



# Newsletter

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## News from the Consortium

### IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND GLOBAL CONTROL REGIMES – NEW AMID PROJECT IN THE PIPELINE

As briefly mentioned in the last newsletter, AMID has been granted funding for a research project on irregular migration and global control regimes. The project period is four years (starting in the fall 2005) and is comprised of three two-year post.doc. projects, two full-time PhD scholarships and development of a university education within migration studies.

The project is funded by the Danish Research Agency (ca. 5.2 million DKK) as well as the Faculties of the Humanities and the Social Sciences at Aalborg University (ca. 8.5 million DKK).

The project participants are:

- Lærke Klitgaard Holm (post.doc. researcher)
- Kirsten Hviid (post.doc. researcher)
- Trine Lund Thomsen (post.doc. researcher)

Two PhD candidates will be employed later on. Below is an elaborate description of the background and purpose of the research project followed by short descriptions of the post.doc. projects and the themes of the PhD scholarships.

#### The Purpose and Framework of the Project<sup>1</sup>

*By Ulf Hedetoft, Director, AMID*

Viewed from an overall perspective, this project is based in a contradictory 'minefield' between individuals' (right to) mobility on the one hand, and nation states' (right to) defend their own borders, populations, and territories on the other hand (Andreas & Snyder, 2000; Joppke & Guiraudon, 2001).

'Human smuggling arises out of the existence of borders and because border crossing is possible only under certain defined legal conditions, while at the same time the motivation for global migration exceeds the given legal possibilities' (Heckmann, 2003, p. 19).

It is basically the tensions between these processes/relations in the international system that both trigger the categorization of certain migration processes as 'illegal', 'irregular' or 'unauthorised', (because they take place despite and across the regulating frameworks of wanted and necessary immigration of states and international institutions), but also explains the increased interest of especially western governments in efficient regional and global mechanisms of migration control.

Behind this interest lie the stark – albeit estimated – figures of the growing scope of irregular migration. The IOM has estimated that there are approximately 35 million 'illegal immigrants' worldwide and that approximately four million people are smuggled across borders annually – of whom ca. 500,000 into and within the EU (Widgren, 1999). All estimates (including the number of apprehensions as well as death tolls due to unsuccessful smuggling attempts) indicate that the figures are steadily increasing (Düvell, 2003), not least because human trafficking is evolving into a profitable multi-billion business in line with drug trafficking (see various contributions in Kyle & Koslowski, 2001), but also because of a variety of other significant factors: growth in global economic inequality coupled with better access to information about opportunities and conditions in the west; western economic (and probably also political) actors' not insignificant interest in benefiting from cheap 'irregular' labour – a well-documented issue in connection with the American-Mexican maquiladora economy (see eg Andreas, 2001 and Spener, 2001) – however, this must also be presumed to be relevant in a European context (see eg Bade, 2003); finally, but not least, the phenomenon which the German migration researcher Friedrich Heckmann (2003) has referred to as the arms race of migration control processes:

'Experts agree that the process of human smuggling is under constant pressure for adaptation to change. The dynamism in the social organisation of smuggling evolves from the relation between law enforcement and smugglers' networks. The basic pattern is an interaction process: the action of one actor provokes a reaction of the other which in turn leads to another action. Each action is influenced by

<sup>1</sup> Translated from Danish into English by Julie Larsen.

the actor's anticipation of possible reactions of the other actor' (2001, pp. 19-20).

One may term this the contradictory dynamics of irregular migration: the attempts of state regimes to plug certain gaps in border controls lead to yet more imaginative, more technologically based and also more dangerous ways to evade reformed regimes – ways that may lead to not only increasing prices for the services rendered by smugglers but paradoxically also to a total rise in the scope of irregular migration: the field is increasingly becoming commercial, organization processes become sophisticated by way of more informal network cooperation between fragments of the total trafficking process (Vertovec, 2004), information flows to potential migrants are rendered more effective, the pull factors increase in strength and numbers, and the militarization of border controls is only to a limited extent backed – if at all – by employer sanctions in order to counter the interest of business enterprises in irregular labour.

In their edited book on global human trafficking, David Kyle og Rey Koslowski therefore conclude that an overall picture is one of a field in which state officials and smugglers are locked in an embrace without straightforward solutions, a phenomenon

'resistant to half-hearted state control efforts lacking sufficient political will to develop programs that would thwart not only the associated criminality but also the complex motivations of those smuggled, the nature and organization of the demand for their labour, and states' own historical actions that have inadvertently created and maintained it' (2001, pp. 20 & 21).

