



# NMR Newsletter

NEWSLETTER 2010

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

*Message from  
the chair*

## Message from the new NMR Chair

2010 has been a manifestation of the progress of NMR. Since the first newsletter early this spring we can look back on several events significant for the organization. In late May, the first NMR-hosted postgraduate summer school was organized in Helsinki, Finland, with great success. The first NMR-organized Nordic Migration Conference was held in Malmö in August. The response I have received so far has been very enthusiastic: interesting keynote speakers and stimulating discussions in the workshops, in some cases leading to the formation of new networks and useful contacts across borders. It was a very well-organized conference – thanks a lot to Maja Frykman and her local organizing committee.

We have also taken some important decisions. First, in accordance with the NMR statutes on rotating chairmanship/administration, we decided in June to transfer the administration to Norway for the next four years. In Norway, NMR will be hosted by the Institute for Social Research, Oslo. Further, in September we decided that the NMR Journal, as the successor to both the Norwegian and Finnish Migration Journals, will be an Internet-based, open-access (OA) journal.

In Malmö we organized the first regular general assembly which proved the consolidation of NMR and the progress we have made in recent years. Ulf Hedetoft has done a tremendous job as chair – not least his tireless effort to finalize the Journal is worth applauding. I would also like to stress the good cooperation within the board – and I hope we can continue this mode of work.

For the next period, there are two tasks I recommend that we work on:

- Increasing our focus on mobility, both to support individuals seeking to visit other institutions as guest researchers for shorter periods of time and to promote collaboration concerning education at the Master's and PhD levels
- Developing the website to be an even more appealing tool of easily available information about migration research. The website should also function as a springboard for accessing information on the legal, statistical and political contexts in the Nordic countries and the EU that are of importance for our research field.

I look forward to discussing these issues with the new board members.

Hilde Lidén  
Institute for Social Research, Oslo, Norway  
Chair of NMR

## **A Fond Look Back at the 15th Nordic Migration Research Conference, Malmö, 25-27 August, 2010**

### ***15th Nordic Migration Research Conference in Malmö***

Over three days, 25-27 August, Nordic and international migration researchers met at Malmö University to discuss the theme of Global Challenges and Local Responses. By coincidence, during the conference itself Malmö City did everything it could to demonstrate its response to global challenges, as people of all ethnic origins crowded into the city centre for the Malmö Festival, which offered global culture in music, performances and food.

The five keynote speakers at the conference addressed very different aspects of migration research today. In particular, the presentation by Professor Nina Glick Schiller of her concept of Diasporic Cosmopolitanism opened up understandings of migration in the complex interplay between the local and the cosmopolitan. Glick Schiller pointed out that diasporic cosmopolitanism can be found together with, not in opposition to, strong representations of ethnic community.

However, the 25 minutes allocated to an international and very interesting keynote address left the audience with a desire for more. Next time consideration might be given to having even fewer keynote addresses but to give them each at least 50 minutes to develop their ideas.

The main body of the conference was, of course, the workshops. In the course of the 16 workshops, a total of 82 papers were presented and discussed. The subjects showed the width of Nordic migration research, including mainly qualitative methodology and a wide variety of disciplines.

The workshops reflected the growing interest in challenging national perspectives on migration and were very attentive to the ways that nation state legislation regulates, divides and constructs migrants, including irregular migrants. For me as a family researcher it was very inspiring to find that three out of the 16 workshops had a focus on family and childhood. In the Swedish IMER, for instance, we have long called for greater attention to be paid to the family and childhood aspects of migration.

However, the breadth of the papers had a serious limitation. Remarkably, researchers who are active in the very well-funded and quite extensive research based on large quantitative data collections mainly relating to the labour market and economy hardly showed any interest in participating in the conference. Hopefully future conferences will represent the full spectrum of qualitative and quantitative Nordic migration research.

The Nordic migration conference was for the first time arranged by Nordic Migration Research, NMR. In the future too, NMR will be the organizer of these conferences. The Malmö conference was carried out mainly through the efforts of the local host and organizer, the Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare, MIM and the department of IMER, Malmö. In particular, Maja Povrzanovic Frykman at MIM was crucial in making the conference a success both scientifically and practically. The logistics ran very smoothly, and there were no panics in finding session rooms or making the Powerpoint work. A small army of friendly student helpers were invaluable in ensuring the practical running of sessions. Even the meals for the crowd of people functioned very well, and nobody could complain of a lack of coffee.

A book presentation in the University Library offered, in addition to interesting literature, a splendid view of the harbor and the new residential areas of Malmö, thus again reminding us how Malmö University forms part of the transition of Malmö from an old working town based in shipbuilding to a postmodern information and service city.

