

## Workshop: Uncertainty and Complexity of Migration

Organised as a part of the ERC project on Bayesian Agent-Based Population Studies under the auspices of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Populations and with support of the ESRC Centre for Population Change

Public lecture event co-organised and financed by the University of Southampton

**Venue:** British Academy, Lecture room, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH, Tel: 020 7969 5200  
Nearest Tube: Charing Cross or Piccadilly Circus

### Summary:

Migration is multidimensional, complex and uncertain. These features, alongside with the underpinning agency of actors involved in migration, have been recently gaining prominence in academic literature. These developments parallel the exploration of computer simulations as tools of enquiry for population processes. There is a current need for a discussion on the potential and limits of such computational methods, on their knowledge and data requirements, and on the conditions for their usefulness for supporting migration policy. The workshop will explore these topics and more, in order to identify the best ways of implementing the current cutting-edge research ideas in practice.

### Aims of the workshop:

1. To summarise the state of the art in addressing the complexity and uncertainty of migration through formal modelling, and present current research opportunities in this area
2. To discuss the best ways for modelling migration, directions for data collection, and conditions for making the modelling useful for policy support

### Programme:

#### ***Tuesday, 20 November 2018. Day I – State of the art and new research avenues***

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|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:30         | Registration and coffee                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10:00         | Welcome and opening                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Introduction – Uncertainty and complexity in migration and its models:<br><i>Jakub Bijak, University of Southampton</i>                                                              |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Coffee                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 11:00 – 11:45 | Data and Knowledge for Modelling Forced Migration<br><i>Sarah Nurse and Jakub Bijak, University of Southampton</i><br><u>Discussant:</u> <i>Ann Singleton, University of Bristol</i> |

- 11:45 – 12:30 Modelling migration  
*Martin Hinsch, University of Southampton*  
Discussant: *Eric Silverman, University of Glasgow*
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break
- 13:30 – 14:15 Decision making in migration models  
*Toby Prike and Philip Higham, University of Southampton*  
Discussant: *Frans Willekens, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute*
- 14:15 – 15:00 Computer languages for simulating migration  
*Oliver Reinhardt and Adelinde Uhrmacher, University of Rostock*  
Discussant: *Sabine Zinn, Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories*
- 15:00 – 15:30 Coffee
- 15:30 – 17:00 Contributed snapshot session: Recent advances in migration modelling  
  
*Rebecca Hoyle, University of Southampton, Modelling migration during trait evolution in evolutionary biology*  
*Sarah Miller, Penn State University, Identifying refugees in nationally representative datasets*  
*Ernesto Amaral, Texas A&M University, Estimating migration flows at the local level in the US*  
*Francesco Rampazzo, University of Southampton, European migration to the UK in the light of Facebook data*  
*Guillaume Marois, IIASA, Microsimulations for multidimensional population projections in Europe*  
*Martina Testori, University of Southampton, How group composition affects group decisions*
- 17:00 – 17:30 Afternoon refreshments
- 18:15 – 19:30 **Southampton Public Lecture: Uncertainty and Complexity of Migration (Wolfson Room)**  
*Jon Simmons, Home Office, and Jakub Bijak, University of Southampton*  
Moderator: *Charles Elder, University of Southampton*
- 19:30 – 20:30 Reception, hosted by the University of Southampton

**Wednesday, 21 November 2018. Day II – Policy and practitioner perspectives.**

- 10:00 – 12:45 Panel session ([Chatham House Rule](#)), with coffee break at 11:00 – 11:30  
 Themes: Migration knowledge gaps and how to fill them  
 How to make simulation models useful for policy  
  
**With:** *Ann Blake, Office for National Statistics; Nico Keilman, University of Oslo; Giampaolo Lanzieri, Eurostat; Petra Nahmias, UNHCR; Ann Singleton, University of Bristol; Teddy Wilkin, European Asylum Support Office; Dominik Zenner, International Organization for Migration*
- 12:45 – 13:45 Lunch break
- 13:45 – 14:45 Moderated breakout groups: Modelling as a scientific and migration policy support tool.  
 Reports from the breakout sessions and general discussion ([Chatham House Rule](#))
- 14:45 – 15:00 Summary and conclusion of the meeting
- 15:00 – 15:30 Farewell coffee