ABOUT

The Migration Policy Centre (MPC) is one of the flagship programmes of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSC) at the European University Institute. It was founded in June 2012 with the support of the European Union, building on the success of EU-funded projects carried out at the Robert Schuman Centre in the field of migration.

MISSION

The mission of the MPC is to conduct advanced research on the transnational governance of international migration, asylum and mobility. It provides new ideas, rigorous evidence and critical thinking to inform major European and global policy debates.
Core Areas

Advancement of academic research and knowledge

Policy engagement and dialogue

Training
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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018
Professor Andrew Geddes, Director of the MPC was joined by Professor Martin Ruhs as Chair in Migration Studies and MPC Deputy Director.

The MPC continued to grow in both staff (12 full-time and 2 part-time staff members) and activities. It also hosted 8 visiting fellows throughout the year to promote exchanges among academics.

The MPC 2018 Annual Conference brought together over 100 academics, policy-makers and practitioners to discuss new ideas and the latest research evidence on some of the most important migration policy questions in Europe and beyond.

The MPC hosted a two-day conference on the ‘Crisis of Governability? The politics of migration governance in Latin America & Europe’, in Buenos Aires with 200 participants, as part of the European Research Council Grant ‘Prospects for International Migration Governance’.

The Observatory of Public Attitudes to Migration (OPAM) team shared evidence on attitudes to migration at the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee of the European Parliament in Brussels.

As part of the Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration (MEDAM), the MPC, along with the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW) and the Centre for European Studies (CEPS), presented its second Asylum and Migration Report at the Global Solutions Summit in Berlin. The Global Solutions Summit addressed major G20 topics, including the future of work, infrastructure for sustainable development, food security and international economic governance.

Together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODOC), the MPC convened the 2018 International Academic Conference on Organised Crime and Gender at the EUI.

The MPC took part in the Scientific Committee of the high-level ‘State of the Union’ at the European University Institute. The 2018 edition was dedicated to ‘Solidarity in Europe’.

The MPC hosted the opening conference of the H2020 project on Current European and Cross-National Comparative Research and Research Actions on Migration (CROSS-MIGRATION) “Towards Systematic Knowledge Accumulation in Migration Studies”, which created an open dialogue with scholars from the migration research community on a number of key knowledge questions around migration flows, drivers and infrastructures.

The MPC launched a new research project on Global Mobilities that includes a comprehensive database covering several dimensions of human mobility. The project held its kick-off workshop on ‘Tracking Global Population Mobilities: Conceptual, Measurement, And Analytical Challenges’, gathering together internal and external experts on human mobility and migration.

The MPC initiated a collaboration with the new School of Transnational Governance (STG) at the EUI within the framework of its 14th Migration Summer School.
RESEARCH THEMES
The MPC conducts theoretical and empirical research that draws on a range of disciplines and methods. An explicit aim of our research is to make linkages across different types of migration (e.g. asylum and labour migration), geographies (e.g. linking migration processes and policies across countries and places), levels of policy-making and governance (e.g. global, supra-national, national, regional and local), and policy issues (e.g. linking migration to labour markets, welfare states, education, development, etc.).

Public attitudes to migration and migration policies

MPC research on this theme aims to understand the characteristics, determinants, and effects of public attitudes to migration and migration policies. How do public attitudes to immigration vary across countries, and how have they changed over time? What are the determinants of people’s views on migration and different types of migrants? What are the characteristics and determinants of people’s preferences with regard to migration, asylum, and integration policies? What are the implications for the politics and governance of migration and asylum?

Migration governance

MPC research on this theme explores both the meaning and practice of migration governance. Through analysis of meaning, our research analyses how decision-makers and others involved in making or shaping migration policy understand the challenges they face and how these understandings inform actions. By practice, we mean the practical outputs and outcomes of these understandings as they take shape in the forms of laws, policies and other types of action. Our research is truly global, looking across states and regions, and also genuinely multilevel in that we actively seek to connect the local, the national and the transnational.

Labour markets, welfare states, and migration policies

There is a large research literature on the impacts of immigration on the labour markets and welfare states of high-income countries. While much of this research has focused on single countries, MPC research explores how these effects vary across countries with different socio-economic institutions (e.g. different welfare states and labour market regulations). We also aim to analyse potential effects in the opposite direction, i.e. how national labour market and welfare institutions shape the characteristics, effects, and politics of migration and mobility. This question is highly relevant to national and supra-national policy debates, yet it remains relatively under-explored in existing research. What are the relationships between national welfare states and policies toward labour migrants and asylum seekers? What are the effects of cross-country variations in national institutions for the transnational governance of migration (e.g. for common EU policies on free movement and migration, or for the global governance of migration)?

