Call for Papers: RGS-IBG AC2020 PopGRG sponsored sessions

1. **Re-turning to the complexities of 'return' migration**

Session organisers: Chidinma Okorie, Darren Smith and James EssonLoughborough University, UK

What constitutes 'return migration' both spatially and temporally is arguably being reshaped by the increasing diversification of international and sub-national migration flows and processes across the globe (Vathi et al., 2018; Abramitzky et al., 2019), such as new forms of labour (e.g. Janicka and Kaczmarczyk, 2016), education (e.g. Model, 2016) and familial (Sala and Baldassar, 2017) movements. This begs potentially important theoretical and conceptual questions about the temporal parameters of contemporary return migration and resettlement, as well as the unstable dualities of temporary/short-term, circular, and (semi)permanent returns to place(s) of origin (and destination) (Williams, 2019). Equally, the opening-up of transnational spaces and the uptake of ICTs and social media further complicate where, when and how individuals and families may 'return' to their former communities and neighbourhoods. Increasingly, return migration is highly politicised in emotive debates such as Brexit (see Lulle and King, 2019), the imposition of hard borders and boundaries between nation states (e.g. US/Mexico), and the forced return of so-called illegal immigrants and asylum seekers (e.g. Keles, 2019; Tezcan, 2019). In this session, we seek diverse papers to explore how different forms and processes of return migration in the Global North and Global South are being empirically investigated, conceptualised and / or theorised by geographers and social scientists.

Please send expressions of interest and / or proposals including title of paper, author affiliation(s), and abstract (max. 200 words) to Chidinma Okorie (C.A.Okorie@lboro.ac.uk), Darren Smith (D.P.Smith@lboro.ac.uk) and James Esson (J.Esson@lboro.ac.uk) by **31st January 2020.**

2. **"Lost in translation: Beyond the bounds of language and migration"**

Conveners: Marcus Doel and Sergei Shubin (Swansea University)

The use of language in migration is inevitably linked to boundary creation and differentiation from different others (Pritchard, 2008). At the same time, the so-called "multilingual turn" (May, 2014) that developed alongside the earlier so-called "mobility turn" unsettled some of the static, natal, and territorialised approaches to language that have tended to root native tongues to particular places, and migrant voices to forked tongues. Voices *betray* a sense of place. New theorizations of language as mobile, hybrid and constructed have highlighted the ways in which migration is named, portrayed, and betrayed in communicative practices, new meanings and grammars are developed through the mobility and mutability of codes, and elements of different languages are assembled to make visible different identities and contexts in migration (Canagarajah, 2017). The "crossing" of different languages contributes to the plurilingual nature of migrants' experience, while problematizing the existing borders of cultural and linguistic communities concerning the relationship between hosts and guests, locals and migrants (Rampton, 2008). However, the growing interest in "globalised language and practice" (Pordie, 2013, 15) tends to focus mainly on the intentional construction of meaning and knowledge while paying less attention to matters beyond human comprehension and all sorts of silences and strangeness that emerge in and through migration. Following a broader trend in recent geographical scholarship to reconsider the intentional construction of meaning, and to problematize the unity and intentionality of communicating with others (Butler, 2004; Barnett, 2005; Harrison, 2007), there is a need to re-think the ways of bringing into language uncertain movements and experiences in migration. Accordingly, this session will focus on making sense of known and unknown migration practices, recollecting migration narratives that are ordinarily "lost in translation," and giving space to sensations that cannot be fully known or adequately expressed.

Potential topics for discussion can include:

- Language ownership and identity in migration
- Semiotic mediation of transnational spaces and times
- Narrating multiple homes and place-making in migration
- Expressions of disappearance and uncertainty in the process of migration
- Migrant use of semiotic resources to negotiate distance and enable cross-border links
- Conveying interruptions, breaks and meaninglessness in migration
- Hybrid use of grammars, index and norms in expressing migration
- Emergence of multimodal (immaterial, virtual) and multisensory (imaginative, affective) meanings in migration
- Intuition, belief and expectations in migration that come before meaning
- Expressions of memory, waiting and forgetting in migration
- Alternative relations of meaning across national boundaries (i.e. exilic writing)
- The agency of things, artefacts and objects in providing linguistic resources and communicating migration
- Contextual constraints and affordances in expressing cross-border movements
- Suffering, trauma and violence, "wounded geographies" (Philo, 2017) in migration

Please send your title, abstract (max. 250 words), and full contact details to Marcus Doel M.A.Doel@Swansea.ac.uk or Sergei Shubin S.V.Shubin@Swansea.ac.uk **by the 10 February 2020**

