



## RC-31 Newsletter, Fall 2022

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### From the president:

The news media in the UK and the USA suggest that the global economy is currently headed towards recession. When recessions hit, voters often lash out, seeking scapegoats to blame for their suffering. All too often, ideological figures (typically backed by various types of ‘think tanks’) respond by presenting immigrants in this frame.

So, it would be unsurprising if we see a sharp rise in xenophobic discourse in the coming months. (In many places, this increase will come on top of an already high level.) In some instances anti-immigrant ideas will likely come from ostensibly ‘responsible’ political actors claiming that they are only acting in the ‘national interest’.

Most migration scholars know that in general immigrants do not undermine the economic well-being of non-immigrants. (That latter term has become a useful alternative to ‘natives’, a word that arguably has unwarranted implications of primacy.) All the same, the questions in play are more commonly addressed by economists. So, I will offer a brief reminder of some key points that might be useful in rebutting the sort of populist claims that typically get rolled out in pursuit of an anti-immigration agenda.

- Claim: immigrants take ‘our’ jobs and depress wages.
  - Rebuttal: as workers, immigrants are typically complementary rather than competitive with non-immigrants. They take jobs that non-immigrants reject, or jobs for which there are simply insufficient numbers of non-immigrants. They can thus ‘unblock’ investment projects by alleviating labour-supply bottlenecks in specific job

sectors, facilitating employment for workers in other job sectors. Where immigrant workers *are* competitive with non-immigrants, the downward effect on wages is generally very small; this effect could be addressed via tax & benefit policies (a more rational response than immigration restrictions per se).

- Claim: immigrants are a drain on public resources.
  - Rebuttal: especially by virtue of being younger (on average), immigrants provide a net fiscal benefit, supporting the viability of welfare systems (particularly in ageing societies). Immigrants tend to be more entrepreneurial and willing to take risks and are less likely to be unemployed long-term. Insofar as they do draw on public resources (e.g. school places), they are doing so in the context of making contributions (via taxes) to those resources as well.
- Claim: immigration inhibits productivity gains and long-term economic growth.
  - Rebuttal: key compositional factors tend to work in the other direction. Immigrants often have higher levels of educational attainment than non-immigrants (on average). Even where immigrants themselves have lower skill levels, their labour supply facilitates the advancement of non-immigrants into higher-skilled (& more productive) employment. In addition, immigration is often followed by increased exports directed towards the countries the immigrants come from.

These are of course very broad assertions. They might not apply in every instance/place. Still, they merit attention whenever we see ideological appeals to ‘common sense’ about the (allegedly negative) economic impact of immigration.

At an early stage in my own research career, I had a poor understanding of these issues. It just made sense to me that having a large pool of immigrant workers led to a degraded economic capacity (‘masses of cheap labour’ vs. ‘investment in increased productivity’). My PhD dissertation essentially took this idea for granted. It took me a long time to absorb and appreciate the relevant evidence produced by economists.

The strength of sociological research on these topics has more to do with demonstrating that it is much more ‘productive’ to refrain from demonising immigrants – to seek instead to foster belonging and inclusion. From a trip to Italy a few years ago, I recall seeing city public squares containing sizeable numbers of immigrants (from Africa, it would seem) who spent entire days doing very little. Charitable organizations provided food and shelter – but they could do little to address the waste of economic/productive capability. Even [the IMF](#) recognises that racism is expensive.

But economic research gives us a good basis for concluding that immigration itself is *not* ‘expensive’ (in the sense that it imposes costs on non-immigrants). On the contrary. In the context of an impending recession, attempts to exclude immigrants (prevention of arrival, and demonisation of those already present) would surely make things worse, not better.

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## NOTEWORTHY AWARD BY MEMBER

Guillermina Jasso won the 2022 James S. Coleman Distinguished Career Award given by the Mathematical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association. Professor Jasso is with the New York University and her research addresses distributive justice, inequality and stratification, mathematical methods for theoretical analysis, and survey methods for empirical analysis. She has significantly contributed to the study of demography of immigration to America. We warmly recommend her academic work to RC31 members.



