

European Birds of Passage
Summer School

Interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the legal regulation of labour migration

Strasbourg

1 - 4 July 2024



Our topic

Labour migration is at the centre of a growing contradiction. Demographic changes and labour shortages in the “Global North” make it an inevitable phenomenon. At the same time, calls to “take back control” of national borders resonate louder and louder in the very same countries.

Against this backdrop, the legal regulation of labour migration is stretched in multiple directions and called to make the border at the same time porous for some and impermeable for others, directly structuring the workforce along class and racial lines. Legal borders become malleable and shifting, following some labour migrants deep inside the supposed national border, or filtering them still far away from it.

The legal characterisation of people who move across borders for work has profound implications for their access to social and labour rights. Equal treatment with local workers is awarded to some categories of labour migrants, generally those allowed to pursue a path to long-term residence, whereas other categories are construed as zones of exception to said principle, often in the case of forms of temporary labour migration. In these ways, the regulation of labour migration also regulates the labour market.

Approaching what might, at first, seem a purely technical and legal subject requires the mobilisation of multiple disciplines and methods. This comes with the known challenges of “interdisciplinarity” and can represent a daunting challenge for scholars at all career stages.

With this Summer School we wish to offer our participants a hands-on perspective on designing and developing interdisciplinary research in the field of labour migration. To do so, we have assembled a lineup of speakers with direct experience in applying interdisciplinary approaches to this subject.

How to apply

To apply, please send a short CV (maximum 3 pages) and statement of motivation (maximum 500 words). The statement should focus on how the Summer School will contribute to your ongoing or planned research.

The documents should be sent to Marco Rocca (mrocca@unistra.fr) and Catharina Lopes Scodro (catharina.lopes-scodro@etu.unistra.fr) no later than **1 March 2024 at 11:59 AM** (Paris Time).

Our Summer School emphasises debates, exchanges, and scientific community-building. As such, we are aiming for a limited number of motivated participants. The selection will be operated on a best-fit basis, considering topics of interest, scientific background, and potential impact of the Summer School on ongoing and planned research activities.

Participation is open to researchers from all disciplines, as long as their work is related to the regulation of labour migration. Due to the research we are carrying out at the European Birds of Passage project, we are particularly (but not exclusively) interested in research covering one or more of the following topics:

- ✓ Labour migration to and inside the European Union
- ✓ Labour and social rights of labour migrants
- ✓ Temporary labour migration

Acceptance of applications will be confirmed by 15 March 2024. If you have any questions about the process, feel free to send us an email at the same addresses.

Participation is free of charge. Food and accommodation for the duration of the Summer School will be covered by the European Birds of Passage project. Costs for travel are not covered. Participants are expected to make their own arrangements and are invited to consider these costs before applying.

Programme

Day 1

12:00 Arrival and Registration (light lunch available)

13:30 Welcome

13:40-14:20 Opening Speech

Thematic session 1: Gender, Feminist, and Intersectional approaches

14:20-15:20 Presentations

15:20-15:45 Coffee break

15:45-16:45 Group discussion

16:45-18:00 Plenary discussion

19:00 Dinner

Day 2

08:30-10:15 Feedback session

10:15-10:30 Coffee break

10:30-12:00 Feedback session

12:00-13:30 Lunch

Thematic session 2: Socio-legal approaches

13:30-14:30 Presentations

14:30-15:30 Group discussion

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-17:00 Plenary discussion

17:30 Cultural Activity

19:30 Dinner

Day 3

08:30-10:15 Feedback session

10:15-10:30 Coffee break

10:30-12:00 Feedback session

12:00-13:30 Lunch

Thematic session 3: Legal geography

13:30-14:30 Presentations

14:30-15:30 Group discussion

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-17:00 Plenary discussion

17:30 Cultural Activity

19:30 Dinner

Day 4

Thematic session 4: Quantitative approaches

08:30-09:30 Presentations

09:30-10:30 Group discussion

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:00 Plenary discussion

12:00-12:30 Closing Speech

12:30 End of Summer School (light lunch available)

In practice

This is a residential Summer School: participants will be hosted in the same venue where the sessions take place (the Labour Institute in Strasbourg).

While theoretical aspects will also be part of the presentations, our goal is to provide the participants with access to practical experience in carrying out interdisciplinary work in the field of labour migration, as well as with direct feedback on ongoing or planned research.

The Summer School is organised around two types of sessions.

Thematic sessions: each thematic session is composed of three moments. First, one or more speaker(s) will introduce the topic and present reflections drawn

from their own experience applying the specific approach, followed by questions and answers. Then, participants will work in one or more small groups to discuss the approach, consider its advantages and obstacles, and reflect on guidelines for including the approach in research work. Each group will then share the results of their discussion and the speaker(s) provide feedback.

Feedback sessions: during feedback sessions, each participant will be invited to briefly present a piece of ongoing or planned research. Participants will be invited to share documents before the event (if available). The speakers and/or other researchers from local institutions will provide feedback, followed by a discussion with the rest of the participants.