Moreover, they note that the existing system of states, based on national and territorial sovereignty, is unfit for undertaking and addressing (on its own) the challenges that an increasingly highly mobile world, not least the irregular part of this mobility, confront them with: border controls, no matter how technologically advanced they might be, can at best only constitute a small part of the political responses to the challenges which, in line with the complexity of the problems, demand more comprehensive solutions, such as other forms of transnational cooperation:

'... the trade in humans and migrants is a topic that intersects contemporary anxieties concerning the global political economy, ethnic and gender stratification, multiculturalism, population growth, political corruption, transnational crime, the Internet, human rights abuses, and the (in)ability of states and global agencies to control any of these effectively' (ibid., pp. 4-5).

This complexity has implications both in terms of states' (in this connection not least the small, homogeneous welfare state's) practical handling of irregular migration as well as for scholarly approaches, possibilities and methods for capturing these problems in a theoretical-analytical context.

The international society of states has, on the basis of previous experiences and given the weakening of

traditional political instruments due to globalization, gradually reached conclusions which approach those indicated above. Most notably, the result is governance endeavours to control migration globally while taking due account of state interests, but now with the involvement of more policy areas (eg security policies, development policies and regional policies), and taking into account multilateral interests and economic flows in the relationship between sending, transit and receiving countries. This happens through the establishment/strengthening of or cooperation with global or regional institutions, think tanks and sub- or transnational NGOs (Düvell, 2003; Düvell & Jordan, 2003; Spencer, 2003; Tamas, 2004, chapters 2 and 3). This is especially the case with the IOM (the International Organisation for Migration); the Intergovernmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugees and Migration Policies (based institutionally at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in Vienna); the International Labour Organisation (ILO); the Council of Europe; the WTO; to a certain extent the UNHCR; a series of more or less formalized think tanks and conferences (eg Metropolis – cf Metropolis World Bulletin, vol. 4, September 2004, theme on 'Managing Migration – International Cooperation, Refugees, Trafficking', or the Council of Europe's conference in Athens, 3-4 October 2001, titled 'Irregular Migration and Dignity of Migrants: Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region'); and finally, new forms of regional and/or intergovernmental cooperation, eg between the EU and the ASEM countries on regulating migration flows which, to the maximum feasible extent, favours a majority of political-economic interests and is capable of coping with human trafficking on a global basis.

These institutions do not exclude but complement each other and point towards a global migration governance regime per se where the driving (and in any case the implementing) force at presents appears to be the IOM (Düvell, 2003; IOM, 2004) – both because the organization has about 100 member states, because its portfolio is very broad (based among other things on developing a global migration warning system), because it cooperates closely with regional regimes like the EU, and due to the fact that its rationale for action is economic-demographic rather than based on humanitarian considerations. Franck Düvell's reflection on the rationality of the European migration processes is thought-provoking and could be convenient starting point for a conceptual discussion of the subject area:

'There is a worrying equilibrium between those who are deported from Europe each year, about 350,000 plus an unknown number of those leaving "voluntarily" because of deterrent politics, and those who are recruited on some kind of a foreign labour scheme. In that light migration politics appears as a modus to run "UK plc" or "Deutschland AG" and represents a strategy of social

engineering to rationalise and to recompose its population, similar to a workforce' (2003).

The research-based knowledge of this regime and its forms, organization and consequences is, however, relatively modest, not least as far as welfare states such as Denmark are concerned, and the planned research at the Academy for Migration Studies in Denmark will hence focus intensely on key aspects of this relationship – both in terms of global institutional links (the PhD project on 'Migration Management...'), the EU regional aspect (the post.doc. project on the Migration Policies of the EU), and the Danish national perspective (the PhD project on Denmark, Globalization and New Forms of Migration). See also the section below for short descriptions of all five sub-projects.

As an area of research the field is relatively new and unexplored; however, it has attracted increased attention in recent years – as reflected in articles in scientific journals, conference papers, monographs and anthologies. The reason for this increased interest is obvious (cf the account so far). On the other hand, one may ask why it is not until the last couple of years that scholars have dealt seriously with the issues. In this case there are presumably at least three relevant reasons.

*First*, we are dealing with a field which in the social practice exists in a grey area, difficult to document, and where the empirical, methodological and analytical problems hence are considerable (Heckmann, 2003; see also below as well as the three project descriptions).