## RECENT ARTICLES/CHAPTERS BY MEMBERS

Auer, Daniel, and Didier Ruedin. 2022. 'How One Gesture Curbed Ethnic Discrimination'. *European Journal of Political Research*. DOI: 10.1111/[1475-6765.12547](https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12547)

Bennour, Salomon, Anita Manatschal, and Didier Ruedin. 2022. 'How Political Reception Contexts Shape Location Decisions of Immigrants'. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. DOI:10.1080/1369183X.[2022.2098468](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2022.2098468).

Butler, R. 2022. Migration, Class and Intra-distinctions of Whiteness in the Making of Inland Rural Victoria. *Journal of Rural Studies*. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0743016722001607>

Butler, R., Ho, C., & Vincent, E. 2022. 'The Transforming Middle: Schooling Markets, Morality and Racialisation within Australia's Middle Class'. In J. Gerrard & S. Threadgold (Eds), *Class in Australia*. Melbourne: Monash University Press, pp. 195–211. <https://publishing.monash.edu/product/class-in-australia/>

Butler, R., & Ben, J. 2021. Centring Settler Colonialism in Rural Australian Multicultures: Race, Place and Local Identities. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 47 (9): 2179–2197. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1369183X.2020.1800447>

Del Real, Deisy. 2022. "Seemingly Inclusive Liminal Legality: The Fragility and Illegality Production of Colombia's Legalization Programs for Venezuelan Migrants." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* DOI: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1369183X.2022.2029374>.

Doña Reveco, C. 2022 'Migrant Invasions to the South American Tiger': Newspaper Portrayals of 1990s Immigration to Chile. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*. DOI: 10.1080/[15562948.2022.2132570](https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2022.2132570).

Doña-Reveco, C. 2022. Chile's Welcoming Approach to Immigrants Cools as Numbers Rise. *Migration Information Source*, May 18, 2022. Migration Policy Institute <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/chile-immigrants-rising-numbers>

Doña Reveco, C. & M. Feddersen. 2022. Migration Regimes in South America: The South American Conference on Migration, pp. 309-346. In *Voluntary and Forced Migration in Latin America: Law and Policy Reforms*, Edited by Natalia Caicedo and Feline Freier. McGill-Queen's University Press

Freier, F. & Doña Reveco, C. 2022. Introduction: Latin American Political and Policy Responses to Venezuelan Displacement. *International Migration*, 60(1): 9-17. DOI: 10.1111/imig.12957. NR

Goßner, L., Kosyakova, Y., & Laible, M. (2022). Resilient or Vulnerable? Effects of the COVID-19 Crisis on the Mental Health of Refugees in Germany. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(12), 7409. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19127409>

Gërkhani, K., & Kosyakova, Y. (2022). The effect of co-ethnic social capital on immigrants' labor market integration: a natural experiment. *Comparative Migration Studies*, 10(15). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-022-00289-x>

Hof, Helena, Simon Pemberton and Emilia Pietka-Nykaza. 2021. 'EU migrant retention and the temporalities of migrant staying: A new conceptual framework.' *Comparative Migration Studies*. 10.1186/s40878-021-00225-5

Idriss, S., Butler, R., & Harris, A. 2021. Interrogating Race, Unsettling Whiteness: Concepts of Transitions, Enterprise and Mobilities in Australian Youth Studies. *Journal of Youth Studies*. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13676261.2021.1948516>

Kanas, A., Kosyakova, Y., & Vallizadeh, E. (2022). Linguistic Enclaves , Sorting , and Language Skills of Immigrants. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 0(0), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2022.2132572>

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Kaufmann, Katja and Monika Palmberger. “Doing Research at Online and Offline Intersections: Bringing Together Digital and Mobile Methodologies”. *Media and Communication*, 2022, Vol. 10, No. 3. <https://doi.org/10.17645/mac.v10i3.6227>

Kosyakova, Y., & Kogan, I. (2022). Labor market situation of refugees in Europe: The role of individual and contextual factors. *Frontiers in Political Science*, 4. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2022.977764>

Kosyakova, Y., & Kulic, N. (2022). Kinship, inter- and intraethnic social networks and refugees' division of housework. *Journal of Family Research*, 34(2), 802–822. <https://doi.org/10.20377/jfr-783>

