

Migration Control and its (Un)intended Consequences: The Complexities of and Resistance to Border Regimes

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Various state and non-state actors from the Global North and South, be it private security firms, brokers, NGOs, development agencies or coast guards, are involved the governance of migration. These actors have implemented a broad range of activities, such as labour migration schemes (Xiang and Lindquist 2014), awareness campaigns (Oeppen 2016), skill development activities (Liu-Farrer, Yeoh, and Baas 2021) or deportations (Lindberg 2022). Beyond merely preventing the mobilities of people, these activities have fed into various aspects of ‘spatio-temporal control’ (Freemantle and Landau 2022) that accelerate or decelerate peoples’ movements as well as directing, channeling, and shaping them. Scholarship has, furthermore, shown how Global North efforts to control migration have been contested by Global South actors (El-Qadim 2018), how migration has been used for rent-seeking strategies (Tsourapas 2019) as well as pointed to the convergences between the Global North and South actors in their deployment of non-policies (Stel 2021). Within this, critical migration and border scholars have not only documented how various stakeholders aim to control migration, but also how migrants have navigated and resisted such efforts at and within the borders of nation-states (Franck and Vigneswaran 2021). Despite these various attempts to control migration, there is often a mismatch between the outcomes of such efforts and their proclaimed objectives. In fact, migrants’ ability to circumvent controls and the limitations of preventing migration through many of the above activities are known to migration stakeholders. This workshop therefore suggests further exploring the different ways state and non-state actors engage in migration control, how migrants navigate overtly violent or more subtle forms of migration control and, ultimately, how migration stakeholders (knowingly) fail in controlling migration, yet carry on nonetheless. In the workshop we want to critically consider different logics, techniques, strategies, and actors that seek to both to control migration and to challenge and resist that control as well as the (un)intended consequences thereof. With this workshop we wish to open up space for these different strategies and technologies to speak to each other and therefore invite work that engages with migration and border management across diverse geographical contexts.

We especially welcome papers that touch upon the following themes (but encourage papers across all relevant areas):

- The role of borders and migration control in global capitalism
- The ways migrants navigate and resist migration control
- Perspectives on the coloniality and racialisation of migration and border management
- Public and private assemblages in migration governance and control
- Strategic uses of migration control, both domestically and internationally