

Report IUSSP Scientific Panel on Lifetime Migration

The IUSSP Scientific Panel on Lifetime Migration (2023–2025), co-chaired by Aude Bernard (University of Queensland) and Sergi Vidal (CED-CERCA / Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), aims to advance a life-course perspective in migration research. This approach moves beyond the binary classification of migrants and non-migrants, recognizing the complexity and recurrence of migration throughout individuals' lives. The Panel seeks to highlight the heterogeneity of migration behaviors, bridge internal and international migration as part of a continuum, and establish how migration trajectories shape individual life chances, social wellbeing, and inequality.

Training Activities

The Panel has organized several well-attended training events focused on innovative methods to study migration over the life course. A hands-on [workshop on “Mining Migration Trajectories with R”](#) was held in January 2023 at the 3rd International Forum on Migration Statistics in Santiago, Chile. The session trained participants in techniques for extracting and analyzing migration sequences using the R programming language.

In June 2023, the Panel held a two-session [online training course on “Machine Learning Tools for the Analysis of Migration Trajectories”](#). The course attracted a global audience and introduced researchers to sequence analysis and supervised classification approaches applied to migration data.

On 13 July 2025, the Panel hosted a second [“Mining Migration Trajectories with R” workshop](#) as a side event to the 30th International Population Conference (IPC2025) in Brisbane, Australia. This session has already drawn considerable interest, with around 80 participants registered.

Workshops and Scientific Sessions

In March 2024, the Panel held a [webinar on “Innovations in Data Infrastructure for the Longitudinal Study of International Migration”](#), which featured discussions on emerging data sources and their potential for enhancing migration research, with the participation of members of the IUSSP Panel on Priorities in International Migration Research.

In June 2024, the Panel organized an [Early-Career Researchers Workshop on Migration Over the Life Course](#) in Edinburgh, Scotland, as a full-day side event to the European Population Conference. The first part of the event provided a forum for junior scholars to present and refine their work through a peer review process. Six papers were selected for in-depth discussion. The second part of the workshop was a public session that drew over 40 attendees, where three ERC-projects – LIFELONGMOVE, FamilyTies, and MYMOVE – were introduced, which informed a subsequent discussion around future avenues of research in the field of life course migration.

The Panel also contributed two scientific sessions to the [50th British Society for Population Studies \(BSPS\) Annual Conference](#) held in September 2023 at Keele University, England. These sessions focused on the effects of childhood migration

experiences and the cumulative impact of mobility on individuals' well-being and labor market outcomes, highlighting the analytical value of a life-course perspective.

On 16 June, at the 30th International Population Conference (IPC 2025), in Brisbane, Australia the Panel organized a scientific session titled “[Internal Migration as a Life-Course Trajectory](#)”, featuring three empirical studies that conceptualize migration as a sequence of experiences shaping and shaped by broader life trajectories and socio-historical contexts.

Publications

In 2025, the Panel launched a [Call for Papers for a Special Issue](#) in *Comparative Population Studies* (CPoS), titled “**Migration Trajectories Over the Life Course.**” The special issue, scheduled for publication in 2026, will bring together research applying longitudinal and trajectory-based approaches to migration. The call closed in May 2025 with a strong response—46 submissions were received—indicating the growing scholarly interest in this area.

For more information on the Panel and its activities, please visit the [IUSSP Panel on Lifetime Migration homepage](#).