

Migration Mobilities Bristol (MMB)
Annual Report
2020-21



Migration Mobilities Bristol (MMB) Annual Report 2020-21

Welcome to MMB's Annual Report. It's been a year when controls over mobility and migration have figured in massively contrasting contexts. Last February the Colombian government granted Temporary Protective Status to more than 1.5 million Venezuelans to ensure their access to essential services. In August, the UK Home Office offered to host just 20,000 Afghan refugees – over a period of years in order to manage costs. We've also seen the closure of the EU Settlement Scheme in the UK five years on from the Brexit vote. COVID, meanwhile, has continued to wreak its misery everywhere, restricting movement across and within international borders.

The freedom to move on or to remain in place is central to global justice. Today, more than ever, we need new ways of thinking about migration and mobility that move beyond critique to contribute to civil society's struggles for equality. This demands an approach that is creative, rigorous and attentive to the constructive nature of policy and practice, drawing on conceptual, methodological and empirical resources that stretch across disciplines.

MMB is fortunate in having a very interdisciplinary membership and we continue to grow in this way. We now have more than 260 members within the University of Bristol, representing almost every School, and nearly 200 more outside. Visit the [University of Bristol Research Portal](#) for a list of academic staff and doctoral scholars working in the area of migration and mobilities and their publications and projects.

In the last year, COVID has continued to limit face-to-face activities. We miss seeing our members in 3D and there's no doubt that something is lost by not having serendipitous encounters, chats when you're packing up, hearing a stray comment that intrigues. But there are some benefits to being online too. As the report shows, we've developed our web offering with more regular [blogs](#), our new [Insights and Sounds](#) videos and podcasts, and a free [online Bristol Futures course](#). More than 1,000 people have looked at this course, which features many of your projects – proving a great way of disseminating research. We also held an online synchronous course that involved participants from all over the world including Colombia, Germany and even one in New Zealand who got up at 3am to attend sessions! Still, we're keen to get back to in-person activities, and recently we've been able to meet up to work on the outdoor [\(de\)Bordering project](#). Take a look at these plots in Royal Fort Gardens when you have a chance.

The University is currently refreshing its research strategy with a focus on various themes ranging from 'Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation' to 'Resilience, Socio-economics and Infrastructure'. Given the breadth of our members' research we are confident in bringing a migration and mobility lens to all the themes in this new approach. At the same time, we will also make sure it does not restrict us. We are relooking at our four research challenges to ensure they continue to reflect your interests, so watch this space. A big thank you to our challenge leads, Natasha Carver, Angelo Martins Junior, Nariman Massoumi and Manoj Dias-Abey – who is stepping down from his role as challenge lead, though he will continue to be an active MMB member. Thank you, too, to our Management Committee and to Sarah Kunz for co-ordinating the MMB reading group. Check it out if you haven't already.

Lastly, remember that MMB is here to support you. If you have an idea you want to talk through or a question about impact or you are in search of contacts, do [get in touch](#). We are also happy to publicise new and ongoing research projects you're involved in even if they are only loosely connected to migration or mobilities. The easiest way to do this is by completing our [online form](#).

The MMB Team: Bridget Anderson, Emma Newcombe and Emily Walmsley



MMB Research

Statements about contemporary migrant numbers dominate articles and proposals on immigration. Numbers matter, as Ann Singleton's work on the [importance of data to migration, development and global transformations](#) clearly demonstrates. But people have always moved around the world so today's numbers tell us only about certain types of mobility. Movement per se is not new but the concept of 'migration' and the ways mobility is regulated and incorporated into how we imagine our place in the world are ever-more entrenched in the news and political agenda. To move beyond this way of thinking migration research requires perspectives anchored in history, literature and language, which we find in the arts and humanities, as well as in the more usual social sciences, economics and law.



Interdisciplinarity and multi-disciplinarity are crucial to generating new approaches to migration and mobilities and at MMB we offer a space where we can learn from numerous disciplinary traditions. The project '[Scrutinising the Immigration System](#)', for example, brings together researchers from Film and Television, Sociology and Law, as well as civil society activists. A study on [FGM safeguarding and migrant-citizenship](#) involved MMB members in Policy Studies, Sociology and Anthropology. Our reading group draws researchers from Modern Languages and History as well as Politics and Law, while our blog posts are written by members from Schools across the University including Geography, English, Music and Management.

Our members are also working on different scales. Some are focussed on the local – such as Lydia Medland whose project '[Working for "Five a Day"](#)' studies farmworkers suppling Bristol, and Rachel Randall who looks at [representations of domestic workers in Latin America](#), who have often migrated from rural to urban areas. Others take a national perspective – see, for example, Katharine Charsley's research on [couples and families separated by the UK immigration system](#) – while others, such as the [Everyday Integration](#) project led by Jon Fox, combine both. Immigration controls are entangled with citizenship, which makes them a national concern. But there is also a global architecture of immigration control and governance, which means that research on migration and mobilities benefits both from comparative studies and from work that approaches migration systemically (see Sarah Kunz's work on the [Citizenship Industry](#)).

We also seek to be cross issue, connecting migration and mobilities to other trends and important areas of research. This kind of work flourishes at Bristol. There is research on the relation between [contemporary migration and slavery](#), thinking about the relation between [human and non-human species mobilities](#), and we have started conversations with Bristol Digital Futures and plan to develop more formal collaborations.