*Second*, it is a field which cannot easily be approached without a true interdisciplinary approach and methodology: the arms race between national/regional control and the transnational migration flows (and their different actors) involve concepts and methods from eg the disciplines of international politics, regional and globalization studies (security studies, concepts of sovereignty, geo-politics, interdependence theories etc), neo-institutionalism and discourse theory (institutional modes of operation, path dependencies, regime theory, international law, multi-level governance, symbolic politics...), sociological organization theory (especially network theory and analyses of transnational organizations), behavioural psychology (the motivational structures of migration and the interaction of push/pull factors) and welfare state and labour market theories (integration and marginalization studies, analyses and theories of economic grey zones, urban economy studies). Even if not all specific studies need to draw on all these disciplines, the research communities, which traditionally have been more comfortable within well-defined disciplines, are, nonetheless, faced with a serious challenge.

Finally, *third*, there is no doubt that irregular migration from south to north and east to west has grown both in terms of actual scope and relative importance viewed in relation to the total transnational migration since the end of the Cold War – as an important accompanying measure of other political and economic globalization processes (see eg Sassen, 2004), but also as a bi-product of the increasingly hermetic and restrictive immigration policies that the high-tech western countries have pursued throughout the 90s and during the first few years of the new millennium. When eg European states, since the 70s, have chosen to basically seal their borders against work migrants and only have allowed for politically justified and humanitarian immigration (asylum seekers) and resulting family reunions – and at the same time have become more selective within the last-mentioned areas – it can hardly puzzle anyone that such a restrictive policy involves a rise in two forms of irregular migration: immigrants who pretend to be refugees or enter Europe in other seemingly legal ways (eg on a tourist visa or to study), and those who attempt to immigrate (or are forced to immigrate, eg prostitutes in Denmark from the Baltic countries) in a clearly illegal manner (via human smugglers or on their own initiative).

The research consequences of these very real but also complicated relationships between qualitative problems and quantitative processes, state regulation and human/organizational circumvention strategies, action and reaction, autonomy and globalization etc are to construct manageable interdisciplinary research designs which combine well-defined empirical and processual focal points linked to conceptual frameworks and methods that despite the data-related difficulties allow for reasonably testable hypotheses, and where attempts are made to integrate the socio-cultural micro level with political-institutional macro analyses. In particular, data collection and methods of analysis confront the researcher with challenges – due to the 'shady' nature of the field (also concerning basic ethical considerations on the prevention of data/respondent misuse). However, some studies have been carried out which can be used as guidelines and models (see eg Futo & Jandl, 2003; IOM, 2000; Singer & Massey, 1998; Thunø, 2003; Zimic et al, 2003), as well as methodologically and empirically oriented accounts of the possibility for obtaining valid data within the field (eg Heckmann, 2003; Icduygu & Toktas, 2002; miscellaneous contributions in Kyle & Koslowski, 2001; Lederer, 2003). These considerations have been elaborated in the individual project descriptions in relation to the specific research themes and research designs.

The planned research at AMID within the field of *Irregular Migration and Global Control Regimes* cannot and will not aim at dealing with the totality of

the complex fields that this brief review has outlined. The ambition is – in the form of the five sub-projects – to contribute with new and essential knowledge about the way in which the arms race between control and flow develops throughout Europe and in particular to identify both social and political-economic consequences of human trafficking and irregular forms of migration for Denmark; Denmark's own more proactive input to and self-interest in the emerging global control regime (where eg recent proposals about refugee camps in neighbouring countries, asylum processing outside the EU and the linkage between development aid and migration policies are in line with the policies and practices which have already been/or are being implemented with the support of eg the IOM); and finally, the labour market and integration-related effects of irregular migration in Denmark and for immigrants. The empirical focus of the Danish case will hence link the five studies, which will analyze various aspects and dimensions of the overall project – but at the same time it will be treated in the perspective of the larger regional and global context.

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## Description of the Individual Projects

### Post.doc Project 1: Illegal Immigrants from South-east Asia and Eastern Europe, Human Trafficking, Transnational Networks and Social Strategies in Denmark. (Kirsten Hviid)

The purpose of the project is to examine the existence of and living conditions among irregular immigrants within the EU. The number of immigrants seems to be increasing. This rise is – among other things – due to the globalization of the world economy and the restrictive immigration policies of the EU countries. The aim is to analyze immigrants from Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe and their transnational networks within the individual European countries with particular regard to the developments in

Denmark in recent years. Specifically, the project will look into the experiences of irregular immigrants in connection with the migration process – such as contact to the human trafficking networks and agents, as well as the economic and social conditions that this type of migration result in.

