



**DGS SEKTION
MIGRATION UND
ETHNISCHE
MINDERHEITEN**



**SOCIAL REMITTANCES
IN SOCIAL THEORY AND PRACTICE**

TRANSFORMIG International Conference

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin 12-13 September 2014

CALL FOR PAPERS

(online submission open 1-31 May 2014)

TRANSFORMIG and Section Migration and Ethnic Minorities of the German Sociological Association (DGS) are organizing an international conference on Social Remittances to be held in Berlin on 12 and 13 September 2014. The conference will feature invited lectures on topics related to theory, methodology and practice of social remitting across national borders.

The conference is organized in cooperation with:



**OŚRODEK BADAŃ NAD MIGRACJAMI
CENTRE OF MIGRATION RESEARCH**



Keynote speakers:

- Peggy Levitt (Professor of Sociology, Wellesley College and Harvard University)
- Hein de Haas (Co-director, International Migration Institute, University of Oxford)

Roundtable discussion:

- Margit Fauser (Bielefeld University)
- Michał Garapich (University of Roehampton)
- Eva Gerharz (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
- Deepak Lamba-Nieves (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
- Patricia Landolt (University of Toronto Scarborough)

Invitation to submit

Academics from broad range of disciplines, including sociology, ethnography, anthropology, geography, history, psychology, demography, development studies, economics, political studies, social studies, are very welcome to submit papers and posters on any aspect related to social remittances. Especially young scholars, doctoral researches are welcome to submit their work. The conference will be great opportunity to meet fellow PhD students and overseas senior academics.

Conference theme:

Migrants bring labour, skills and know-how to the countries where they settle, while instantly contributing to social and economic transformations in their regions of origin by sending monetary remittances to their relatives, investing in businesses, organizing political movements, introducing knowledge, norms and values (Levitt 2001; de Haas 2006). The scales of such transformations range from individuals and families, to organizations, towns, regions and whole countries (SSRC 2008). The transformative powers of monetary transfers of migrants have long been a subject to political and scholarly interest. Thereby, economic remittances have been privileged at the expense of the social.

In order to understand what and how people remit ‘beyond money’ from host to home and the other way round, a concept of social remittances was coined (Levitt 2001; Levitt and Lamba-Nieves 2011). The body of literature emerged in the US-American context but also an increasing number of European scholars investigate the dynamics and impacts of migrants’ cross-border transfers, in respect to the emergence of ‘cultures of migration’ (Horvath 2008), transfer of knowledge (Tajeda et al. 2013; Bender et al. 2012), political participation (CoE 2006), or family and friends relations (Mazzucato, multiple publications; Nedelcu, multiple publications; Sandu 2012).

We welcome contributions to the conference structured around four themes:

1. Theoretical and methodological mapping of social remittances

- Social remittances in migration and social theory: reciprocal fuelling?
- Methods and techniques of researching social remittances and their triangulations

2. From practices to knowledge, norms and values- social remittances in narrations and contexts

- When practices constitute/ change/ introduce norms and values?
- How people narrate about practices and norms?
- Transfer of knowledge and skills
- Gender perspective
- Urban and local community context
- Family and social networks context

3. Quantitative and qualitative social indicators in researching social remittances

- Quantitative and qualitative research on social remittances
- Operationalisation of social remittances
- Quantitative and qualitative social indicators
- Objective and subjective social indicators

4. Mechanism(s) of circulation, transfer and resistance to social remittances

- Methods and channels of transmission, including role of modern means of communication (including social media)
- Mediation, negotiation, circulation, transfer, resistance, rejection of social remittances
- Social agents

We also welcome contributions which consider social remittances in historical sociological perspective on migration in 19th and 20th century, and in particular focus on social remittances of the past, role of artefacts, means of transmission and narrations of migration observers/researchers in historical migration writings.

Submission guidelines

Abstracts (max. 350 words) accompanied by a short bio (max. 150 words) should be submitted online (www.transformig.hu-berlin.de/events/social-remittances-conference) by 31st May 2014.

Acceptance of the papers will be communicated by 20th of June 2014.

Travel and accommodation expenses should be covered by the participants.

Participants are requested to pay a conference fee upon registration which will cover two day snacks, beverages and lunch. The conference fee is 40€(regular) and 20€(students).

Registration modalities will be communicated after 20th June 2014. Speakers will be informed via email. Other participants should consult the conference webpage.

Venue:

The conference will take place in the facilities of the
Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences
Luisenstr. 56, Haus 1, 10117 Berlin-Mitte

Conference Website:

www.transformig.hu-berlin.de/events/social-remittances-conference

Contact:

Dr. Izabela Grabowska-Lusińska, HU Berlin
i.grabowska@hu-berlin.de