Symposium on Precarities and Temporalities in Migratory Contexts

26.-27.8.2025 University of Helsinki

Contents

Keynotes

Bridget Anderson: Time, State, Nation: The case of migrantised worker

In this paper I'll explore what we can learn at the intersection of labour, migration and precarity. I will start by considering two ways in which the temporal turn enriches the study of migration and mobility: Firstly, it encourages a processual approach to migration that moves away from fixity and 'the migrant' and towards 'migrantisation'. Secondly, through drawing attention to temporality as a mechanism of governance it invites us to reflect on how the state governs through time. This is not peculiar to 'migrants', and the lens of temporal governance can help us unmake some of the constructed divisions between migrants and citizens. I will then explore some of the ways in which the labour precarity framing, which is very popular in labour migration research, can both further and undermine this project of unmaking differentiation. It can further it by capturing a particular kind of worker subjectivity and highlighting the relevance of social reproduction to lived experiences of contemporary work, and it can undermine it by introducing hierarchies of vulnerability and by distracting analysis away from taking migration as a class issue.

Cathrine Degnen: Time and imagining generational differences: Chronocracy and ageism in Brexit-Covid-19 England

Generation or relative age is a common way humans define social difference. In Europe and North America, old age is frequently perceived as a period of decline and loss, a condition 'successful ageing' paradigms exhort individuals to avoid for as long as possible. Explicit and implicit ageist beliefs, discourses, and practices marginalize later life, portraying it as undesirable and inferior. This paper explores how imagined generational relationships with time – younger people as future facing, older people as 'out' of time – enrol linear, future-oriented temporal perspectives in reproducing ageism. The aftermath of the Brexit referendum followed closely by the covid-19 pandemic serve as my ethnographic examples. These two extraordinary events permit me to highlight how chronocracy (Kirtsoglou and Simpson 2020) – that is, the denial of coevalness or coexistence in time through everyday temporal regimes – reinforces unequal power dynamics, and to explore how generational groups are differently valued in contemporary England.

Vanessa May: Belonging, time and migration-related precarity

My talk explores the intersections of belonging, time and migration-related precarity. Belonging – which can be defined as a fundamental sense of comfort and ease within oneself and one's relational, social, cultural and material surroundings – is an inherently temporal experience. I revisit my work on the temporal nature of belonging, a core feature of which is a concern with people's everyday lives and with relationality. In particular, I explore how the temporal horizons of past, present and future inform a person's sense of belonging and how temporal belonging intersects with space and materiality. These insights are brought into dialogue with recent work on the temporality of migration experiences, which foregrounds the structural foundations of temporal precarity. My aim is to explore how such a dialogue could enrich both the belonging literature and migration scholarship.

Workshop sessions programme

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11.59-12.21	Synnøve Jahnsen: Ageing at the Margins: Violence and Vulnerability among Older Migrants in Norway	Emma Lamberg: Everyday political economy and social reproduction in a withdrawing welfare state	Ilona Bontenbal and Quivine Ndomo: Climate change, vulnerability and im(mobility) in a European context
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16.07-16.29	Rashida Bibi, Jo Britton, Majella Kilkey, Lois Orton: Intersectional complexity in go-along interviews: Temporal dimensions of belonging and inclusion in the lives of older people with migration backgrounds'	Anastasia Diatlova: Precarious Time and Migrant Construction Workers in Finland	Erna Bodström: The temporality of asylum - from protection to precarity
16.29-16.51	Maryna Smahina: 'More Than Sufferers': Belonging and Boundary-Making Through Work Among Ukrainian Forced Migrants in Finland	Reiko Shindo: Time and (un)countability of language	Laura Mankki, Eeva Heikkinen, Mikko Jakonen: Precarious Affects in Liminal Time Zone of Low-Income Migrants
16.51-17.13	Laura Kemppainen & Sirpa Wrede: Precarious Emplacement: Lifetime Experiences of Displacement, Settlement and Shifting Belonging in Finland	María Hernández Carretero: Everyday borderscapes: space, time and migrants' resistance. A case study from Senegalese migrants in Spain	Ismaël Maazaz: Precarious rivers: flood, mobilities and livelihoods at the Chad-Cameroon borderland

	Wednesday 27.8		
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14.07-14.29	Linda Bäckman: 'Trapped in Finland' – misinformation as a contributor to social inequality among internationally recruited healthcare students	Turid Sætermo and Linda Dyrlid: Navigating challenges: 'Effective integration' and precarity for adult low literate refugees in Norway	Sara Eldén, Rasmus Ahlstrand: Outsourced domestic cleaning: Female migrant labour and the commercialisation of domestic work in Sweden
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14.51-15.13	Marco Rocca: Temporariness in EU Law. The timescape of temporary labour migrations		Paula Merikoski & Lena Näre: Negotiating dignity in undervalued and underpaid work. Ukrainian workers in Finland in agri-food and cleaning sectors.

Workshop sessions and abstracts

Workshop session 1
Tuesday 26th 11.15-12.45

Age & Aging (Chair Laura Kemppainen)

Informal caregiving and health among older Russian speaking migrants in Finland

Anne Kouvonen, Teemu Kemppainen, Laura Kemppainen, Sirpa Wrede

Background: Due to population ageing the number of older informal caregivers is increasing. Earlier studies have shown that informal caregiving is associated with poorer health; however, there is less evidence among older migrants. Particularly representative studies in specific migrant groups are lacking. The aim of this study was to investigate the associations between informal caregiving and health in older Russian-speaking migrants in Finland. Methods: Data were analysed from the

Care, Health and Ageing of Russian-speaking Minority in Finland (CHARM) study, a nationally representative sample of community-dwelling Russianspeaking adults aged ≥50 years living in Finland. Postal and online survey data were collected in 2019 (Wave 1; N=1082, 57% men, mean age 63.2 years, response rate 36%) and 2022 (Wave 2, N=724). Health outcomes were self-rated health (SRH), depressive symptoms (the Center of Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale, CES-D), and different self-reported doctor-diagnosed conditions. OLS and logistic regression analyses were used to investigate the associations between informal caregiving and health indicators. The analyses were adjusted for age, sex, education and marital status, and were conducted using weights to account for the survey design and nonresponse. Results: in total, 10.4% of sample identified themselves as informal caregivers, and the mean hours of caregiving per week were 28.7 (SD=42.01, range 3-168). Preliminary analyses showed that informal caregiving was associated with a higher likelihood of depressive symptoms and rheumatoid arthritis. Conclusions: Informal caregiving is associated with poor health in older migrants. There is an urgent need for strategies to support the health of older migrants who are informal caregivers.

Ambivalences and uncertainties of old age care in the transnational space of care– exploring the narratives of Chinese migrant older parents with a life-course perspective
Yan Zhao

Based on semi-structured interviews with 24 Chinese older parents (9 in Canada, 9 in Australia and 6 in Scandinavia) who live or have lived abroad with their migrated adult children, this paper explores how migrant older parents (随随随随) abroad negotiate the needs and expectations of their own old age care in a transnational space of care shaped by global migrations, primarily migrations of their adult children. It addresses how these negotiations are shaped relative to encounters with different cultural norms concerning care and intergenerational relations, and different welfare regimes' institutional care arrangements. Adopting narrative methods (Frank, 2010; Riessman, 2008) and a life-course perspective, it demonstrates how the older parents' uncertainties/precarities related to their own old age care is a result of how they are positioned in relation to different formal and informal care resources, and the perceived conflict between their own care needs in different life phases, e.g. from the "third" to the "fourth" age (Higgs and Gilleard, 2015), and their adult children's different obligations and commitments in their corresponding life-course. Therefore, the case of Chinese migrant older parents contributes to shed light on different type of interplay between precarities and temporalities in the context of migration and aging.

