

Global perspectives in lifetime migration data infrastructures

Date: 3 June 2026

Time: 15:00–17:00 (presentations and discussion until 16:30; informal networking 16:30–17:00)

Location: EPC 2026 venue (Complesso Belmeloro, Via Beniamino Andreatta, 8, 40126 Bologna) – Room I

Organized by: IUSSP Scientific Panel on Lifetime Migration

Overview

This workshop will showcase longitudinal and linked data infrastructures that are transforming the study of human mobility within and across countries by enabling researchers to examine migration as a trajectory.

Traditional migration data have often been confined to origin or destination settings—particularly in international migration research—or have underutilized information on individual trajectories. As a result, key dynamics such as repeat, return, and onward movement, periods of immobility, and the long-term consequences of migration trajectories remain insufficiently understood.

Extant data infrastructures—including population registers, cohort studies, panel surveys, administrative data linkages, digital traces and cross-border data harmonization initiatives—now make it possible to observe migration trajectories across multiple life stages and geographic contexts. These developments are emerging in diverse world regions and allow researchers to capture complex mobility pathways shaped by institutional contexts, legal statuses, and family dynamics.

By bringing together researchers involved in the development and use of innovative migration data systems, the workshop will highlight best practices in data design and linkage, discuss methodological opportunities for analysing migration trajectories, and reflect on persistent challenges in building sustainable and globally inclusive migration data infrastructures capable of capturing the diversity of migration and mobility experiences.

Aims

- Present longitudinal and linked data infrastructures that enable the study of migration trajectories in diverse global contexts.
- Showcase analytical approaches that conceptualize migration as dynamic life-course processes.
- Identify key methodological and institutional challenges in collecting, linking, and harmonizing migration and mobility data over time.

- Foster dialogue and collaboration among researchers, data producers, and users working on migration and mobility data and longitudinal and life-course research.

Format

- **Introductory remarks (15:00–15:05):** Sergi Vidal (*Centre for Demographic Studies / Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*) will introduce the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Lifetime Migration and frame the workshop objectives.
- **Presentations (15:05–16:00):** Invited speakers will introduce migration data infrastructures, highlighting their design, scope, and analytical potential for studying migration and mobility trajectories overtime, and illustrating these with empirical applications.
- **Q&A and discussion (16:00–16:30):** Moderated discussion building on the data infrastructures presented, including questions from the audience, and focusing on methodological challenges, future directions, and opportunities for advancing globally inclusive migration data infrastructures.
- **Informal networking (16:30–17:00):** Opportunity for participants to exchange ideas and explore potential collaborations.

Presentations

- **Carren Ginsburg** (*University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa*) — Cohort study of South African internal migrants
- **Elizabeth Jacobs** (*University of Connecticut, USA*) — LinkedIn employment histories as digital data source to address migration trajectories
- **Niklas Murken** (*Universität Potsdam*) — Senegal Migration Panel study
- **Victoria Prieto** (*Universidad de la República, Uruguay*) — Intra–Latin American mobility patterns from the Latin American Migration Project

Registration

Participation is free of charge and open to researchers attending the European Population Conference. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that there is no cost to attend the event, but no funding will be provided to support participation or travel.

To register, please send an email to iussp.workshop@gmail.com, indicating your name, institutional affiliation, and whether you are a student.