**Post.doc Project 2: Migration and Life Processes – the relationships between external conditions and cultural shaping for two ethnic groups.** (Trine Lund Thomsen)

The purpose of this project is to analyze the influence of labour market integration upon the integration of ethnic minority groups from China and the Baltic countries, respectively, into Danish society. These two groups have one thing in common: they have not previously been the subject of much publicity or research in a systematic way. The two groups are, however, different in many aspects, eg the time of migration and the political and social conditions at the time of the migration to Denmark. The preconditions of the integration process were hence different and the hypothesis is that this aspect has influenced the economic, social and cultural integration process.

The project will mainly take its point of departure in grey-area activities, but as reality does not consist of clear distinctions, straddles both the legal and the explicitly illegal areas. The objective of this study is hence to investigate the existence of direct and indirect links between various forms of migration patterns and integration patterns among the Southeast-Asian and Eastern-European migrants in Denmark.

**Post.doc Project 3: The EU Migration Policies and their Significance for Denmark.** (Lærke Klitgaard Holm)

The aim of this project is to analyze the migration and refugee policies of the EU and how the Danish immigration policy is positioned within the greater European context – both with or without the Danish opt-outs on EU's justice and home affairs.

The investigation is comprised of two parts:

- The EU's asylum and immigration policies: discourses, decision-making processes and policies regarding strategies of refugee camps placed near refugee-producing areas, intensifying border controls, burden-sharing of refugees and strategies in relation to diminishing irregular immigration in general. The focus will be on how different institutions, organizations and other stakeholders use discourses on security, human rights, the welfare state and others to legitimize policies within these policy areas.

- The Danish migration and asylum situation/politics in a European perspective: an analysis of the differences and similarities that may be in the Danish and European migration and asylum policies, respectively, as well as an analysis of and an evaluation of Denmark's interests in participating in the EU judicial cooperation.

## **Descriptions of the PhD projects**

In addition to the three post.doc projects, AMID will soon advertise two full-time PhD scholarships. The frames of the scholarships are as follows:

**PhD Project 1: Denmark, Globalization and New Forms of Migration.** The project should map, analyze and put into perspective essential dimensions of human trafficking to, from and via Denmark, the political, legal and organizational readiness for handling social and human problems related to trafficking, and the media's coverage of such migration processes, migrant groups, as global causes and local effects of such processes. Project proposals may emphasize political, sociological, criminological, human rights-related or legal aspects of and approaches to the chosen problem areas. Proposals which methodologically and theoretically integrate a plurality of scholarly perspectives are of particular interest. Moreover, we are interested in comparative proposals (eg. comparative studies of Denmark and other European countries).

**PhD Project 2: Migration Management on a Global, Local, Regional and National Level.** As population movements increasingly interlace with general globalization processes and assume more comprehensive and more complex forms, the international society's interest in how to politically regulate migration processes and transform them into regionally/nationally desirable forms increase. The result is a widespread network of institutions, agreements and strategies in order to control, optimize and channel migration processes and migrant groups. Among these institutions eg the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the EU, ASEM, NAFTA, the WTO, various INGOs and the individual nation states are significant actors. On the basis of this, the project should analyze selected institutions and actors within the global migration management regime with the purpose of uncovering the background, rationale, organization and practical influence of these institutions. It is desirable that project proposals consider – as one of its dimensions – Denmark's role, and the importance of the global migration regime for migration to or from Denmark.

## EXTERNAL EVENTS

### Seminar: Islam in France

In France, the issues of Islam, the veiling of women, national identity and citizenship have long been major themes in the political debate. Even though this debate to some extent has echoed in Denmark, our knowledge of the wide array of French research within the field is highly limited. By inviting two French researchers who work in this field, we wish to improve the knowledge of the symbolic and political placement of Islam in France. The seminar is in English. See program here: <http://www.diis.dk/sw10486.asp>

Time: 13 April 2005 at 13-16.30

Venue: DIIS, Strandgade 56, 1401 Copenhagen.

Organizers: The Danish Institute for International Studies, DIIS, and the Research Priority Area: Religion in the 21st Century at the University of Copenhagen.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required by e-mail to [event@diis.dk](mailto:event@diis.dk) no later than 11 April 2005 at 12.00 noon.

### Conference on Pluralism & Equality in Helsinki.

Organizers: The Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, the Erik Castrén Institute of International Law & Human Rights, and the Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism (CEREN).

Time: 18-21 April 2005

Further information:

<http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/blogs/eci/Information.pdf>

### Summer Course on Refugee Issues

Toronto, 11-19 June 2005

Organizers: Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Canada.

