

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

2ND EDITION

Strasbourg

6 - 9 July 2026



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Our topic

Labour migration is at the heart of an increasing contradiction. Demographic changes and labour shortages in the 'Global North' mean it is an inevitable phenomenon. At the same time, however, calls to 'take back control' of national borders grow louder in many of the same countries.

Against this backdrop, the legal regulation of labour migration is pulled in multiple directions, being asked to make the border porous for some and impermeable for others, thereby structuring the workforce along class, gender and racial lines. Legal borders become shifting, following some labour migrants deep inside the supposed national border while filtering others far away from it.

The legal classification of people who move across borders for work has profound implications for their access to social and labour rights. Some categories of labour migrants, generally those allowed to pursue a path to long-term residence, are awarded equal treatment with local workers. Others, however, are construed as exceptions to this principle, often in the case of temporary labour migration. Thus, the regulation of labour migration also regulates the labour market.

Approaching this complex subject requires the mobilisation of multiple disciplines and methods. This comes with the well-known challenges of 'interdisciplinarity' and can present a significant challenge for any scholar, and even more so for those in the early stages of their career.

Through this summer school, we aim to provide participants with a practical insight into designing and developing interdisciplinary research in the field of labour migration. To achieve this, we have assembled a line-up of speakers who have direct experience of applying an array of interdisciplinary approaches to the study of legal phenomena and/or labour migration.

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 **5 March 2026 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 **20 March 2026**. 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 – Monday 6 July

12:00	Arrival and Registration (<i>light lunch available</i>)
13:30	Welcome
13:40 – 14:00	Opening Speech

Thematic session 1: Gender, Feminist, and Intersectional approaches

14:15 – 15:15	Presentations
15:15 – 15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:45 – 16:45	Group discussion
16:45 – 17:45	Plenary discussion
19:00	<i>Dinner</i>

Day 2 – Tuesday 7 July

Thematic session 2: Socio-legal approaches

08:30 – 09:30	Presentations
09:30 – 10:30	Group discussion
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Plenary Discussion
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Feedback session
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	Feedback session
19:00	<i>Dinner</i>

Day 3 – Wednesday 8 July

Thematic session 3: Quantitative approaches

08:30 – 09:30	Presentations
09:30 – 10:30	Group discussion
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Plenary Discussion
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Feedback session
14:30 – 15:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:00 – 16:30	Feedback session
17:30	Cultural Activity
19:30	<i>Dinner</i>

Day 4 – Thursday 9 July

Thematic session 4: Law-as-data

08:30 – 09:30	Presentations
09:30 – 10:30	Group discussion
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Plenary Discussion
12:00 – 12:30	Closing Speech
12:30	End of Summer School (<i>light lunch available</i>)

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

Audrey Deverson is a researcher in the European Birds of Passage ERC project. She is currently completing her PhD in Law at the University of Strasbourg, which she will defend in March 2026. Her research adopts an intersectional and socio-legal perspective, and focuses on migrant women's access to social security in the European Union, with particular attention to women workers in temporary migration situations in France and Spain. Audrey is one of the Speakers for Thematic session 1 (Gender, Feminist, and Intersectional approaches).

Daniel Elanga Mendogo holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Lorraine. His PhD thesis combines methods from applied, experimental and behavioural economics to study different facets of refugees' behaviour, such as their risk preferences, migration decisions and social integration. In July 2024, he joined the E-BoP project team as a postdoctoral researcher. His current work involves the identification and collection of temporary labour migration data in France, Spain and Belgium, with a specific focus on analysing the economic impacts of these flows on destination countries. Daniel will be one of the Speakers for Thematic session 3 (Quantitative approaches).

Berta Güell is a Ramón y Cajal senior researcher at Universitat de Vic and research collaborator at CER-Migracions from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB, Spain). She has a PhD in sociology with an extraordinary award from the UAB about the Pakistani ethnic businesses in Barcelona. Her main lines of research are migration and the labour market, and migration from a gender perspective. She will be one of the Speakers for Thematic session 1 (Gender, Feminist, and Intersectional approaches).

