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The Migration-Mobility Nexus
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Université de Neuchâtel

**Exploring the Multi-Directionality of Migration
and Mobility: Barriers and Opportunities**

**8th Neuchâtel Graduate Conference of Migration
and Mobility Studies**

University of Neuchâtel, 8–9 July 2025

Call for Papers

Deadline for Submission is 15 March 2025

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Aim and Scope

The Neuchâtel Graduate Conference is an international conference addressing early career researchers in the field of migration and mobility studies. It is organized by the **nccr – on the move**, the Swiss National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) for migration and mobility studies. The conference aims to provide a stimulating environment where doctoral and postdoctoral researchers from different universities and research institutions can present original research, exchange ideas, establish networks, attend targeted training, and initiate collaborative research.

The 8th edition of the conference will take place from 8 to 9 July 2025 at the University of Neuchâtel. We will be selecting approximately 60 researchers working in the field of migration and mobility studies to participate in the event based on the contributions submitted.

Call for Contributions: Exploring the Multi-Directionality of Migration and Mobility: Barriers and Opportunities

The global landscape of migration and mobility is increasingly complex and multi-directional, challenging traditional notions of unidirectional movement from origin to destination. This conference aims to explore the dynamics of contemporary migration and (im)mobility patterns, focusing on the diverse barriers and opportunities encountered by people on the move.

Against this background, scholars are encouraged to delve into the ways the multi-directionality of migration and mobility patterns is shaped nowadays, but also in comparison to the past. Presentations should examine how practices, policies and norms shape the multi-directionality of human movement. This exploration is intended to traverse diverse geographical and

political contexts, and consider different scales of social organization. The conference welcomes interdisciplinary contributions from fields such as anthropology, demography, economics, geography, history, law, political science, psychology, sociology, and other relevant disciplines within migration and mobility studies. Potential topics include but are not limited to:

- Re-conceptualising migration and mobility through a multi-directional lens.
- Multi-Directional Migration Flows: Case studies and theoretical frameworks that analyze the multidirectional and circular migration patterns, the factors driving these movements and their impact on sending and receiving societies.
- Barriers to Mobility: Investigations into the political, economic, social, and legal barriers that people on the move face, including border controls, visa restrictions, and integration challenges.
- Vulnerable Populations: Research on the specific challenges encountered by vulnerable groups, such as refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, and trafficked individuals.
- Policy and Governance: Analyses of migration and mobility policies and governance structures at local, national, and international levels, and their impact on mobility.
- Immobility: Research on moments of immobility in the trajectories of people on the move. When and why do they occur? How are they experienced?
- Technological and Surveillance Factors: Explorations of how technological infrastructures, digital media and biometric systems influence migration and mobility patterns and the barriers encountered.
- Environmental and Climate Factors: Explorations of how environmental and climate changes

influence the multidirectionality of migration and mobility patterns, creating climate-induced displacement and new types of barriers.

- Cultural and Social Integration: Studies on the cultural and social integration of migrants in host societies, including issues of identity, belonging, and community building.
- Economic Impacts: Research on the economic dimensions of multidirectional migration, including labor market integration, remittances, and the economic contributions of migrants.
- Methodological Reflections, Challenges and Experimentations: Including for instance visual, multimodal and participative methods, in studying the multi-directionality of mobility and migration.
- Normative contributions: For example addressing regulatory frameworks, ethical implications and policy development about multi-directional mobility.

Submission Procedure

The deadline for submission is 15 March 2025.

Contribution proposals should include a title, an abstract (**max. 250 words**), a list of up to five keywords, and the name and affiliation of the presenter. Co-authored contributions and papers at different stages of advancement are welcome. Only one abstract per author can be submitted.

Contribution proposals must be submitted via [this form](#) by Friday, 15 March 2025 at midnight, central European time. Selected applicants will be informed by 4 April 2025. For any questions, please send an email to ngc@nccr-onthemove.ch.

There is no participation fee.

To encourage international participation, the nccr – on the move will provide funding opportunities that are specifically designed for international graduate students traveling from far or without mobility funding. Priority will be given to accepted participants based

in or coming from countries listed under categories B (Upper middle income) and C (Low and lower middle income) identified by the [International Sociological Association \(ISA\)](#). Eligible participants can apply for funding in a second step after having received the notification that their paper proposal was accepted for the conference.

Conference Format

The conference will take place as an in-person event at the University of Neuchâtel. However, the possibility to attend remotely via Webex is envisaged for passive participation and in exceptional circumstances. Panels shall consist of three to four papers, with two-hour slots allowing for substantial presentation and discussion time. Participants of the panels and senior researchers of the nccr – on the move will act as discussants of the panels.

NEW: On-line information session on how to write an abstract and expectations

Writing a good abstract and understanding the expectations from the selection committee is key!

The criteria for evaluation of the abstracts are: A) Scientific relevance; B) Originality; C) Contribution to the theme of the conference; D) Clear formulation of the work's aim; E) Adequacy of methods. So make sure to address all these points when writing your abstract.

To learn more about how to write an abstract and the expectations from the selection committee, an information session during which interested applicants will also be able to ask questions to the Scientific Officer and the Education Officer will be organized on **27 February 2025 at 2 pm CET**. If you are interested in joining the information session, please register [here](#) by **26 February 2025**. After registering, you will receive a link to the Webex meeting about an hour before the meeting starts.

Best Paper Award

The Neuchâtel Graduate Conference of Migration and Mobility Studies offers a prize of CHF 500 for the best paper to be submitted and presented at the conference. The prize is awarded by a committee of experts composed of the Education Officer and the Scientific Officer of the nccr – on the move, and two professors of the network. Only non-NCCR members are eligible for the prize. Papers have to be sent to ngc@nccr-onthefmove.ch by **20 June 2025** at midnight, central European time.