Throughout the conference this cooperation and friendly support from the City of Malmö was noticeable. In an opening address by the deputy mayor at the superb conference dinner hosted by the City of Malmö in the old town hall, the strong ties between the city and the university were stressed, leaving some of us participants from other localities feeling quite envious.

The conference programme also included the general assembly of the NMR. The chair of

NMR, Ulf Hedetoft, gave an account of the first three years of the network. A new board was elected, and Hilde Lidén, a member of the new board, closed the conference by expressing warm thanks and handing roses to all those who had worked so hard to make the conference a success.

The full conference programme, the book of abstracts, photographs from the conference and the conference report can be found at [www.mah.se/mim](http://www.mah.se/mim)

Maren Bak  
Göteborg University, Department of Social Work, Sweden  
Member of the NMR board

## **PhD Training: Nordic Migration Research Training Course 2010**

In late May and early June, the Swedish School of Social Science and CEREN hosted a one-week Nordic Migration Research training course for PhD candidates. Coordinated by University Lecturer Östen Wahlbeck, the theme of the course was Immigrant Integration and Social Theory in the Nordic context, covering research on the integration of immigrants and their various experiences in the Nordic countries, as well as how the social processes related to immigration can be understood with the help of theories of integration and assimilation.

The course was organised by the Swedish School of Social Science at the University of Helsinki (SSKH), the Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism (CEREN), the Swedish Imerförbundet and Nordic Migration Research (NMR) and was funded by NordForsk.

The course took place from May 28th to June 2nd at the Swedish School of Social Science, with 21 PhD students taking part, originating from universities in Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. There were also visiting lecturers from the Nordic countries and the United States, including Professor Peter Kivisto, Dr. Marko Valenta, Professor Mikko Lagerspetz, Dr. Garbi Schmidt, Dr. Hassan Hosseini-Kaladjahi, Dr. Tuomas Martikainen, as well as Dr. Kathleen Valtonen, Professor Peter A. Kraus and Dr. Östen Wahlbeck from the University of Helsinki.

The course programme consisted of morning lectures followed by afternoon paper presentations by the students, who received comments from both a fellow student and one of the lecturers. The presentations included a lecture by Garbi Schmidt on grounded politics and Islam as a political factor in Copenhagen. Marko Valenta spoke about the assisted integration of refugees in Sweden and Norway, which was complemented by Mikko Lagerspetz's lecture on the Estonian case of ethnic consolidation and on the following day by Hassan Hosseini-Kaladjahi's presentation on the integration of Swedish immigrants. Meanwhile, the lecture by Peter Kivisto on American assimilation theory offered a comparative perspective to the Nordic cases.

The students each presented a paper, research plan or article, ranging from, for example, the onward migration of Iranians from Sweden to other countries (Melissa Kelly) to the representation of immigrants in the Icelandic media (Helga Ólaf). Other examples included the presentations by Mari Toivanen on narratives of belonging among Iraqi Muslim youth of Kurdish origin in Finland, and Kaisu Koskela's research on identity renegotiations among the 'migrant elite' and the experiences of skilled migrants in Finland. Among the new projects that were presented we can mention Xin Liu's research on the process of learning Finnish experienced by Chinese adult migrant women and Ebot Mathias Ebot's analysis of Finland as a new destination for sub-Saharan Africans, especially Cameroonians, to name only a few of the many interesting presentations.

The course was well received by many of the participants, who felt that there should be more courses for PhD students available, not only in Finland but in all the Nordic countries.

Daniel Moran  
University of Helsinki

## Announcements of seminars, events and other news

### International

International seminar in Brussels

The EUROSHERE project's third international conference will take place in Brussels on 11-12 November 2010 on the theme "The Publics of Europe and the European Public Sphere: Tracing the Architects and Trespassers of Borders and Boundaries in Europe". In the conference, EUROSHERE researchers will provide perspectives and empirical findings about the increasing interconnectedness between different types of publics and public spaces, their discursive orientations, the new ways of transnational political communication and collaboration in Europe, and their consequences for individuals, groups, publics, and diversity. Migrants, immigrant organizations, and integration aspects are an important part of the project. EUROSHERE is a large-scale integrated project which is funded by the European Union's 6th Framework Programme and coordinated by the University of Bergen (Department of Comparative Politics). 17 universities and research centers in 16 European countries and approximately 150 researchers participate in the project's different parts and phases. More information can be found at <http://eurospheres.org>.