Border enforcement, migration controls, and mobility practices

Despite its ubiquity in migration discourse, mobility practices like migrant smuggling, the facilitation of migration, and migrants’ secondary movements have been scarcely researched. Furthermore, most exam-
We believe that migration cannot be analysed comprehensively and regulated effectively without studying and understanding these important inter-connections. In order to signal what are the main areas of expertise of the MPC, six key themes were defined, based on existing projects and activities. Investigations on these topics rely on secondary sources, and fail to incorporate the perspectives and challenges faced by those directly involved and/or impacted by said practices and their criminalization. The MPC is at the forefront of this research field, generating empirical and critical work that is also interdisciplinary and global in nature. Our work, incorporating participatory methods and community perspectives, provides nuanced data and responses concerning the impact of migration enforcement practices, the organization of smuggling facilitation, the use of and reliance on technology by migrants in the course of their journeys, among other things. It also documents legal challenges and responses to migration controls, and the latter’s impact on human and civil rights.

Migration, foreign aid, and development

How do foreign aid and development affect migration flows? Do more foreign aid and higher levels of development lead to less or more out-migration? These questions are highly relevant to public policy debates in Europe and other high-income countries, yet they remain relatively unexplored empirically. Nevertheless, there appears to be some consensus in the small research literature on this issue that the impact of foreign aid on migration flows is often positive, especially in the lowest-income countries. This is based on the idea that there is an inverse U-shaped relationship between migration and development (frequently referred to as the “migration hump”): as GDP per capita rises, emigration first increases (by loosening the budget constraints of poor households) and then decreases after a certain threshold is reached. Our research aims to provide more in-depth analyses of these relationships. We ask the following questions: How do different types of aid affect migration flows? How does foreign aid affect the out-migration of different groups of migrants? Under what conditions does the “migration hump” (not) apply? What are the policy implications?

Linking research, debates, and policies

What is the use of research in public debates and policy-making on immigration and integration? Why are there such large gaps between migration debates and migration realities, and how can they be reduced? To address these questions, we analyse the links between research, public debates (including media and public opinion), and policy-making on migration, in both high- and lower-income countries. Our analysis aims to critically engage and go beyond the popular ideas of “evidence based policy-making” and, at the opposite end of the spectrum, “post-truth politics”. We seek to understand how and why research does, or does not, influence public debates and policy-making on migration at local, national, and supra-national levels. We are particularly interested in exploring how the relationships between research, debates, and policy vary across countries and different levels of governance.
PROJECTS
Observatory of Public Attitudes to Migration – OPAM
Funding: MPC and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
Description: OPAM gathers and analyses data on public attitudes to migration from across the world. We produce cutting-edge scientific research explaining how attitudes to migration are formed and how they affect political outcomes at both the individual and country level. We provide expertise to national and international organisations across Europe and beyond.

Migration Smuggling Observatory – MSO
Funding: MPC
Description: The Migration Smuggling Observatory identifies, collects and organises on-the-ground empirical data and research on migrants’ mobility practices, including those labelled as illicit or criminal.

Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration – MEDAM
Funding: Stiftung Mercator
Description: The MEDAM project conducts new research to inform EU debates about asylum and migration policies, and to understand better the relationship between migration and development.

Prospects for International Migration Governance – MIGROSP
Funding: European Research Council Advanced Grant
Description: Prospects for international Migration Governance (MIGROSP) is a five-year European Research Council-funded research project that analyses the drivers of migration governance.

Global Mobilities Project – GMP
Funding: MPC
Description: The Global Mobility Project (GMP) creates and analyses a comprehensive database covering the demographic, economic, sociological and legal-political dimensions of human mobility. The database will be a valuable, open source for researchers, the informed public and for policymakers, providing fact-based responses to questions about the causes and the consequences of human mobilities.

Un-Owned Personal Data
Funding: EUI
Description: The project investigates whether advanced technologies, inherent in interoperable information systems in the Area of Freedom Security and Justice (AFSJ), undermine the fundamental rights of third-country nationals, including asylum seekers.
Migration Policy in Multilevel Political Settings, City network in Europe and North America – MInMUS
Funding: Marie Curie Fellowship
Description: MInMUS investigates why, how and with what effects City Networks voluntarily mobilise to enhance cities’ capacity to take part in complex multilevel governance processes of policymaking.

Europe's External Action and the Dual Challenges of Limited Statehood and Contested Orders – EU-LISTCO
Funding: H2020 DG Research & Innovation
Description: EU-LISTCO explores the challenges posed to European foreign policy by risks connected to areas of limited statehood and contested orders.

