

# NEWSLETTER

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Akademiet for Migrationsstudier i Danmark  
Academy for Migration Studies in Denmark



AMID

## New Master's programme in migration at Aalborg University

AMID has for a long period been working on creating a Master's programme in *International Migration and Ethnic Relations* (IMER). The work is now well advanced, and the first year group of students begins its studies on September 1st, 2007. The education is physically located at Aalborg University but is implemented in close co-operation between all AMID-partners.

The IMER-programme is targeted students with a bachelor's degree within social science or the humanities. The teaching is in English, and the programme is therefore open to Danish as well as foreign students. The two first semesters consist partly of courses within the thematic areas "international migration and globalisation" and "policies of integration and diversity", partly of courses in social methodology (qualitative and quantitative research). The third semester is constituted by an internship in an organisation dealing with migration-related issues in Denmark or abroad. The last semester is dedicated to write the Master's thesis.

The programme offers the students theoretical, analytical and methodical tools and insights qualifying them for employment in fields where the interdisciplinary approach to integration and migration is an advantage. Students graduating from IMER are qualified to work in relevant organisations, authorities, and companies at both national and international level. The programme also qualifies the students to pursue an academic career.

## New project on diversity and the European public sphere

The EU "Integrated Project" EUROSHERE wishes to identify the forms of public sphere which suit the diversity of European societies. Toward this strategic objective, the project adopts a "diversity perspective" on public spheres. The diversity perspective constitutes an alternative to approaches based on the notion of difference, such as individualism, communalism, multiculturalism, and pluralism. The diversity perspective is founded on the notion of otherness, approaching both "the Self" and "the Other" as equal others – i.e. as "co-others". Individuals' ability to act as co-others enables the emergence of communicative public spaces. Historically, different types of communicative public spaces have emerged in Europe: *essentialized spaces* (ethnic/religious), *national spaces*, *transnational spaces*, and *global spaces*. One policy target of the European Union is to create a European public sphere. EUROSHERE will assess the possibility of the existing communicative public spaces becoming "European" by measuring the ability and willingness of their members, sub-groups and elites to act as European co-others.

More specifically, the main objectives of EUROSHERE are: (1) to identify the factors which promote or hinder the formation of diverse European public spheres, (2) to define areas of contestation and conflict in various attempts to develop diverse European public spheres, (3) to assess the feasibility of five different models of public sphere in Europe – i.e. *multiple segregated spheres* (C. Taylor), *a single shared sphere* (J. Habermas), *multi-level overlapping spheres* (R. Bauböck), *multi-level differential spheres* (V.M. Bader), *composite-diverse civic spheres*, and (4) to assess the feasibility of five supranational strategies for articulating diverse European public spheres – i.e. *subsidiarity*, *functional equivalence*, *nesting*, *differentiation*, and *diversification*.

EUROSHERE is coordinated by the University of Bergen. Aalborg University/AMID is one of 17 different European partner institutions engaged in the project. The project will be launched in February 2007.

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## PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

In the spring 2006 the two PhD students at AMID, Lærke Holm and Trine Lund Thomsen, defended their theses. In the following you find a description of the

theses, which early next year are downloadable from AMID's homepage. Lærke Holm and Trine Lund Thomsen now work as postdocs at AMID.

### Debates on immigrants in the Danish Parliament 1973-2002

By *Lærke Holm*

This study examines how the Danish Parliament since the early 1970's has legitimized changes to the law on immigration. There are three analytical chapters in the thesis representing the different stages to inclusion into the nation-state: asylum, integration and naturalisation. In brief, the debates on asylum seekers and refugees showed that the moral and human rights arguments for receiving refugees used in the 1970's and 1980's were downplayed in the 1990's and onwards in favour of national concerns regarding the preservation of the ethnic homogenous composition of the Danish society. With regard to the debates on integration, the thesis examines which role political parties granted the state with regard to integrating immigrants into the political, cultural socio-economic domains of society. In the 1980's the debates on integration revealed that the political parties agreed on the common goal: to bring immigrants on an equal footing but strongly disagreed as to what means to reach this goal. Until the mid-90's the Parliament was roughly stated divided into two alliances: one in favour of a strong state regulating and controlling the integration process and another alliance perceiving integration, in general, as a private matter for immigrants. With the enforcement of the first official integration law in 1999 the Parliament as a whole agreed on the need for strong state involvement in the

