

## **Provisional Title**

### **Beyond binary constructions of labour mobilities**

#### **Call for Abstracts**

**Editors:**       **Philomena de Lima, University of the Highlands and Islands**  
                      **Belinda Leach, University of Guelph**  
                      **Barbara Neis, Memorial University of Newfoundland**

**Deadline for submission of Abstracts: March 31 2017**

We invite submissions of extended abstracts (500-700 words) for consideration around inclusion in a special issue proposal titled ***Beyond Binary Constructions of Labour Mobilities that is under development for submission*** in Spring, 2017. Final selection of the target journal will take place after review and selection of relevant abstracts by the special issue editors.

A growing body of migration (or mobilities) research has documented its complexity and increasing diversity within and across nation states and groups. However, despite persistent pleas to move beyond binaries and specific disciplinary fields (Castles, 2010; King et al. 2008) in the area of migration studies, much of this literature continues to be organized around persistent binaries (i.e. focused on internal *or* international migration), confined within particular disciplinary framings, and the image of the ‘international migrant’ continues to dominate public discourse, particularly in the global ‘North’. This is despite the fact that at 3.3% in 2015 of the total population worldwide, international migration is more often the exception than the rule (UN, 2016, p. 21) and rural to urban and inter-regional/state migration in the Global South, especially in countries such as China and India, is on a par and in some cases exceeds international migration. Binary constructions of migration run counter to evidence showing that countries may be implicated in internal and international migration and simultaneously act as sending, transit and destinations, blurring binary distinctions. Furthermore, migration for most is not a linear process but may involve frequent moves within and across state boundaries, sometimes with temporary sojourns along the way and internal migration can raise similar issues to those seen as important in international migration including remittances, segmented labour markets, ‘integration,’ and family dynamics (Abbas & Varma, 2014; Hu, 2012; Skeldon, 2013).

With a focus on labour migration/mobilities, this special issue will help address the problem of binary distinctions between internal and international migration. It will do this by bringing together a rich collection of papers dealing with internal and international labour migration/mobility within different contexts. Rather contributions will investigate all forms

of migration (along with related mobilities such as commuting) within the same frame, as connected and subject to the same global processes, but driven by different local conditions in both sending and receiving places (Ellis, 2013; King and Skeldon, 2010; Skeldon, 2013). Increasingly employment, development, population and other social policies have to account for diverse forms of mobilities including their commonalities, differences and interconnectedness. This kind of work is essential if we are to understand pressures, conflicts and concerns related to labour mobility in its different forms and how differently mobile groups are sorted out within local, regional, national and international labour markets. This presents a particularly critical challenge for the scholarship of labour migration in a context where too often these challenges are framed in terms of labour shortages or skills mismatches and rather than complex issues tied to class, ethnicity, citizenship, gender and mobility regimes.

The proposed special issue offers an opportunity to further conceptual/theoretical discussions on internal-international labour migration/mobilities within the same frame of reference and review and identify empirical developments that have sought to overcome the internal-international migration divide.

Abstracts addressing the theoretical, empirical and practical challenges to addressing internal and international labour migration in an integrated fashion with the objective of enriching scholarship and developing a deeper understanding of the issues are welcome. Research can be case or country specific as well as comparative, cross national/cross sectoral.

Detailed abstracts of between 500 and 700 words, including a problem statement or theoretical frame, methodology, findings and implications, should be sent to Philomena de Lima by March 31 2017. Authors will be notified by April 30 and full papers will be required by September 1 2017. Inquiries can also be addressed to Philomena de Lima at [Philomena.deLima.ic@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:Philomena.deLima.ic@uhi.ac.uk)

## References

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