Of course, each academic has their own specialism and approach and we don't have a consensus of views but we do all contribute to a vibrant research environment that has a distinctively Bristol feel.



Strategic activities 2020-21

In this section we will explain the activities we have undertaken in order to achieve our objectives: internal networking and capacity building; external outreach and international collaboration; and developing foundations for MMB's long-term sustainability and growth. Having to work from home and not being able to travel or spend money has not stop us from being busy!

Internal networking and capacity building

We have continued to provide online spaces for members to come together to develop ideas and learn from one another. We have an active group of UoB members and local collaborators on our internal forum (and more on our external listing). More recently we have been able to make the listing of our migration and mobilities experts more visible by linking MMB to people's profiles on the UoB Research Portal – MMB related [People](#), [Outputs](#) and [Projects](#).

We've supported colleagues on research development bids and impact plans and are happy to continue to offer advice and support on funding bids by responding to questions and running regular drop-in sessions.

Internal events/meetings organised and supported by MMB 2020-21

Many of our events in the past year have welcomed participants from both within and beyond the University of Bristol as they have largely been online. Some, though, have been more focussed on building connections between our members internally and building capacity. These included:

- ['\(de\)Bordering: Building New Thinking on Nation and Movement.'](#) 28th June. The (de)Bordering team worked with a group of volunteers to build this unique outdoor meeting space for debating ideas about the native, natural and place. A Brigstow project co-led by MMB Director Bridget Anderson.



- ['Presence and Movement: A Walk along the Severn Estuary.'](#) 11th September. MMB members gathered face to face for the first time in 18 months to walk together along the banks of the River Severn, learning about the journeys of eels, cargo ships and other non-human movement up and down the estuary.

- The MMB Reading Group has also been holding bi-monthly meetings in the past year. Texts that have been discussed include *(B)ordering Britain* by Nadine El-Enany, *Mobility Justice* by Mimi Sheller and *Immigration and Freedom* by Chandran Kukathas.

- MMB Drop-in sessions to discuss any area in which MMB members need support, whether teaching, research, grant applications or networking.
- MMB has supported and advised on a number of research funding bids throughout the year.

MMB Management Group

MMB's Management Group of academics come from at least five disciplines, across at least three faculties (see list below). This group advises the MMB Director and Manager on strategic direction, achievement of objectives, measures of success and MMB's annual programme of activities. We are grateful to our Strategic Leads 2020-21 Ann Singleton (Policy), Diego Acosta (International), Laurence Publicover (Postgraduate) and Julia O'Connell Davidson (Anti-Racism) who have given specific advice and ideas over the past year.

MMB Management Group 2020-21:

Professor Diego Acosta	University of Bristol Law School, <i>International Strategic Lead</i>
Ms Pankhuri Agarwal	School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies, <i>MMB Early Career Representative</i>
Dr Katie Bales	University of Bristol Law School
Dr Joanna Burch-Brown	Department of Philosophy
Professor Katharine Charsley	School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies
Professor Madhu Krishnan	Department of English and Centre for Black Humanities
Dr Jacqueline Maingard	Department of Film and Television
Dr Naomi Millner	School of Geographical Sciences
Professor Julia O'Connell Davidson	School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies, <i>Anti-Racism Strategic Lead</i>
Dr Laurence Publicover	Department of English, <i>Postgraduate Strategic Lead</i>
Ann Singleton	School for Policy Studies, <i>Policy Strategic Lead</i>

MMB Alumni Ambassadors 2020-22:

Each year we appoint one or two students from the MSc in Migration and Mobility Studies as alumni ambassadors for MMB. In this two-year role they help publicise MMB and the MSc in different forums – geographical and professional – through their networks. The ambassadors are also encouraged to write or commission a blog post and organise an event for MMB each year. Our current Ambassadors are: [Ella Barclay](#), [Ignacio Odriozola](#) and [Leah Simmons Wood](#).

External outreach and international collaboration

We have continued to find ways to showcase the amazing breadth and depth of migration-related research at Bristol and also to build relationships internationally that will benefit future research and teaching.

We send a bi-monthly Newsletter to all our members – in Bristol and beyond – as an update of everything that's going on related to MMB. Please feel free to pass these Newsletters on to friends and colleagues when you receive them so that they can [join the mailing list](#).

Key external events organised and supported by MMB 2020-21

Over the past year we have supported a wide programme of online networking activities that has brought people together to engage around mutual intellectual interests. These have included:

- [‘Justice and Labour Migration: An MMB Debate’](#), 10th December. We brought together philosopher Chris Bertram and political economist Martin Ruhs to debate what a just labour migration policy might look like.
- [‘Mobilities, Capitalism and the Peace Process in Colombia: an ECR workshop from MMB Latin America’](#), 21st January. Four postgraduates and early career researchers presented their current research in Colombia, with feedback from two of our leading MMB Latin America scholars.
- MMB/ACH seminar series 2021, [Bridging the Gap / Bringing Together Research, Policy and Delivery on Migration: ‘Refugee and Migrant Entrepreneurship, Necessity or Opportunity?’](#), 8th February. The panel considered whether migrants and refugees should be given more support by business organisations. A second webinar, [‘Beyond Integration’](#) on 19th April, challenged past approaches to integration and explored new ways of supporting migrants to attain their aspirations in the labour market and wider community.
- MMB Latin America Dialogues: [‘The UN Convention on Migrant Workers: Assessing its Positive Impact’](#), 25th February. On the Convention’s 30th anniversary three specialists on migration law and Latin America debated its impact. [‘Protecting Venezuelans in Colombia: Reflections from Across the Region’](#), 31st March. Panellists from across Latin America discussed the Colombian government’s unprecedented recent ruling on undocumented Venezuelans.



