

Call for Papers: RGS-IBG Annual International Conference, Royal Geographical Society, London, 28-30 August 2019

Everyday Subjectivities of Privileged Migrants

Sponsored by the Population Geography Research Group & the Gender and Feminist Research Group

Convenors:

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Despite growing attention to what can be described as privileged forms of mobility (Amit 2007, Benson & O'Reilly 2016, Botterill 2016, Cranston 2017, Richardson 2018), this remains an understudied area in migration studies. In the limited research that exists, privileged migration tends to fall under the scope of highly skilled migration or lifestyle migration. This frames privilege around one of two perspectives: an economic-led approach which focuses on highly skilled migration and a social and cultural approach which discusses issues associated around tensions of privilege, lifestyle and migrant belonging. As Yeoh and Huang (2011) highlight in the context of highly skilled migration, the separation of economic, social and cultural approaches can result in an incomplete understanding, that we need to interrelate a 'politics of moving (and belonging) and a politics of place.'

This session takes inspiration from this argument to explore how being a privileged migrant is not a single identity but one of many (Bayley and Mulder 2017) as migrants' subjectivities are also "inhabited" through – among others – race, ethnicity, nationality, class, sexuality and gender (Bonjour and Cousin 2018; Duplan 2014; Fechter and Walsh 2010; Leonard 2010; Lundström 2014; Walsh 2017). Feminist scholars have called attention to the role of gender in the everyday experiences of the highly skilled (Coles and Fechter 2012; Kofman 2000; Raghuram and Kofman 2002). However, there is still a crucial need to further investigate how much more complex subjectivities and experiences of space and place are from an intersectional perspective. Subjectivities and senses of belonging of privileged migration therefore need to be questioned as complex relational and performative productions that use the body as a central site of bordering in transnational everyday encounters (Ahmed 2000).

For this session, we seek papers that speak to, and trouble, understandings of power dynamics of globalisation through exploring privileged migrant's embodiments, subjectivities and senses of belonging in the making. In particular, we seek papers that draw upon feminist, queer and postcolonial approaches to understand privileged migrant lives. Papers could include:

- Conceptualizations of privileged migrations and highly skilled migration;
- Masculinities and femininities of privileged migrants;
- Racialised subjectivities of privileged migrants;
- Heteronormativity and hegemonic subjectivities of the highly skilled;
- Privileged migrant's encounters in public spaces/their professional lives;
- Translocal or transnational networks of privileged migrants.
- Inequalities of/towards/among privileged migrants.

Please send your abstract (up to 250 words), title, affiliations and contact details to both Sophie Cranston (s.cranston@lboro.ac.uk) and Karine Duplan (karine.duplan@unige.ch) by 4 Feb 2019. Notification of selected papers will be given by 11 Feb 2019.

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