integration process, especially in order to reduce the relatively high numbers of immigrants on welfare benefits. One controversial issue which has divided the Parliament on the issue of integration ever since has been the policy to reduce welfare benefits for newcomers as a financial incentive to get a regular job. The centre-left wing parties were strongly against this line of thinking and were instead arguing for upgrading new arrivals' qualifications as a means for getting a regular job. The center-right wing parties, on the other hand, regarded the high welfare benefits as a pretext for immigrants for not doing enough to becoming financial self-supportive. In the last stage, obtaining Danish citizenship, the study shows that through the entire period a common understanding of the meaning of naturalisation has not been challenged by the majority in Parliament. Nationalisation is viewed by a majority as a reward for striving to incorporate into society and becoming "Danish", although there are contesting ideas as to what this notion connotes. To conclude, it was in the debates on asylum seekers and refugees that the most profound discursive antagonisms appeared over the period. The other debates - on integration and naturalisation - were rather characterized by parties drawing on different discourses but ones that ideologically resembled each other.

### Immigrant Entrepreneurship as Gendered Social Positions

By *Trine Lund Thomsen*

This PhD dissertation investigates the implications of self-employment in terms of motivations, strategies and practise concerning female and male immigrant entrepreneurs in Denmark. Gender is the prioritized category of the research although it also includes other differentiating categories such as ethnicity, class and generation, which give the study an intersectional perspective. The object of the research is to explore how male and female immigrant entrepreneurs differentiate from each other regarding their motivations for becoming self-employed and the strategy applied in their approach to entrepreneurship. Furthermore, the aim of the study is to contribute to a better insight and understanding of the different aspects at work within the so-called ethnic economies.

The research is an explorative study based on biographical interviews with immigrant entrepreneurs in three major cities in Denmark - Aalborg, Aarhus and

Copenhagen. These interviews are interpreted within a theoretical frame in a three-step analysis. In the first stage of the analytical part of this research - the preliminary study - I identify different reasons for *why* (causal motivations or reactions) some immigrants choose to become self-employed and that these differences are partly gender based. In the second stage of the analysis I explore *what* (teleological motivations or intentions) the immigrants want to obtain by being self-employed, which refers to the intentions of the strategy. In the third stage of the analysis I identify types of strategies in terms of *how* the immigrants access the field of self-employment by the means of different forms of capital, it being social, economic and cultural.

In part one I identify several causal motivations or reasons for becoming self-employed, those being discrimination, limitations on the labour market, inflexi-

bility and dependency. Applying a theoretical sensitization to these themes leads to two central theoretical concepts, recognition and autonomy. The analysis of the narratives shows that the male immigrant entrepreneurs are to a high degree motivated by aspects of recognition, because of experiences of discrimination and barriers on the labour market. The female entrepreneurs, on the other hand, have not experienced the same degree of labour market limitations, but have encountered both ethnic and gender discrimination. They are to a larger degree motivated by lack of flexibility and independency and are therefore aiming for more autonomy. The two theoretical concepts are brought into the second stage as they also reflect the intentions behind the choice of becoming self-employed. The intentions identified in the biographical interview are attainment of self-esteem, family empowerment, accumulation of capital, career pursuit, gain of freedom and self-realisation. In the distinctions it becomes apparent that there are more subtle nuances that characterizes the relation between the reason for and intentions of becoming self-employed and also how they are gendered. A significant distinction is here that the female entrepreneurs are primarily encouraged by the latter three forms of intentions, whereas the male entrepreneurs mainly find motivation in the former three intentions. In the third stage of analysis the different ways of accessing the field of entrepreneurship are sought unravelled, those being *the profession-based strategy*, which necessitates that the immigrants have skills and/or qualifications that are convertible

