Migration and Technology: Governance Innovations, Challenges, and Future Directions

October 8th, 2024

BALSILLIE SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Migration + Technology Hub

AGENDA

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	**Registration and Welcome Coffee**
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	**Opening Remarks** Hosts: Ann Fitz-Gerald, Jenna Hennebry, Jonathan Crush, Kim Rygiel, Abby Goodrum
9:15 AM – 10:30 AM	**Panel 1 – Surveillance and Migration Control** Chair: Suzan Ilcan • Fatmanur Delioglu: Navigating Uncertainty: EU Border Policies, Advanced Technologies, and Migrant Agency • Ana Visan: The Kino-Somatic Border: Surveilling Mobility in Porous Border Zones • Michael Gordon: Civil Fleet Airborne Operations and the Disobedient Gaze: Counter-Mapping the Mediterranean
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	**Panel 2 – Digital Technologies, Social Media and Access to Rights** Chair: Leah Koskimaki • Marika Jeziorek: Digital Platforms for Crisis Response: Martynka's Role in Addressing Gendered Vulnerabilities Among Refugees • Hari KC and Anna Triandafyllidou: Reframing the Concept of 'Privilege' and 'Precarity' in Global Migration: Digital Nomads, Digital Technologies, and the Newly Emerging Actors • Zhixi Cecilia Zhuang & Cyrus Sundar Singh: Understanding Migrant Agency and Community Advocacy through New Media: The Role of Social Media, Visual Communication, and Digital Storytelling • Sean Sithole: Migration, Digital Technology, and Social Media in Southern Africa: A Call for Research

AGENDA

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	**Lunch Break – Keynote Lecture** Eleonore Fournier-Tombs: Global Governance in the Age of AI: Reflections on Gender, Migration, and Human Rights
1:00 PM – 2:15 PM	**Panel 3 – Fintech, Data and Remittances** Chair: Jenna Hennebry • Zack Ahmed: Technology-Enhanced Informal Food Economies in Urban Migration Hubs: The Case of Somali Migrants in Nairobi • Naomi Sunu: Migrant Remittances and the Innovations and Challenges of Digital Platforms • Leah Koskimaki: Technology and inclusion in the Decentering of Migration Governance: Preliminary notes on Infrastructural Justice from Africa
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	**Break**
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	**Panel 4 – New Digital Technologies and Migration Governance** Chair: Kim Rygiel • Benjamin J. Muller, Philippe M. Frowd and Can E. Mutlu: The Rise of Border Security Apps • Sujata Ramachandran and Jonathan Crush: New Digital Technologies and the Transformation of Migration Statistics • Manel Miaadi: Invisible Hands at Work: Who Is Accountable in the Digital Migration Governance Era? • Antonietta Elia: The Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI and Its Implications for Migration Governance

AGENDA

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	**A collaborative session to explore key research questions and future priorities for the next five years in migration and technology.** Hosts: Jenna Hennebry, Vivienne Lawack, Kim Rygiel, Abby Goodrum Participants will discuss the technological tools shaping migration governance, such as biometrics, drones, and other innovations used in border management, and reflect on the future direction of the Migration+Technology Hub.

Welcome message

Ann Fitz-Gerald

Ann Fitz-Gerald ([@afitz3105](#)) is the Director of the Balsillie School of International Affairs and a Professor in Wilfrid Laurier University's Political Science Department. Ann is widely published on issues concerning conflict, national security and security sector governance. Ann has advised governments on national security policy/strategy issues and supported internationally sponsored peace talks. In 2018, Ann was appointed as a Senior Research Associate at the Royal United Services Institute in London. In 2013, she became a Senior Security and Justice Adviser for the UK Government and she was appointed Visiting Professor of Global Security Management at Queen's University. In 2012, the Government of Canada awarded Ann the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her contribution to post-conflict resolution and national policy dialogue. In 2011, Ann was invited to become the McNaughton-Vanier Visiting Professor at the Royal Military College of Canada.

