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# Exploring intra-EU mobilities at times of Crisis

**WORKSHOP OF THE PROJECT EUMIGRE– <http://eumigre.eu>**

*Date: Tuesday 20 June 2017*

*Venue: Seminar Room, European Studies Centre, 70 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HR*

*Convenor: Manolis Pratsinakis, Marie Curie Fellow, University of Macedonia*

*ONASSIS/SEESOX Fellow Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford*

At the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, intra-EU mobility emerges as an increasingly complex and ambivalent phenomenon. On the one hand, EU-wide opinion polls depict freedom of movement as “the most positive result of” European integration. On the other hand, with migration having become a hot issue, centre stage in policy and political discourses across the globe, the freedom of movement within EU is increasingly becoming questioned. This process, which is part and parcel of a shift from the on-going politicisation of migration in specific European national contexts to debating migration across the EU as a whole, started with EU enlargements eastwards and the Eurozone crisis and escalated with the refugee “crisis” and the recent vote of Britons to exit the Union.

As Recchi and Salamońska argue (2015), since its inception, the EU free movement regime has comprised a fundamental ambiguity. On the one hand, it has been set forth as an emancipatory project: a human right to mobility that precedes and overcomes nation state frontiers. In practice however, the right to free movement has remained strictly grounded in market-building principles which form the driving force of the process of European integration. Free movement (of workers) is expected to function as an adjustment mechanism to growth differentials and efficiency bottlenecks in the European labour market. In these expectations European integration from below is simply treated as a by-effect of people moving to improve their employment situation. Yet the prevalence of such “economicist” arguments to legitimise intra-EU mobility seems to have emptied the free movement principle of its emancipatory character, thus failing to convince of its benefits beyond mere economic gains, which are in fact widely contested both in sending and receiving countries.

In this workshop we shift the attention from the master narratives about intra EU mobility to the lived experiences of the key actors. Our aim is to provide an assessment of intra EU mobility at times of crisis through the perspective of the EU mobile citizens themselves. Focusing on a diverse group of migrants in terms of national origin, class background and age, we will inquire into the aspirations underlying migration decisions and explore the multiplicity of individual pathways as well as how those are impacted by austerity politics and their socioeconomic consequences in countries of origin and settlement. We will try to assess the degree to which emigration is seen and experienced as a step forward, a sign of personal development and an opportunity to advance one’s life, or a disruptive force, a necessary evil to survive in a period of neoliberal deregulation and economic uncertainty in which flexibility and nomadism are praised and migration paradoxically resisted. How can the experiences and viewpoints of the migrants and the diversity therein be assessed? What

lessons can be drawn by those who may be 'pioneers of European integration', in that they promote it in practice from below (Favell and Recchi 2009), while at the same time they are a product of its present-day shortcomings?

### References

Recchi E. and Favell, A.(eds.) (2009), *Pioneers of European Integration: Citizenship and Mobility in the EU*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Recchi E. and Salamońska J. (2015), 'Bad Times at Home, Good Times to Move? The (Not So) Changing Landscape of Intra-EU Migration' in Trezn H.-J., Ruzza C. and Guiraudon V. (eds.), *Europe in Crisis: The Unmaking of Political Union*, Palgrave, Basingstoke: 124-145.

**Context and host:** The workshop is organized in the context of the [EUMIGRE](#) project which received funding from the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 658694 and was carried out at the University of Macedonia. It is kindly hosted by SEESOX at the European Studies Centre, St Antony's College University of Oxford within the activities in the [GDP](#) project. The event will take place at the Common room at the European Studies Centre 70 Woodstock Rd, Oxford OX2 6HR.

## Workshop programme

*Seminar Room, European Studies Centre, 70 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HR*

*Tuesday 20 June 2017*

**8:45-9:00**      **Coffee and registration**

**10:00-11:00**    **Opening session**

9:00-09:15      Welcome, brief round of presentations

9:15-10:00      **Dr Manolis Pratsinakis** *EUMIGRE project presentation*

**10:00-11:00**    **Paper session I**

Chair Dr. Othon Anastasakis

**Dr. Chris Moreh, Prof. Derek McGhee and Dr. Athina Vlachantoni**

*'A return to 'settlement'? Estimating the effect of Brexit on the future migration plans of EU nationals living in the UK*

*Discussant*

**Dr. Elisabetta Zontini and Dr. Davide Pero**

*The impact of 'Brexit' on identification and belonging of European children in the UK*

**11:00-11:20**    **Coffee break**

**11:20-12:50**    **Paper session II**

Chair Dr. Manolis Pratsinakis

**Mr. Apostolos Andrikopoulos**

*EU citizenship and the European family: inequality and subversion in the marriages of African men with peripheral European women in the Netherlands*

**Dr. Maria Bruquetas**

*Central and Eastern European care workers in the Netherlands. Navigating the EU migration system*

**Mrs. Cantinho de Jesus, Vanessa**

*Exploring class dimensions in the migration experiences of young 'creative workers' in Amsterdam*

**12:50-13:50 Lunch**

**13:50-15:30 Paper session III**

**Chair Dr. Yannis Tzaninis**

**Dr. Roxana Barbulescu**

*Rights retrenchment for European citizens in post-crisis, post-enlargement Europe. How did we get here?*

**Dr. Elena Genova**

*"Traitors" and "benefit tourists", or "new Enlighteners"? The reinvention of national identity among Bulgarian students and young professionals in the UK*

**Mrs. Dominique Jolivet and Dr. Marie Godin**

*Understanding the role of welfare provisions in shaping migration's aspirations and decisions: beyond traditional approaches*

**15:30-15:45 Coffee break**

**15:45-17:05 Key note and Roundtable discussion**

**Chair Prof. Russell King**

**15:45-16:05 Key note Prof. Adrian Favell**

*Eurostars and Eurocrisis: Reflections on the Workshop*

**16:05-17:05 Roundtable discussion chaired by Prof. Russell King**