into self-employment, meaning that the profession can be used in a particular branch of self-employment, which tends to be more the case for female entrepreneurs than for male; *the conventional strategy*, which is based on reproductive business behaviour where the success of others, often co-ethnics, motivates one to follow the "good example" and finally *the innovative strategy*, which is applied by resourceful immigrants, mostly males, who set out to find a business concept in an expected market opening, a nouvelle niche to be explored often with a high risk as well as an opportunity of a high profit return.

A general conclusion to be made from the analysis is that it is easier for some immigrants, in particular male, to access the business world compared to the professional world. However, it is not a simple matter of just establishing a business, but rather that of a low-income business, which is by far the most common type of business owned by immigrants. Another conclusion is that the male entrepreneurs to a much higher degree are forced into self-employment than the female entrepreneurs, who in various degrees have made the choice because they want to (pull mechanism) rather than have to (push mechanism). Finally, the analysis shows that self-employment both can serve as being integration promoting and that it may lead to further marginalization and even segregation, in particular when using the conventional strategy.

## ACTIVITIES

### AMID events

See the AMID Calendar of Activities at our website, which is updated regularly: <http://www.amid.dk/activities/index.html>.

### External events

#### *Sommer Course on Refugee Issues*

Organizer: Centre for Refugee Studies, York University

Time and venue: 9-16 June 2007, York University, Toronto

More information: [www.yorku.ca/crs](http://www.yorku.ca/crs)

#### *12th International Metropolis Conference*

Organizer: Monash University and Australian Multicultural Foundation

Time and venue: 8-12 October 2007, Melbourne, Australien

More information: [www.metropolis2007.org](http://www.metropolis2007.org)

#### *14th Nordic Migration Researcher Conference*

Organizer: IMER, University of Bergen

Time and venue: 14-16 November 2007, Bergen, Norway

More information: Early next year (2007) a homepage about the conference will be launched, located on [www.uib.no/sfu/imer](http://www.uib.no/sfu/imer)

## MIGRATION LINKS

### Webbased journal on Islam

FIFO, a Danish forum for research on Islam, has recently published the first number of the scientific journal *Tidsskrift for Islamforskning*. It is an online journal available on the homepage: [www.islamforskning.dk](http://www.islamforskning.dk). The journal is published twice a year and contains longer peer-reviewed articles, shorter scientific contributions and review articles on academic literature related to Islam. A number of articles are written in English. The purpose of the journal is to encourage knowledge sharing among researchers and master's programme students who work with Islam in Denmark and in the Western world. The journal is also targeted a wider public by providing insights into the newest research on Islam.

### Foundation ISMU

ISMU, *Initiatives and Studies on Multi-Ethnicity*, is an independent organization working with the promotion of studies, research and projects on multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society. Read more on the website <http://www.ismu.org/english/>. Furthermore a range of publications are available for download at the website.

## PUBLICATIONS

### New AMID working papers

All the papers are available at: [www.amid.dk/pub/index.html](http://www.amid.dk/pub/index.html)

47/2005: Jørgen Clausen: *The Dramatic Drop in Fertility in Iran*

48/2006: Jan Ekberg: *Immigration to the Welfare State. Is it a Burden or a Contribution? The Case of Sweden.*

49/2006 Jens Lintrup: *Middle Eastern and North African Cultures - Barriers to Industrial Growth?*

50/2006: Simon Turner: *Inside-Outside: Political Transformation in Burundi and its Diaspora*

51/2006: Anika Liversage: *The Interrelation of Trajectory and Identity - the re-education of a high-skilled immigrant*

