

Lecture Series and Master Course Summer term 2020

„Migration and Corona“

Initiative of the UNIC member universities

The Corona Virus Covid-19 is changing and challenging the social, economic, cultural and political world we are living in. Our everyday lifeworld was shocked by friends and relatives affected or threatened by disease, by lock-downs and minimizing direct social encounters, by unemployment, short time working and breakdown of companies. Individual and democratic rights are suspended, training and education turned to virtual methods.

In this context, not only practical but also questions relevant in social sciences arise:

- How will especially vulnerable groups like migrants and refugees be affected?
- Why do nation states allow tens of thousands of seasonal workers but reject refugees?

These questions and others (like the specific local situation of migration, Corona and transmittances) will be addressed in a multi-disciplinary social science perspective. Given the specific experiences and challenges of the Corona-crisis in Europe the Lecture Series is organized in a joint effort by the eight universities affiliated in UNIC.* At the same time, the course is accredited at RUB as Master course for modules “Interkul-turalität” IK/Straub, „Internationalisierung und Transnationalisierung“ IT/Van Loon, „Spezielle und aktuelle Bereiche des Gesundheitswesens“ SAG/Werding, and „Arbeit und Organisation“ A&O/Pries. Prof. Dr. Ludger Pries is responsible organizer and addressee of the course.

The Master Course is organized on a weekly basis. It includes a Video Lecture by one of the social science scholars of a UNIC university. There will be additional reading material and tasks for participating Master students. For credit points at RUB, an attendance record (Teilnahmenachweis TN) requires active and continuous participation as well as delivering the ongoing tasks for each session; for a proof of performance (Leistungsnachweis LN) a final term paper based on an individual or collective work has to be elaborated.

Additionally, inter-university student working groups are welcome researching specific aspects like:

Results of such group work could be presented online/in video meetings or by papers.



How is Corona impacting informal and formal migrant work in my city (e.g. care work, seasonal work)?

How are images of migration and migrants changing due to Corona in public discourse in my country and city?

How is the spread of Corona related to international mobility of which kind of persons (e.g. high qualified expatriates and managers, politicians and artists versus informal precarious migrants)?

How is Corona affecting directly and indirectly the situation and destiny of refugees and other forced migrants?



*UNIC is an established European alliance of eight universities based in post-industrial cities, with super-diverse populations with a clear mission to boost mobility and inclusion through teaching, research and community engagement. The member universities are: Erasmus University Rotterdam/Netherlands, Koc University Istanbul/Turkey, Ruhr-University Bochum/Germany, University College Cork/Ireland, University of Deusto/Spain, University of Oulu/Finland, University of Zagreb/Croatia, University of Liège/Belgium (<https://www.unic.eu/>).

Preliminary course program - Sessions each Wednesday morning 10-12 am

22.04.2020	First meeting of coordinators of all UNIC member universities
29.04.2020	How migration influences Corona, how Corona influences migration – what are transmittances of both? Ludger Pries/Ruhr-University Bochum – Germany; ludger.pries@rub.de
06.05.2020	Covid-19 and vulnerable migrant populations: the specific case of asylum seekers in Ireland’s Direct Provision system Piaras MacEinri/University College Cork – Ireland; p.maceinri@ucc.ie
13.05.2020	The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on forced migration Aitor Ibarrola/University of Deusto Bilbao – Spain; aitor.ibarrola@deusto.es
20.05.2020	Corona, epidemics and the psychosocial context from an epidemiologist perspective Sylvain Sebert/University of Oulu – Finland; Sylvain.Sebert@oulu.fi
27.05.2020	Access to asylum protection and Corona: challenges at EU external borders Goranka Lalić Novak/University of Zagreb – Croatia; goranka.lalic@pravo.hr
03.06.2020	Corona and migration of care workers and seasonal workers #who?
10.06.2020	Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on irregular migrant workers Ahmet Icduygu/Koc University Istanbul – Turkey; aicduygu@ku.edu.tr
17.06.2020	COVID-19 crisis and forced migration in Europe Marco Martiniello and Alessandro Mazzola/University of Liège; M.Martiniello@uliege.be; Alessandro.Mazzola@gsmd.ac.uk
20.06.2020	World Refugee Day: Live video conference and discussion UNIC universities
24.06.2020	COVID-19 and emergency measures in European countries for migrant diaspora Daniela Vintila/University of Liège – Belgium; Daniela.Vintila@uliege.be
01.07.2020	Turkey and Covid-19: Don’t forget refugees Kemal Kirişçi and Murat Erdogan/Turkish-German-University Istanbul – Turkey; merdogan1103@gmail.com
08.07.2020	COVID-19 and prejudices/racism against migrants #who?
15.07.2020	What the COVID19 crisis means for the governance of integration Peter Scholten/Erasmus University Rotterdam – Netherlands; p.scholten@essb.eur.nl

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