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THE SWEDISH FOUNDATION FOR
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



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Program

Understanding Migrant Legal Adaptation in Non-Western Migration Regimes: From Empirical Research to Theory Development

Venue: Lund University, Sweden Dates: March 16-18, 2020

Rationale of the workshop

The overall purpose of this three-day workshop in Lund, Sweden is to contribute new empirical and theoretical insights to scholarly debates on migrant's legal adaptation and integration into a new legal environment. The workshop is conceived as a critical reflection on the dominant migrant legal adaptation and integration literature (and, more generally, migration studies scholarship) which is still largely based on case studies of immigrant communities in Western-style democracies. While the dominant frameworks provide useful insight towards understanding migrants' experiences in a new legal environment, they are not sufficient to fully understand the complexity and diverse patterns of immigrant adaptation in non-Western migrant-receiving contexts. Despite the large diversity of scholarly explanations for, and approaches to, explaining the diverse patterns of migrant adaptation and incorporation, we know relatively little about how migrants adapt to a new legal environment in non-Western, non-democratic migration locales.

Unlike Western-type democracies where the rule of law is embedded into the national culture, non-Western migration regimes are often characterized by authoritarian forms of governance, malfunctioning institutions, weak rule of law, corruption, large shadow economies, poor human *rights* record and weak civil society. Given these differences in governance patterns, legal cultures, institutional development and state-society relations, we cannot assume that theories constructed in Western contexts would be applicable in the context of non-Western migration locales where migrants do not experience the 'rule of law' environment but rather experience corrupt legal system and widespread informality, inciting migrants to produce new forms of informal governance and legal order. Armed with these considerations, it is reasonable to assume that migrant legal adaptation and "illegality" are not uniform everywhere, but rather holds different meanings, forms, and functional roles depending upon the socio-political context, legal environment, economic system, and various cultural factors.

Consequently, migration governance practices in non-Western *migration* regimes remain underrepresented in comparative and theoretical research on contemporary migration regimes. Addressing this research gap is especially important when considering the fact that Russia, Malaysia Singapore, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia (i.e. non-Western migration locales) have become key "migration hotspots" worldwide due to their improved economic conditions. The need for empirically grounded knowledge of these relatively understudied migratory flows as well as the necessity to understand their implications for dominant (Western-centric) migrant adaptation and integration frameworks, is thus, from this perspective, substantial.

Considering the above assumption, the three-day workshop in Lund is conceived as a critical reflection on the topic with the following three main objectives:

First, it will expand the scope of literature on migrant adaptation and integration beyond the Western-centric approaches, bringing together scholars studying migrant legal adaptation and integration processes in non-Western migration contexts. In particular, we are interested in the way how migrants build a relationship with the law and law-like informal 'legal orders' in migrant-receiving contexts characterised by the weak rule-of-law and non-democratic regimes.

Second, it will provide a venue for developing new theoretical insights on migrant legal adaptation and integration. In particular, we encourage presenters to move beyond empirical and area studies approaches and build a case for the "varied geographies of migrant adaptation" perspective which will take into account (a) how the effects and manifestations of "migrant undocumentedness" (or "illegality") depend upon geographical, political, and historical factors; and (b) whether (undocumented) migrants are not just passive actors constrained by structural barriers, but can also invent strategies and manoeuvre around the system.

Third, the workshop will be used as a platform for creating new research network "Non-Western Migration Regimes". So far, there has not been any systematic effort to create a network of researchers studying migration in non-Western locales so Lund workshop will be the first event where researchers studying migration in non-Western locales come together and discuss the current state of research, future events, and joint research grant application and publications. We will consider pulling together a special issue of a journal if we receive sufficient papers with a strong theoretical engagement. Empirical contributions will be invited into an edited volume.

Workshop program

DAY 1 (Eden building: room - 129)

8.30 – 9.30 **BREAKFAST, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: RUSTAM URINBOYEV, MATTHIAS BAIER AND SEVARA USMANOVA**

09.30 – 11.00 **Keynote speech.** Moderator: Judith Pallot

Agnieszka Kubal (University College London): The Russian echoes of the Syrian refugee crisis – an ethnographic perspective

11.00 – 11.30 Networking break (with coffee)

11.30 – 13.00 **PANEL 1. Refugees and Forced Displacement.**

Chair: Lidis Garbovan Discussant: Julia Morris

Diego Acosta (University of Bristol): South American Legal Responses to the Venezuelan Exodus

Irina Kuznetsova (University of Birmingham): Forced Displacement from Ukraine's War-torn Territories: 'Power Geometry', bordering and intersectionality

Joni Virkkunen (University of Eastern Finland): Informal Practices and the Rule of Law: Russia, Migration and the Arctic Route

13.00 – 14.00 **LUNCH**

14.00 – 15.30 **PANEL 2: Navigating the Legal Landscape.**

Chair: Jonathan Kraemer Discussant: Rano Turaeva

Qiuyu Jiang (McGill University): Navigating China's Surveillance for Foreigners: Individual Strategies and Visa-Partnerships among African Migrants in Guangzhou

Rustam Urinboyev (Lund University): Navigating the Legal Landscape in Non-Western Migration Regimes: Central Asian Migrants in Russia

Kevin Yildirim (University of Cambridge): Afghan Migrant Labour in Istanbul's Informal Recycling Sector: Homemade Documents as a Strategy of Navigation

15.30 – 16.00 Networking break (with coffee)

