Core Research Group

Christine M. Jacobsen: Professor of Social Anthropology and Director of Centre for Women’s and Gender Research (SKOK), University of Bergen (UiB) will head the project. Jacobsen is also the former leader of IMER Bergen (International Migration and Ethnic Relations). She is an experienced research and project leader, including the RCN-funded project Provision of Welfare to Irregular Migrants.

Shahram Khosravi: Associate Professor at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Stockholm. He has for many years studied, and written about, migration, diaspora, borders, illegality and deportation.

Randi Gressgård: Professor at the Centre for Women’s and Gender Research (SKOK) and affiliated with the research unit International Migration and Ethnic Relations (IMER), UiB.

Karl Harald Søvig: Professor at the Faculty of Law, UiB. His research interests cover social law, health and welfare, constitutional law and administrative law. Previously part of the project Provision of Welfare to Irregular Migrants.

Marry-Anne Karlsen: Postdoctoral fellow at SKOK, UiB. Her research interests cover migration policy and welfare state, social movements, and urban and regional development. Previously part of the project Provision of Welfare to Irregular Migrants.

Odin Lysaker: Associate Professor at the Department of Religion, Philosophy and History, University of Agder. His research interests cover ethics (body, migration, health, nature), political philosophy, (democracy, human rights) and social philosophy.

Thomas Hylland Eriksen: Professor at the Department of Social Anthropology, UiO. He has for many years studied, and written about, migration, identity politics, ethnicity, nationalism and globalisation from a comparative perspective.

Project period: 2016 - 2019
Funded by: The Research Council of Norway – SAMKUL

Contact Us

Christine M. Jacobsen: christine.jacobsen@skok.uib.no
+ 47 55 92 65

Address:
Centre for Women’s and Gender Research
University of Bergen
PB 7805
5020 Bergen
NORWAY

WAIT
Waiting for an uncertain future: the temporalities of irregular migration

Refugees dreaming. Photo: Flickr CC - BY: Hunter
The Project

The WAIT-project focuses on the temporal aspects of migration and investigates how temporal structures related to irregular migration are shaped by legal regimes, cultural norms and power relationships, and how they shape subjective experiences and life projects.

The WAIT-project aims to produce knowledge that
- meets societal challenges raised by new migration patterns
- adds a temporal perspective to dominant spatial approaches in migration studies
- advances theories of temporality in the humanities and social sciences

I say to time, pass pass...

Waitinghood

The project uses theories of temporality and the concept of 'waitinghood' as tools for producing new and critical insights into the cultural conditions and implications of migration.

Waitinghood is not about the everyday forms of waiting that we all experience in modern societies, but about the condition of prolonged waiting, uncertainty and temporariness which is characteristic of irregular migration. Waitinghood is also about the ways in which migrants encounter, incorporate and resist such socially produced conditions.

Why study the temporalities of migration?

Military conflicts, increased poverty rates, drastic climate changes and rapid population growth, suggest that the current increase in migratory movements towards Europe – the said refugee-crisis - is not a temporary exception. With stricter migration laws and intensified border control, the number of migrants who travel and stay without proper authorisation from the state is likely to increase.

As patterns of migration change, new research approaches are needed. Migration has generally been studied as a spatial process, while migration's temporal aspects, has received much less attention.

Waitinghood in migration is likely to adversely affect migrants' physical and mental health as well as their integration into society. More research about the effects of waitinghood is needed.

Waiting waiting waiting, what else? More papers, more papers, more papers...

Ethnographic field studies (WP1)

The project focuses on three European migration-hubs: Oslo (Norway), Stockholm (Sweden) and Marseille (France).

Major field sites include asylum reception centres, voluntary health clinics, and NGOs and migrant networks.

Theoretical tasks (WP2)

- the tempos involved in irregular migration
- future, hope and failure
- the normative and ethical dimensions of the temporalities involved in migration management