

Call to all creatives

Submit your work for the Migrating out of Poverty: From Evidence to Policy conference

The Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium will hold a policy conference in March 2017. We hope the conference will highlight how emerging evidence on migration and poverty can promote more effective policy interventions to ensure the benefits of migration and reduce its costs and risks for poor people.

As a research partnership we are committed to work that makes a real difference – creating and disseminating evidence that actually makes a difference to policy and practice. We believe that research findings can be communicated in new and innovative ways that will appeal to decision makers and the public. Because of this we are calling for non-traditional academic outputs alongside [abstracts for papers](#) (by clicking on this link you can access the conference themes). We would like all submissions to take gender into consideration.

What kinds of submissions are we looking for?

Creative research and communications methods have been a hallmark of our work over the last few years. For example, our [Precarious Migration](#) comic book explores the experiences of undocumented Cambodian migrants in Thailand. The authors explain:

“This comic represents one of the ways in which we share the stories of migrants and their families with a broad audience that goes beyond the academic community. We hope that this comic will contribute to readers’ understandings of the challenges and opportunities that migrants face.”

We have also used films to illuminate our research. One of our partners, ARI, produced [Gone Home](#) which tells the stories of two returned migrants living in Munshiganj, Bangladesh, who worked in Singapore as construction workers in the late 1990s. They migrated with hopes of securing a better future for their families, despite having to leave behind loved ones to build the homes of others. Their stories reflect the uneasy tensions between sacrifice and longing, as well as meanings of the “good life” in our age of mobility.

At previous conferences we have tried to integrate this kind of content into proceedings. For example, one of the key note presentations at our [gender conference](#) was '[LES MAIRUWAS](#)' (The Masters of Water) - an ethnographic film about young male migrants and their dreams of succeeding in the city. The film was created by Trond Waage, who has followed water transporters in urban Cameroon over many years. The four men portrayed, are among the thousands uneducated poor people, that annually migrate from the Central African Republic to Cameroon searching for a better life. The film



describes their daily struggles to make a living and create meaning in harsh and highly vibrant urban surroundings.

We have also displayed and interrogated research that uses multimodal visual arts and narrative writing such as Queer Crossings a project from [MOVE](#).

"MoVE focuses on the development of visual and other involved methodologies to research the lived experiences of migrants in southern Africa. Our approach aims to integrate social action with research, and involves collaboration with migrant participants, existing social movements, qualified facilitators and trainers, and research students engaged in participatory research methods. This work includes the study and use of visual methods - including photography, narrative writing, participatory theatre, collage - and other arts-based approaches in the process of producing, analysing, and disseminating research data. These approaches to research facilitate story-telling and self-study, incorporating various auto ethnographic approaches. Central areas of investigation relate to issues of social justice in relation to migration, with a specific focus on sexuality, gender, health, and policy."



How can you contribute?

We have included these examples to provide some inspiration to those who are thinking of engaging with the conference. But you needn't be restricted to the methods that we have highlighted. We would be interested in a range of submissions that might include: animations, sound clips, films, art, photography, roundtables, and story-telling.

If you would like your work to be considered for the conference, please submit it (through the [abstract submissions page](#)) along with a description of 1-2,000 words that describes the methodology and its strengths and weaknesses and offers some contextual background to the presentation.

Submission deadline: **Friday 30 September 2016**

Successful proposals notified by: **Monday 31 October 2016**

Full paper or multimedia submissions due: **Tuesday 7 March 2017**

Funding: We will have limited funding available for those who present a strong proposal, funding case and have no other funding available.