Martínez Alarcón, G. & Doña-Reveco, C. 2022. ‘¡Estos inmigrantes!’ Un análisis de la memoria colectiva de la inmigración europea en la prensa chilena, 1850-1920. *Periplos. Revista de Investigación sobre Migraciones*, 6(1): 148-173. R

Palmberger, Monika. “Refugees enacting (digital) citizenship through placemaking and care practices near and far.” *Journal of Citizenship Studies* 2022, Vol. 26, No. 6. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13621025.2022.2103971>

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Palmberger, Monika. “Narratives of transnational place-making: Exploring migrants’ hidden histories through memory-guided city walks.” In *Narrative Culture*, 2022, Vol. 9, No. 1: 91-108. <https://doi.org/10.1353/ncu.2022.0004>

Palmberger, Monika and Barbara Götsch. “The nexus of anthropology and narrative: ethnographic encounters with practices of storytelling.” In *Narrative Culture* 2022, Vol. 9, No. 1: 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1353/ncu.2022.0000>

Piccoli, Lorenzo, and Didier Ruedin. 2022. ‘Local-to-local electoral connections for migrants: The association between voting rights in the place of origin and the propensity to vote in the place of residence’. *Democratization*. DOI: 10.1080/[13510347.2022.2108802](https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2022.2108802)

Ruedin, Didier, Johanna Probst, Philippe Wanner, Denise Efonayi-Mäder, and Patrick Bodenmann. 2022. ‘COVID-19-Related Health Literacy of Socioeconomically Vulnerable Migrant Groups’. *International Journal of Public Health*. 67:1604664. DOI:10.3389/ijph.[2022.1604664](https://doi.org/10.3389/ijph.2022.1604664)

Ruedin, Didier, and Eva Van Belle. 2022. “The Extent of Résumé Whitening.” *Sociological Research Online*. DOI:10.1177/13607804221094625

Tu, M. (2022). Ageing, migration infrastructure and multi-generational care dynamics in transnational families. *Global Networks*, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1111/glob.12390>.



## MEMBERS’ OTHER ACTIVITIES

Kosyakova, Y., Gundacker, L., Salikutluk, Z., & Trübswetter, P. (2022). Labour market integration in Germany: refugee women take significantly longer. *IAB Forum*, July, 1–10.

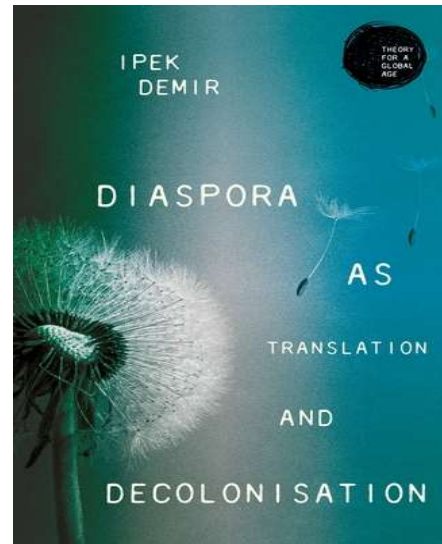
Tubergen, F. Van, Kosyakova, Y., & Kanas, A. (2022). Conflict intensity in the region of birth increases religiosity among refugees. *CREAM Discussion Paper Series*, 22(October).



## MEMBERS' NEW BOOKS

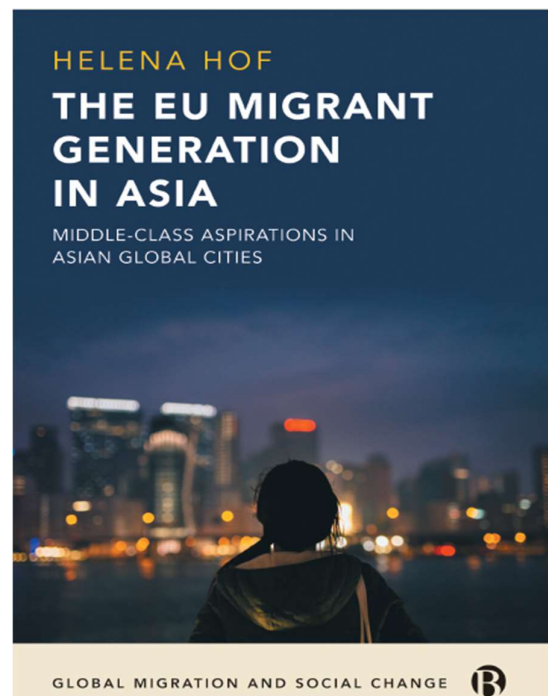
***Demir, Ipek., *Diaspora as Translation and Decolonization*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.***

