



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Migration, Diasporas and Settlement Forum

January 30-31, 2025 | Krakow, Poland

ul. Reymonta 4 30-059, Kraków, Poland

Please note that this preliminary program is subject to change.

The final program will be published in early January.

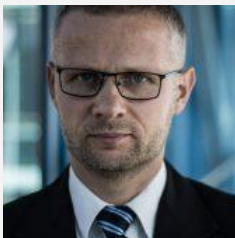
9h00-9h30

Welcoming Messages - Co-Chairs



Dr hab. Jan Brzozowski - Institute of European Studies at Jagiellonian University, Poland.

He is an economist with a major specialization in international migration research. He is currently an associate professor at Institute of European Studies at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland and the head of the Jagiellonian Centre of Migration Studies at this university. His professional interests include immigrant, ethnic and refugee entrepreneurship, migrant's socio-economic adaptation, financial and social remittances and migrants' transnationalism.



Dr hab. Konrad Pędziwiatr - Cracow University of Economics, Poland

Deputy Director of Caspar. He is Associate researcher in the Centre for Migration Research, professor in the Department of International Affairs at the Cracow University of Economics, researcher at the Center for Advanced Studies of Population and Religion (CASPAR) and initiator-coordinator of the Multiculturalism and Migration Observatory (MMO).

Welcome to the Migration, Diasporas, and Settlement Forum in Kraków. Over the past decade, the world has experienced a significant increase in large-scale population movements, many of them involuntary. Ukrainians, Syrians, Afghans, Rohingyas, Palestinians, and Somalis are fleeing military conflicts in their home countries, while others, such as Venezuelans, Belarusians, Russians, and Turks, are emigrating due to political or economic instability. Additionally, many people are contemplating future migration as a response to the challenges posed by rapid climate change and extreme temperatures, particularly in Africa's Sahel region.

At the same time, we are witnessing the growing securitization of migration. Migration debates and public policies are increasingly shaped by concerns over the perceived threat of uncontrolled, large-scale immigration from the poorer Global South to the wealthier Global North. Politicians often exploit anti-immigration sentiments, fueled by xenophobia and a lack of understanding about cultural 'otherness.' The push to curb immigration is not limited to figures like Donald Trump but is echoed by other political leaders in Europe.

In this context, the European Union presents a fascinating case. Surrounded—particularly to the south—by countries with significant demographic and migratory pressures, EU member states face the dual challenge of addressing population decline while managing international migration in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. The 2015 Refugee Crisis starkly highlighted the inability of individual member states to handle sudden, large-scale migration flows on their own, underscoring the urgent need for systematic coordination at the European level.

However, many political forces within EU member states advocate for nationalist, self-centered approaches to immigration. These include measures such as closing national borders, reintroducing border controls, and even withdrawing from the Schengen Area."

Poland, the host of the 2025 Migration, Diasporas, and Settlement Forum, exemplifies the challenges surrounding migration and settlement. Since regaining independence after the First World War, Poland was traditionally a country of emigration with Poles settling across the globe and forming large diasporic communities, particularly in the United States, Canada, Brazil, and Argentina. Today, it is estimated that around 20 million people of Polish descent live outside of the country - approximately 50% of the country's current population.

Over the past decade, Poland has undergone one of the fastest transformations in Europe, shifting from a country of net emigration to one of net immigration, outpacing even Italy and Spain in this regard. In 2014, the immigrant population in Poland was less than 200,000, representing under 0.5% of the population. By December 2024, the foreign-born population in Poland is estimated at a minimum of 2.5 million.

The majority of these newcomers are from neighboring Ukraine. Initially, they arrived as economic migrants, but after the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022, many Ukrainians sought refuge in Poland. Since regaining independence after the First World War As a result, Poland has become a key destination for both economic migrants and refugees, not only from Ukraine. Furthermore, since the EU-Belarus Border Crisis (2021–present), a significant number of irregular migrants and refugees have attempted to cross into Poland, with the government's measures to limit this inflow drawing concern from humanitarian activists.