Further information available at:

<http://www.yorku.ca/crs/summer.htm>

### Forum Maastricht Conference "Migration and Integration in Europe"

26-27 May 2005 at Maastricht University, The Netherlands. The focus of the conference will be on the following themes:

- Managing Migration from a Global, European and National Perspective
- Integration of Migrants from a Comparative Perspective
- Success and Failure of Migration & Integration Policies
- Communicating Migration and Integration Policies
- Migration from a European Labour Market Perspective
- Migration as a Solution for Demographic Developments
- Migration from a Writer's Perspective

For further information please see: <http://www.unimaas.nl/forum-maastricht>

### New Danish Forum for Research on Islam

In January 2005 a new association was founded – Forum for Research on Islam. The objective of the association is to disseminate knowledge of and to promote research on Islam and Muslims in Denmark. The association also wishes to facilitate contact between researchers and the public (including the media). It is our ambition to be an cross-institutional and interdisciplinary forum promoting a broad perspective as well as knowledge of research on Islam and Muslims in Denmark. (Translated excerpt from the association's press release).

Contact person: Garbi Schmidt, chairperson & senior researcher at the Danish Institute for Social Research. ([gs@sfi.dk](mailto:gs@sfi.dk), phone: +45 3348 0896).

## Migration Links

### Master of European Integration and Regionalism

The Karl-Franzens-University in Graz offers a master program of European Integration and Regionalism. The program is offered in cooperation with the European Academy in Bolzano and the European Institute of Public Administration in Luxembourg/Barcelona.

The program is comprised of five modules which can also be followed as individual courses:

- Module I: Bolzano - **European Integration** (2 weeks in August/September 2005)
- Module II: Luxembourg - **EU Law** (2 weeks in November 2005)
- Module III: Graz - **Federalism and Regionalism** (2 weeks in January 2006)
- Module IV: Barcelona - **Regional and Social Cohesion** (2 weeks in April 2006)
- Module V: Bolzano - **Minority Protection and Cultural Diversity** (2 weeks in June 2006)

Further information about the program, requirements, fees etc is available here: <http://www.eurac.edu/meir/>.

### Society for the Study of Ethnic Relations and International Migration (ETMU)

ETMU is the Finnish Society for the Study of Ethnic Relations and International Migration. The society was founded in 2003 and it has now established itself as the leading scholarly network in the country within its subject area. Our homepages can be found in the following address: <http://www.etmu.fi/> (Direct link: <http://www.etmu.fi/english/index.html>).

### **Journal of International Migration and Integration (JIMI)**

AMID has received a request from the journal's editor who welcomes original research studies in a wide range of areas that enhance the understanding of immigration, settlement and integration and contribute to policy development. Article submissions are open to researchers, policy-makers and service providers. All papers submitted to the journal are externally and anonymously reviewed by experts.

For further information (including submission guidelines) please visit <http://jimi.metropolis.net>

### **French Journal Inviting Articles to Special Issue on Diasporas in World Cities**

The French-based, peer-reviewed academic journal *Espaces-Populations-Sociétés* is preparing a issue devoted to diasporas in world cities, scheduled for the second half of the year 2005.

We are looking for authors to provide us with papers, either of conceptual nature about the general topic or focusing of specific cases. Papers could examine, for instance, migratory movements and trajectories of diasporic migrants (personal, family and professional mobilities). They could also focus on the insertion of diasporas in the cosmopolitan city and identities of diasporas thru their collective practices (ethnic enclave economies, religion, Internet use to maintain links with the home country and within the diaspora...). Papers should focus on large cities (at least a million people) acting as crossroads of globalization.

Contact person: Yves Boquet, Université de Bourgogne, Dijon, France ([yves.boquet@u-bourgogne.fr](mailto:yves.boquet@u-bourgogne.fr))

### **The International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (ISIM)**

This issue of the *ISIM Review* (Spring 2005) contains articles within the theme "Debates on Islam in Europe" (60 pp). This issue (and previous ones) can be downloaded from ISIM's website free of charge: <http://www.isim.nl/>

## **Publications**

### **IN ENGLISH**

Borchgrevink, Tordis (2004) "Dishonourable Integration: Between Honour and Shame". AMID Working Paper Series No. 36.

Colding, Bjørg (2005) "A dynamic analysis of educational progression: Comparing children of immigrants and native Danes". *AMID Working Paper Series 37/2005*.

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**AMID 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 Julie Larsen:  
julie@ihis.aau.dk

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

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