

# Class, Gender and Migration

symposium organized by Saskia Bonjour and Sebastien Chauvin

within the Conference *Class in the 21st Century*

organized by the Amsterdam Research Center on Gender and Sexuality (ARC GS)

22-23 October 2015, University of Amsterdam

Roeterseiland Complex

Nieuwe Achtergracht 166

Amsterdam

## **Class and the policy construction of the (un)deserving migrant**

Immigration policies create categories of people that distinguish between those allowed to enter and stay in destination countries, and those to whom borders stayed closed. A substantial body of scholarly work explores the ways in which these politics of belonging are shaped by conceptions of national identity, ethnicity and race. Increasingly, there has also been attention to the role of constructions of gender and sexuality in shaping immigration politics. While intersectional approaches to the analysis of immigration policies are thus on the rise, the role of class, and its intertwinement with other axes of inequality, has remained remarkably underexplored. The first two panel of the symposium ask which role class plays in the construction of the '(un)desirable' migrant in political debate and policies. How are different requirements relating not only to income but also to education, housing and even national origin or 'integration' related to class? How does class intersect with ethnicity on the one hand and gender and sexuality on the other hand in construing degrees of desirability? Do we observe class serving as a proxy for ethnicity, or vice versa, in political debates and policies?

## **Class in mobility strategies and migration experiences**

While class figures at various degrees in migration policy, it also shapes the strategies and experiences of transnational migrants. Class defines the resource inequalities that separate those who are able to migrate from those who lack the means to travel. It also determines the array of conditions that drive people to want to leave or not, whether in reference to local competition in origin communities or through classed imaginaries of success associated with destination countries. Together with gender and age, class cultures inform the nature of migration decisions and the types of collective expectations invested in individual migrants. The last two panels of the symposium asks which role class plays in constraining and shaping the agency of international migrants, the differences in prestige between various groups of migrants, and internal conflicts within diasporas. How do class differences translate into various experiences of transnational marriage and family migration? How does class become relevant for asylum seekers persecuted for their sexual or gender identity? Does class play out in value conflicts over gender and sexuality within migrant communities in destination countries? How do migrant men and women navigate and perform gendered and class expectations embedded into host country migration policies? Do policy categories only function as constraints, or can they also become resources to strategize with?

Thursday 22 October

## Panel A1: Class in the policy construction of the (un)deserving migrant – part I

11.00-12.30 – Room REC C2.02

**Discussant: Jan Willem Duyvendak**, UvA

**Patrick Ireland**, Illinois Institute of Technology

Lost in Migration: How Confusion about Migrants' Class Strategies Hurts Both Them and Europe

**Jennifer Elrick**, University of Toronto

Ethnic Inclusion in Postwar Immigration Policies: Fitting Immigrants Into a Stratified National Self

**Paola Bonizzoni**, University of Milan

The price of membership. Mapping the relevance of economic-related requirements in Italian immigration policies

**Iris van Huis**, Radboud University

Male emancipation: Changing (dis)advantage and belonging in gender-equality interventions for marginalized men in the Netherlands (PhD research)

## Panel B1: Class in the policy construction of the (un)deserving migrant – part II

14.00-15.30 – Room REC C2.02

**Discussant: Marleen van der Haar**, Radboud University Nijmegen

**Jeremias Stadlmair**, University of Vienna

Citizenship only for the wealthy? Discourses on economic requirements for naturalisation and naturalisation fees in Austria, 1980-2014

**Ines Wagner**, University of Duisburg-Essen & **Sonila Danaj**, University of Jyväskylä

The welfare state and the 'poverty migrant': discourses on labour migration and policy in Germany and the UK

**Christof Roos**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Disruptive effects on EU integration? Collective actors response to underclass migration

**Saskia Bonjour**, UvA & **Jan Willem Duyvendak**, UvA

The 'migrant with poor prospects': the construction of the Unassimilable Other in Dutch civic integration debates

## **Panel C1: Class in mobility strategies and migration experiences – Part I**

16.00-17.30 – Room REC C2.02

**Discussant: Apostolos Andrikopoulos**, UvA

**Sebastian Prothmann**, Goethe University Frankfurt

“Lu metti, góor lay dal”: (Pain is proper to a man) The Gendered Dimension of Hardship. Venturing to go to the 'Global North' to be a 'real' man

**Maria Villares-Varela**, University of Birmingham

Latin American immigrant women entrepreneurs in Spain: Class, distinction, and autonomy

**Marieke Slotman**, University of Amsterdam

Social mobility allowing for ethnic identification. Reassertion of ethnicity among Moroccan and Turkish Dutch social climbers

**Friday 23 October**

## **Panel D1: Class in mobility strategies and migration experiences – Part II**

11.00-12.30 – Room REC C2.02

**Discussant: Marieke Slotman**, UvA

**Sonia Pereira**, University of Deusto

A matter of class? Brazilian migration to Norway, Portugal and the UK

**Vanessa Cantinho de Jesus**, University of Amsterdam

Exploring class dimensions in the migration experiences of young “creative” workers in Amsterdam

**Berenice Scandone**, University of Bath

Reproduction and transformation of classed, gendered and ethnic 'identities' in British-born Bangladeshi women's experience of Higher Education

**Xinrong Ma**, Leiden University

Class or Ethnicity? The Segregation of Ethnic Minority Labor Migrants in Chinese Factory