Role of European Mobility and its Impacts in Narratives, Debates and EU Reforms – REMINDER
Funding: H2020 – EC Research Executive Agency
Description: REMINDER uses a multidisciplinary approach to advance our understanding of the determinants, effects and regulation of “free movement” in the European Union. It aims to generate a deeper understanding of how countries’ institutional and policy environments impact on intra-EU mobility and of how political and media narratives about intra-EU mobility are formed.

Current European and Cross-National Comparative Research and Research Actions on Migration – CROSS-MIGRATION
Funding: H2020 – EC DG Research & Innovation
Description: The project brings together 16 leading research institutions, networks and policy institutes throughout Europe to create a central migration hub. It aims to accumulate and consolidate past, present and future migration research through providing an extensive overview of migration drivers, infrastructures, flow and policies.

Human Rights Aspects of Immigrant and Refugee Integration Policies: A Comparative Assessment in Selected Council of Europe Member States
Funding: Council of Europe, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees
Description: This Project examined the human rights aspects of integration policies and measures of immigrants in a selection of Council of Europe member states.
The MPC publications include academic publications (peer-reviewed books, journal articles, and book chapters), working papers (presenting work in-progress), a wide range of research and policy reports (primarily aimed at a non-academic audience), and blogs. In 2018, the MPC published 3 books, 2 special issues in The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science and IOM Migration Policy Practice Journal, 11 book chapters, 18 journal articles, 8 studies and project reports, and 3 working papers.

**BOOKS**

- **The Routledge handbook of the governance of migration and diversity in cities**

- **EU External Migration Policies in an Era of Global Mobilities: Intersecting Policy Universes**

- **An Appraisal of the European Commission of Crisis. Has the Juncker Commission delivered a new start for EU justice and home affairs?**
  CEPS Brussels 2018, Carrera, S.

**SPECIAL ISSUES**

- **Crimes of Solidarity in Mobility: alternative views on migrant smuggling**
  The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Special Issue Editors 2018, Zhang, S., Sanchez, G. and Achilli, L.

- **Special Issue on Child Migration. Migration Policy Practice Journal**
  International Organization for Migration 2018, Sanchez, G. (guest editor)
BOOK CHAPTERS

New actors and new understanding in European Union external migration governance?: the case of EU-Tunisian migration relations, in EU external migration policies in an era of global mobilities: intersecting policy universes, Brill 2018 by Geddes, A. and Lixi, L.


The Radical right in the United Kingdom, in The Oxford handbook of the radical right, Oxford University Press 2018, Dennison, J. and Goodwin, M.

Baltic member states: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, in EU perspectives on Britain’s vote to leave, Newcastle upon Tyne: Agenda 2018, Dennison, J., Grumbinaite, I. and Oliver, T.

Do scarring effects vary by ethnicity and gender?, in Youth Labor in Transition, Oxford University Press 2018, O’Reilly, J. and Zuccotti, C.

Portrait of a human smuggler: race, class and gender among facilitators of irregular migration on the US-Mexico border, in Race, criminal justice, and migration control, Oxford University Press 2018, Enforcing the boundaries of belonging, Sanchez, G.

High-skilled immigration and innovation, in High skilled migration: drivers and politics, Oxford University Press 2018, Fasso, C., Kalantaryan, S. and Venturini, A.

The governance of migration in Europe: towards fragmentation? Edward Elgar Pub 2018, Handbooks on Globalisation, Geddes, A.

Ethnicity, gender and household effects on becoming NEET: an intersectional analysis, in Work, employment and society 2018, O’Reilly, J. and Zuccotti, C.


JOURNAL ARTICLES


**Introduction**, *Migration Policy Practice* 2018, Sanchez, G.

Children and irregular migration practices: missing children or missing data?, *Migration Policy Practice* 2018, Sanchez, G.


The rug pulled from under them: UKIP and the Greens in 2017, *Parliamentary affairs* 2018, Dennison, J.

The Argentine military and the “Antisubversivo” genocide: the school of Americas’ contribution to the French counterinsurgency model, *Genocide studies international* 2018, Brumat, L. and DerGhougassian, K.

Swinging leftward: public opinion on economic and political integration in Latin America, 1997-2010, *Latin American research review* 2018, Deutschmann, E. and Minkus, L.

Labor immigration policies in high-income countries: variations across political regimes and varieties of capitalism, *The journal of legal studies* 2018, Ruhs, M.