Ageing at the Margins: Violence and Vulnerability among Older Migrants in Norway
Synnøve Jahnsen

This paper explores how the temporalities of migration, ageing, and structural exclusion intersect to shape vulnerability to violence and neglect among older migrants in Norway. While Norway's welfare state has historically focused on the needs of a majority-ethnic ageing population, older migrants remain largely invisible in ageing and violence prevention policies. Based on a mixed-methods study—including qualitative interviews with older women from non-European backgrounds and professionals in social and crisis services—the analysis highlights how gendered, racialised, and migration-related dimensions of precarity accumulate over time. The life trajectories of participants illustrate cumulative disadvantage, including restricted labour market participation, limited pension rights, poor health, and housing insecurity. These conditions contribute to increased dependency on family members and informal networks in later life, where care relationships may also become sites of harm. The paper identifies specific forms of relational and structural violence, such as neglect, psychological and economic abuse, and, in some cases, sexual violence. These often go unreported or are misunderstood due to language barriers, loyalty norms, and divergent cultural understandings of violence, dependency, and care. In this context, precarity is not only a material condition, but also deeply temporal and relational—shaped by lifetime exclusion, legal uncertainty, and the lack of culturally and linguistically adapted services. By applying an intersectional and life-course perspective, the paper contributes to research on how time and temporal regimes affect ageing in migration. It calls for a broader conceptualisation of elder abuse that reflects the lived experiences of racialised and migrant older adults, and invites renewed attention to how cumulative precarity shapes both vulnerability and belonging across the life course.

Social Reproduction (Chair Elisabeth Wide)

Temporality of 'crisis' and socially reproductive worlds of Ukrainian migrant/refuge workers
Daria Krivonos

In a manner now commonplace, migration has become synonymous with 'crisis'. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork among Ukrainian workers in Warsaw (2020-2023), in this presentation, I ask the following question: how social reproduction feminism can help us rethink the narratives of crisis as a disruption of the 'normal'? What remains invisibilised when the present is narrated as a 'crisis'? And most importantly, crisis for whom? I want to examine what framings of crisis do conceptually, what temporal frames of analysis they produce, and what they enable to be known. By engaging with social reproduction feminism, I want to shift the temporal lens of crisis as disruption

towards crisis as ordinariness and duress. This perspective invites us to consider the dayto-day activities that make the reproduction of life possible on the margins of racial capitalism and in the shadows of solidarity fatigue.

A long view on the crisis of social reproduction for those entangled in (post)colonial labour migrations

Majella Kilkey, Obert Tawodzera, Jayanthi T. Lingham

In this paper, we adopt the feminist political economy concept of a 'crisis of social reproduction' to explore the origins and impacts of migrants' experiences of ageing in place in England, focusing specifically on the experiences of those entangled in historical and contemporary (post)colonial labour migrations to England from Ireland, the Caribbean and Africa. We characterise the experiences of our ageing in place migrants as a 'crisis of social reproduction'. This crisis arises from the contradiction within capitalism, where social reproduction - essential for so-called productive labour - is devalued and treated as free (Fraser, 2016). The intensification of this crisis in England is attributed to decades of austerity measures and a hostile immigration regime. In the paper, we explore how structural inequalities across the life courses of racialised migrant communities shape their present experiences within the broader crisis of social reproduction. We argue that former colonial labour migrants, who once contributed to England's 'productive' workforce - resolving repeated crises for capital (Rao 2021) - confront unmet care and social reproductive needs in their later years. In taking this long view that attends to global interconnections across time and place (Bhambra 2014), our presentation challenges the presentism of crisis narratives (Inglis 2014); rather, we develop understanding of a 'crisis of social reproduction' as a perennial condition of (some) migrants, and inextricably bound up in (post)colonial migration as a solution to crises of social reproduction for capital. Through the notion of 'linked lives' (Elder 1998), we also, however, identify examples of collective agency in migrant communities, historical and contemporary, while pointing to how the capacity for this is being severely strained by England's intersecting austerity and hostile migration policies.

Everyday political economy and social reproduction in a withdrawing welfare state
Emma Lamberg

The contradiction between sustainable life-making processes and global capital's relentless pursuit of accumulation is a key manifestation of the polycrisis in the contemporary economic system. This contradiction has intensified globally over the past decades, as policies promoted by the IMF and

various governments have increased households' burdens of unpaid care and social reproductive work, as well as their dependence on markets to meet their life-sustaining needs. In this paper, I examine the everyday manifestations of this contradiction, exploring its stratified lived realities. To do so, I draw on ethnographic research with working-age parents from diverse class and ethnic backgrounds living in Finland, a Nordic welfare state in a mode of withdrawal. Methodologically, I employ the Feminist Everyday Observation Tool, which involves tracking each participant's time use for one weekday, followed by a narrative post-observation interview. Theoretically, my work builds on two interconnected debates in Feminist International Political Economy (FIPE). Firstly, I engage with feminist discussions that have grappled with the transformations of states, financial architecture, and governance, along with the associated changes in life-making processes. Secondly, I engage with conceptual work on the depletion of and through social reproduction. Presenting initial findings, I demonstrate how systemic-level 'depletion costs' of social reproduction play out on an everyday level, perpetuating intersecting inequalities related to gender, race, class and migration. Additionally, I highlight the advantages of ethnographically-driven time-use research, showing how a focus on the everyday and temporality allows us to capture the intricate rhythms and arrangements of both paid and unpaid work, as well as the associated structural dynamics of oppression and exploitation.

At the foot of the mountain: temporalities of production and social reproduction of Ukrainian refugee women in the Czech Republic

Olga Gheorgiev

This article examines how state-imposed temporalities intersect with production and social reproduction to structure the precarity of Ukrainian refugee women. I build on the analytical framework on temporalities of production and social reproduction in two key directions: first, I argue that migrant and refugee workers navigate not only employer-driven regimes of time but also a state-imposed temporality that regulates immigration status and access to social rights; and second, I explore how the seasonality of tourism work reinforces precarity. Drawing on fieldwork with Ukrainian refugee women in the Czech Republic, I show how state policies immobilise refugees, while simultaneously pressuring them into precarious work. In response, many refugee women exit into informality in the face of constraints imposed by both state institutions and exploitative employers. At the same time, the growing individualisation of social reproduction responsibilities, in the absence of institutional support, exacerbates their precarity. By exposing the ways in which sovereign power and capitalist interests synchronise to regulate migrant women's

time and labour, this article highlights how the temporality of migration control serves not only to exclude refugees but also to incorporate them into circuits of labour exploitation.

Inclusion & Migrantisation (Chair Sara Eldén)

What counts as an emergency situation? Time and the precarious inclusion of homeless EU/EEA citizens in Norwegian public social welfare

Turid Misje

The situation of EU/EEA citizens who are homeless when in Norway is characterised by poverty and lack of protection concerning basic needs such as health, food, and housing. Many have no or weak affiliations with the formal labour market, resulting in restricted rights to public welfare services. Drawing on the concept of precarious inclusion (Karlsen, 2021), I suggest however, that rather than being simply excluded from public social welfare, homeless EU/EEA citizens are included in the welfare state but in fragile and insecure ways through provisions directed at safeguarding bodily survival in emergency situations. I understand these limited inclusionary policies and practices as forming part of the Norwegian state's management of 'undesired' migrants. In this paper I explore the different – often contradictory – roles temporal dimensions play in assessments regarding what constitutes an emergency situation in cases concerning homeless EU/EEA citizens, made by social workers in the public social welfare administration. I focus particularly on the intersection of temporalities and concerns of mobility control, and how homeless EU/EEA citizens ultimately are constructed as a temporary and transnationally mobile population whose welfare rights lies "elsewhere". The paper's empirical data draws primarily from 11 interviews with social workers in the public social welfare administration. The interviews took place following almost one year of ethnographic fieldwork, which included accompanying homeless EU/EEA citizens in Oslo as they navigated the limited welfare services available to them

Difference and similarities: connecting the exclusions of migrants and citizens in the welfare state

Valter Sandell-Maury

Studies on irregular migrants' precarious access to social rights, benefits and services often emphasize the supposed diametric difference between irregular migrants' and citizens' social entitlements. In these studies, the concepts of precarious and differential inclusion are frequently

used to describe the gradient, hierarchized, and status-contingent access to social services among the undocumented and migrants holding a plethora of precarious immigration statuses, in contrast to the supposed broad access to welfare services among citizens. With this paper, I aim to nuance this pattern of thought and help pave way for studying the interconnections and similarities between the exclusions of irregular migrants and citizens from the welfare state instead of emphasizing their differences. I first summarize the key findings of a year-long ethnographic study on the role of social work in processes of precarious and differential inclusion of 'irregular' migrants in Finland, showing that 'irregular' migrants' access to social protection does not necessarily or categorically differ significantly from the access to social protection among poor citizens despite citizens' privileges and rights. Second, I suggest that studying the operations of differential and precarious inclusion in the welfare state would benefit from broadening the focus from migrants to also include poor citizens, whose position in the welfare state regarding access to services and benefits might be similar to that of precarious migrants. Methodologically, this kind of approach would benefit from 'migrantizing the citizen' and from abandoning the idea that citizenship is always accompanied by full social inclusion and broad access to social rights and services in the welfare state.