- MMB series, Childhood on the Move: [‘Remember and Respond: Child Migrants and the Lives Behind the Data’](#), 28th April. The panel reflected on the experience of child migration and the failings of global policies to protect children on the move. A second webinar, [‘Children as Subjects of Control: Interventions in Children’s Mobilities’](#) on 18th June, focused on the diverse interventions being made into children’s mobility by different actors.
- [‘Marriage, Gender and Refugee Migration by Natasha Carver: Book Launch.’](#) 25th May. Natasha provided an in-depth discussion of this new ethnography, interspersed with poetry readings from Bristol-Somali poets.
- [‘Policy, Politics and Research on Migration: A Critical Discussion.’](#) 15th June. Our panel of academics and practitioners discussed the role of academia in policy making and whether academic research on migration is political.
- [‘Discrimination and Delegation by Lamis Elmy Abdelaaty: Book Launch.’](#) 29th June. The author discussed her new book on asylum policymaking in the global South with Zeynep Sahin Mencutek.

MMB Blog

We continued to publish our blog weekly in the past year, receiving contributions from both MMB members (including UoB students) and collaborators from outside Bristol. As always, the posts have illustrated the broad approach we take to migration and mobilities in terms of interdisciplinarity, the intersection of research, policy and practice, and the encompassing of non-human as well as human movement. Inevitably, the pandemic was a recurring theme – for example, posts on how [COVID-19 reinforced women’s precarity in migration communities in Central Asia](#) and how lockdown has taught us more about [parenting through modern technology](#), as experienced by so many families separated by the UK’s immigration system. These and other pandemic-related posts can be found on our [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Beyond COVID, we had posts from our humanities colleagues Madhu Krishnan, who wrote about [charting mobilities, intellectual histories and the Black Humanities](#), and Laurence Publicover, who introduced us to [maritime mobility and literary culture](#) across the centuries. Other notable posts included those by Sarah Kunz on the growing [Citizenship Industry](#) and its impact on social justice, Lydia Medland on whether it matters that the [UK relies on migrant workers to harvest food](#) and Samuel Okyere on migrant deaths and the [impact on those left behind](#). Meanwhile, Bridget introduced the new Brigstow (de)Bordering project with a post exploring the connections between [movement in the human and non-human worlds](#).

Over the first six months of 2021 we also ran a special blog series on [Race, Nation and Migration](#). Edited by Julia O’Connell Davidson and Bridget, the series aimed to renew the debate on how (im)mobilities, race and the national are interrelated. Posts by eight key scholars highlighted the need to understand these connections in order to redress historic and contemporary injustice, tackle racism and affect systemic change in immigration and citizenship regimes. Opening with Nandita Sharma’s post on [national sovereignty and postcolonial racism](#), the series covered issues of race and deportation, the crisis of Europe’s borders, Brexit and Roma, and racism within migrant communities as well as within immigration policies. It closed with Nadine El-Enany writing about [Britain as the spoils of empire](#).










In the MMB Latin America blog we have published posts monthly since establishing the series in the summer of 2020. Many in the past year have focussed on the impact of COVID-19 on migration and mobilities in the region – for example, how [inequalities deepened with lockdown in Brazil](#), the different national policies of [including migrants in vaccination programmes](#) and how the Colombian government used lockdown to [intensify state control in forested areas](#). But Colombia’s extraordinary new [Temporary Protective Status programme for Venezuelan migrants](#) also featured, along with an analysis of [Chile’s new migration law](#), recently passed by Congress. Most recently, we heard how the roadside sites of Chile’s longest highway – Route 5 – have long [challenged the state’s narrative of national integration](#).

On the Record

In the face of repeated lockdowns and COVID restrictions we expanded our website last year to offer more audio-visual content on migration and mobility studies. Our new section [On the Record](#) includes [videos of MMB webinars](#) and events that [MMB members have taken part in](#). It also features [MMB Insights and Sounds](#), our ongoing series of recorded interviews with colleagues around the world working on different areas of migration and mobilities. Released every fortnight, these recordings began with Nandita Sharma talking to Bridget about [what immigration controls have to do with Empire](#). This was followed by conversations on the [impact of refugee migration on Somali family life](#), ‘invasive others’ (including plants and pathogens), the [significance of where you claim refugee status](#), [why transnational marriage matters](#), the [question of integration](#) and [how critical research can engage with policy](#).