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Keynote Lecture
Eleonore Fournier-Tombs

Dr. Eleonore Fournier-Tombs, Head of Anticipatory Action and Innovation at the UNU Centre for Policy Research, will provide a lecture on the state of global governance, particularly in relation to technology, migration, human rights, and development. An expert in AI, cybersecurity, and gender issues in global governance, she has recently authored Gender Reboot, a book exploring gender norms and women's rights in the age of AI. Registration is required for the event. Please note any dietary restrictions to Joanne Weston or via the registration link.

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Abby Goodrum

Professor and founder of the User Experience Design degree program at Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus where she teaches courses in User-Centered Design, Information Architecture, and Research Methods. Before this, she was the Vice President for Research at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her research bridges multiple disciplines and appears in the journal literature of computer science, humanities, communication studies, information management, and media studies. Her research has focused on the study of how people seek, use, share, manipulate, store, retrieve, and organize digital multimedia.

Jenna Hennebry

She is the Co-Founder and current Co-Director of the International Migration Research Centre. She is co-founder of the Migration Worker Health Project and funder of the Gender + Migration Hub, as well as the Migration + Technology Hub. She has served as an expert advisor to the Auditor General of Canada, the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal, the Government of Canada's Delegation to the United Nations, and an expert consultant to the UN Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of Migrants. Hennebry is also Co-Chair of the Technology Governance Initiative Steering Committee from the Balsillie School of International Affairs.

Suzan Ilcan

Professor of sociology in the Department of Sociology and Legal Studies at the University of Waterloo and the Balsillie School of International Affairs. Her research covers a range of themes at the interface of global governance, humanitarian and development aid, and migration studies, including humanitarian aid and refugee camps, and social justice and citizenship rights. Her work has also been published in a wide range of journals including the Canadian Review of Sociology, Citizenship Studies and International Political Sociology.

Leah Koskimaki

Leah Koskimaki is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute for Social Development (ISD) and Coordinator for an interdisciplinary project on Migration and Mobilities in the Office of the DVC- Academic at the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa. She received her PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology from the University of Washington in Seattle. She has conducted extensive research in India on small town youth politics, regionalism, development and migrant transnationalism.

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Kim Rygiel

Kim Rygiel is a Professor in the Department of Political Science and the School of International Policy and Governance, Balsillie School of International Affairs, at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada. She is Co-Director of Laurier's International Migration Research Centre and Co-Chief Editor of the journal Citizenship Studies. Her research focuses on critical migration, citizenship and border politics, including migrant and refugee-led social movements and solidarity struggles for migrant rights within North America and in Europe. Her work is published in journals such as American Quarterly, Critical Sociology, Citizenship Studies, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies and Ethics and Global Politics.

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Zack Ahmed

Zack Ahmed is a PhD candidate in Global Governance at the Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA), with over 14 years of experience in the private, public, and non-profit sectors across Canada, Kenya, South Sudan, and Tanzania. His research focuses on climate change, South-South migration, and urban food security in Sub-Saharan Africa. Zack is involved in key projects like the MiFOOD Network, the Resilient Remittances (R2) Project, and a CIHR-funded initiative addressing the food insecurity impacts of COVID-19 on marginalized migrants.

Jonathan Crush

Jonathan Crush is University Research Professor and faculty member in the Department of Political Science at Wilfrid Laurier University and Extraordinary Professor at the University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa. He founded and directs the Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP) and co-founded the African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN). After joining the Balsillie School, he established the Hungry Cities Partnership which links colleagues from Laurier and Waterloo with partners in Mexico, Jamaica, South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Kenya, India and China.

Fatmanur Delioglu

She is a PhD student at the Balsillie School of International Affairs. Her interests are centered around critical border studies, solidarity networks, and gender. She has worked as an intern researcher at the Gender and Diversity Institute in Kiel, Germany (2016), the Istanbul Policy Center (2019), and the Migration Research Center at Koç University (MiReKoc) during the summer term of 2019. Additionally, she participated in a research project analyzing Turkish media coverage of Syrian refugees at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Lund University (2018). In 2020, she contributed as a researcher to a TÜBİTAK project on place and belonging.