Climate change, vulnerability and im(mobility) in a European context

Ilona Bontenbal & Quivine Ndomo

Scholars of climate change agree that displacement and mobility are inevitable responses and outcomes for populations in areas that will be severely affected by adverse climate change related impacts, such as sea level rise. Particularly this is the case for people living in areas which for social, economic, political, and environmental reasons will not be defended or protected. The low-lying island states in the Pacific, threatened by sea level rise, exemplify this reality. However, sea level rise also endangers various coastal areas in Europe that host millions of socioeconomically diverse individuals in terms of age, education, wealth, class etc. Scholars argue that the permanent residents of the most vulnerable sections of coastal communities are often the most vulnerable demographics – 'migrantised citizens' by Bridget Anderson's theorization of migrantisation (see Dahinden & Anderson, 2021; see also IPCC, 2022) While the barriers to mobility and migration have been studied in various contexts (Koubi et al., 2016; Bohra-Mishra et al., 2014; Mueller et al., 2014; Massey et al. 2010; Mortreux & Barnett 2009; Song & Peng 2017), there is a significant contextual gap in the analysis of the factors that shape mobility and immobility for at-risk low-lying coastal communities in Europe. Our article aims to address this gap through ongoing fieldwork in Portsmouth (UK), Venice (Italy), and the Wadden Sea islands (the Netherlands). We investigate

how two age groups, the youth and the elderly, perceive retreat from areas affected by sea level rise as an adaptation strategy. We explore their (im)mobility decision-making processes through the lens of agency and vulnerability

A Nordic tragedy of commons: parallel patterns to differential inclusion and labour exploitation of temporary migrant labour in production of wild berries across Finland and Sweden

Andrea Iossa & Minna Seikkula

Berries represent an essential aspect of Nordic culture as well as a flourishing industry. Grounded on the freedom to roam, - a legal institute ensuring that everyone has the right to enjoy wild products - the industrial production of wild berries in both Finland and Sweden has developed on the resort to temporary, seasonal labour, often coming from Thailand. Some of the companies in the wild berry branch operate across both Nordic countries and rely on the same recruitment structures in Thailand, to the extent that in the beginning of the recruitment process, it might be unclear to workers in which of the two countries they will end up picking berries. Berry forests extend across the Finland-Sweden border and the berries ripen for a couple months harvesting season on both sides of the border each year. However, the two Nordic jurisdictions have regarded this form of temporary labour migration in different ways and yet, the distinct regulatory solutions seem to have produced a relatively similar outcome, where a precarious, temporary labour force enables raw-material for the berry industry to compete on the global market. The presentation is part of a comparative effort to analyse the regulatory regimes under which temporary labour migrants in the wild berry industry work, including recent developments in Finland and Sweden. In both countries, over-exploitation in the berry branch has received considerable media attention. In Finland, this has led to a 180-degree change in the way in which third-country-national pickers are recognized in the labour law. In Sweden, broader changes in the regulation of labour migration "require" to re-interpret the migration/labour market status of thirdcountry nationals working in wild berry picking. In this presentation, we explore the parallel patterns of socio-legal construction of differential inclusion and labour exploitation of migrant workers in the wild berry industry across Finland and Sweden. The aim is to highlight the contrast between temporary migrant work and its regulation across jurisdictions that insist on the same natural and economic territory.

Workshop session 2
Tuesday 26th 15:45-17:15

Belonging (Chair Vanessa May)

The Digital Life of Precarious Belonging: NEET-Youth with Migration Backgrounds in Norway

Nessa, B., Seddighi, G., and Radlick, R.L

This paper examines how young people in Norway who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) with migration backgrounds engage with digital media to craft – and contest – a sense of belonging amid structural precarity and uncertain futures. These young people often face intersecting challenges, including low completion rates of education, socioeconomic challenges and weak social support (Fyhn et al., 2021). For individuals from marginalized backgrounds, this can further compound digital inequalities and deepen existing forms of exclusion (Brites et al., 2024; Helsper, 2021). Drawing on 25 narrative interviews with 16- to 29- year-olds, we analyse how digital practices become resources for connecting to imagined communities and for negotiating insider/outsider boundaries. Grounding our analysis in Anderson's concept of imagined communities (Anderson, 1983) and Eriksen's notion of precarious belonging (Eriksen, 2015), we approach precarity not only as material insecurity but as a relational, affective and time-sensitive process in which past and future imaginaries shape present practices. Three intersecting arenas of digital negotiation emerge: 1) Global talk: following conflicts, influencers and pop-culture feeds to position themselves within broader moral and cultural communities beyond Norway, 2) Imagining "Norwegianhood": using humour, comment-fields and memes to test what counts as properly Norwegian, often pushing back against racialised stereotypes, 3) Sustaining transnational and local care ties: relying on various apps to weave familial intimacy and navigate welfare bureaucracies when offline support is thin. Through these three intersecting arenas the paper shows how digital practices both ease and intensify relational precarities. Online encounters offer alternative publics and low-threshold companionship, yet connections remain fragile. Many participants describe an everyday wavering between connection and dis/connection.

Intersectional complexity in go-along interviews: Temporal dimensions of belonging and inclusion in the lives of older people with migration backgrounds'

Rashida Bibi, Jo Britton, Majella Kilkey, Lois Orton

Go-along interviews have gained increasing popularity as an ethnographic research method across academic disciplines. As one of the mobile methods of research, the go-along interview has been used with people with migration backgrounds as a way to capture the nuanced complexity of micro-experiences in the everyday and wider macro-structures which shape understandings of belonging and place. By foregrounding participants' experiences and emphasising the sensory, dynamic interaction between participants and their lived environments, the go-along interview further challenges the participant-researcher hierarchy and dominant epistemological frameworks of knowledge production.

This paper explores the use of go-along interviews with older participants with diverse migration backgrounds, conducted as part of a larger mixed-methods research project based in South Yorkshire, England. The project aims to critically analyse dominant understandings of social inclusion/exclusion in later life. Adopting an intersectional, life course approach, analysis of data generated through go-along interviews with 80 research participants, illustrates the extent to which understandings of being and belonging in place are affected by intersections of gender, ethnicity, age and socio-economic position. It also highlights that experiences of place are embodied, fluid and contextual across time and space.

Whilst much attention has been paid to the usefulness of the go-along interview method for exploring where belonging and inclusion occurs, a focus on the potential of the method to capture temporal dimensions - the when of belonging - remains underexplored. This paper discusses how the go along interviews elicited rich data which connected temporal dimensions of belonging to wider socio-historic processes illustrated by notions of 'slow change' and 'crisis moments.' The paper further explores how differing experiences of place for older migrants (including perceptions, lived experiences and policy implementations) inform and shape the meaning of place over time.

'More Than Sufferers': Belonging and Boundary-Making Through Work Among Ukrainian Forced Migrants in Finland
Maryna Shamina

Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the number of Ukrainian refugees in Europe grew rapidly, including in Finland. Across the EU, they were accepted under the Temporary Protection mechanism, which, among other benefits, granted immediate access to the labor market and shaped the temporal conditions of their stay and future prospects in host societies. This study examines how Ukrainian forced migrants in Finland discuss work in online spaces and the meanings they attach to it, situated within the specific conditions created by the Temporary

Protection mechanism. Specifically, it explores how work is instrumentalized in their adaptation processes, how they negotiate conditions for belonging, and how they engage in boundary-making. Drawing on discussions in one of the largest Facebook groups, "Ukrainians in Finland," and using the concept of community of value, the study contributes to refugee studies and literature on belonging and boundary-making. It highlights how work functions as a means through which migrants navigate the uncertain temporalities of displacement and envision their place in Finnish society as a way to respond to the precarity of their situation. The findings suggest that Ukrainians engage with work as a boundary-making tool, as a threshold and facilitator for belonging, and a means of asserting worthiness and dignity.

