant: Jonathan Benthall (Royal Anthropological Institute) Speakers: • Dr Altea Pericoli (Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Princeton) • Dr Natalia Paszkiewicz and Dr Sandra Pertek (University of Birmingham) • Nabil Muhammed (SOAS) and Dr Sandra Pertek (University of Birmingham) • Jonathan Benthall (Royal Anthropological Institute).	Benjamin Zephaniah
20.00-22.00	Conference Dinner (pre-booked only)	Lasan , 3-4 Dakota Buildings, James St., Birmingham B3 1SD

WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPT – THE EXCHANGE, BIRMINGHAM

Time	Activity	Venue
8.30-9.00	Registration	Atrium
9.00-10.30	Panel 16 Knowledge production and creative methods as a mode of contestation Chair: Dr Angelo Martins Jr (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Dr Francesca Guarino (Independent Researcher) • Professor Heidi Armbruster (University of Southampton) and Liz Hingley (University of Southampton University of Bristol) • Professor Mikkel Rytter (Aarhus University), Dr Ryan Lutz (Independent Researcher)	Assembly
	Panel 17 Care against the border: resistance, solidarity and belonging in the UK care economy Chair: Pip McKnight (University of Birmingham) Discussant: Professor Kathryn Cassidy (University of Northumbria) Speakers: • Professor Kathryn Cassidy (University of Northumbria) • Mariam Malik (University of Southampton) • Pip McKnight • Jessica Potter (Doctor, Activist)	Stuart Hall
	Panel 18 Solidarity and Governance in Refugee Sponsorship: Reconfiguring Responsibility, Belonging and Integration Chair: Dr Natasha Nicholls (University of Birmingham) Discussant: Olivia Petie (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Dr Gabriella D’Avino (University of Birmingham) • Dr Natasha Nicholls (University of Birmingham) • Dr Marisol Reyes-Soto (University of Birmingham) • Professor Jenny Phillimore (University of Birmingham)	Mary Sturge
	Workshop 5 The Complexity of Participatory Research in Migration Studies: Practical, Ethical and Institutional Challenges Chair: Dr Gaja Maestri (Aston University) Speakers: • Dr Rémy Twahirwa (Aston University) • Miriam Tansia (The Voices Network, British Red Cross) • Anne Collins (The Voices Network, British Red Cross, Yorkshire Network) • Dickson Chikwizo (The Voices Network, British Red Cross, Leicester Network) • Professor Vicki Squire (University of Warwick) • Sarah Taal (Community Interest Research Centre)	Benjamin Zephaniah
10.30-11.00	Coffee break	



11.00-12.30	Plenary 2: Sanctuary and the end of asylum Chair: Professor Jenny Phillimore (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Professor Jonathan Darling (Durham University) • Dr Amani Hassani (Brunel, University of London) • Professor Rachel Humphris (Queen Mary, University of London)	Assembly
12.30-13.30	Lunch	Atrium
13.30-15.00	Panel 19 Citizenship Regimes and Racial Injustice Chair: Professor Ipek Demir (University of Leeds) Discussant: Dr Gaja Maestri (Aston University) Speakers: • Dr Kalwinder Sandhu (Coventry University) • Dr Eve Hayes de Kalaf (School of Advanced Study, University of London) • Dr Kamran Khan (University of Birmingham) • Dr Jasber Singh, Professor Leah Bassel (Coventry University), and Professor Giorgia Doná (University of East London).	Assembly
	Panel 20 Migration governance, settlement and return Chair: Professor Nando Sigona (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Professor Adrian Favell and Dr Kheira Arrouche (University College Cork) • Professor Pía Riggirozzi and Dr Natalia Cintra (University of Southampton) • Dr Chiara Berneri (Open University) and Dr Gabriella D'Avino (University of Birmingham) • Dr Esra Kaytaz (Coventry University)	Stuart Hall
	Panel 21 Politics of migration and belonging Chair: Dr Angelo Martins Junior (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Dr Abida Younas (University of Warwick) • Zoe Bantleman (Barrister and Legal Director, University of Oxford I JUSTICE) and Alex Papatotiriou (Barrister, Garden Court Chambers) • Dr Özlem Ögtem-Young (University of Birmingham) • Dr Lisa Goodson (University of Birmingham), Professor Gabriella Elgenius (University of Gothenburg), Professor Christian Falge (Hochschule Bochum), and Professor Simon Pemberton (Keele University).	Benjamin Zephaniah
	Panel 22 Hostile environments, displacement and resistance Chair: Professor Jenny Phillimore (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Dr Tamlyn Monson (University of Birmingham I Coventry University) and Professor Susanne Wessendorf (Coventry University) • Dr Ibtsam Al-Farah (Independent Researcher) • Dr Amy Cortvriend (Loughborough University) • Dr Jayanthi Lingham (University of Sheffield, with non-presenting co-author Professor Majella Kilkey).	Mary Sturge



15.00-15.30	Coffee break	Atrium
15.30-17.00	Panel 23 Care and crisis in the asylum regime Chair: Dr Natasha Nicholls (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Dr Catherine Harris (UCL, with non-presenting co-authors Claire Cameron, Naomi Lin and Michelle Heys) • Dr Virginia Signorini (University of Milan) • Dr Gabriella D'Avino (University of Birmingham), Professor Jenny Phillimore (University of Birmingham), and Professor Sin Yi Cheung (University of Cardiff) • Dr Aubrey Grant (online, Community Sponsorship Hub and University of Massachusetts- Boston)	Assembly
	Panel 24 Alter-geopolitics and the micro-politics of border justice Chair: Dr Rachel Ayrton (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • David Stark (University of Birmingham) • Professor Kathryn Cassidy and Dr Maria Dubrova (Northumbria University) • Dr Marco Perolini (Independent Researcher)	Stuart Hall
	Panel 25 Labour migration, belonging and transnational futures Chair: Dr Marie Godin (Leicester University University of Oxford) Speakers: • Professor Liangni Sally Liu and Lin Yin (Nanchang University) • Douglas MacLean (University of Birmingham) • Dr Luisa Conti (Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences)	Mary Sturge
	Panel 26 Bordering, immigration enforcement and social (in)justice Chair: Professor Irina Kuznetsova (University of Birmingham) Speakers: • Dr Deena Dajani (International Institute for Environment and Development) • Aké Achi (Black Europeans) • Professor Irina Kuznetsova (University of Birmingham)	Benjamin Zephaniah
17.00-17.15	Comfort break	
17.15-17.30	Wrap up	Assembly

FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME	BOOK OF ABSTRACTS
	