Mulugeta Dindabo

Mulugeta F. Dinbabo is a Professor of Development Studies at the Institute for Social Development, University of the Western Cape. He is an established researcher whose research trajectories have been influenced by the critical role of Development/Migration Studies and Postgraduate Teaching. He has consulted for the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), African Union (AU), South African Government Departments and others. His major research and consultancy services include migration studies, development management, governance, intergovernmental relations and civil society capacity building.

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Antonietta Elia

Finalist to the Pro Human Rights Prize (Spain, 2022), Prof Dr Antonietta Elia is Member of the Berkeley Center for Comparative Equality and Antidiscrimination Law (2024-) and since 2023 BSIA Non-Resident Fellow. At the same time she Senior Legal Adviser for Council of Europe on Human Rights Standards Implementation. Her previous appointments include Associate Professor of Law, University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain, 2012-2022); Visiting Professor of International Law and Human Rights, Interamerican Academy for Human Rights, (Mexico, 2020-2023); Visiting Professor of International Law and Human Rights (Beijing, 2016-2017).

Michael Gordon

Michael Gordon's research broadly surrounds irregularized migration and the externalization of European border controls, with a particular focus on the acts of solidarity through the work of civil society Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. These research interests coalesce around the theoretical intersections between sovereignty, solidarity, forced migration and borders at the supposed margins of the Global North. Michael holds a PhD in International Relations from McMaster University. Currently, he serves as a Co-Editor of Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees.

Marika Jeziorek

Marika Jeziorek is a researcher with a diverse background in international business, project management, and global affairs. Currently pursuing a PhD in Global Governance at Wilfrid Laurier University, she has received multiple prestigious scholarships and held academic roles, including as an Associate Professor at Lambton College. Marika's professional experience spans economic development, consultancy, and leadership in Canada and Poland. Her research focuses on the intersections of migration, gender, and technology. She has authored policy briefs on permanent residency for Ukrainian refugees and labour market equity and inclusion.

Hari KC

Hari KC is a Research Fellow with the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Migration and Integration program at Toronto Metropolitan University in Canada where he co-leads the research project 'Digital Nomads: The Changing World of Migration, Mobility and Work' that focuses on digital nomads, changing modalities of migration and work and the newly emerging infrastructures of global migration and mobility. He is affiliated with 'Migrant Integration in the Mid-21st Century: Bridging Divides' and the International Migration Research Centre in Canada. He has collaborated on several research projects, including the Gender + Migration Hub which seeks to enhance gender equality in migration policies and programs.

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Vivienne Lawack

Professor Vivienne Lawack is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic at the University of the Western Cape. She is also a Professor of Law in the Department of Mercantile and Labour Law in the Faculty of Law at UWC and serves on several boards and councils. She began and advanced her legal career by spending a number of years at the South African Reserve Bank in various capacities, including senior payment system analyst, senior legal consultant and legal consultant and as Senior Legal Counsel for Strate Limited, South Africa's central securities depository.

Manel Miaadi

Manel Miaadi is a Ph.D. candidate in Global Governance at Wilfrid Laurier University, where she explores the personal narratives of Tunisian and sub-Saharan African migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea. Internationally, she facilitated election observation missions with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tunisia, enhancing transparency and stakeholder engagement. In Canada, she contributed to various projects with Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) under the Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP).

Benjamin J. Muller (co-author with Philippe Frowd and Can Mutlu)

Benjamin J. Muller, PhD (Queen's University Belfast, 2005) is Professor of Migration and Border Studies at King's University College at Western University, in London, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Muller has published widely on issues of borders, sovereignty, security, surveillance, and biometrics, including two monographs. Dr. Muller's Security, Risk, and the Biometric State: Governing Borders and Bodies (Routledge 2009) remains a key humanities and social sciences text on the emergence of biometric technologies in border and migration management. More recently, Dr. Muller co-edited (with C. Mutlu) Architectures of Security: Design, Control, Mobility (Rowman & Littlefield, 2024).

Sujata Ramachandran

Dr. Sujata Ramachandran is the project manager for the new NFRF-funded Remitting for Resilience/R2 Project of the MiFOOD Network and Hungry Cities Partnership at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and Wilfrid Laurier University. She was previously a Post-Doctoral Fellow with this research network and continues to be involved in the MiFOOD Project and the NFRF-IDRC-funded Women Feeding Cities Project. Her research interests include migration and development, migrant integration, and migration governance. She is the co-editor of a forthcoming volume on South-South migration for Springer. Sujata edits the MiFOOD Working Paper series with Dr. Crush.

