Expert Workshop

Mind the Gap:
Critical Perspectives on Migration Theories and Data

17-18 June 2020
University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain

General information

The historic inclusion of migration-related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration revealed weaknesses in the data needed to both implement and monitor the far-reaching commitments made by the international community. Limitations in data lead to gaps in the information needed to design effective policies, to monitor the needs of the population, and to identify how these needs change over time. In the last few decades, there have been multiple attempts by national governments, international and regional organisations, and private institutions to collect data on migration. However, the existing data on international migration suffers from problems (gaps) of inconsistency in definitions and data collection methodology, lack of adequate statistics, ignorance of new data sources and limitations for comparability, among others. Scholars and international institutions have repeatedly called on to resolve these issues and insisted on the urgent need for comprehensive, accurate and timely data on migration.

On the other hand, given the intrinsically interdisciplinary nature of migration, there is no single theory, globally accepted by the (social) scientists. The most important current theories for the drivers of international migration are the neoclassical economics theory, the new economics of labour migration theory, dual (segmented) labour market theory, historical-structural theory, the world system theory, and the theory of transnational migration. Besides those theories focusing on the economic factors of migration, migration has been analysed through the gravity model as a geographical approach and threat-based decision model of forced migration studies to assess the (political) conflict and environmental threats. International migration is associated with incoherent and disjointed theories, and there is no comprehensible theory related to it. Therefore, this workshop will focus on the identification of gaps in migration data systems and coherence in terms of definitions, contemporary migration dynamics, and the (missing) links to the existing theories. The workshop is organised within the framework of the
wider EU funded Horizon 2020 project Enhanced Migration Measures from a Multidimensional Perspective (HumMingBird).

Call for applications:

The expert workshop on “Mind the Gap: Critical Perspectives on Migration Theory and Data” will take place on 17-18 June 2020 in Salamanca, Spain. This international workshop will convene established scholars, members of statistical offices and public institutes, data collectors, data holders and data users, practitioners, policymakers, students, and civil society organisations who work on migration related issues (i.e. international migration, migration flows, drivers of migration, migration scenarios, migration statistics and estimates, immigration, emigration, economic migration, international students, brain drain, family unification, unaccompanied minors, asylum seekers and forced migration, etc). The participants are expected to present their work and discuss the topics related to gaps, collection, limitations, quality and development of international migration data and theories. Nevertheless, the applications are not limited to the above-mentioned topics, experts of other disciplines who want to tackle the issue of gap in migration data and theories from a different perspective are also welcomed to submit their applications.

Guide for applicants:

Deadline for submission: 15 March 2020

Please apply via the online application link below, where you will be expected to submit the abstract (max. 250 words) and a motivation of maximum 250 words, and a text explaining briefly the reason why your participation would add values to the expert workshop (max. 200 words).

Link to submit your application: https://hummingbird-h2020.eu/forms/hummingbird-expert-workshop/

Abstracts will be reviewed by the workshop organisers, and the decision on abstracts will be communicated by 10th of April 2020.

For questions you can contact professor Tuba Bircan at tuba.bircan@vub.be and Ahmad Wali Ahmad-Yar at ahmad.wali@vub.be.

The event for the accepted participants will be free of charge, however, the applicants are expected to cover their own transport and accommodation costs. Catering during the conference will be provided by the organisers.

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