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Interdisciplinary Workshop

Cross-Border Marriages: Intersecting Boundaries in Transnational Social Spaces

9 – 10 February 2017

University of Neuchatel, Switzerland



Interdisciplinary Workshop
**Cross-Border Marriages:
Intersecting Boundaries in
Transnational Social Spaces**

9–10 February 2017
University of Neuchâtel

Times and Venues

Thursday, 9 February 2017
09:30–18:00 h

Friday, 10 February 2017
09:00–17:00 h

Faculty of Arts and Social
Sciences, Espace Louis-Agassiz
1, Room R.E.46

Conveners

Janine Dahinden, Joëlle Moret,
and Shpresa Jashari (all
Laboratory for Transnational
Studies and the Analysis of
Social Processes, University of
Neuchâtel)

Registration

Please send an e-mail to
joelle.moret@unine.ch to register
for the event.

[nccr-onthemove.ch/knowledge-transfer/
dialogue-2/](http://nccr-onthemove.ch/knowledge-transfer/dialogue-2/)

Marriage is one of those practices that increasingly occur in transnational spaces. For the past few years, there has been a growing interest among social scientists to analyze the motivations, practices and constraints inherent in this form of transnationalization. At the same time, cross-border marriage has become an important topic in immigration countries, particularly when it involves migrants from non-European countries. Overall, a politicization and ethnicization can be observed that trigger debates about "forced marriages", violence against migrant women, sham marriages or cross-border marriages as entry tickets for immigration. Many states have implemented new laws aiming at regulating those marriages, sometimes putting at stake liberal values of modern democracies.

This interdisciplinary workshop will focus on marriages binding one person living in a European country with someone coming from a country outside the EU/EFTA space and who encounters restrictive visa regulations to join his or her spouse in Europe. We would like to discuss these marriages in the light of the social and symbolic boundaries that are built upon, contested, produced or maintained. The following questions will be explored:

- First, which categories of difference are used / produced by the State and its actors when it comes to cross-border marriages? By establishing criteria about what morally acceptable migrants, marriages, or family life should look like, nation-states (re)produce boundaries differentiating those who belong from those who do not.
- Second, what strategies do social actors, in particular those who are at risk of being excluded from this "acceptable" version of the nation, develop in order to negotiate, contest, or reproduce these boundaries imposed from the outside?

Confirmed Speakers

Apostolos Andrikopoulos, University of Amsterdam
Laura Block, European University Institute
Catherine Charsley, University of Bristol
Sébastien Chauvin, University of Lausanne
David de Groot, University of Bern, nccr – on the move
Anne Lavanchy, University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Western Switzerland, Geneva
Carolyn Leutloff-Grandits, University of Graz
Saara Pellander, University of Helsinki
Yvonne Riano, University of Neuchâtel, nccr – on the move
Manuela Salcedo, EHESS
Ceren Topgül, Istanbul
Helena Wray, University of Exeter