### Denmark

10 December 2010

Astrid Würtz (Dept. of Economics, Aarhus School of Business): Immigrant Concentration in Schools and the Effect on Schoolchildren's Performance. CESEM Seminar. University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

13 December 2010

Religion on the Move: Mapping Global Cultural Production and Consumption; PhD course with Professor of Sociology Peggy Levitt, Wellesley College. Public lecture and workshop. University of Copenhagen. More info: <http://migration.ku.dk/>

6-7 October, 2011: I-dage (Eng. I-days):. Conference on Immigration and Integration. The conference is being organized by the Danish migration association ADMIRE in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen, SOCED, AFK, SFI and the University of Aalborg. Conference venue: University of Copenhagen. More info: [gs@sfi.dk](mailto:gs@sfi.dk).

### Norway

IMER Bergen continues its seminar series this autumn. See <http://org.uib.no/imer/seminars/index.htm> for upcoming seminars

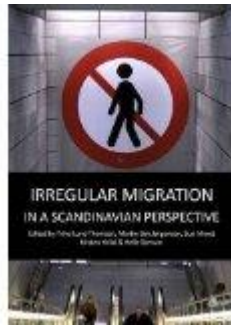
### Sweden

International conference on Transnationalism and Migration TRANSMIG: Transnational Practices in Migration. The conference is an initiative within the [IMISCOE research-network](#) and the Research-network of Transnationalism and Diaspora. The purpose of this conference is to contribute to knowledge development on migration and transnationalism by focusing on how transnational practices interact with different kinds of power relations. We particularly welcome papers based on empirical research that address and analyse practices of transnational migration and how these could be shaped by states and other powerful structures but also differently practised and experienced with regard to gender, class and generation. See also <http://www.ceifo.su.se/pub/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=14689&a=81630>

## New and noteworthy publications

The NMR Newsletter has received the following news on publications, notably from the founding partners of the organization. Contributions to this section of the newsletter are highly welcomed. Please email the editor!

### **Special feature publication**



### **Irregular Migration in a Scandinavian Perspective**

(eds. Trine Lund Thomsen ; Martin Bak Jørgensen ; Susi Meret ; Kirsten Hviid ; Helle Stenum)

The Scandinavian countries have for long been portrayed as rather untouched by irregular migration due to highly regularized labour markets and strict internal and external control. However, irregular migration is a Scandinavian phenomenon. Yet there is a profound lack of knowledge. This volume asks what is similar or special to the Scandinavian countries and what distinguishes them? What is the status of research within this field? How is it possible to maintain restrictive policies that encourage irregular migration? The collection presents both conceptual and empirical studies on irregular migration in a Scandinavian context.

This collection addresses the issue of irregular migration from three different analytical perspectives. The first part of the book engages in conceptual and ethical reflections pertaining to irregular migration. The contributions in the second part focus on the global migration governance system and the policy framework on the European, Scandinavian, and national levels. Finally the third part contains a selection of seven empirical case studies all analyzing a particular research problem within the field of irregular migration in a specific context. The contributions range from a study of the irregular aspects of Ukrainian trainees in the Danish agricultural sector to a case study of health and illegality in Sweden.

This volume is the result of a four-year project on *Irregular Migration and Global Control Regimes – including the implications for Denmark* led by the Academy of Migration Studies in Denmark or AMID. It contains both contributions from the participating Danish researchers as well as Swedish and Norwegian researchers from different research institutions invited specifically for this volume. Franck Düvell from COMPAS at Oxford University has written the foreword to this volume, contributing his expertise on irregular migration to the Scandinavian context.

### **Publications, Norway (Bergen)**

Vassenden, Anders and Andersson, Mette. 2010. "When an image becomes sacred: photo-elicitation with images of holy books". *Visual Studies* Vol. 25(2): 149-161.

Andersson, Mette 2010. "The social imaginary of first generation Europeans", *Social Identities* vol. 16(1): 3-21.

Gressgård, Randi (2010). *Multicultural Dialogue: Dilemmas, Paradoxes, Conflicts*. Oxford and New York: Berghahn Books.

Eggebo, Helga (2010): "The Problem of Dependency: Immigration, Gender, and the Welfare State", *Social Politics*, Vol. 17, Issue 3, pp. 295-322.

Jacobsen, Christine M. and Skilbrei, May-Len (2010) "'Reproachable Victims'? Representations and Self-representations of Russian Women Involved in Transnational Prostitution', *Ethnos*, 75(2): 190–212.

Jacobsen, Christine M. and Dag Stenvoll (2010) "Muslim women and foreign prostitutes. Victim discourse, subjectivity and governance", *Social Politics, International Studies in Gender, State and Society* 17(3): 270-294.

Sicakkan, Hakan 2010 – "The Rights of Refugees", in Cushman, Thomas (ed.) *Handbook of Human Rights*, Routledge, London.