In response to these developments, Poland has launched its Migration Strategy for 2025–2030, prioritizing the securitization of migration as its main political goal. Starting on January 1, 2025, Poland will assume the presidency of the Council of the European Union, with aspirations to shape joint EU migration management policies. This conference is thus very timely and will surely constructively contribute to ongoing debates in migration studies.

9h30-10h30

Keynote Speakers



Dr Min Zhou - Asia Pacific Center at the University of California, USA

She is currently Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Asian American Studies and Director of the Asia Pacific Center at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She is an academican of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Diaspora and Political and Civic Engagement in Countries of Origin and Adoption

This panel will explore the complex ways in which the ongoing war with Russia has shaped community dynamics within the Ukrainian diaspora that has settled both permanently and temporarily in Canada, Poland, Germany and the United Kingdom and how they seek to provide support to, and engage with Ukraine. This panel will explore the complex ways in which the ongoing war with Russia has shaped community dynamics within the Ukrainian diaspora that has settled both permanently and temporarily in Canada, Poland, Germany and the United Kingdom and how they seek to provide support to, and engage with Ukraine.

- Moderator: **Victor Satzewich** - Department of Sociology, McMaster University
- **Ivan Kozachenko** - Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw, Poland
- **Anna Matyska** - Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Warsaw, Poland
- **Natalia Khanenko-Friesen** - Director, Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta,
- **Irina Lapshyna** - Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies, University of Osnabruck, and Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv)
- **Tanya Halahuz** - Department of Social Science, Ukrainian Catholic University

Poles and Ukrainians in the Diaspora

The workshop will look at the role of culture in the formation of the Polish and Ukrainian diasporas and real and imagined connections to their roots in defining their identities. Keeping in mind that the diasporas are often composed of established minorities and recent migrants, the speakers will discuss how shared narratives get constructed in the process of identity formation.

- **Sumer Esin Senyurt** - University of Silesia- PhD Candidate
- **Agnieszka Kurzemska** - Cracow University of Economics
- **Jack Jedwab** - Metropolis Institute and Association for Canadian Studies

Beyond Categories: Understanding Ethnic Segregation and Diversity through Lived Experiences

This roundtable will critically examine how migrant identities are categorized in diverse national contexts, exploring the ways these labels shape both individual/collective identities while perpetuating racial inequalities. Through an intersectional life course approach, we prioritize the lived experiences of diaspora members, exploring how their identities evolve and intersect across time, place, and social, cultural and political contexts.

- Moderator: **Tuba Bircan** - Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
- **Didem Daniş** - Galatasaray University
- **Ayşe Güveli** - University of Warwick
- **Feriha Nazda** - Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
- **Lena Imeraj** - Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Lunch Break: 12h10 PM - 1:30 PM

Bloc B : 1h30 PM - 3:00 PM

■ Migrant and Refugee Entrepreneurship: Implications for Host and Home Countries

Research shows that immigrants, returnees, and refugees often display higher entrepreneurial rates than non-movers, leveraging international experience to innovate, identify opportunities, and adapt business models. However, the positive impacts of such entrepreneurship remain under-documented, relying mostly on anecdotal evidence. At the same time, these groups face significant barriers when starting and growing businesses. This session explores the dual impact of migrant and refugee entrepreneurship—both its contributions to host and home countries—while addressing the challenges faced by these entrepreneurs. By bridging gaps in knowledge, it seeks to enrich the global discussion on the economic integration of migrants and refugees.