Confirmed speakers

Lynn De Smedt is a Senior Researcher at HIVA Research Institute for Work and Society (Belgium). She is active in the Network Statistics FMSSFE (free movement of workers, social security coordination, and fraud and error), set up by the European Commission, DG EMPL. She contributed to the POSTING.STAT project, aimed to promote collection and analysis of administrative micro-data.

Frederic De Wispelaere is research expert at HIVA–KU Leuven (Belgium). His main fields of research are intra-EU labour mobility, EU coordination of social security systems and social fraud. He is member of the Network Statistics on free movement of workers, social security coordination and fraud and error. He coordinates the project POSTING.STAT which aims to enhance the collection and analysis of administrative micro-data on intra-EU posting.

Berta Güell is Research Fellow at CIDOB and research collaborator at CER-Migracions (Spain). She has a PhD in sociology with an extraordinary award from the Autonomous University of Barcelona about the Pakistani ethnic businesses in Barcelona. Her main lines of research are migration and the labour market, and migration from a gender perspective. At CIDOB she has worked on LGTBI refugees, agricultural seasonal workers, and migration narratives.

Andrea Iossa is Senior Lecturer in labour law at Kristianstad University (Sweden). He adopts a legal geographic approach to investigate the spatial and temporal dimensions of the regulation of labour migration. He has conducted research on cross-border posting of workers in logistics, cross-border social dumping, and on labour exploitation in the agri-food sector.

Marta Lasek-Markey holds a PhD degree from Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), where she has also lectured EU Law. She is the author of a monograph titled *Law, Precarious Labour and Posted Workers. A Sociolegal Study on Posted Work in the EU*. In 2023, Marta was the recipient of the Brian Bercusson Award, presented by the European Trade Union Institute, for her doctoral research on the posting of workers in the EU.

Lydia Medland holds a PhD and Masters degree in Global Political Economy (University of Bristol, UK), and a Masters degree in Agroecology (University of Cordoba, Spain). She is currently a Senior Research Associate in the School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies at the University of Bristol. Lydia investigates how pressures within the food system and law enforcement manifest for individuals and groups who work to produce food, focusing on (migrant) workers.

Fabiola Mieres is Technical Officer in Labour Markets at the ILO Research Department. Previously, she worked in the Labour Migration Branch conducting research and providing technical assistance on labour migration governance, and the socio-economic integration of migrants and refugees. She is the lead author of the background report (‘Temporary Labour Migration: Unpacking complexities’) for the ILO Governing Body Discussion on Temporary Labour Migration (2022).

Marco Rocca is Permanent Researcher in labour law at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and affiliated to the DRES research unit of the University of Strasbourg. He is PI of the ERC Starting Grant project “European Birds of Passage – An Empirical Legal Theory of Temporary Labour Migration in Europe” (2022-2027).

Inga Thiemann is an Associate Professor in Law at the University of Leicester (UK). Inga’s research interests are at the intersections of employment law, criminal law, migration law, discrimination law and feminist theory, as well as socio-legal and feminist methodologies. Her main interests are marginalised workers, feminised sectors of work and in issues of gender and migration, as well as broader equality concerns. She is the PI for an UK AHRC project on the experiences of migrant workers in the UK’s agriculture and care sectors.

Location



Strasbourg is a unique city in the Grand Est region of France. The city combines a long history with the modernity of European Institutions - the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and the European Court of Human Rights. These elements form a rich cultural environment, present in the architecture of Strasbourg - like the Petite France district. As a “European capital” situated on a border, Strasbourg is the perfect place to host our discussions on the legal regulation of labour migration.

The **UMR DRES** (Research Unit on Law, Religion, Business and Society) is a laboratory at the University of Strasbourg with almost 100 members. It aims to examine the complexity of social and legal relations in a changing world through a variety of approaches, encompassing different legal fields, such as labour law and company law, as well as the links between law and culture or religion. It is a dynamic and interdisciplinary research unit, exploring the multifaced challenges of the society of tomorrow.



Founded in 1956 with the support of French trade unions, the **Institut du Travail** (Labour Institute) is an institution dedicated to the world of work, combining activism with research on social issues. Thanks to an interdisciplinary team of economists, sociologists, and lawyers, the Institute pursues a holistic approach to labour relations. It represents an ideal venue for our Summer School, as it is equipped with both working and residential spaces.

The **European Birds of Passage** (E-BoP) project combines legal and quantitative analyses to investigate the legal framework underpinning temporary labour migration in and to the European Union (EU). In particular, it is concerned with the ways in which three types of temporary labour migrants - posted workers, seasonal workers and intragroup transferees – are assigned labour and social rights under EU and national laws, notably in terms of differential working conditions and/or access to social security. The project has been awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant (project number 101041246, 2022-2027).

Key dates

1 March 2024	Deadline for applications
15 March 2024	Decision on acceptance
30 March 2024	Last day to confirm participation
14 June 2024	Last day to share a piece of ongoing or planned research (if available)
1 – 4 July 2024	Summer School

The Summer School is organised by the European Birds of Passage team (CNRS – University of Strasbourg): Audrey Deverson, Justyna Hejman-Mancewicz, Catharina Lopes Scodro, Marco Rocca.

The E-BoP project is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Council Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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