



Matching Context and Capacity: The Economic Integration of Immigrants

International Workshop, organized by IMISCOE and EUI

**June 11-12th 2009
European University Institute
Badia, seminar room 2**

Theme of the workshop

One of the main questions in the debate on the integration of immigrants is that of the 'ability to pay': to what extent are immigrants able to make a living? What are the factors that contribute to a better economic position of immigrants? In answering this question, the link between the individual and its environment is of key importance. This workshop aims to explore the link between the opportunities and constraints of the context and of migrants themselves, in order to integrate economically. This link can be made at several levels of analysis.

On a micro-level, the question is how immigrants make use of, or are hindered by the local context for economic integration? For example, what is the role of (local) ethnic social networks and ethnic social capital in immigrant economic integration? How do migrant entrepreneurs use their local environment to gain a sustainable livelihood?

On a meso level, to what extent does the local context serve as an opportunity or constraint for integration? For example, migrants in receiving countries tend to be unequally distributed, with a great share residing in immigrant neighbourhoods of the big cities. This concentration has triggered public and political debate, as it is feared that concentration may hinder socio-cultural and economic integration, and possibly lead to the creation of "ghetto"-like circumstances where socio-economic problems are mounting. Despite this discourse, little research evidence actually documents potentially negative implications of ethnic concentration on immigrant economic outcomes.

On a macro or international level, the link between origin and destination country is at the core. For example, to what extent is there selectivity in migration: how well do migrants do, compared to people in the country of origin? Where do which migrants do best, or worst? How does return migration affect one's economic position, compared to those that did not return, and compared to those that did not migrate? To what extent is return migration a push or a pull factor?

Participation

The workshop is open for all EUI researchers, faculty, fellows and visitors. Please register with Eva.Breivik@eui.eu.

SPS researchers who want to get 1 credit for participating need to read the papers circulated in advance and prepare written comments on three papers of 1500 – 2000 words length. They will also present their comments orally in the respective sessions. Please write to Rainer.Baubock@eui.eu indicating your preferences.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, June 11th

9.00 – 9:15 **Words of welcome: Rainer Bauböck** (European University Institute)

9.15 – 10.00 **Keynote Speech: Michael Bommers** (IMIS, University of Osnabrück)
The ability to pay.

Session 1 Integration in the labour market

10.00 – 10.45 **Allesasandra Venturini & Claudia Villosio** (University of Torino, LABORatorio Riccardo Revelli)
Labour market assimilation of foreign workers in Italy

10.45 – 11.30 **Emilio Reyneri & Giovanna Fullin** (University of Milano-Biocca)
Do race, religion, country of origin really matter in explaining ethnic penalties in the labour market? The case of Italy.

11.30 – 12.15 **Stefano Becucci** (University of Florence)
Chinese Communities in Italy between Integration and Social Exclusion.

12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch at the EUI*

Session 2 The impact of social networks on the integration in the labour market

13.30 – 14.15 **Agnieszka Kanas** (University of Utrecht) & **Barry Chiswick** (IZA, University of Illinois at Chicago)
The Role of Social Networks in the Earnings and Occupational Mobility: A Panel Study of Immigrants to Germany.

14.15 – 15.00 **Anne Hartung** (K.U. Leuven) & **Bram Lancee** (EUI)
Turkish migrants and native Germans compared: The effect of inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic friendships on the transition from unemployment to work.

15.00 – 15.45 **Oana Ciobanu** (University of Osnabrück)
The role of social networks in different stages of Romanian migration.

15.45-16.15 *Coffee break*

Session 3 Migrants' transition from school to work

16.15- 17.30 **Keynote Speech: Jaap Dronkers** (EUI)
Negative selectivity of Europe's guest-worker immigration? The educational achievement of children of immigrants compared with the educational achievement of the pupils in their countries of origins.

17:30 – 18:15 **Can Aybek** (EUI)
Transition into Vocational Education as a Precondition of Labour Market Integration of Young Immigrants in Germany: Differences among Low-Skilled Young People of Immigrant and Native Origin.

18:15 - 19:00 **Anne Hartung & Veronique VandeZande** (K.U.Leuven)

Ethnic differences in the meaning of social capital for finding a job: evidence from Belgium.

20:00

Dinner at @Location@

Friday, June 12th

Session 4 Migrant entrepreneurs

- 9:00 – 9:45 **Keynote Speech: Jan Rath** (IMES, University of Amsterdam).
Ethnic concentration as a pre-condition for entrepreneurial success: the rise of ethnically thematized shopping areas.
- 09:45 – 10:30 **Pascal Beckers & Robert Kloosterman** (University of Amsterdam):
Local neighbourhood dynamics and business prospects of migrant entrepreneurs in the Netherlands.
- 10:30 – 11:15 **Tim Elrick** (Free University Berlin)
Mixed embeddedness compared: Social networks of South Asian entrepreneurs in Germany and the UK.
- 11:15-11:30 *Coffee break*
- 11:30 – 12:15 **Keynote Speech: Robert Kloosterman** (University of Amsterdam)
Sounding out the Opportunity Structure: Migrants and Cultural Industries.
- 12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch at the EUI*
- 13:30 – 14:15 **Andreia Tolciu & Ann-Julia Schaland** (HWWI)
Migrant Entrepreneurs and Social Capital: A Revised Perspective
- 14:15 – 15:00 **Amanda Brandellero** (University of Amsterdam)
Crossing cultural boundaries: migrants' trajectories in the cultural industries.
- 15:00- 15:30 Final Remarks

Hotel and workshop Locations

Participants from outside Florence are accommodated at the Hotel Villa la Stella	The workshop will be held at the EUI, in seminario 2.
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