Precarious Emplacement: Lifetime Experiences of Displacement, Settlement and Shifting Belonging in Finland
Laura Kemppainen & Sirpa Wrede

Migration studies increasingly acknowledge the biographical disruptions entailed in relocation, yet there remains a need to move beyond generalized notions of "the migrant experience." This presentation engages with the complex dynamics of displacement and emplacement, addressing both the inherent precarity of resettlement and the fragility of long-term resettlement when disrupted by broader political and social shifts.

At the personal level, we emphasize how displacement unfolds over time, through sudden changes that rupture taken-for-granted habits and aspirations to align with social clocks. By examining shifting life circumstances and evolving perceptions of belonging, we illuminate the temporal complexities of lives shaped by displacement.

Adopting a lifetime approach, we explore how historical and contemporary crises—such as the Vietnam War, the fall of Soviet Union, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the escalation of the Russian war in Ukraine—shape life paths of people with migration histories. We theorize displacement and temporality through contrasting case studies of Vietnamese former refugees and older Russian-speaking residents in Finland. While marked by distinct contexts, these life histories offer insights into the precariousness of emplacement.

For older Vietnamese Finns, displacement is a prolonged process encompassing wartime trauma, refugee camp life, and resettlement in a country with few established co-ethnic or even migrant networks. Their narratives reveal how past, present and future intersect. In contrast, Russian-speaking migrants—whose lives have followed transnational lifestyles since the post-socialist era—now face renewed ruptures due to the pandemic and the geopolitical conflict.

Through these life histories, we show that crises become pivotal moments that reshape identity and temporal understandings of belonging. Our analysis aims at advancing a more nuanced view of migration and displacement as dynamic, personal and temporally complex processes, shaped by disruptive social forces and producing layered precarities.

Time (Chair Olivia Maury)

Imagined Educational Trajectories and Acting in the Present: Newly Arrived Migrant Students in Introductory Education

Anna-Maria S. Marecovic & Anna Liisa Närvänen

This paper explores how newly arrived migrant students (NAMS) imagine their future educational trajectories and how these anticipations may shape their actions in the present, i.e. while attending introductory education in Sweden. Theoretically our study is situated in interpretive sociology and sociology of time, particularly in the cognitive dimensions of projectivity, proposed by Mische (2009). Empirically we draw on a qualitative interview study with 36 NAMS aged 16- 19. Two primary trajectories are identified: untroubled trajectory, characterized by long-term planning, expanding opportunities, and active agency; and uncertain trajectory, marked by a shortterm focus, lack of knowledge about the educational system, and a passive stance toward the future. These primary trajectories are further divided into three subtrajectories with distinct properties. Untroubled trajectories are linked to opportunities, while uncertain trajectories reflect precarity and disadvantages. These findings refinie previous research on NAMS's educational experiences and interpretations of their educational prospects. The paper also suggests that this conceptual and analytical framework contributes to a broader understanding of how imagined futures shape actions across different life stages and ages. These findings have relevance beyond the educational context, offering insights into how migrants and other people navigate transitions, such as between life phases, in career planning, or when approaching retirement.

Precarious Time and Migrant Construction Workers in Finland
Anastasia Diatlova

In this paper, I explore the dimension of time as it is experienced by migrant construction workers in Finland. As multiple crises coalesce into a global recession, the construction sector shrinks, and with it the demand for labor shrinks as well. At the same time, anti-migration legislation and sentiment further restrict people's mobility, right to work and access to the welfare state. In this

context, time takes on multiple meanings as both a resource and a liability. David Harvey describes time as simultaneously a state of the-never-ending present and fractured and disjointed. Based on in-depth semi-structured interviews (N=17), this paper examines the various ways in which migrant construction workers are locked in zero-hour contracts, "free" time, waiting time, time limits on their residence permits, and time for social reproduction, and how they attempt to exert some power over time with various consequences. The paper also seeks to expand the concept of time precarity at work (Campos Ugaz, 2022).

Time and (un)countability of language
Reiko Shindo

Recently, there has been a growing call to question the ideology that considers each language as a distinct and countable entity. Ranging from language-testing policies for immigrants to heritage language education for minority speakers, this ideology appears in various forms to perpetuate the myth that proficiency in a 'national language' is a condition for 'legitimate' belonging and citizenship (e.g. Gramling 2016; Fortier 2022). The paper examines the role of time in shaping the ideology about language countability. I focus on a body of research that takes issue with the language-countability ideology: one developed at the intersection between migration research and applied linguistics (e.g. Canagarajah 2017) and the other in the writings of some postcolonial scholars (e.g. Achebe 1965/1997). Despite some differences, these studies collectively question the singularity of language that underlines the ideology of language countability and highlight the critical role time plays in the making of this ideology. Building on these studies, I will draw on the cases of Finland and Japan to show two specific ways in which the languagecountability ideology works together with time in shaping migrants' everyday experiences of language. Firstly, migrants are perceived as 'children' who need time to acquire language skills to become 'adults' (as 'native' speakers). This creates a hierarchy within the same language whereby native speakers' language is considered as the only authentic version. Secondly, online translation applications introduce digital time in language learning, allowing migrants to jump to a point in time when they can take control of their interactions with native speakers. The mixing of digital time with analogue time unsettles the ideology of language countability because it fundamentally questions what counts as 'language' let alone 'human' language.

Everyday borderscapes: space, time and migrants' resistance. A case study from Senegalese migrants in Spain

María Hernández Carretero

This paper examines bordering experiences derived from living in states of chronic and cyclical administrative irregularity, the borderscapes – as both space and timescapes – that ensue from them well beyond physical borderlines, and migrants' efforts to resist them creatively. The paper is based on a longitudinal study with Senegalese migrants in Spain, and presents an analysis grounded on ethnographic vignettes from individual life stories at different points of the long path to regularisation. Having carried out fieldwork among Senegalese migrants in the same area of Catalonia since 2010, I have been able to observe individual and collective change – and stasis – within this community over time. The longitudinal perspective allows observing the human, social, economic, and other consequences of administrative irregularity, including its chronification (in the sense of becoming entrenched) and societal normalisation – but also how migrants resist the consequences of bordering processes. The paper analyses public spaces as both spaces of work, socialisation, and opportunity, and as borderscapes – spaces of hierarchization, exclusion, racism, entrapment, and persecution, and discusses how migrants confront the paradox of (in)visibility that plays out in these spaces. It examines how migrants use such spaces, resisting, navigating and (re)appropriating them to both undertake economic activities and seek labour and regularisation opportunities, including through high intranational mobility. The paper further explores how bordering, and resistance to it, shapes the lived experience of time – time lost, time stretched endlessly – giving way to particular timescapes. Finally, it discusses the specific processes of subjectivation that derive from the spatial and temporal experiences of bordering, and migrants' resistance to it.

Different Precarities (Chair Lena Näre)

Precarity in Nordic countries - levels and trends across various notions of precarity

Markus Jäntti & Lena Näre

How widespread is precariousness in the Nordic countries and how has it evolved across time? In this paper, we discuss different aspects of precarity and vulnerability in the labour market and in terms of well-being, with a focus on how their extent can be measured. We are especially concerned with including groups that are not typically covered by household-population-based data, such as undocumented migrants and seasonal workers. We then use publicly available data sources to

examine how many persons can be said to be in a precarious position in three Nordic countries -- Finland, Norway in Sweden -- and how this has changed over time. We also study how geographically concentrated precariousness is within each of the countries.