- Moderator and Introduction: **Jan Brzozowski** - Jagiellonian University, Poland
- **Aki Harima** - Tallin University of Technology
- **Natalia Vershinina** - Audencia Business School
- **Nicola D. Coniglio** - University of Bari
- **Anke Lasek** - Krakow University of Economics, Poland
- **Hanna Smaliichuk** - Jagiellonian University, Poland
- **Inna Voznyuk** - Jagiellonian University, Poland

■ The Polish Diaspora: Old and New Structures. The Case of a Group of Polish Americans in Seattle, Washington - Roundtable

The roundtable aims to discuss the Polish American experience in the Pacific Northwest from a multidisciplinary perspective that includes social history, migration and diaspora studies and contemporary migration theory. The past and present of Polish immigrants is discussed in the context of the ethnic and racial dynamics of the local population. The participants represent ethnic leaders and researchers, which means that the social practices of local Polish American groups are analyzed from both the emic and etic perspectives.

- Moderator and Introduction: **Dorota Praszalowicz** - Jagiellonian University, Poland
- **Joanna Kulpińska** - Jagiellonian University, Poland
- **Adam Walaszek** - Committee for Polish Diaspora Studies of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Diasporas Experiences: Similarities and Differences

Workshop speakers will offer presentations on varying diaspora groups with the aim of identifying what is common to their respective experiences and how they diverge. The comparative lens will provide insights into avenues for further research towards understanding diasporas.

- **Dariusz Niedźwiedzki** - Jagiellonian University in Kraków
- **Joanna Sikorska** - Krakow University of Economics, Poland
- **Zdenek Uherek** - Charles University / Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences
- **Arian Behradfar VALORIZA** - VALORIZA—Research Centre for Endogenous Resource Valorization, Portalegre Polytechnic University, Portugal
- **Rui Alexandre Castanho** - Department of Management, Faculty of Applied Sciences, WSB University, Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland
- **Ana Budimir** - Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

BREAK: 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Belongingness: The Role of Dis-/Connectedness in Migrant and Refugee Entrepreneurial Journeys Across Local and Transnational Ecosystems

Connectedness and a sense of belonging are vital for migrant and refugee entrepreneurs to integrate and access resources, networks, and opportunities within local entrepreneurial ecosystems (EEs). This session will explore how different levels of connectedness, as a precondition for embeddedness, shape migrants' and refugees' entrepreneurial journeys. We will focus on the structural and relational dimensions of belonging, drawing on more than 100 interviews across multiple countries. The session will highlight how interactions with local and transnational actors and institutions can either facilitate or hinder belonging while addressing challenges such as marginalization and exclusion from essential networks.

- Moderators : **Jolanta Maj** - Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, Poland
- & **Alexandra David** - Westphalian University, Institute of Work and Technology, Germany
- **Sabina Kubiciel-Lodzinska** - Opole University of Technology, Poland
- **Maria Ivanova-Gonge** - Abo Akademi University, Finland
- **Maria Elo** - University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
- **Jörg Freiling** - University of Bremen, LEMEX, Germany
- **Tenzin Yeshe** - University of Bremen, LEMEX, Germany
- **Judith Terstriep** - Westphalian University, Institute for Work and Technology, Germany
- **Henrik Barth** - Halmstad University, Sweden
- **Ghazal Zalkat** - Halmstad University, Sweden

War and Migration: Migrants' Decision-Making, Settlement and Integration

Wars and armed conflicts lie in the heart of many migratory movements and have a direct impact on migratory flows. They produce displacement and forced migration intensifying processes of economic, political, social and cultural transformation. The migration decision-making of “war refugees” is gaining growing academic interest, and so is their settlement and integration, sometimes starting with their reception in the destination country. In this workshop we focus on these complementary processes, occurring in various phases of the migration experience and the involvement of diasporic ties in these processes. The workshop includes four presentations.

- Moderator - **Beata Paragi** - Institute of Global Studies, Corvinus University of Budapest
- **Ewa Ślęzak-Belowska** - Krakow University of Economics, Poland
- **Agnieszka Bielewska** - University of Wrocław, Poland
- **Karin Amit** - The Institute for Immigration & Social Integration, Ruppin Academic Center, Israel
- **Svetlana Chachashvili-Bolotin** - The Institute for Immigration & Social Integration, Ruppin Academic Center, Israel
- **Ravit Talmi-Cohn** - Tel Aviv University & Ono Academic College, Israel

Diaspora Volunteerism: Mobilization & Leveraging Multiple Identities

Diasporas have always played an informal role in welcoming newcomers. In both Europe and Canada, diaspora communities helped form Welcome Circles to assist Ukrainians fleeing the current war. This session will examine the mobilization of volunteers to support newcomers – with diaspora identity as an effective starting point for broader engagement and outcomes.