16.00 – 17.30 **PANEL 3: Migrant Legal Adaptation under the Conditions of Transit and Permanent Temporariness.**

Chair: Joni Virkkunen. Discussant: Caress Schenk

Dzeneta Karabegovic (University of Salzburg) and Jasmin Hasic (Humanity in Action BiH): Normative Contestation in Educational Systems: A comparative examination of Migrant Education in Balkan Route Countries

Muhammad Ala Uddin (University of Chittagong): Dynamics of 'Illegal' Marriage: An Uncertain Path to Citizenship for the Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

Minna Piipponen (University of Eastern Finland): Irregularity and Actorness of Afghan Immigrants in Russia

17.30 – 18.00 Wrap-up discussions

18.30 DINNER

DAY 2 (House M: room - 224)

8.30 – 9.30 BREAKFAST AND BOOK COLLOQUIUM EVENT:

The National versus the Foreigner in South America. 200 Years of Migration and Citizenship (by Diego Acosta)

Why Control Immigration? Strategic Uses of Migration Management in Russia (by Caress Schenk)

Immigration and Refugee Law. Socio-Legal Perspectives (by Agnieszka Kubal)

09.30 – 11.00 **Keynote speech.** Moderator: Erhan Dogan

Ahmet İçduygu (MiReKoc, Koç University): Refugee Hospitality in the Weak Legal Regimes: Lessons Drawn from the Middle East

11.00 – 11.30 Networking break (with coffee)

11.30 – 13.00 PANEL 4: Migration governance and informality in non-Western migration contexts.
Chair: Sherzod Eraliev Discussant: Irina Kuznetsova

Lidis Garbovan (Canterbury Christ Church University): The uneven path to citizenship for migrants in India: legal and bureaucratic challenges

Selmin Kaska (Marmara University): Informal coping mechanisms of women migrants in different waves of migration in Turkey

Umid Bobomatov (Radio Free Europe Moscow Office): Police arbitrariness as a form of migration governance

13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 – 15.30 PANEL 5: Migrants experiences of the legal system and bureaucracy.
Chair: Daria Vorobyeva Discussant: Agnieszka Kubal

Julia Morris (University of North Carolina Wilmington): The Ethics of Enforced Adaptation?: Third Country Resettlement and its Significance for Migrant Integration and Adaptation in the Republic of Nauru

Zvezda Vankova (Lund University): Migrant’s legal adaptation in the context of circular migration: bureaucratic encounters of Eastern Neighbourhood migrants in Bulgaria and Poland

Elena Maslovskaya (Sociological Institute of FCTAS RAS, St.Petersburg): Criminal Investigation Involving Migrants from Post-Soviet States in Contemporary Russia: The Role of Legal Interpreters

15.30 – 16.00 Networking break (with coffee)

16.00 – 17.30 PANEL 6: Alternative avenues of adaptation and integration.

Chair: Muyassar Turaeva Discussant: Muhammad Ala Uddin

Nadia Sonneveld (Leiden University): Living on the Other Side: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Migration and Family Law in Morocco

H. Deniz Genc (Istanbul Medipol University): Undocumentedness and Access to Healthcare: Evidence from Fieldwork in Turkey

Daniel Kashnitsky (the Higher School of Economics): Russian biopolitical management of migration as a consistent approach to reproduce the submissive hard-working migrant

17.30 – 18.00 Wrap-up discussions

18.30 DINNER

DAY 3 (Eden building: room - 129)

8.00 – 09.00 BREAKFAST

09.00 – 11.00 PANEL 7: Theorising Migration Regimes.

Chair: Timur Saitov Discussant: Qiuyu Jiang

Rano Turaeva (Ludwig Maximilian University in München): Religious orders of migration

Caress Schenk (Nazarbayev University): The Biopolitics of Migration Data and Everyday Migration Governance in Russia

Muyassar Turaeva (Bielefeld University): Biopolitics of migration and Foucault

Izzat Aman (Independent researcher): Deportation regime of Russian migration regime

11.00 – 11.30 Networking break (with coffee)

11.30 – 13.00 **PANEL 8: Non-citizen inclusion, diaspora and social networks.**

Chair: Daniel Kashnitsky Discussant: Nadia Sonneveld

Shaundel Nicole Sanchez (Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs): Noncitizen Inclusion: US-Citizen Muslims in the United Arab Emirates

Daria Vorobyeva (St Andrews): Role of diaspora institutions in host-land integration process in non-Western context

Timur Saitov (Binghamton University): Russian Refugees’ Survival Networks in post-WWI Istanbul

13.00 – 14.00 **LUNCH**

14.00 – 15.30 **PANEL 9: Migrant “Illegality” in Non-Western Contexts.**

Chair: Rustam Urinboyev Discussant: Anna-Liisa Heusala

Jonathan Kraemer (Stockholm University): Legality, Illegality, and Risk-taking in Migration Strategies in Southeast Asia

Sherzod Eraliev (University of Helsinki): Straddling between Legality and Illegality: Legal Uncertainty and Informality among Central Asian Female Migrants in Russia

F. Bilge Cengiz (Karamanoglu Mehmetbey University): Is Regularity Possible in Non-Western Countries? Turkey’s Regular Migrants and New Migration Experiences

15.30 – 16.00 Networking break (with coffee)

16.00 – 18.00 Research Network on Non-Western Migration Regimes, Publications and Future Plans

18.30 **DINNER**

List of Participants

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