The temporality of asylum - from protection to precarity

Erna Bodström

I investigate how precarity is created in the endings of refugeehood. Traditionally, international protection has been seen as a form of long-term stay, offering stability and possibilities for belonging and integration. However, with what has been termed the 'temporary turn', this is quickly changing. This becomes visible both through granting more temporary permits to refugees, for example in Denmark, and introducing periodic reassessment of the need for refuge, as in the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. The development is even more pronounced in Finland, which has introduced the reassessment of the need apparently in perpetuity. The reassessment - regardless of its outcome - leaves the person to an experienced sense of precarity. Research shows that the feeling starts already when the person is informed of the investigation and continues throughout; they express a sense of their lives being put on hold and an erosion of their feeling of belonging and trust to the society (Brekke, Birkvad and Erdal 2021). The possible ending is tightly tied to temporality - waiting for the bureaucratic decisions is experienced as the time slowing down (Philipson 2022). My research shows that these disruptions of life can affect the person even after decades of living in refuge (Bodström forthcoming). Furthermore, if international protection is removed, this leaves the person in uncertainty of their continued stay or, at least, weakens its conditions. I examine the precarity created by the temporal practises of asylum through the analysis of 200 cases on removal of international protection by the Finnish Immigration Service between 2015 and 2022. I ask: What kind of role do temporality, social relations and emotions play in the endings of refugeehood? What kind of precarity does this create? As such, I contribute in understanding the governance structures, individual experiences and asymmetric power relations in the endings of refugeehood and the 'temporary turn' of asylum.

Precarious Affects in Liminal Time Zone of Low-Income Migrants

Laura Mankki, Eeva Heikkinen, Mikko Jakonen

Research on precarious work has emphasized the temporariness associated with various short-term, part-time, and gig jobs for decades. Precarious work and life have been seen to consist of various heterogeneous fragments and tasks, whose coordination has been perceived as challenging and deviating from the normal "Fordist" rhythm and temporality of everyday life. This kind of precarious everyday life has been shown to be burdensome due to its constant variability. This paper draws from two data sets from two different research projects which both investigate low-income migrants' working and living conditions and related struggles in Finland. The first dataset consists of twenty interviews conducted in 2023, and the second set consists of interviews with twenty-five migrants, thirteen of whom follow-up interviews were conducted between 2013- 2017. In this paper, we examine how precarious affects circulate in the lives of working poor migrants in what we consider as the becoming of a "liminal time zone" within the current Finnish welfare state. The paper zooms into the reflections of migrants concerning their past, current, and future life choices and trajectories. We focus on the affects that make migrants consider continuing to live in Finland, and on the other hand, the affects that lead them towards the decision to leave. We are especially interested in affects related to everyday life assemblages in work, intimate and close relationships, and housing arrangements, as well as ambivalent affects related to the Finnish welfare state. By precarious affects, we refer to, for instance, exhaustion and endurance to tackle the ambivalent and temporary situations in which migrants work, live, and make connections to other people, which we dubbed as the "liminal time zone."

Precarious rivers: flood, mobilities and livelihoods at the Chad-Cameroon borderland
Ismaël Maazaz

The Lake Chad Basin is a 'regional system' (Magrin and Pérouse de Montclos 2018) that is simultaneously characterised by landlockedness and flows of people and goods between four countries in Central Africa (Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger). The Chari and Logone rivers form a natural border between Chad and Cameroon. These rivers have alternatively obstructed and facilitated exchanges between the two countries, as illustrated by the repercussions of extreme floods which have become regular in the region in a context of climate change (OCHA 2022; 2023; 2024). For example, the destructions caused by seasonal floods have significantly affected labour patterns in the borderland by fostering temporary or permanent displacements of riverside populations to the Cameroonian or Chadian side after the loss of their livelihoods or accommodations. Floods have differentiated impacts on socioeconomic groups, since farmers often face substantial crop decimations whilst fishing and pastoralist communities may adapt more easily

or benefit from heavy rainfalls. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork undertaken in twin towns of the Chad-Cameroon borderland (N'Djamena and Bongor in Chad; Yagoua and Kusserie in Cameroon), this paper examines the consequences of water-related disasters on disruptions of labour practices, thereby contributing to precarity and contrived cross-border displacements. It speaks to existing debates on the economic anthropology in Africa (Bennafla 2002; Brachet and Scheele 2019; Lamarque and Nugent 2022; Muñoz 2018&2024) and the political ecology of natural resources (Rangé 2016; Zakinet 2020). It aims to document and analyse collective resilience mechanisms, agentive struggles and transformations of livelihoods amid climate change in Central Africa and beyond.

Workshop Session 3
Wednesday 27th 10:45-12.15

Labour 1 (Chair Lena Näre)

Solidarity in migrant worker mobilisation: Syndicalist unionisation in Sweden
Rasmus Ahlstrand

This paper draws on labour process theory (Atzeni, 2010; Tassinari & Macarrone, 2020) to analyse the mobilization of migrant workers in an anarcho-syndicalist trade union in Sweden. Based on an ethnographic study of a local section of SAC, the main anarcho-syndicalist trade union in Sweden, I show how strategic decisions such as the removal of a qualifying period for new members and the successful litigation of cases at the labour court make SAC more accessible and attractive for previously unorganized workers. While often contrasted with organising activities, I demonstrate how this servicing generates a re-collectivisation of the individualised labour process through the de-mysiftication of solidarity (Atzeni, 2010). Furthermore, I illustrate how mobilisation creates a space – and a place – for migrant workers to share experiences of exploitation and precarity and initiate resistance and workplace solidarity. Drawing on the concept of community of struggle (Peró, 2020), I argue that the members increasingly identify with a collective identity characterised by their shared experiences of exploitation as well as SACs organisational identity and contentious collective action. The article concludes with a consideration of how SAC's local organising and direct action challenges the informatisation of labour relations in Sweden.

Syndicalist struggle for labour migrant workers in the Swedish Labour Court
Catharina Calleman

The Swedish Syndicalist trade union federation (SAC) is a party in a large number of cases in the Swedish Labour Court. Most of these cases are part of the organization's struggle for migrant workers. In this article, the background and the outcome of the cases are investigated. The impact of labour market crime is discussed and so are the effects of trade union activities concerning the situation of migrant workers and society at large. Finally, various legal measures are proposed which could promote union activities and thereby also the work against labour market crime.

Partial Footholds: Rethinking the Trajectories of Highly Qualified Migrants in Oslo
Alejandro Miranda Nieto

Highly qualified migrants are often portrayed as a privileged and desirable group, a view that is mainly based on a dichotomy between skilled and unskilled migrants. Contemporary discourses on the integration of migrants assume that they adapt easily, contribute economically and require little state support. However, this perspective overlooks the heterogeneity within this group and the structural and relational forms of precarity that sometimes shape their lived experiences. Drawing on interviews with IT specialists who moved to Oslo primarily for work, this article explores how these migrants navigate the tension between privilege and precarity. Rather than following a linear path of integration, their experiences reveal a continuous negotiation of social, emotional and economic circumstances. Occupying a liminal position – neither fully settled nor uprooted – they often adopt strategic flexibility in their private lives. This article shows how these migrants establish partial, contingent footholds in professional and relational domains. Recognising the conditional nature of their social anchoring challenges dominant assumptions about integration and calls for more nuanced analytical and policy approaches that take into account the temporally situated realities of the lives of highly qualified migrants.

Racialized Geographies of Labour: The Case of Food Delivery Workers in Helsinki
Olivia Maury

Racialisation cannot be taken at face-value but must be understood in terms of its process in relation to the socio-political context. Racialisation in the context of platform labour has repeatedly been emphasised (Van Doorn 2017; Bonhomme & Muldoon 2024) conceptualising this intertwinement as 'racial platform capitalism' (Gebrial 2024). However, food delivery workers' presence and movement in the cityscape requires a sharpened focus on the processes of racialisation occurring in relation to movement in the social and built environment as well as in relation to specific administrative-legal migration structures. This paper examines the production of racialized geographies of labour in Helsinki, drawing on participatory research and interviews with migrants

undertaking cleaning and food delivery gigs via digital labour platforms. Theoretically it points to 'the complex recursivity between material and epistemic forms of racism are ridden with infinite creativity' (Melamed 2015: 77) in the urban setting. Thus, the paper examines the creativity of the ways in which modes of governing through socio-legal practices and the built environment, which shape social encounters and social separateness between individuals and people governed as groups, contribute to present day racial capitalism. It does so by demonstrating how an urban racialized pattern of labour is reproduced through process of differentiation and logics that 'create "certainties" of discreteness, distinctness and discontinuity' (Melamed 2015: 77). The paper contributes to the literature on the complex intertwinement of processes of racialisation and platform capitalism from a spatio-temporal perspective.

