

MIGRATION, AGEING AND TRANSLOCAL SOCIAL PROTECTION

An Interdisciplinary Research Workshop

Wednesday 24 April – Thursday 25 April 2024

Library Hall, Hermann-Föge-Weg 11, Göttingen, Germany
Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity

In a global context of population ageing, migration and forced displacement, questions of transnational and translocal social protection remain paramount. Migrants and refugees at different stages of the life course seek social protection through a variety of channels: from formal state-based pension and social security schemes; cash transfers and humanitarian initiatives; to informal forms of social protection through kinship, religious networks, neighbourhood support groups, co-operatives and civil society organizations. Cutting across these different spaces are financial institutions and markets in promoting ideas and products around individualized future security. Piecing together these different forms of social protection is far from seamless and there are numerous inequalities that migrants and refugees confront in securing social protection and wellbeing, where some are eligible for formal support and others are excluded.

In this workshop, we take as a critical starting point the idea that the category of social protection is not fixed but defined and experienced differently by multiple actors. We consider how ideas about social protection are shaped by shifting global and local policies, entitlements and infrastructures, alongside an in-depth consideration of how migrant and refugee populations themselves ima-

gine, creatively arrange and claim social protection 'from below'.

Some of the broader questions this workshop will address include: what constitutes the 'social' in social protection? How is social protection imagined transnationally or translocally? Who offers 'protection' to migrants and refugees and what moral dimensions around 'deservingness' come into play? How does old-age factor into the development of social protection? How do social protection schemes promote or restrict the mobility of older populations?

In addressing the questions above, we will grant particular attention to the intersections of migration, ageing and social protection – including the experiences of older migrants and refugees, those who care for older adults, and older adults with migrant family members. Moving beyond a binary framework contrasting European state-based 'welfare' regimes with informal social support in other contexts, we aim to investigate how ideas about social protection travel to produce 'hybrid' formations (Levitt et al. 2023) and entanglements over time in contexts around the world. We will consider how ideas, norms and practices of social protection unfold not only on the global, transnational scale but also translocally in contexts of cross-border and internal migration and displacement.



Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity
Hermann-Föge-Weg 11 | 37073 Göttingen
www.mmg.mpg.de

Contact: Jie Zhang | Tel: +49 (551) 4956-226 | zhang@mmg.mpg.de

Wednesday 24 April

14:00 – Welcome and Opening

14:15 – 15:15 **Ken Sun** (Villanova University)

Hybrid Transnational Social Protection: What We Can Learn from Scholarships on Aging and Migration

15:15 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 18:00 **ROUNDTABLE 1: SOCIAL PROTECTION AND DISPLACEMENT**

Participants: **Maïke Isaac** (MPI-MMG/McGill University),
Luis Eduardo Perez Murcia (MPI-MMG), **Victoria Sakti** (MPI-MMG),
Nele Wolter (MPI-MMG/Mainz University)

18:00 – 18:30 Break & Walk to Dinner location

18:30 – 20:00 Dinner @Ristorante Fellini, Groner-Tor-Straße 28, 37073 Göttingen (optional, self-pay)

20:00 – 21:00 Discussion / Reflection Session

Thursday 25 April

10:00 – 11:00 **Cati Coe** (Carleton University)

Translocal Social Protection: Flexibility, Repertoires, and Temporality

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 13:00 **ROUNDTABLE 2: AGEING, (SELF-)CARE & TRANSNATIONAL/ TRANSLOCAL SOCIAL PROTECTION**

Participants: **Megha Amrith** (MPI-MMG), **Charlotte Hawkins** (MPI-MMG),
Aksana Ismailbekova (ZMO, Berlin), **Swetlana Torno** (MPI-MMG),
Hui Wen (MPI-MMG/Brandeis University)

13:00 – 14:15 Lunch

14:15 – 15:15 **Alistair Hunter** (University of Glasgow)

Transnational Social Protection Research: Applying Insights from Life Course Theory

15:15 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 18:00 Closing with comments from **Sabine Klocke-Daffa** (Tübingen University) and plenary discussion

18:00 – 18:30 Break & Walk to Dinner location

18:30 – 20:00 Dinner @Restaurant Abessina, Ritterplan 2, 37073 Göttingen (optional, self-pay)

20:00 – 21:00 Wrap-up discussion



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Keynote Speakers

PROF. DR. CATI COE is a Professor of Political Science and Canada Research Chair of Migration and Care at Carleton University (Canada). Her research focuses on transnational families, care work, intergenerational relations, and aging, with a regional specialty in West Africa. Her most recent book is *Changes in Care: Aging, Migration and Social Class in West Africa* (2021).

DR. ALISTAIR HUNTER is Senior Lecturer in Health and Social Policy at the University of Glasgow, UK. His research interests lie at the intersection of ageing, international migration and displacement, deploying mainly qualitative methods. His work has been published in leading journals, including the *Journal of Ethnic & Migration Studies*, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, *European Journal of Ageing, Population, Space and Place*, and *Global Networks*. His books include a monograph, *Retirement Home? Ageing Migrant Workers in France and the Question of Return* (Springer, 2018), and the *Handbook on Migration and Ageing* (Edward Elgar, 2023), co-edited with Sandra Torres.

DR. KEN SUN is Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminology at Villanova University. His first book, *Time and Migration* (Cornell University Press, 2021) won a distinguished book award from the American Sociological Association's Aging and Life Course Section. In collaboration with Peggy Levitt, Erica Dobbs, Ruxandra Paul, he has also published a book, *Transnational Social Protection: Social Welfare across National Borders* (Oxford University Press, 2023). In addition to books, he has published his works in *Social Problems*; *International Migration Review*; *Journal of Marriage and Family*; *the Journal of Gerontology*; *Global Networks*; *Sociological Forum*; *Qualitative Sociology*; *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*; *Symbolic Interaction*; *Identities*; *Journal of Family Issues*; and *Current Sociology*. An article of him (with Nazli Kibria, *Social Problems*, 2022), which was carved out from his current book project, won outstanding publication awards from the International Sociological Association and the Association for Asian American Studies. His current book project extends his prior works on older migrants who are long-term residents in the US and transnational social protection to further examine the cross-border resource environments in which immigrants are embedded.



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