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Sean Sithole

Dr Sean T. Sithole is a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at ISD-UWC. His recent work is on a CIHR-funded project on the COVID-19 pandemic, food security and migration, and an SSHRC-funded project under the MiFOOD research network. His research interests focus on digital remittances, mobile transfers, social media and migrant networks, international migration and urban food security nexus, information communication technology (ICT) and development. He has participated in research, projects and events with support from several organisations, including Stats SA, UN agencies and the European Commission. He holds PhD and master's degrees in Development Studies from UWC.

Cyrus Sundar Singh

Dr. Sundar Singh is an AcademiCreActivist: a Gemini Award-winning filmmaker, scholar, composer, singer-songwriter, author, and published poet. He arrived in Toronto as a fresh-off-the-boat ten-year-old from India and almost embraced the winter. From the Award-winning NFB debut Film Club (2001) to the live-documentary productions: Brothers In The Kitchen (2016) and Africville in Black and White in 2017/18, Cyrus' research and productions have taken him around the world including Senegal, India, Israel, Spain, Haiti, Jamaica, and Sri Lanka. Recently, Cyrus successfully produced the following multimedia storytelling projects with CERC in Migration: i am... (2021); Under the Tent (2022); WhereWStand (2023/24).

Naomi Sunu

Naomi Sunu is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the MiFOOD Network and Hungry Cities Partnership at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and Wilfrid Laurier University. She received her Ph.D. in Sustainability Management from the University of Waterloo. She has extensive fieldwork experience on funded projects assessing household conditions in areas including lived-poverty, food security, public health, and climate-related impacts in Ghana. Her postdoctoral research focuses on the dynamics of remittances sent by the Ghanaian diaspora in Canada and their contributions towards social, economic, and environmental development in Ghana.

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Anna Triandafyllidou

Anna Triandafyllidou holds the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration, at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU). She is Scientific Director of the Migration Integration in the 21st Century: Bridging Divides program. Prior to joining TMU, Anna held a Robert Schuman Chair at the Global Governance Program, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Italy. She is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies. Her research is in the broader areas of migration and asylum governance, national identity and cultural and religious diversity in comparative perspectives.

Ana Visan

Her PhD work shifts the lens to question the ramifications of how governments, in particular the European Union's and its member states governments, use technological tools for the surveillance of external borders. She has been a student board member of the IMRC since 2020 and was a coordination committee member of the STS-Migtec research network in 2021-2022. She is currently working with Professor Alison Mountz on the Haven Lab, a project designed to preserve, share and analyse obscured data surrounding immigration and border issues.

Zhixi Cecilia Zhuang

Dr. Zhixi Cecilia Zhuang is an Associate Professor at the School of Urban and Regional Planning, Toronto Metropolitan University. Her research explores the intersection of immigrant settlement, urban landscapes, and municipal policies in topics related to building welcoming infrastructure in non-traditional gateway cities, immigrant entrepreneurship and city building, ethnic place-making in 'third places,' migration and suburban transformation, and the role of municipal planning in immigrant settlement and integration. She has conducted mixed-method, arts-informed, and community-based research, effectively engaging immigrant community members and city building professionals to gain a holistic perspective on immigrant integration, place-making, civic engagement, and inclusive policy-making.

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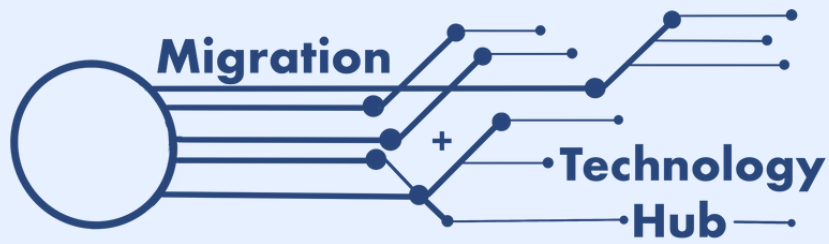Coordinator

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