- **Elise Herzig** - JIAS Toronto
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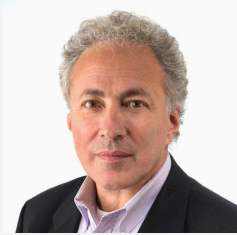
In Poland, the mobilisation of help for refugee assistance and support for Ukraine's war was swift, agile and unprecedented. Decentralised and informal networks of local leaders, amongst them Ukrainian nationals, neighbours, businesses, aid organisations and, crucially, (forced) migrants from Ukraine, formed largely on an ad hoc basis, bypassing insititutionalised mechanisms of control. This research focuses on the development of these networks through which new forms of association and agentic opportunities emerged and, arguably, an emergent framework of local diversity management. Through qualitative social network analysis and mapping techniques from semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders in the city of Krakow, we propose a typology of networks in the civic space, analysing the role of social actors and their positioning, forms of boundary maintenance and types of activities which typified them. Our findings point to the building of novel, informalised systems of trust between diverse stakeholders with deep trans-sectoral and transnational dimensions. We argue that this may lay the foundations for more fragmented yet dynamic civic ecosystems and piecemeal migrant mainstreaming, wherein the agency of diverse, previously marginalised actors, particularly (forced) migrants, becomes the driving force.

- **Karolina Czerska-Shaw** - Jagiellonian University in Kraków
- **Aneta Krzyworzeka** -Jelinska (University of Warsaw)

January 31, 2025

9h00-9h50

Keynote Speaker



Dr Marco Martiniello - Center for Ethnic and Migration Studies at the University of Liège, Belgium.

BA in Sociology; PhD in Social and Political Science, European University Institute Florence (Italy) He is Research Director at the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (FRS-FNRS). He teaches Sociology and Politics at the University of Liège.

■ **Mobility Capital and the Entrepreneurial Experiences of Young Chinese Migrants**

This study explores why young Chinese elites emigrate, maintain fluid mobility, and pursue entrepreneurial goals abroad. Driven by China's "risk society" and hyper-competitive landscape, they leverage oversea residency for mobility while retaining Chinese nationality, balancing exit and return for strategic advantage.

- **Min Zhou** - Asia Pacific Center at the University of California, USA
- **Wenfu Zhang** - University of Warwick, Poland

■ **Ukrainian Refugee Entrepreneurs in Moldova: Individual Challenges and Ecosystem Responses**

Since 24 February 2022, more than 12 million Ukrainian refugees have been forced to leave their homes after the outbreak of the war; national labor markets are often unable to offer enough employment opportunities. Research indicates that entrepreneurial activities offer marginalized individuals crucial social and psychological support advantages. This calls for self-employment in a situation where predominantly highly educated women with their children enter the country. This qualitative study researches the needs, challenges, skills, and resources of Ukrainian refugee entrepreneurs in Moldova. This study contributes to illuminating a specific context and processual view focusing on the entrepreneurial journey of refugees.

- **Jörg Freiling** - Bremen University
- **Tenzin Yeshe** - Bremen University

■ **Islamophobic Narratives and their Consequences for Muslim Communities**

This roundtable discussion will delve into the complex and pervasive issue of Islamophobia in contemporary Polish politics. We will examine the narratives of two key political figures, Jarosław Kaczyński and Donald Tusk, to understand how Islamophobia has been employed as a political tool by both conservative and liberal forces. By analyzing the specific rhetorical strategies, Polish Islamophobic discourses rooted in historical anti-Islamic pamphlets, which resurfaced in contemporary political narratives, as well as tropes, and framing devices used by these leaders, we aim to illuminate the underlying mechanisms and consequences of Islamophobic discourse in Poland and its effects on Migration as well as Muslim Diasporas in Poland.