## **Publications, Sweden (Malmö)**

### **Books**

Broomé, Per et al. (2010) *IMER möjligheter och gränser, festskrift till Björn Fryklund*.

Hellström, Anders (2010) *Vi är de Goda. Den offentliga debatten om Sverigedemokraterna och deras politik*. Tankekraft.

Jenny Kiiskinen & Sigrid Saveljeff (2010) *Att dansa i otakt med väljarna – Socialdemokraternas och Moderaternas strategiska bemötande av Sverigedemokraterna*. REMESO och IMER/MIM. Linköping Studies in Arts and Science no. 9.  
<http://dspace.mah.se/dspace/bitstream/2043/10135/1/Dansa%20i%20otakt%20webb.pdf>

Nilsson, Magnus (2010) *Den föreställda mångkulturen: Klass och etnicitet i svensk samtidsprosa*, Gidlunds förlag.

Otterbeck, Jonas (2010) *Samtidsislam: Unga muslimer i Malmö och Köpenhamn*. Carlsson bokförlag.

### **Book chapters**

Otterbeck, Jonas (2010) "Sweden: Cooperation and Conflict", in A. Triandafyllidou (ed.) *Muslims in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Europe: Structural and Cultural Perspectives*. European Sociological Association Studies in European Societies vol. 12. London: Routledge, 103-120.

Povrzanović Frykman, Maja (2010) The Concept of Diaspora in Relation to Hybridity and (Multi)cultural Politics. In: Flemming Hemmersam, Astrid Jespersen and Lene Otto, eds., *Kulturelle processer i Europa*. Copenhagen: Museums Tusculanums Forlag, 237-247.

### **Articles, peer-reviewed scientific**

Hellström, Anders (co-authored with Tom Nilsson), (2010) 'We are the Good Guys': Ideological positioning of the nationalist party Sverigedemokraterna in contemporary Swedish Politics, *Ethnicities* 10 (1), 2010: 57-78.

Nilsson, Magnus (2010) Swedish 'Immigrant Literature' and the Constuction of Ethnicity, *Tijdschrift voor Skandinavistiek* 1, vol. 31, 199-218.

Otterbeck, Jonas & Bevelander, Pieter (2010) Young people's attitudes towards Muslims in Sweden. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 33, 404-425.

### **Articles, other scientific**

Nilsson, Magnus (2010) Kurt Salomonsons ämne: Kampen under ytan, *Clarté* 1: 52-57.

Nilsson, Magnus (2010) John Ernest, CHAOTIC JUSTICE: RETHINKING AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY, *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 6, vol. 33, 1135-1137.

Povrzanović Frykman, Maja (2010) "Diversity and similarity beyond ethnicity: migrants' material practices", *Sens Public: Revue Internationale – International Web Journal*, published 4 October 2010 (<http://www.sens-public.org/spip.php?article780>).

### **Articles, other**

Nilsson, Magnus (2010) Jimmy Vulovic, Ensamhet och gemenskap i förvandling. Vägar genom Eyvind Johnsons och Rudolf Värnlunds mellankrigsromaner, *Samlaren* vol. 130, s. 260-267  
Otterbeck, Jonas (2010). 'Kulturmuslim' – en identitet. *Invandrare & minoriteter*, 22-26.

The following MIM publications can be downloaded at [www.mah.se/mim](http://www.mah.se/mim) ; detailed information on other publication listed below is available at [www.mah.se/muep](http://www.mah.se/muep).

### **Current Themes in IMER Research**

Hydén, Sophie (2010) Brottsoffer i rättsprocessen. Har utländsk bakgrund betydelse? *Current*

Themes in IMER Research no. 10.

**MIM working papers series**

Wigerfelt, Anders S. (2010) Migration and working life in transition: migration och arbetsliv i förändring, *MIM working papers series 10:1*

Nilsson, Magnus (2010) From "Industrial" to "Colorful", *MIM working papers series 10:2*

Borevi, Karin and Gunnar Myberg (2010) The Welfare State and its newcomers: settlement and housing of refugees, a research inventory, *MIM working papers series 10:3*

**MIM Research Reports**

Pieter Bevelander, Mirjam Hagström och Sofia Rönnqvist (2010) *Slutrapport Vidarebosatta flyktingars arbetsmarknadsintegration i Sverige*

Mirjam Hagström (2010) Delrapport: *En kamp med tiden: Hinder i kommunintroduktion av nyanlända kvotflyktingar*

Susanne Sundell Lecerof (2010) *Olika villkor – olika hälsa Hälsan bland irakier i åtta av Sveriges län 2008*

**Nordic  
Migration  
Research**

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