3. **The Bordering Process of Transnational Migrants in Urban Spaces: Multiplicity and Embeddedness**

Co-Sponsored by the Population Geography Research Group and the Postgraduate Forum

Session Conveners: Yunting Qi & Tat-in Tam (Royal Holloway University of London)

Theorising borders and the process of bordering has been pivotal to understand contemporary human mobility and related socio-spatial changes (Rumford, 2006). As a representation of the dichotomy of inside/outside, border could provide both constraints and opportunities for human mobilities (Sohn, 2016). (Un)skilled transnational migrants move across the nation-state borders as well as the municipal borders for personal or familial interests; meanwhile, they also establish various (in)visible borders through their everyday practices (Saint-Blancat & Cancellieri, 2014; Sidaway, 2011; Wang & Shen, 2009). The city, or urban spaces at smaller geographical scales, actively engages into the bordering process of transnational migrants through landscapes, urban infrastructures and urban governance (Smith & Guarnizo, 2009). This session hopes to highlight the latest theoretical/practical trend of borders/bordering related to transnational migrants in urban spaces.

This session particularly focuses on the multiplicity and embeddedness of bordering process in urban spaces. Multiplicity refers to that borders, which could be in various (geographical) forms, are experienced differently by different individuals and invoke various cultural meanings (Qian, 2014; Rumford, 2012).The multiple meanings of borders are embedded in migrants' everyday lived experiences and the embeddedness involves cultural contexts, social network and various capitals of transnational migrants (Egbert, 2006). The multiplicity and embeddedness of bordering process can be operated as a representation of transnationalism, within and beyond the territories (Qian & Tang, 2017).

This session welcomes papers from, but not limited to, the following themes that may related to the bordering process of transnational migrants in urban spaces:
• The shifting nature of borders in urban spaces
• Everyday practices of transnational migrants in the city
• Territorialisation of ethnic enclave in cities
• Transnational migrants' right to city
• Empowering and disempowering of transnational migrants in the city
• Urban citizenship
• New research approaches and methodologies about transnational migration

We are looking for about 10 papers in this session. Each presenter will give 15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for discussion. Please send **your paper title, abstract (250 words max.), email address and affiliation** to Yunting Qi (Yunting.Qi.2017@live.rhul.ac.uk) and Tat-in Tam (Dennis.Tam.2017@live.rhul.ac.uk) by **10 February 2020**.

Look forward to seeing your abstracts. Please feel free to circulate the CFP to anyone who might be interested. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you!

4. **Frontiers in Residential Segregation: The Causes and Consequences of Spatial Discontinuities in Ethnicity, Religion and Social Class**

Convener: Gwilym Pryce (Urban Studies and Planning / Sheffield Methods Institute, University of Sheffield) g.pryce@sheffield.ac.uk

The word "frontier" is a widely used term deployed to describe a range of phenomena. Frontiers can represent the delineation of political or administrative jurisdictions. These can occur at national, regional, local and neighbourhood levels. Frontiers can also refer to the perceived outer envelope of knowledge or human control. Frontiers can be subjective, visible only to the eye of the beholder, marking the place where a person, or community, believes the territory of their group starts and another ends.

In recent years there has been growing interest in the idea that frontiers can be used to describe a particularly important form of residential segregation. Here, "social frontiers" represent sharp spatial divisions in the residential make-up of adjacent communities as opposed to places where there is more gradual spatial blending of contrasting communities. Well known, if rather extreme, examples of these spatial discontinuities are the social frontiers between Catholic and Protestants in Belfast where cliff edges in the socio-religious landscape have historically been points of conflict between rival communities. However, frontiers can potentially arise between groups defined in a variety of dimensions including race, ethnicity, social class, age, religion or country of origin.

The gradient and meaning of social frontiers have potentially important implications for inter-group relations, social conflict, crime, wellbeing and economic prosperity. For example, recent research in the UK and the USA has found evidence of significantly higher crime in neighbourhoods joined by social frontiers, and there are new programmes of work emerging looking at the impact of social frontiers on residential and social mobility.

For this session we invite papers that consider the conceptualisation, measurement, causes and consequences social frontiers and related issues and concepts (e.g. residential segregation, territoriality and relative deprivation). We welcome studies from a diverse range of methodological, epistemological and disciplinary perspectives.

Please contact Gwilym Price for more information about call deadlines: g.pryce@sheffield.ac.uk