- **Karol Wilczyński** - Jagiellonian Center for the Study of Migration
- **Miriam Taylor** - The Metropolis Institute

15 MIN BREAK : 11H15 - 11H30

(Potential) Return Entrepreneurs in Croatia - Lessons (to be) Learned from Migrant Entrepreneurs and Digital Nomads

Croatia was among the first countries in the World to introduce the Digital nomad visa and is also attracting an increasing number of immigrants doing 'regular' businesses. However, for centuries, Croatia has traditionally been an emigration country. The Croatian Government is now trying to reach even the third and the fourth generation of Croatian emigrants.

Based on the series of interviews from secondary sources, this session seeks to identify the 'pull factors' for the return entrepreneurs and the measures that influence their return journey. In addition, it aims to identify the lessons that return entrepreneurs can learn from the immigrant entrepreneurs and digital nomads already residing in Croatia. Thus, this research contributes both to current policy debate on the return migration in Croatia and to (emerging) policy debates in (South)Eastern Europe.

- **Ružica Šimić Banović**, PhD - Department of Economics University of Zagreb, Croatia
- **Mirela Marović Omerzu** - President Institute for Creative Education, Croatia
- **Mirela Alpeza, PhD** - Professor Faculty of Economics, J.J. Strossmayer University, Croatia

Examining the barriers and facilitators to healthcare access among migrants from Ukraine to Poland

Migrants often face significant barriers to healthcare access in host countries, including those related to language and system navigation. This panel session examines these barriers, as well as facilitators to accessing the health care system in Poland among forced and economic migrants from Ukraine. The presentations provide the results of quantitative and qualitative research conducted in Poland since the full-scale invasion of Russia on Ukraine, showcasing the perspectives of migrants, health care providers, and system planners on the challenges experienced and the strategies implemented to alleviate them. In addition, transnational health care use of services in Ukraine is examined.

- Moderator: **Tuba Bircan** - Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
- **Konrad Pędziwiatr** - Cracow University of Economics, Poland, **Michał Wanke** - Krakow University of Economics, Poland, **Svitlana Luchik-Musiyezdova** - Krakow University of Economics, Poland
- **Maria Węgrzynowska** - Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education, Iwona Bielska - Jagiellonian University Medical College, Poland, **Ilona Nenko** - Jagiellonian University Medical College, Poland, **Iwona Kowalska-Bobko** - Jagiellonian University Medical College, Poland, **Estera Wieczorek** - Jagiellonian University Medical College, Poland, **Natalia Petka** - Jagiellonian University Medical College, Poland, **Maciej Płaszewski** - University of Physical Education Warsaw, Poland
- **Viktorii Yanovska** - SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland, **Viktorii Hurochkina** - University of Zielona Gora

Emigrant Return Policies, Programs, and Patterns

Recently, in the context of emigrant recovery policies, academic and political theories that work on emigration explanations, impacts, and challenges, have been given much more attention, compared with the literature on immigrant integration process in receiving communities. From an international perspective, while emigrants conserved associations with country of origin, analysis on how these could

strongly begin to intrigue and even stimulate the rates of returns and returnees continues. This session aims at contributing to the debate on policies for the return of emigrants in various countries, and notably in Canada and Israel.

- **Elise Hergiz** - Jewish Immigrant Aid Services Toronto, Canada
- **Arnon Mantver** - CIMI, Israel
- **Jack Jedwab** - President of Metropolis Institute
- **Daniel Staetsky** - Director, European Jewish Demography Unit

LUNCH : 1PM - 2PM

Closing Remarks co-Chair



Dr. Jack Jedwab - President of Metropolis Institute, Canada

Dr. Jack Jedwab is President of the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) and the Metropolis Institute, which oversees Canada's largest conference on immigration and integration