IMISCOE

We have continued our membership of the organisation ‘International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE),’ which offers networking and publishing opportunities on migration and integration, particularly for early career scholars. The network involves 51 member institutes and more than 700

 <p>UK Nationality and Borders Bill: An Evaluation with Col...</p> <p>77 views • 2 days ago</p>	 <p>'What can we learn about integration from policy and...</p> <p>29 views • 1 week ago</p>	 <p>'How can critical research engage with policy?' Ann...</p> <p>41 views • 3 weeks ago</p>
 <p>Children as Subjects of Control: Interventions in...</p> <p>26 views • 3 months ago</p>	 <p>Policy, Politics and Research on Migration: A...</p> <p>43 views • 3 months ago</p>	 <p>'Does where you claim refugee status matter?'...</p> <p>59 views • 3 months ago</p>
 <p>'What do immigration controls have to do with...</p> <p>161 views • 4 months ago</p>	 <p>Remember and Respond: Child Migrants and the Liv...</p> <p>26 views • 4 months ago</p>	 <p>Justice and Labour Migration: An MMB Debate</p> <p>33 views • 5 months ago</p>

scholars from all over Europe and focuses on comparative research, publications, the organisation of events, PhD training and awards and communication. It supports more than 30 research clusters, runs a highly regarded IMISCOE Annual Conference and publishes a research series, textbook series and the journal *Comparative Migration Studies*.

Policy and international engagement

Ann Singleton and Diego Acosta have taken on roles of 'Policy Strategic Lead' and 'International Strategic Lead' at MMB.

Ann has continued to encourage and support MMB members in developing the policy and practice aspects of their work and has contributed to the preparation of major funding bids. Working closely with PolicyBristol, PARC and the Worldwide Universities Network, she has promoted MMB at various events and initiatives. She is keen to find ways to shape research agendas in relation to policy needs (to identify and address policy gaps) but also apply critical conceptual frameworks, perspectives and methodologies when working with the policy-research-civil society nexus. With ESRC/PolicyBristol funding she has sponsored the creation of Honorary Senior Policy Fellow roles for the School for Policy Studies/MMB. [Nadine Finch](#) will hold this role for three years. Ann has also built on the links with ACH to develop the [MMB-ACH seminar series](#) and with Nadine has helped to organise MMB public engagement events for [Black History Month](#) and the [ESRC Festival of Social Science](#). She facilitated the placement of an MSc Migration Mobilities student with IOM GMDAC and was invited to join the panel for the new ESRC Policy Fellowships scheme. Her aim is for MMB to become the 'go to' for policymakers and media for innovative ways of thinking.

Diego has been establishing links with universities and research centres in other regions. This process has now begun with South America and with a focus on recruitment for the MSc on Migration and Mobility Studies, particularly of non-UK students. He has also been advising on events or workshops with scholars and policymakers who present and discuss about regions beyond the UK/Europe.

MMB has also been collaborating with US scholars from [The Multiple Mobilities Research Group at The New School](#) to establish a fledgling initiative: Transoceanic Mobilities Network. We envision a cross-disciplinary and multi-modal network that will address these complex problems through the engendering of new political imaginaries and analytic frames; in particular, we centre questions of mobility that infuse and join all three concerns. The Network will both broaden and embed our current research collaboration, make a major intervention in the field of mobility studies, and increase the profile of our institutions as generating innovative and interdisciplinary thinking that challenges existing research and policy paradigms.

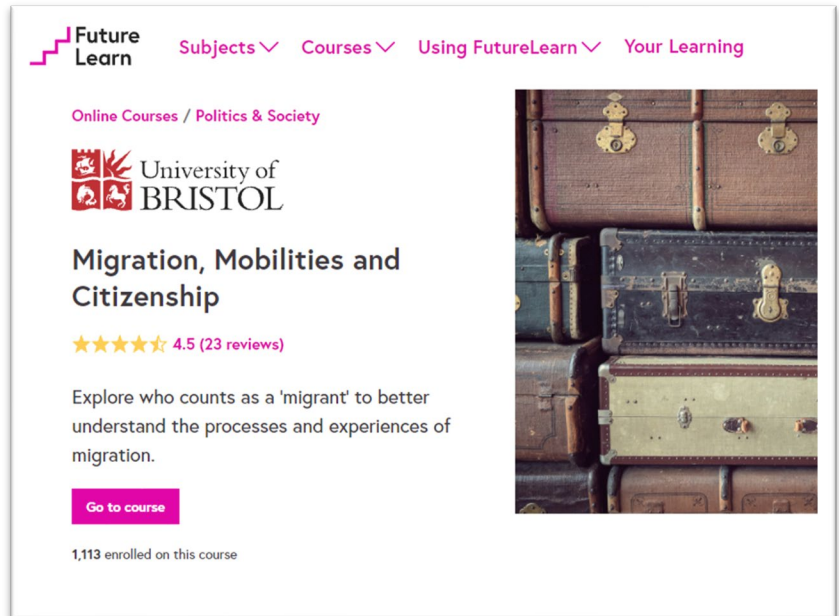
This network dovetails with a collaboration we have established with Nandita Sharma, Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Nandita was invited to be a [Benjamin Meaker Distinguished Visiting Professor](#) at the University of Bristol in 2020 but postponed the position due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We very much hope that she will be able to visit Bristol as soon as possible but in the meantime we've continued to work with her closely. She has written about [national sovereignty and postcolonial racism](#) in the MMB blog, where she has also reflected on the experience of COVID-19 in the US in her post, '[From "social distancing" to planetary solidarity](#)'. Recently MMB's Director, Bridget Anderson, discussed immigration controls and the legacies of Empire with her. This interview launched MMB's new [Insights and Sounds series](#) and was accompanied by the MMB Reading Group meeting to discuss her book *Home Rule*.