Brexit and the perils of Europeanised migration, *Journal of European public policy* 2018, Dennison, J. and Geddes, A.

“You better move on”: determinants and labor market outcomes of graduate migration from Italy, *International migration review* 2018, Assirelli, G., Barone, C. and Recchi, E.

Migrant smuggling as a collective strategy and insurance policy: views from the margins, *Special issue of the ANNALS of the American academy of political and social sciences* 2018, Achilli, L., Sanchez, G. and Zhang, S.
Ethnicity, gender and household effects on becoming NEET: an intersectional analysis, *Work, employment and society* 2018, Zuccotti, C.V. and O’Reilly, J.

The impact of youth labour market experiences on later employment opportunities: What roles do ethnicity and gender play?, *Human Relations* 2018, Zuccotti, C.V. and O’Reilly, J.

In Francia, *Il Mulino* 2018, Recchi, E.


**STUDIES & REPORTS**

Fit for purpose? The facilitation directive and the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants, *Study requested by the PETI Committee of the European Parliament* 2018, Carrera, S., Vosyliute, L., Allsopp, J., and Sanchez, G.


Flexible Solidarity: A comprehensive strategy for asylum and immigration in the EU, 2018


A study of the communication channels used by migrants and asylum seekers in Italy, with a particular focus on online and social media, *European Commission 2018* Sanchez, G., Hoxhaj, R, Nardin, S., Achilli, L., Geddes, A. Kalantaryan, S.

**WORKING PAPERS**

Promoting labour market integration of refugees with trade preferences: beyond the EU-Jordan Compact, *EUI RSCAS 2018*, Temprano Harroyo, H.

Ethnicity and neighborhood attainment in England and Wales, *EUI RSCAS 2018*, Zuccotti, C.

Does ethnic concentration influence gender role views?: a study across ethnic groups in England and Wales, *EUI RSCAS 2018*, Zuccotti, C.
EVENTS
The MPC offers a wide range of events for researchers, policy officials, civil society organisations and others dealing with migration issues in the form of conferences, seminars, executive trainings courses and our highly successful annual Migration Summer School. In 2018, the MPC (co-)organised 6 Seminars, 8 Migration working groups, 3 Film screenings, and 19 Policy events and Conferences, including 7 outside the EUI (2 in Brussels, 1 in Rome, 1 in London, 1 in Rotterdam, 1 in Berlin, 1 in Buenos Aires).

11 December 2018, Seminar: The determinants of public attitudes to migration
03 December 2018, EU-Africa Migration: The Role of Aid and Labour Migration
27 November 2018, Migration Working Group – Migration Governance and Policies
13 November 2018, Seminar: Multilevel Governance of Migration
16 October 2018, Migration Working Group – Trans-Asia as method: de-westernising, de-nationalising and de-academicising knowledge production in Asia
11 October 2018, Missing migrant children and families: Expert meeting on migrant deaths and disappearances
09 October 2018, Seminar: Transnational Terrorism and Restrictive Immigration Policies
03 October 2018, Conference: Crisis of Governability? The politics of migration governance in Latin America & Europe, Buenos Aires
25 September 2018, Migration Working Group – Migration, Transnational Production Systems and Rural Development
25 September 2018, Europe divided? Attitudes to immigration ahead of the 2019 European elections, Brussels
11 - 13 July 2018, 2018 International Academic Conference on Organized Crime and Gender
25 June – 06 July 2018, 14th Migration Summer School
02 July 2018, “The national vs the foreigner in South America. 200 years of migration and citizenship law”, Cambridge University Press with author Diego Acosta, University of Bristol
26 June 2018, Film Series on Migration, Inclusion and Diversity: – L’Ordine delle Cose, Andrea Segre
22 June 2018, Seminar – Temporary labour migration and the UN Global Compact for Migration: from guest workers to immigrants?, by Professor Philip Martin, UC Davis
07 - 08 June 2018, The Migration Policy Centre Annual Conference
31 May 2018, Cross Migration, H2020 project, “Towards Systematic Knowledge Accumulation in Migration Studies”
28 – 29 May 2018, Presentation of the second MEDAM Assessment Report on Asylum and Migration Policies in Europe at the Global Solutions Summit, Berlin
10 May 2018, The State of the Union 2018
In 2018, the MPC initiated a collaboration for the provision of training activities with the EUI’s new School of Transnational Governance within the framework of its 14th Migration Summer School.