Home & Hospitality (Chair Paula Merikoski)

Precarious Work, Precarious lives? How Migrant Workers in Norway Weave Life-Narratives and Build a Sense of Home
Ann Cathrin Corrales-Øverlid & Alejandro Miranda Nieto

Over the past decade, a growing body of literature has explored the so-called homemigration nexus. Yet, the relationship between work and immigrant homemaking remains underexamined, despite increasing scholarly attention to the ways in which immigrants disproportionately bear the burden of labor market precarization in the Global North. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork and interviews, this paper examines the experiences of migrants in Norway with high educational qualifications and professional backgrounds. It explores how their encounters with the Norwegian labor market—including high entry thresholds, job insecurity, downward professional mobility, and experiences of othering and racialization—generate a pervasive sense of precariousness that shapes not only their working lives but also their efforts to build a sense of home. We argue that the search for work stability and professional recognition is intimately tied to the construction of home. This process is not only material but also affective. It requires a coherent lifenarrative that integrates temporal orientation, emotional anchoring, and a sense of belonging. Building on Sennett's (1998) concept of the individual's search for a coherent life-narrative under "the New Capitalism," we show how precarious employment can both mitigate and reproduce precariousness across multiple dimensions of life. These workers navigate uncertainty in ways that resist the constraints imposed

by intersecting structures—across work and family, the local and the transnational, and migrant, minority, and non-citizen social and legal positions. While precarious employment often compels a present-oriented outlook (Armano et al. 2022), their ongoing strategic adjustments reveal how they continue to carve out future horizons and strive for coherence in unsettled conditions.

Non-linearity of homestay accommodation in wartime: Life-making temporalities and materialities of homesharing

Olga Tkach

This paper examines the practice of sharing of private domestic space with displaced people as a grassroots act of humanitarianism in the context of the ongoing war. The perspective of homesharing goes beyond the debate on hospitality and the host-guest binary and refers to dynamic, interdependent, and temporally diverse relationships between housing providers and the displaced people to whom they offered a place to live. The paper is based on ethnographic research in the Helsinki metropolitan area, Finland, including 20 in-depth home-based interviews with volunteers who have shared their homes with Ukrainians displaced from their country since the full-scale Russian invasion in February 2022, and a fieldwork diary. Conceptually, it links the academic literature on everyday humanitarianism, life-making and home. It identifies multiple temporal trajectories of homesharing, from the one-off spontaneous rescue home to longer-term shared living and a variety of life-making labour performed throughout. I argue that the humanitarian labour of homesharing is temporally framed by the ongoing war and the degree of synchronisation between the lives of volunteer households and those of displaced individuals and families. The research shows that all possible trajectories of homesharing, such as rescue, settling and lasting homes, intersect and involve all possible life-making activities, albeit in different ways. As the war continues, these homes become spaces for stabilising lives, alleviating suffering, meeting basic needs, maintaining links with the outside world, and planning for an uncertain future. These homes can be made through mutual care and unmade through the life situations of both parties and potential mismatches in time budgets, lifestyles and overall life plans. The paper concludes with the temporal complexities of homesharing as the new routines overcome the uncertainties.

'Civil Society Hospitality': Welcoming Initiatives and Pragmatism Targeting Unaccompanied Youth in Malmö

Priscilla Solano

This article presents the notion of 'civil society hospitality', addressing welcoming initiatives that open spaces and provide services to unaccompanied youth in Malmö. The article contributes to the literature on bottom-up humanitarianism and focuses on hospitality practices and their limits. Through semi-structured interviews with key civil society actors and attending key events, the article argues that civil society faces limitations in providing services that are embedded in the law and in funding constraints that shift their efforts towards pragmatism with the goal of 'bringing back in' those excluded from a changing social democratic welfare model. On the other hand, the bottom-up initiative of creating a welcoming space is also seen as a form of subversion of migration governance. Civil society hospitality in Malmö illustrates how the guest/host divide is reshaped, contested and reaffirmed. By tracing the services offered within the welcoming initiatives of civil society, this article offers insights into how actors attempt to shape a safe open space that contests current migration governance, but also cooperates with state actors.

Care (Chair Sirpa Wrede)

Managing Precarity with Affects: Labor Migration, Third-Country Nationals, and Senior Care Homes in the Post-Yugoslav (Semi)periphery of Europe

Majda Hrženjak

This paper examines the precarisation of migrant care workers through an analysis of tacit, affective strategies of labor migration management in the public network of senior care homes on the European (semi)periphery, specifically within the micro-region of the former Yugoslav states. Situated within the broader context of the EU labor migration regime, the study focuses on the position of third-country nationals (TCNs), whose mobility is framed by both transnational hierarchies and national labor market demands. Drawing on the theoretical lens of the affective turn, which illuminates emerging forms of neoliberal governmentality and subject formation, the analysis explores how allegedly migrant-friendly organizational practices simultaneously mask and reproduce structural inequalities. Based on individual interviews with institutional stakeholders and migrant care workers carried out in Slovenia within the research project Transnationalisation of care for older people, the study reveals how emotions, and intimacy are mobilized as instruments of governance and as targets of labor control. Three central themes emerge from the empirical material: the instrumentalization of intimate relations and family bonds in recruitment processes; the deployment of friendly micromanagement practices aimed at smoothing labor market frictions; and the experience of deskilling, with its emotional and existential impacts. The findings

demonstrate that under conditions of acute labor shortages, care home managers use affectively loaded strategies and maintain the appearance of benevolence and care to secure a compliant and emotionally invested workforce. However, these organizational practices ultimately reinforce migrant workers' second-class status, intensifying their material, emotional, and professional precarity. Ultimately, it is the state that by recruiting TCNs as a cost-saving strategy, entrenches a neoliberal, hierarchical regime in the provision of senior care, structured al

Addressing Methodological Challenges in Researching Transnational Care

TRANSCARENET (Saar, Maarja; Melander Charlotte, Ginte Martinkene and others)

Studying transnational care directed to elderly parents dependent on other´s caregiving comes with its challenges which are related to most methods falling short in addressing especially the hidden aspects related to this form of caregiving. In this conference presentation we aim to shed a light on how these challenges were addressed by us both in relation to studying stakeholders as well as migrant families taking care of their ageing parents across national borders within the Nordic-Baltic region and beyond. We intend to highlight how to uncover negotiations about caregiving within the networks of actors involved in this process as well as the changing dynamics of who is doing what at distance and in a physical proximity over time. Our approach to stakeholders addresses the potentials with using participatory mapping to address the questions related to who is responsible for transnational caretaking as well as potential limitations that actors see in the current system. Our approach to interviewing migrants describes the benefits of using visual and narrative methods combined with critical incidents in order to access the intimate, dispersed, and emotionally charged labor of caregiving.

Academic Displacement and the Role of Family: Scholars at Risk Navigating Mobilities, Precarity, and Care Relations

Anna Simola & Laura Merla

The displacement of academics at risk is rising across the world. Scholars flee violent persecution and conflicts and increasingly face non-violent academic persecution and attacks on research freedom. While democratic countries in Europe and North America were long considered safe and free environments for researchers, academic freedom is increasingly threatened in these regions too. However, little is known about the impact of academic displacement on the personal lives of displaced scholars outside the professional sphere. This paper presents planned research on the lived experiences of displaced scholars. It uses a systematic qualitative approach to understand the interplay of mobility, employment, and legal status trajectories of at-risk academics, influenced by

support programs, local academic labor markets, and restrictive migration regimes. We aim to understand the specific vulnerabilities and precarity they experience, focusing on both initial displacement and subsequent mobilities within neoliberal academia. We highlight that academics do not move solely to secure their research careers and knowledge production, but with entire lives embedded in relational ties and state mechanisms that govern their right to family life. We apply the transnational circulation of care framework (Baldassar and Merla, 2014) to understand how the trajectories of displaced scholars are influenced by different forms of informal care and support that they and their family members reciprocally provide across borders, potentially mitigating or exacerbating precarity