Justyna Hejman-Mancewicz is a postdoctoral fellow at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), working on the interdisciplinary European Birds of Passage (E-BoP) project. She studies temporary labour migration through a quantitative lens, particularly among posted workers in road transport. Justyna will be one of the Speakers for Thematic session 3 (Quantitative approaches). Her broader research interests include the interplay between migration, labour markets, and gender. Her upcoming book, *The Migration of Women from the Global South: Seeking Economic, Civil and Political Freedom*, is due to be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2026.

Marta Lasek-Markey is Assistant Lecturer in Law at the Technological University of Dublin, Ireland. Her research interests revolve around safeguarding workers' rights in the rapidly changing world of work. She will be one of the Speakers for Thematic session 2 (Socio-legal approaches). Marta holds a PhD degree from Trinity College Dublin. 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 research.

Confirmed speakers

Tonia Novitz is Professor of Labour Law at the University of Bristol Law School, UK. A graduate of the University of Canterbury (Christchurch, New Zealand) and Balliol College (Oxford, UK), she has held fellowships at the International Labour Organization (Geneva), the European University Institute (Florence), the University of Melbourne and the University of Auckland. Tonia will deliver the Opening Speech for our Summer School. Her research interests include labour law and migration, including analysis of posted work and trade in services, and most recently the 'right to work' of asylum seekers. Her latest book is *Trade, Labour and Sustainable Development: Leaving no one in the world of work behind* (2024).

Audrey M Plan is Adjunct Assistant Professor at Trinity College Dublin and Research Engagement Specialist at University College Dublin. Her background is in International and European law, and she holds a PhD in Political Science from Trinity College Dublin, funded by the Irish research Council (IRC). Her research interests span the sociology of international courts, international judicial dialogue, law and architecture, as well as interdisciplinary research methods for legal researchers. Audrey is one of the Speakers for Thematic session 4 (Law-as-data).

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). Marco will be one of the Speakers for Thematic session 4 (Law-as-data).

Natalie Sedacca is Assistant Professor in Employment Law at Durham Law School. Natalie's research focuses on human rights and labour law, with a particular interest in marginalised workers and in issues of gender and migration; she is also a trustee for the migrant domestic worker NGO Kalayaan. She will be one of the Speakers for Thematic session 2 (Socio-legal approaches). Natalie has a forthcoming monograph on *Human Rights and the Protection of Domestic Workers in Labour and Migration Law*, which examines case studies of Chile, the UK, India, and South Africa with empirical work completed in each. She has published in several peer reviewed journals and has been a co-investigator on a research project on migrant care and agricultural workers' rights.

Inga Thiemann is a Reader in Law at Loughborough University (UK). Inga's research focuses on the rights of (and labour protections for) marginalised workers, particularly in feminised sectors, such as sex work. Her research interests cover the intersections of employment law, criminal law, migration law, discrimination law and feminist theory. In her work she utilises both socio-legal and feminist methodologies and critiques, as well as participatory methods of knowledge creation. Inga is one of the Speakers for Thematic session 1 (Gender, Feminist, and Intersectional approaches).

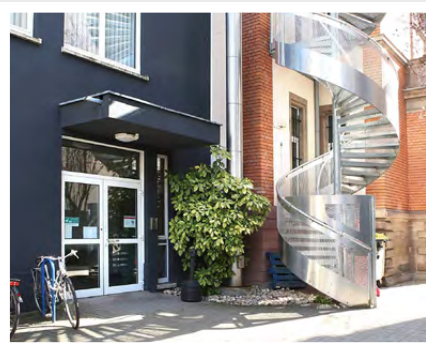
Location



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, qualitative, 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 four types of temporary labour migrants - posted workers, seasonal workers, au pairs, 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

5 March 2026	Deadline for applications
20 March 2026	Decision on acceptance
31 March 2026	Last day to confirm participation
19 June 2026	Last day to share a piece of ongoing or planned research (if available)
6 - 9 July 2026	Summer School

The Summer School is organised by the European Birds of Passage team (CNRS – University of Strasbourg): Audrey Deverson, Daniel Elanga Mendogo, 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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