Meanwhile, MMB has continued a collaboration with the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute in Florence. The primary aim of [MigResHub](#) is to facilitate global and comparative research on how migrant labour shapes the vulnerability and resilience of essential economic sectors and public services to the COVID-19 crisis and to similar (and likely) pandemic shocks in the future, and to discuss the implications and options for future immigration and other public policies around the world.

MSc and online short courses

In 2020-21 MMB developed two online courses aimed at graduate students and those interested in knowing more about migration and mobilities. We set up '[*Migration, Mobilities and Citizenship: Essential Learning from Research and Practice*](#)' – a free introduction to migration that takes approximately six hours to complete, based on the Future Learn platform – and '[*Migration, Mobilities and Citizenship: The MMB Online Academy 2021*](#)' – an interactive course taught over six weeks with live lectures, interactive debate and panel discussions.

The courses aimed to facilitate the promotion of interdisciplinarity in research and teaching, link research to teaching, fulfil outreach and internationalisation remits, and develop innovative, flexible forms of teaching. They were made possible by funds from the Curriculum Enhancement Programme and the Academy fee, as well as significant input from MMB staff by utilising activities for multiple purposes.



The screenshot shows the Future Learn platform interface. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Subjects', 'Courses', 'Using FutureLearn', and 'Your Learning'. Below this, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Online Courses / Politics & Society'. The University of Bristol logo is displayed, followed by the course title 'Migration, Mobilities and Citizenship'. The course has a rating of 4.5 stars from 23 reviews. A description states: 'Explore who counts as a 'migrant' to better understand the processes and experiences of migration.' A 'Go to course' button is visible, and at the bottom, it notes '1,113 enrolled on this course'. To the right of the text is a vertical image of several stacked, vintage-style suitcases in various colors like brown, green, and blue.



The banner features a purple diagonal overlay on the left side. On the purple background, the Migration Mobilities Bristol logo is shown, followed by the text 'Migration, Mobilities & Citizenship' and 'The MMB Online Academy 2021'. The background of the banner is an aerial photograph of a large container port, showing numerous colorful shipping containers (red, white, yellow, green) stacked in neat rows, with some cranes visible in the distance.

Objectives for 2021/22

We continue our objectives from last year and remain conscious of broader university objectives for capacity building, leadership, international recognition and sustainability:

- Build a strong, interdisciplinary community of scholars working on migration and mobility within UoB in order to promote new thinking, intellectual exchange, collaborations and research capacity; and contribute to developing the next generation of leading scholars;
- Develop opportunities to showcase UoB work and build new research and teaching collaborations locally, nationally and internationally;
- Develop a solid foundation for MMB's long-term sustainability and growth.

Activities for making progress towards these objectives will include:

- Consolidation and continuation of meetings with Heads of School and other seniors across faculties in UoB;
- Offering spaces and opportunities for intellectual debate and discussion that UoB staff will be motivated to engage with;
- Develop work with other URIs/SRIs and University initiatives including collaboration with Cabot and Bristol Digital Futures Institute;
- Showcasing research projects on the MMB website and connecting up research with outreach, publications, teaching and collaboration;
- Utilising digital materials collected for online courses and consider options for development;
- Supporting UoB staff to enter high quality funding bids in the field
- Lay groundwork for establishing a portfolio of activities and publications that will present Bristol's unique approach to work in this field.

The following sections of the report showcase the MMB Research Challenges and some of the scholarship, expertise, projects and publications that the University of Bristol has in these areas.

1. Imagination, belonging, futures

The production and maintenance of territorial borders through practices of state surveillance and citizenship play a central role in how nationhood is imagined. They are also key to the politics of inclusion/exclusion and the separation from, and attachment to, place. The 'imagination, belonging, futures' research challenge seeks to explore and identify new and alternative forms of belonging and relationships by engaging with the ideas and utopian visions precipitated by the global mobility of people across borders.

We examine mobile populations in different historical periods and geographical spaces, focusing on the social and cultural notions of home, exile, identity and community formation – and how these ideas change over time and space. We explore the politics and aesthetics of belonging by employing radical, participatory and self-representational methodologies alongside a critical engagement with filmic, literary and figurative strategies.

How do dominant representations and spatial imaginaries become established, and how can they be, or how are they being, unsettled? What possibilities lie in the individual, collective and utopian imaginaries of mobile groups and what insights might they offer into new or alternative ways of living and working together? What implications might aesthetic, narrative and representational strategies have in policy making? In what ways can the study of the mobile imagination help us rethink or problematise established categorisations of migrant, refugee and citizen?