Workforce Reconfiguration in Residential Care: Opportunities, Risks and Future Directions

Amrithavally Thaivalappil Ramakrishnan

This research aligns with the symposium's focus on the temporal and structural dimensions of precarity, shedding light on how migrant workers navigate instability, shifting labour expectations, and uncertain futures. This research explores the reconfiguration of the adult social care workforce in England, a sector marked by chronic underfunding, high turnover, and labour shortages. Residential care homes, particularly profit-driven private facilities, are reshaping roles and responsibilities to manage growing pressures. However, the lived experiences of those most affected—especially migrant and racialised frontline workers—remain underexamined. This study addresses that gap by investigating how corporate logics shape care work, and how these logics intersect with, accompany, compete with, or are subsumed by other institutional logics. This study, currently in its data collection phase, aims to address these gaps by examining how corporate logics influence workforce reconfiguration in care homes. It focuses on the lived experiences of frontline workers and managers, with a specific emphasis on migrant workers who often occupy precarious positions within the sector. A multiple case study will compare three care homes—a residential, a nursing, and a dementia care home—to explore differences and similarities in workforce reconfiguration, and how these are shaped by institutional and ideological forces. Using a participatory organisational research framework, the study involves collaboration with key stakeholders throughout the research process. It captures practical insights into how reconfiguration strategies are enacted, negotiated, and experienced on the ground. The study also investigates how corporate logics influence managerial decisions and the tensions between care quality and costefficiency. By amplifying the voices of frontline workers, particularly migrants, this study seeks to inform policies and practices that promote more sustainable workforce models.

Workshop Session 4
Wednesday 27th 13:45-15.15

Regulation/ Governance (Chair Markus Jäntti)

Labour shortages or the demand for flexible foreign workforce? The labour market test as a regulatory tool for labour immigration

Suvi Karhu

Workers from outside the EU are granted a work permit for blue-collar jobs only if no local labour is available. In this paper, I examine the impact of the labour market test, a key element of the Finnish work permit system. Migrant workers are more likely to end up in precarious labour market positions, and the work permit system partly sustains structures that create a workforce with limited labour market opportunities. The regulation of labour immigration is believed to restrict unnecessary demand for foreign labour and direct migrant workers to sectors experiencing temporal shortages of labour. On the other hand, some argue that regulating labour immigration is merely symbolic: in reality, highly educated and aging post-industrial societies are constantly dependent on migrant workers, particularly for atypical employment relationships, and low-paid jobs that local workers are unwilling to take. The study relies on registry data on work permit decisions made at TE Offices between 2019 and 2023 (n=46 739). In the analysis, I apply descriptive statistical methods and logistic regression. The preliminary findings suggest that the labour market test has not restricted labour immigration to sectors facing labour shortage. Work permit decisions are concentrated in few sectors, characterized by low wages and the prevalence of atypical employment relationships. Immigration has been restricted, but the grounds for the restrictions do not appear to be labour market policy -related, and there is significant variation in the decisions. This case-bycase approach reduces the transparency of the system and makes labour immigration regulations difficult to predict.

'Trapped in Finland' – misinformation as a contributor to social inequality among internationally recruited healthcare students

Linda Bäckman

Education has become one of Finland's key exports since the early 2000s, with explicit export strategies (Rönnberg & Hinke Dobrochinski Candido, 2023). Educational institutions and private companies act independently in recruiting students, also at vocational level. In recent years, the demand of healthcare professionals particularly in elderly care has grown in Finland, leading to increased recruitments from overseas in an unmonitored manner. Nurse migration, moreover, represents a particular phenomenon as part of global commodity chains (Yeates, 2004). This paper draws on data collected through ethnographic observations collected in classroom contexts over a 12-month period, among three groups of healthcare students recruited from countries outside Europe to complete a degree in practical nursing degree in Finland. In addition, 27 students were interviewed about their experiences. The paper examines pre-arrival information reported by the students and its discrepancy to lived reality after arrival. Understanding misinformation in line with Karlova and Fisher (2013) as information that is uncertain, vague or ambiguous, i.e. not deliberately incorrect, the paper focuses particularly on students' perceptions of the contents of the program they were recruited for, as well as the Finnish labour market. The misinformation led to some students feeling trapped, with their skills degraded, and often left them in precarious circumstances.

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From Hope to Reality: An analysis of How Immigrant Women's Work Ambitions Are Shaped and Realised Through Participation in a Work-Oriented Measure

Guro Aasen & Astrid Ouahyb Sundsbø

Despite Norway's focus on employment for social equality,immigrant women, particularly those from Africa and Asia,experience persistent labour market disadvantages (Pettersen 2024; Taha & Villund 2023) creating various conditions of precarity intensified by the welfare state's focus on work activation (Bendixsen & Corrales-Øverlid 2024).While an extensive introduction program aim

to address labour market disadvantages,their limited impact on women's employment (Ugreninov & Turner 2023),leads many to engage with further work-oriented measures like qualification and work training programs,and face extended periods of uncertainty and precarious temporalities.This paper explores how epistemic injustice (Fricker 2007) within these work-oriented measures (beyond introduction programs) shapes immigrant women's work ambitions and career trajectories and contributes to their precarity.Addressing a significant gap in understanding these processes,this study uses qualitative data from fieldwork at a specific workoriented measure targeting unemployed immigrants categorised (by social service) as in need of extensive support to reach employment,and aiming for rapid transition from unemployment to employment.Through extensive fieldwork,serial in-depth interviews with immigrant women participating in the measure,and interviews with social service workers,we examine how the women's labour market ambitions and career trajectories are influenced by program participation and how epistemic injustice manifests within this context and contribute to precarity.The papers research question is: How do epistemic injustices in employment services,enacted through the institutional practices of social service workers,shape immigrant women's work ambitions and career trajectories?Our findings will contribute insight into the contextual factors affecting immigrant women's labour market ambitions and shed light on how temporality and precarity are produced through work activation programs.

Temporariness in EU Law. The timescape of temporary labour migrations

Marco Rocca

The use of temporal elements in the regulation of migration has received considerable attention. The focus on certain techniques used to create and enforce temporal boundaries (waiting periods and delays, qualifying periods, accelerations...) has led to an important body of research on asylum seekers, detention and migrants in an 'irregular' administrative situation. Less attention has been paid to the role of temporal governance of the category defined by its relation to time, namely temporal labour migration. In this contribution, I focus on the regulation of this phenomenon by the European Union (EU), covering seasonal workers, intra-group transfers, au-pairs and posted workers. I examine the use of the concept of 'temporariness' in EU law, analysing both third-country migration and intra-EU migration, as well as the temporary transnational movement of businesses (provision of services), in order to explore the internal meaning of this concept. To this end, I present and discuss the results of an original systematic document analysis of more than 500 uses of the concept in EU law that fall within the scope of this article. I highlight the differences between the use of 'thick time' for migration (measured with pre-established calendar time durations) and 'thin time' for businesses (measured with general clauses and case by case assessment), as well as

the bridging role of posting of workers between the two categories. I also consider the inability of EU law to consider time in a collective sense, and the implications of this limitation for the role of EU law in naturalising the obfuscation of the structural presence and contribution of temporary migrant workers by deploying an individualised symbolisation of their presence.

Integration (Chair Anastasia Diatlova)

Considering Integration: (Re)Creating and (Re)shaping boundaries through Information

Avanti Chajed

In Finland, recent legislation has made integration the responsibility of municipalities. At the same time, these policies have reduced the support municipalities receive for aiding migrants in their integration, with the claim that migrants must be responsible for their own integration. Such efforts by the national government put not only migrants in a precarious position, but also municipalities, who must find ways to support migrants in meaningful ways that facilitate belonging even as the national rhetoric and policies increasingly exclude them. This paper seeks to understand integration in a new way that can support municipalities in supporting migrant integration that go beyond employment services by presenting information as a key aspect of promoting belonging. Using Karen Barad's agential realism (Barad, 2006) to build on and critique Klarenbeek (2021) concept of integration being the dissolution of barriers between insiders and outsiders, this article presents information as a material practice of integration. Through the practices of information (seeking, receiving, denying etc), boundaries between insiders and outsiders are (re)created and (re)shaped. I use interviews with 8 migrant mothers on their experiences of public services and observation data of courses offered by municipalities to support migrants, to illustrate how information intersects with the temporal experience of migration, shaping the trajectory of how belonging is and is not felt, thus shaping feelings of precarity.