52/2006: Thomas Gammeltoft-Hansen: *Filtering Out the Risky Migrant. Migration control, risk theory and the EU*

### Interdisciplinary Immigration Workshop

A website, launched by Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley, with the purpose to provide researchers, teaching staff and citizens with information about immigration. The website contains i.a. links to statistical material, research organizations and think tanks, list of publications and scientific journals focusing on immigration. Link:

<http://www.iir.berkeley.edu/immigration/index.html>

### openDemocracy

openDemocracy is an independent website providing articles, critical analyses and debates on global issues. Democracy, power, faith and conflicts are examples of areas being elucidated. Both practitioners and researchers publish articles and contribute to the debates on the website. Visit the website at <http://www.opendemocracy.net/home/index.jsp>. On the website you can also sign up for news via email.

53/2006: Jørgen Goul Andersen: *Immigration and the Legitimacy of the Scandinavian Welfare State: Some Preliminary Danish Findings*

54/2006: Birgitta Frello: *Cultural Hybridity - Contamination or Creative Transgression?*

55/2006: Ragnhild Ihle: *Social Work as Guide to Refugee Integration – from needs to individual planning programs*

56/2006: Ariane B. Kelleris: *The Relationship between Frequent Relocation and Childhood/Youth Behaviour*

57/2006: Jette Kofoed: *Selecting the Team. Doing Whiteness and Masculinity*

58/2006: Mine Üçok: *Transnational Consumption Practices for Social Mobility: A Study of Turkish Immigrants in Denmark*

59/2006: Rashmi Singla: *The Formation of Intimate Partnerships among Ethnic Minority Youth in Denmark: Generational Relationships & Religious Endogamy*

60/2006: Christer Gerdes & Eskil Wadensjö: *Immigration and the Welfare State: Some Danish Experiences*

### Other publications

Fair, Linda Scharn (2006). *Impact of Spatial Dispersal on Refugees in Denmark*. PhD Dissertation, May 2006. New Brunswick, New Jersey: The State University of New Jersey.

Hedetoft, Ulf (2006): Denmark: *Integrating Immigrants into a Homogeneous Welfare State*. Migration Information Source, November 2006.

Download: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=485>

Liversage, Anika (2005). *Labour Market Life Stories of Immigrant Professionals*. Frederiksberg, Denmark: Samfundslitteratur.

Migration Policy Group: *Migration News Sheet* (Monthly Information Bulletin on Immigrants, Refugees and Ethnic Minorities). Read more: <http://www.migpolgroup.com/topics/2054.html>

Pedersen, Peder J., Mariola Pytlikova & Nina Smith (2006). "Migration into OECD countries 1990-2000", in Craig A. Parsons & Timothy M. Smeedin (eds.): *Immigration and the Transformation of Europe*. Chapter 3, pp. 43-84. Cambridge University Press.

Rosholm, M., L. Husted & K. Scott (2006). "'The Times They Are-A Changin': Declining Immigrant Employment Opportunities in Scandinavia", in *International Migration Review*, vol. 40, pp. 318-347.

Tanner, Arno (2006). *The Future of International Migration Governance. A Survey of subject priorities in a new organizational model*. Helsinki: East-West Books.

**AMID's newsletter** is published at regular intervals by the Academy for Migration Studies in Denmark (AMID).

The aim of the newsletter is to serve as a complementary information channel to the Academy's website. We invite everyone at AMID and other institutions and organizations that deal with migration issues to contribute with information to be published in this newsletter.

Please send contributions via email to Maria Christensen ([mariac@ihis.aau.dk](mailto:mariac@ihis.aau.dk)) or Julie Larsen ([julie@ihis.aau.dk](mailto:julie@ihis.aau.dk)).

**AMID** is a consortium consisting of researchers at research centers representing three institutions of higher education and two research institutes. The Director of the Academy is Professor, dr.phil. Ulf Hedetoft.

To be included in our mailing list, please send us your name, affiliation and email address.

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