3 May 2018, Film Series on Migration, Inclusion and Diversity: Golden Dawn, A Personal Affair “In the mind of the neo-Nazi next door”

24 April 2018, The many faces of Migrant Smuggling: From a crime to a humanitarian act

24 April 2018, Migration Working Group – Irregular Migration and EU Borders

19 April 2018, Beyond Critique: Celebrating 5 Years of Border Criminologies

13 April 2018, High-level seminar: Contemporary realities and dynamics of migration in Italy

22 March 2018, Talentism and ‘The Mobility’: New Capitalism or Old Feudalism?


20 March 2018, Migration Working Group – Integration

08 March 2018, Kick-off Meeting CROSS-MIGRATION, Rotterdam

06 – 07 March 2018, European Migration Forum, Brussels

01 March 2018, Film screening of “Olha’s Italian Diary” by Olena Fedyuk

28 February 2018, Roundtable: Migration and the future of Britain in Europe, London

27 February 2018, Migration Working Group – Asylum Governance


19 February 2018, Final Workshop – Youth mobility, food security and rural poverty reduction (RYM), FAO, Rome

19 February 2018, Seminar – From Market Integration to core state powers: the Eurozone crisis, the refugee crisis and integration, by Philipp Genschel

15 February 2018, Roundtable on ‘Breaking cycles of trauma: Protecting and offering dignity to refugees in the East African region

31 January 2018, Migration Working Group – The Future of Europe as a Cultural Fact – A Conversation with Arjun Appadurai

30 January 2018, Migration Working Group – Migration Governance

11 – 12 January 2018, The Ethics of Migration beyond the Immigrant-Host State Nexus
COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH
In 2018, we have continued to produce content in written and audio-visual formats and disseminated our research, events and publications externally, through targeted newsletters, our website and social media channels (Twitter, Facebook and YouTube), and we have been in regular contact with the press both at national and international level. The MPC website has been re-designed to give greater visibility to all aspects.

THE MPC COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH STRATEGY AIDS TO:

- Improve public understanding of migration by disseminating cutting-edge research in easily comprehensible and highly visible outputs;
- Impact policy-making by offering fact-based accounts of global trends in migration and related areas.
of MPC’s objectives and activities, including its core aim of excellent academic research, and to make MPC work more accessible to an external audience. The MPC Blog was relaunched with regular posts by MPC team members and external guests.

See the promotion video of the Migration Summer School by the Migration Policy Centre, published in February 2018, with over 2,454 views (July 2019).

**AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTION**

- **23**
  - Events live-streamed and videos shared on Youtube, of which 14 were event recordings, 2 promotional videos and 4 interviews

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

- **4,250+**
  - Increase of Twitter followers

**MPC BLOG AND OP-EDS**

- **13**
  - MPC Blogs & Op-eds
BLOGS AND OPEDS

The Honduran Caravan: how did things get here, and what lies ahead?, MPC Blog 2018, Sanchez, G.

Global Compact for Migration: what is it and why are countries opposing it?, The Conversation 2018 by Espinoza, MV., Hadj-Abdou, L. and Brumat, L.

What can interdependence tell us about migration governance?, MPC Blog 2018, Tsourapas, G.

National institutions vs EU policies? Why and how differences in welfare states and other national institutions can contribute to political conflicts about the rules for the free movement of workers in the European Union, MPC Blog 2018, Palme, J. and Ruhs, M.

The new Chilean government and its shifting attitudes on migration governance, MPC Blog 2018, Acosta, D., Brumat, L. Vera-Espinoza, M.

The special Eurobarometer on integration of immigrants in the European Union: how do Italians differ in their views compared to the rest of Europe?, MPC Blog 2018, Drazanova, L.

Brazil elections 2018: how will Bolsonaro’s victory affect migration policy in Brazil and South America?, London School of Economics Latin America and the Caribbean Centre 2018, Vera Espinoza, M. and Brumat, L.

The special Eurobarometer on integration of immigrants in the European Union: an initial reaction, MPC Blog 2018, Dennison, J.

Venezuelan immigrants in Roraima: provisional measures for an indefinite humanitarian crisis, MPC Blog 2018, Garcia-Juan, L.

Feeling threatened by immigrants in your neighbourhood?, MPC Blog 2018, Ruedin, D. and van Heerden, S.

Brazil’s migration governance: hidden actors, the new law and the 2018 presidential elections, MPC Blog 2018, Acosta, D., Brumat, L., and Vera Espinoza, M.

Eurobarometro, speciale immigrazione: in che modo le opinioni degli italiani differiscono da quelle dei cittadini europei? Questione Giustizia 2018, Dražanová, L.

Immigration and the Czech presidential election, The London School of Economics and Political Science’s EUROP – European Politics and Policy blog 2018, Drazanova, L.
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MPC team, 2018.