This innovative study engages critically with existing conceptualisations of diaspora, arguing that if diaspora is to have analytical purchase, it should illuminate a specific angle of migration or migrancy. To reveal the much-needed transformative potential of the concept, the book looks specifically at how diasporas undertake translation and decolonisation. It offers various conceptual tools for investigating diaspora, with a specific focus on diasporas in the Global North and a detailed empirical study of the Kurdish diaspora in Europe. The book also considers the backlash diasporas of colour have faced in the Global North.



***Hof, Helena., *The EU Migrant Generation in Asia: Middle Class Aspiration in Asian Global Cities*, Bristol: Bristol University Press.***

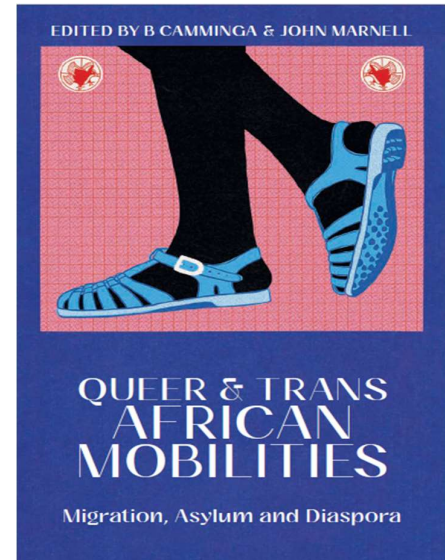
This book draws upon ethnographic observation and in-depth interviews with young migrants who moved, in the 2010s, to the countries of Singapore and Tokyo. By studying migratory flows from the West to prominent Asian business centers, this book attempts to demonstrate how the involvement of young European migrants in local businesses and communities enables the reproduction of the middle-class during that period. This groundbreaking book is astute in observing that the precarity of socio-economic life in the crisis-ridden EU makes it impossible for its citizens to aspire towards the occupational security and lifestyles they desire within Europe. Further, it highlights the role of Asian innovation centers in attracting and retaining such young migrants. In doing so, it masterfully underscores the relationship between thriving business ecosystems and the subsequent diversification of communities.





***B Camminga, John, Marnell. Queer and Trans African Mobilities : Migration, Asylum and Diaspora, New York: Bloomsbury Publishing Inc.***

At the center of this edited volume is the figure of the racialized LGBTQ refugee, who finds themselves escaping violent anti-LGBTQ laws and contending with a hetero-patriarchal state in Africa. This book collates comprehensive case-studies from diverse parts of the African continent to make sense of the challenging displacement processes resulting from sexual orientation and charts its impact on the lived experiences of persecuted LGBTQ Africans. It is empathetic in its approach and shines a critical light on how forced migration of LGBTQ asylum seekers in the Global North can, at one level, provide protection from homophobia and trans-phobia, but on another, reinforce racist stereotypes about African cultures.



**Public lecture series (Goethe University Frankfurt and online)** invites scholars, practitioners and anyone interested in gender and migration around the globe to an inspiring round of lectures and critical discussions on the topic. If you are interested in any lecture topics, do and join us.

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- **16 January 2023** (6pm; virtual): Yonson Ahn: “Caring with emotion: Korean nurses in Germany”
- **06 February 2023** (6pm; in person): Radha Sarma Hegde “License to dream: Skilled mobilities and the politics of gender”

Contact:  
 Dr. Helena Hof,  
 Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer,  
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 Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity



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 Radha Sarma Hegde  
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### SUBMISSIONS!

Members are requested to send information about their academic contributions. Not only announcements – there is also scope for longer pieces in the form of op-eds, etc.

Send submissions for the next issue to newsletter editor -

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