Research challenge co-ordinator: Dr Nariman Massoumi, Lecturer in Film and Television

[View the Imagination, belonging, futures webpage](#)



Selected Research

Dr Jacqueline Maingard, Reader in Film

My research expertise is in film that represents migrants and refugees, violations against them, their reasons for leaving their home countries, their border crossings and journeys, their experiences of camps and detention centres, of law and officialdom, and the trauma that accompanies their lives. Hearing the 'voices' of migrants and refugees themselves is essential for creating policies and programmes that respond to their needs and afford them agency, and for extending knowledge in the public sphere. Their subjective points of view are crucial and films make an important contribution in expressing these, whether through agencies or in their own filmmaking endeavours. My background is in both the social sciences and the arts, in Africa and Europe, and my expertise straddles the combined realms of film/filmmaking and community work. I have published research articles on films dealing with migration. I curate screenings and organise public events. I design and contribute to educational programmes (for example, the EIUC Masters Programme, on 'African Cinema and Human Rights'; and Bristol Futures, on 'Global Citizenship').

Dr Florian Scheduling, Senior Lecturer in Music

My work explores concepts of migratory musical culture and aesthetics and links these to wider socio-cultural backgrounds. My book [*Musical Journeys: Performing Migration in Twentieth-Century Music*](#) (Boydell Press, 2019) zooms in on specific migratory moments to enable discussion on themes such as institutionalisation, nationalism, displacement, modernism and Jewishness, and uncover the potential of seemingly marginalised migratory musics to inform dominant historiographical narratives. Drawing on exile, diaspora, migration and mobilities studies, critical theory and post-colonial and cultural studies, *Musical Journeys* weaves detailed biographical and contextual historical knowledge and analytical insights into music into an intricate fabric that does justice to the complexity of the musical migratory experience.

Dr Laurence Publicover, Senior Lecturer in English

I work across early modern studies and oceanic studies; I am the author of *Dramatic Geography* (Oxford University Press, 2017), which examines early modern English playwrights' representations of travel and cultural encounter in the Mediterranean world, and of several articles on English Renaissance drama, maritime culture and their intersection, most recently 'King Lear and the Art of Fathoming' (*Renaissance Drama* 46.2 [2018], 167-91). I am also in the process of co-editing, with Dr Susann Liebich, a [volume of essays on reading, writing and performing at sea](#). Current research projects include a book on cosmic uncertainty in English Renaissance tragedy; an article on dramatic representations of piracy and the North African coast for a collection entitled *Re-Membering Hospitality in the Mediterranean World*; and a co-written article on whales in the nineteenth-century literary imagination for a collection entitled *Maritime Animals*.

Ann Singleton, Senior Research Fellow, School for Policy Studies

My work focuses on improving the use and understanding of international migration data in the development of policy. I am Senior Advisor to the IOM's [Global Migration Data Analysis Centre \(IOM GMDAC\)](#) and I have been instrumental in the development of the [IOM's Migration Data Portal](#). I am a member of UNSD's International Expert Advisory Group on Migration Statistics, advised the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers and EU Presidencies and many governments. Between 2002 and 2004 I was responsible for policy on statistics in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs and introduced the EU's first legislation on migration and asylum statistics.

Dr Denny Pencheva, Teaching Assistant in Politics, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies, and Associate Teacher in EU and UK migration policies, School for Policy Studies

My research explores the nexus between international security and migration. I am particularly interested in the relationship between securitised migration politics and policies and the heterogeneous nature of migration flows. I am interested in the role of supranational institutions (EU) and intergovernmental organisations (UNHCR, IOM, etc.) in governing different aspects of global migration (regular and irregular). Recently, my work has sought to explore the impact of Brexit on the representation and human rights of EU migrants in the UK. In terms of regional expertise, my work has focused on the UK, Scandinavia, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Balkans.

Scrutinising the immigration system through collaborative filmmaking with refugees and asylum seekers

Dr Nariman Massoumi, Film and Television, Professor Bridget Anderson, Sociology, Politics and International Studies, Dr Katie Bales, Law. With Alice Cutler, Bristol Refugee Rights, and Irene Elizabeth, independent film-maker.

Can a collaborative filmmaking process provide an empowering space for refugees and asylum seekers? Can filmmaking be used as a critical tool in examining the current immigration system? This project aims to incorporate refugee voices through a collaborative forum that enables refugees to scrutinise the system. It aims to create a space where refugees can have agency over the labyrinthine system they must navigate. It will result in a critical filmic representation of the institutional structures and actors involved in creating and sustaining the immigration system that negatively impacts their lives and will explore questions around the effective visual portrayal of these processes and how collaborative filmmaking can provide an educational and empowering space for refugees and asylum seekers.

More information on the MMB project page [here](#).

Everyday integration: the local contexts, practices and mobilities of integration

Professor Jon Fox, Professor of Sociology

This project aims to reinvent integration from the bottom up. It will capture and build on the experiences and best practices of local communities and organisations in Bristol, and through this contribute to policy and scholarship. Led by Jon Fox (SPAIS) the project is funded by the ESRC and runs for two years starting in October 2019. Co-investigators are Bridget Anderson (SPAIS), Therese O'Toole (SPAIS) and David Manley (Geography).

More information on the MMB project page [here](#).

