VI. UPCOMING EVENTS

International Conference: 'Migration and Well-Being: Research Frontiers'
Tel Aviv University, Israel, January 8–10, 2013

The rise in scope and significance of global migration has resulted in a dramatic increase in the study of international migration among social scientists, practitioners and policy makers around the world.

While the social and economic integration of migrants as well as the determinants and consequences of migration flows still generate much interest among researchers and policy-makers alike, the present conference aims to draw attention to the broad issue of wellbeing associated with migration. This includes diverse topics such as the impact of xenophobia and exclusion on the wellbeing of immigrants; facing ill health and poverty in host societies; the wellbeing of children; and the growing role of immigrants in care-providing industries. While priority will be given to presentations that address the main theme of the conference, other presentations will be considered as well.

The planned conference is also premised on the idea that in order for research to be meaningful in confronting societal challenges and affecting policy, stronger ties are needed between academia and practitioners in the field of migration. Hence, an effort will be made to involve activists from civil society organizations working in the field of migration as well as representatives from the relevant governmental agencies, and together to present and discuss new research frontiers.

For more information, please contact migration.conference@gmail.com

International Conference: 'Migration, culture and identity construction'
MMM 17 at the 17th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Science, Manchester, August 2013

We would like to invite abstracts for a workshop to be held at IUAES conference in August 2013 in Manchester, United Kingdom. The proposed panel will embark on the role of migration in creation of translocal cultural space, pointing to various cultural processes within multicultural societies. More specifically, it will discuss the role of ethnic identities nowadays crucial for understanding of these processes.

Contemporary world is often described as in flux and individual's life in the postmodern era is fragmented. With increased mobility, individuals are no longer constrained to a single nation state and often subject to travel and translocality. Ambiguity and in-betweenness are prevalent elements in the lives of those who are on the move. One way of considering translocality is to look at the process of migration. On their migration pathways, individuals find themselves in an unknown socio-cultural millieu, which is different from the one they are accustomed to. In the receiving community, they interact with the members of other cultures/ nationalities, whether of the majority group or other ethnic minorities. This leads to various cultural processes. Firstly, in order to reinforce the boundaries between themselves and other ethnic groups, migrants may retain heir cultural practices. Secondly, migrants may find themselves exposed to the constant bombardment by elements of other cultures, resulting in formation of hybrid forms. At the same time with free-wheeling cosmopolitanism and creation of shallow and homogenized cultural spaces (Smith 1990), migrants may feel cultureless. In such a context, the question arises what is the role of ethnic identities nowadays? Can one claim that an ethnic identity offers a sort of protective shield for an individual, who is located in a translocal cultural space? Also, what is the role of identities on different regional levels, such as local identities, European identities, cosmopolitan identities?

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Closing date for abstracts is the 31st January 2012. Abstracts should be submitted via the conference website at: http://www.nomadit.co.uk/iuaes/iuaes2013/panels.php5?Panel ID=1488