
International migration data: Advances and challenges

International Conference

February 13, 2020

Department of Statistical Sciences “Paolo Fortunati”, University of Bologna

Via delle Belle arti, 41, Bologna

11:00 am – 4:30 pm, Aula III

The analysis of international migration has recently become socially and politically important in Europe. However, such increasing relevance has not been followed by decisive advancements in data collection, which is still severely flawed in many ways. The most commonly used informational basis on human mobility, i.e. censuses, does not allow to give account of some crucial facets of the phenomenon, such as undocumented migration and—due to systematical underreporting—emigration. Survey data hardly provides timely information and typically relies on samples of observational units that are independent from one another, which cannot be used to establish causal relationships between individual characteristics, life events, and mobility behaviours. In addition, the data that does exist is often biased by the so-called methodological nationalism, or the historical tendency in mainstream social sciences to view the nation-state as a natural container and unit of analysis. Despite the transnational nature of migration, such a tendency has produced immigrant-centric approaches to migration studies that simplistically conceive migrants as one-way travellers aiming at settling down upon arrival in the destination country. In order to improve our understanding of migration and to design effective policy-making, we need to address its misconception through a more comprehensive approach to migration data collection and analysis. The conference *International migration data: Advances and challenges* will bring together leading scholars in the field of quantitative analysis of international migration to review and discuss the state of the art of migration data production and usability in light of the current conceptual and methodological issues. The event fits into the ongoing collaborative and multidisciplinary research project “Migrations and migrants in Italy” supported by Fondazione Alsos.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Francesca Tosi (Coordinator), Roberto Impicciatore, Livia Elisa Ortensi, Rosella Rettaroli



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UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
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Programme

Welcome and opening Aula III, Floor 2	11:00 – 11:15
Session 1. Advances in migration data usage and collection	11:15 – 12:45
Laura Morales, SciencesPo <i>The Ethnic and Migrant Minorities Survey Metadata Registry: a new tool for understanding data on migration</i>	
Sandra Florian, INED <i>Parental migrant status and health inequalities at birth in France: Assessing immigrant selectivity</i>	
Lunch Break Sala di Tecco, Floor -1	12:45 – 14:00
Session 2. Migrations and migrants in Italy	14:00 – 15:00
Cinzia Conti, ISTAT <i>The complexity of immigrant generations: emerging challenges in official statistics</i>	
Livia Elisa Ortensi, Fondazione ISMU and University of Bologna <i>Reaching hard-to-reach migrant populations using different methodologies: the Italian experience</i>	
Session 3. Beyond methodological nationalism: data on migration from outside the EU	15:00 – 16:00
Elena Ambrosetti, Sapienza University of Rome <i>Data production in sending countries: a focus on Africa and Middle-East</i>	
Bruno Riccio, University of Bologna <i>The multiple methodological challenges of multi-sited ethnography in the study of migration from Senegal</i>	
Closing At the end of the conference coffee will be served in Sala di Tecco, Floor -1	16:00 – 16:30

The conference will be held in English.

Participation is open and free but registration is encouraged for organisational reasons.

Please register and look for further information at the [conference website](#).

The event is sponsored by the *Institut Français Italia* under the [Cassini Senior Programme](#).



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