Reimagining refugee rights: addressing asylum harms in Britain, Denmark and Sweden

Dr Victoria Canning, Senior Lecturer in Policy Studies

This study was based in Britain, Denmark and Sweden from 2016-2018 and documents the harms increasingly embedded in the lives of people seeking asylum. In particular, it focuses on the gendered implications of seeking asylum. It highlights the fact that hostile attitudes and environments compound the impacts of violence, torture and sexual abuse. At the same time social and psychological support is reduced, leaving many people in an unsupported limbo, and women survivors of violence on the periphery of societies.

More information on the MMB project page [here](#).

The politics of representation: representation of marriage migrants by different institutions in South Korea

Minjae Shin, PhD Researcher in School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies

Over the last two decades, cross-border marriages between South Korean men and migrant women, largely from developing countries in Asia, have dramatically increased. The cross-border marriage trend in South Korea is that such marriage is institutionalised and systematised. There are several institutions in South Korea that are closely associated with cross-border marriages: 1) international marriage brokerage agencies, 2) governmental support centres, and 3) NGOs. These institutions have played prominent roles in maintaining South Korea's cross-border marriage system by providing a wide range of services, interacting with and challenging each other.

More information on the MMB project page [here](#)

We are Bristol: reparative justice through collaborative research

Dr Joanna Burch-Brown, Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Professor Olivette Otele, Professor of History of Slavery and Memory of Enslavement, Department of History, Dr Richard Stone, Lecturer, Department of History, Dr Jessica Moody, Senior Lecturer, Department of History, Dr Marie-Annick M Gournet, Senior Lecturer and Director of Part-time Programmes, Department of English.

This project is composed of four smaller projects, each of which seeks to work with local citizens and communities in Bristol to build a fuller understanding of how the city's legacy of transatlantic slavery still impacts society today. The first project will investigate the lives of Bristol's slave owners and those they claimed ownership of. The second will see scholars from the Department of History working in collaboration with citizens, artists and dance groups to identify sites of memory in Bristol's cityscape. A third project will create a global learning resource for communities exploring issues of contested heritage. Finally, the fourth project will see scholars from the Department of English partnering with local education authorities to examine how inequalities and racism experienced by people of colour in the education sector are inextricably linked to slavery and its legacy.

For more information see the UoB press release [here](#)

Truth on the margins: bringing memories to support transnational justice in Colombia

Professor Matthew Brown, Professor in Latin American History, Department of Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, Ms Maria T Pinto Ocampo, Researcher, Migration Mobilities Bristol, Dr Julia Paulson, Associate Professor in Education, Peace and Conflict, School of Education. With, Dr Fabio Lopez de la Roche, Associate Professor, National University of Colombia, Mr Martin Suarez, Senior Expert in Higher Education, National University of Colombia, Dr Andrei Gomez-Suarez, Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Religion, Reconciliation and Peace, University of Winchester.

Over more than five decades of armed conflict in Colombia, the memories of marginalised communities and victims of conflict have been silenced or excluded from dominant accounts. Sharing these memories and creating spaces to acknowledge them will be crucial to an inclusive reconciliation. The project works in three strands: first it will support between 1,000 and 10,000 people from some of the most marginalised parts of Colombia to create transformative memory works, enabling individual and community processes of reconciliation and developing lasting skills for public participation. The second strand will share this work on a national scale, including with Colombia's Truth Commission and in the nation's schools. The final strand will consolidate the work in Colombia and produce lasting digital resources and share its findings, methodologies and lessons in Colombia, the UK and internationally.

For more information see the [Truth on the Margins website](#)

Memory, migration and truth

Professor Matthew Brown, Professor in Latin American History, Department of Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, Dr Julia Paulson, Associate Professor in Education, Peace and Conflict, School of Education, Dr Goya Wilson Vasquez, Senior Research Associate, Department of Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies.

As part of the [Bringing Memories in from the Margins](#) (MEMPAZ, 2018-22) project, a collaboration between the University of Bristol, the Universidad Nacional de Colombia and several organizations working in some of Colombia's most marginalized municipalities, researchers have been working to document the experience of people who were exiled from the country during the armed conflict. Working with [Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres](#) and the [Colombian Truth Commission](#), researchers have interviewed exiles to make sure that their stories can be woven into the Commission's final report, due to be published in late 2021. This [Policy Briefing](#) provides an overview of MEMPAZ and its findings from working with communities, including those displaced by violence.

2. Control, conflict, resistance

This research challenge seeks to understand people's different abilities to move and how their conflicts and struggles are shaped by everyday constraints on their movements and presence. We explore our current situations through attention to our pasts and through this aim to contribute to political and theoretical debates on mobility, control and resistance – and how these relate to class, gender, age, nationality, 'race' and sexuality.

Conflicts have arisen historically between social actors seeking freer and safer movement and those determined to tighten controls on mobility. We seek to connect this to questions of 'differential inclusion' where people's presence is (barely) tolerated when they attempt to stop moving. This means taking into account how the violent ruptures of modernity – such as enclosure, colonialism, slavery and partition – have had on-going implications for techniques of mobility control and people's resistance to them. Through theoretical, historical and empirical work we seek to understand and challenge the structural inequalities and systems of domination, such as 'race', caste, class, gender, age and nationality, that restrict rights and freedoms in the global world in different ways. In order to do so we ask:

- How do people differently devise moves and tactics to circumnavigate and resist constraints on their freedom?
- What are the links between historical and contemporary techniques used by states, social groups and political organisations to control and prevent the unwanted movement of particular populations?
- How can past efforts by rightless and marginalised people to move closer to freedom shed light on the pursuit and practice of freedom by such people today?
- How can narratives and lived experiences of mobilities problematise and expose the limits and ambivalences of dichotomies such as resistance/accommodation, agency/control, freedom/domination?

