

Curriculum Vitae - Mihaela Nedelcu

PhD in humanities and social sciences (Sociology)

Current position: Titular Professor, Maîtresse d'enseignement et de recherche

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Education

Degree	Organisation	Date
PhD / Dr.: Social sciences - sociology, summa cum laude	University of Neuchâtel - NE, CH Institute of Sociology	07.04.2008
Further Advanced Studies: Diplôme romand d'études approfondies en sociologie DEA/Postgrade	University of Neuchâtel - NE, CH Institute of Sociology	2002
Master: Mathematics	University of Craiova, RO Faculty of Mathematics	1992

Current Employment

Role	Organisation	Duration
Titular Professor Maîtresse d'enseignement et de recherche	University of Neuchâtel - NE, CH Institute of Sociology & Laboratoire d'études des processus sociaux, Faculty of Humanities	Since 2016

Research field and areas of expertise

Research axis 1

Since early 2000, I have pioneered research in the field of **ICTs and migration**, developing original conceptual frameworks and virtual methods to study new forms of migrant transnationalism enabled by digital technologies. My PhD thesis showed that the online migrant, as a symbiosis between homo mobilis and homo numericus, represents a new ideal-type actor of the 21st century modernity, embodying complex social mutations brought about by two crucial factors in today's social world: mobility, on the one hand, and ICTs, on the other [1].

A major contribution of my work in this area has been the theorisation of ICT-mediated transnational dynamics, highlighting complex patterns and dynamics of co-presence at a distance [2], e-diasporas [3] and transnational habitus formation [4]. These dynamics reveal processes of transnationalisation of social life that require a renewal of theoretical and analytical lenses to move beyond traditional dichotomous categories (mobile/sedentary, migrant/non-migrant, included/excluded).

Drawing on insights from this area of research, I contribute to the debate on the limits of methodological nationalism by arguing for linking migration studies to broader epistemological debates (e.g., cosmopolitisation theory, the transnational lens, and the mobilities paradigm) and by bringing transnational and mobility analytical lenses to bear on the study of various social processes such as ageing, agency, forced migration, and contemporary families.

Selected output:

- [1] Nedelcu, M. (2009). *Le migrant online. Nouveaux modèles migratoires à l'ère du numérique*. Paris: L'Harmattan.
- [2] Baldassar, L., Nedelcu, M., Merla, L., & Wilding, R. (2016). ICT-based co-presence in transnational families and communities: Challenging the premise of face-to-face proximity in sustaining relationships. *Global Networks*, 16(2), 133–144.
- [3] Nedelcu, M. (2018). Digital diasporas. *Routledge Handbook of Diaspora Studies*, 241–250.
- [4] Nedelcu, M. (2012). Migrants' New Transnational Habitus: Rethinking Migration Through a Cosmopolitan Lens in the Digital Age. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 38(9), 1339–1356.

Research Axis 2

I have contributed extensively to **transnational family studies** by advancing knowledge about: 1) the role of the Zero Generation (migrants' parents) as transnational grandparents [1], the diversity of childcare arrangements in which mobile grandparents are the main actors; 2) the striking and problematic contrast between the centrality of transnational grandparents' contribution to informal care within migrant families and restrictive family reunification policies [2]; 3) the complex forms of virtual co-presence that mediate transnational family life and care at a distance [3]; and 4) the need to link debates in 'new family' sociology with transnational family studies in order to advance the conceptualisation of the transnational family by taking into account the current diversification of contemporary family forms that extend not only across national borders but also beyond kinship boundaries [4].

Related research projects and funding:

- 1) SNF Div I, Grant 100017-162645 "Solidarités intergénérationnelles dans les familles transnationales. Une approche par les arrangements de care de la Génération Zéro, ces grands-parents étrangers qui viennent garder leurs petits-enfants en Suisse", 299'780 CHF.
- 2) SNF NCCR-on the move, IP33: "Transnational Ageing: Post-retirement Mobilities, Transnational Lifestyles and Care Configurations", co-lead with Eric Crettaz 810'000 CHF.

- 3) SNF NCCR-on the move, Collaborative Fund Project "Comparative Data on New Migrants and New Pensioners: Transnational family's indicators within two NCCR-on the move surveys", co-lead with Philippe Wanner and Eric Crettaz, 41'500CHF.
- 4) Fondation Leenaards, prize "Qualité de vie 65+" 2019: "Grandparentalité contrariée", 70'000CHF.

Selected output:

- [1] Nedelcu, M., & Wyss, M. (2020). Transnational grandparenting: an introduction. *Global Networks*, 20(2), 292–307.
- [2] Nedelcu, M. (2023) Family reunification migrants and the Zero Generation. In: S. Torres and A. Hunter (eds). *Handbook on Migration and Ageing*. Elgar Handbooks in Migration, Edward Elgar Publishing, 196-206.
- [3] Nedelcu, M., & Wyss, M. (2016). "Doing family" through ICT-mediated ordinary co-presence: Transnational communication practices of Romanian migrants in Switzerland. *Global Networks*, 16(2), 202–218.
- [4] Nedelcu, M., Fernández G. G., E., & Wyss, M. (2024). A configurational approach to transnational families: Who and where is one's family in the case of mobile older adults? *Global Networks*, 24, e12466.
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Research axis 3

I have also studied agency in the context of forced migration. I have shown that ICTs erect new digital borders and reinforce the control of forced migrants, but also provide these migrants with resources to cope with insecurity and legal and economic precarity [1],[2]. My current research (IP45) draws on a relational approach to agency to examine how social networks of forced migrants enact their capacity to make a difference in their lives.

Related research projects and funding:

- 1) SNF Div I, Grant 10001A-166142: "Usages institutionnels des instruments technologiques européens d'identification et stratégies de contournement des étrangers à expulser en France et en Suisse. Vers une européanisation de l'expulsion des étrangers indésirables", 246'652 CHF.
- 2) SNF NCCR-on the move, IP37: "Digital Empowerment of Asylum Seekers in Turkey and Refugees in Switzerland to Cope With (Im)Mobility Conditions", 199'985 CHF.
- 3) SNF NCCR-on the move, IP45: "Dealing with Crises and Liminal Situations: The Agency of Ukrainian and Syrian Forced Migrants in Three National Contexts", co-lead with Walter Leimgruber, 600'000CHF.

Selected output:

- [1] Nedelcu, M., & Soysüren, I. (2022). Precarious migrants, migration regimes and digital technologies: the empowerment- control nexus. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 48(8), 1821–1837.
- [2] Soysüren, I., & Nedelcu, M. (2022). European instruments for the deportation of foreigners and their uses by France and Switzerland: the application of the Dublin III Regulation and Eurodac. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 48(8), 1927–1943.
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