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Navigating challenges: 'Effective integration' and precarity for adult low literate refugees in Norway

Turid Sætermo and Linda Dyrlid

Nordic countries have a long tradition of welcoming UNHCR refugees for resettlement. The Norwegian selection criteria for these refugees place a priority on particularly vulnerable individuals, including many with little or no schooling, and who have little or no literacy skills. After resettlement, they must navigate their everyday lives in a society in which literacy and digital skills are the norm, and formal competencies is key. At the same time, Norwegian integration policies increasingly emphasize speed and efficiency when it comes to refugees becoming economically self-sufficient. While employment has been a central focus of integration policies since the 1990s, today's policies aim at achieving this goal as time-efficiently as possible, for example by shortening deadlines and reducing durations in integration programs. Drawing on qualitative interviews with refugees and employees in various integration-related services, the paper explores various ways that the goal of 'effective integration' can produce precarity for individuals this group. In the analysis, we take inspiration from perspectives on temporality as a key aspect of migration (Andersson, 2014; Griffiths et al., 2013) and as a management tool in migration and integration processes (Baas and Yeoh, 2019; Cwerner, 2001) which in the case of refugees is often quite invasive. The interviews also show how refugees actively resolve, bypass or oppose situations that can be described as precarious.

The end of life in refuge - temporalities of integration and death

Eveliina Lyytinen

Ageing and the end of life are becoming increasingly critical issues in the context of forced migration, as more and more of the world's population live in exile, yet elderly refugees are under-researched and underrepresented in migration-related debate (Bastia, Lulle, & King 2022). In this presentation, I examine how older people with a refugee background experience their temporal processes of integration, alongside their feelings and strategies connected with dying in the context of refugeehood. My aim is to bridge the study of individuals' end-of-life-connected experiences and reflections with the analysis of transnational community practices of support and care at times of death and the expansions of 'deathscapes' in refuge (Maddrell & Sidaway 2010). In doing so, I aim to make contributions particularly to emotional, legal and material geographies' theory, and my approach will produce further understanding of the ways in which 'transnational death raises questions about identity, belonging, and customs, but also about the logistical care of bodies, rituals, and commemoration' (Saramo 2019: 8). My premise is that older refugees face particular challenges of integration or finding an alternative end to their refugeehood, due to their age, with

age-sensitive approaches therefore being needed in both research and services for them. Moreover, older refugees are obliged to create novel transnational strategies in conjunction with dying and mourning in exile, demonstrating particular precarities experienced by them.

Labour 2 (Chair Rasmus Ahlstrand)

Paced-, Piece-rated and Unpaid work: Migrants Navigating Institutional Continuity and Change in the Finnish and Norwegian Cleaning Sectors

Elisabeth Wide & Ann Cathrin Corrales-Øverlid

Since capitalist wage work is undergoing variegated informalisation processes on a global scale., scholars have pointed out how it is the west that is catching up with the rest, rather than the reverse (Breman & van der Linden 2014). A salient example is the cleaning industry in the global North, which has been restructured through outsourcing and subcontracting work, and is increasingly dependent on a migrant workforce (Abbasian and Hellgren 2012). Existing studies have demonstrated how corporate strategies such as tendering and outsourcing intensify labor processes while degrading workers' wages and work conditions. Less emphasis has been put on the role of unpaid work as part of these broader politico- economic restructurings. Drawing on interview data with migrant workers in the cleaning industry in Finland (N=30) and Norway (N=12), this article discusses how outsourcing, tendering, and subcontracting exert downward pressure on labour costs, leading to work intensification, often resulting in surplus value being extracted through unpaid work hours. We demonstrate how migrant cleaners' time-based employment contracts are, in practice, converted into piece-rated labor, where cleaners are paid per task but expected to complete more than what is compensated. Hence they perform unpaid labour as an extension of their paid employment. We argue that surplus value in the Finish and Norwegian cleaning industries is expropriated (Fraser 2016) by subtracting the value necessary for the reproduction of labour power—what Nartozky (2022) describes as discounted necessary labor—as such devaluing the labor necessary for sustaining life itself.

Outsourced domestic cleaning: Female migrant labour and the commercialisation of domestic work in Sweden

Sara Eldén & Rasmus Ahlstrand

This article analyses the introduction and development of state subsidies on outsourced domestic cleaning, the so called RUT tax-deduction, introduced in 2007 in Sweden. Departing from labour process theory (Thompson and Smith, 2024), we conceptualise the commercialisation of domestic cleaning as a specific labour regime (Baglioni et al., 2022) and demonstrate how companies involved in domestic cleaning make use of their position in the labour market vis a vis their employees and draw on processes of informalisation to control the labour process (Bagnardi, 2023). Based on ethnography and qualitative interviews in the sector, we identify two forms of informalisation – unrestricted and partially restricted informalisation, and show how these processes intensify labour exploitation and change the labour process in outsourced domestic cleaning. The empirical manifestations of such labour exploitation display various forms of unfree labour and work intensification, particularly for migrant workers involved in domestic cleaning. Finally, we summarise our argument and conclude that the RUT tax-deduction reform structurally transforms the Swedish cleaning industries and challenges both worker resistance and trade union influence in the workplace**.**

Cruel Optimism: The Paradox of the Norwegian Welfare State and Precarious Labor Conditions

Synnøve Bendixsen and Ann-Cathrin Corrales-Øverlid

This presentation discusses how the Norwegian welfare state and labor market regulations contribute to creating precarious working conditions and lives. The welfare state promises that everyone can live a good life if they contribute to the welfare state through work and taxes. Simultaneously, inclusion in the welfare state is based on meeting certain criteria (such as legal residence) and performing work recognized by the state as employment. This creates particular challenges for migrants, including EU migrants and refugees. We call this dynamic the cruel optimism of the welfare state. The Norwegian labor market has been known as safe and regulated. Yet, in recent years the way work and the labor market are organized have changed. We suggest that the welfare state produces and maintains precarious working conditions, despite politicians' argument of doing the opposite. Drawing on fieldwork in three sectors, gig-economy, construction

and cleaning, we discuss the increase of insecure jobs and increasingly precarious working conditions where migrants are particularly vulnerable. We argue that precarious working conditions are partly shaped by political measures and implementation, such as labor activation policies, workfare policy, the integration regime, and welfare state bordering, with consequences for people's lives and trust in the welfare state.

Negotiating dignity in undervalued and underpaid work. Ukrainian workers in Finland in agri-food and cleaning sectors.

Paula Merikoski & Lena Näre

Already before the war, Ukrainian workers have been an important part of the labour force in many critical work sectors in Europe, and also in Finland, such as care work, cleaning, and agriculture. Finnish food production has relied on Ukrainian seasonal work migration increasingly since the beginning of the century. After Russia's full-scale war in Ukraine, more than 75,000 Ukrainians have settled in Finland as beneficiaries of the temporary protection directive. Many are working in critical sectors, such as care work, agriculture, and food production, often with minimum salary and below one's level of education and ambitions. This paper is based on a EUfunded research project that investigates the living and labour conditions of irregularised and precarious migrant households. It draws from a subset of qualitative interviews conducted with Ukrainian workers, many of whom used to come to Finland for seasonal work and currently reside in Finland with a temporary residence status. Inspired by Clare Stacey's (2005; 2011) research on how low paid and undervalued home care workers find dignity in 'dirty work', we aim to revisit the idea of dignity in the case of Ukrainian migrant workers in contemporary Finland. In this paper, we examine how the research participants find a sense of worth in their work and how they attempt overcome the obstacles posed on them by migration regimes. Moreover, we consider what strategies of contesting undesirable working conditions or outright exploitation they employ. We argue that underpaid and undervalued workers often negotiate dignity in their work, despite undesirable circumstances, through a sense of professionalism and claiming autonomy, and through acts of resistance. Moreover, we argue that the role work plays in their everyday life and sense of belonging is strategic; through work, individuals orientate towards the future and hope to escape temporariness by gaining a permanent residence for themselves and their families.