Research challenge co-ordinator: [Dr Angelo Martins Junior](#), Research Associate, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies

[View the Control, Conflict, Resistance webpage](#)



Selected Research

Professor Katharine Charsley, Professor in Sociology

My research centres on the topic of marriage and migration and I have expertise on marriage-related migration to the UK. My most recent project interrogates the notion that ethnic minority marriage migration is a problem for integration – a logic which has been used to justify restrictions to spousal migration/reunification in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. This work has particularly focused on the British South Asian populations, which are the largest ethnic group involved in this kind of transnational marriage. I am currently working with a grassroots support group to develop a project on the impact on British families of being denied the ability to live in the UK with their spouse as a result either of failure to meet visa requirements such as minimum income (which carry particular disadvantage for low earning social groups) or errors in visa decisions. I run an international research network on marriage and migration, with over 120 mailing list members (all researchers in the field).

Professor Diego Acosta Arcarazo, Professor of European and Migration Law

I am presently interested in South America's migration and citizenship laws and policies, and in issues of regional free movement of people law globally. Within that research framework, I have offered pro-bono advice on numerous matters. For example, I was invited to present in May in front of the Chilean Senate on their new migration draft bill and to the Peruvian Congress on another new draft migration law. My presentation argued that the law should not continue its legislative path to Congress since it was unconstitutional and breached numerous international treaties.

Dr Camilla Morelli, Lecturer in Social Anthropology

My research examines the lives of indigenous children and youth who are migrating from rainforest areas to urban settlements in Peru, where most of them live precariously in urban slums and struggle with economic hardship, social exclusions and marginalisation. Children and youth constitute the largest demographics of indigenous and rural population in Latin America, and they are often at the centre of migratory processes from rural to urban areas across the world. And yet, their own voices, perspectives and agency are often unheard in both academic research and developmental projects both at national and international level. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork with indigenous people conducted over the past ten years, I use qualitative and collaborative methods (including storytelling, photography and animation) that can bring out the voices and experiences of young migrants themselves, so as to document the challenges of migration from their own perspectives.

Sarah Fakray, PhD Researcher in Sociology

My research examines the everyday lives of refused asylum seekers and undocumented migrants who are living destitute in the city of Bristol. Using in-depth interviews and 'go-along' ethnographic observation, I aim to find out how the extreme socio-structural disadvantages they face impact on lived experiences. I also consider the ways in which they can exert agency, access help and find solidarity with others. I am particularly interested in whether Bristol's city of sanctuary status and large number of support organisations and networks make much of a difference to the experiences of those who have been refused asylum or are living undocumented, and to what extent a person's background and difference matter in terms of survival strategies and outcomes. Integral to this project is the employment of skilled translators and interpreters as co-producers of meaning. Their work enables my communication with participants in a range of languages including Pashto, Arabic, Bengali, Sorani, Farsi and Somali. My PhD is funded by the ESRC and supported by the South West Doctoral Training Partnership.

Dan Godshaw, PhD Researcher in Sociology

My research seeks to better comprehend the under-researched terrain of immigration detention in the UK and explore the complex, intersectional and multiscalar dynamics of identity, power and personal relations that operate within and beyond these hidden carceral spaces. By developing recent work in sociology, criminology, gender studies, human geography and migration studies, the project expands understandings of postcolonial and co-constitutive relationships between masculinity, race, class, immigration status and border harms. The research design – a qualitative mixed methods engagement with currently and formerly detained men alongside practitioners – enables me to examine how everyday lived experiences in detention, and their often traumatic impact on individuals and families, are tied to broader issues including state power and citizenship, neoliberal border control and the international securitisation of migration. This work is ESRC funded and supported by the South West Doctoral Training Partnership.

Modern marronage? The pursuit and practice of freedom in the contemporary world

Professor Julia O'Connell Davidson, Professor in Social Research, and Dr Angelo Martins Junior, Research Associate, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies

This five-year ERC-funded project is concerned with the continuing significance of Atlantic World history, but also upturning conventional discourse by interrogating the problem of freedom – as opposed to slavery – in the contemporary world. It therefore takes marronage as its starting point. Dictionary definitions of 'marronage' describe it as the process of extricating oneself from slavery and connect it to the histories of enslaved people who ran away and formed 'maroon' or 'quilombo' communities in the Americas. However, as political theorist Neil Roberts has argued, 'marronage' can also be more broadly understood as action from slavery and toward freedom, and we approach marronage as a concept that can encompass many different ways in which enslaved people sought to practice freedom.

More information on the MMB project page [here](#).

Peace Festival: creative methodologies for unearthing hidden war stories

Professor Matthew Brown, Dr Karen Tucker, Ms María-Teresa Pinto and Dr Goya Wilson, School of Modern Languages and School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies

Societies moving to post-war contexts face multiple challenges. Many of these are echoes from the war and its historical roots. Memories of war resonate throughout the transition process; they penetrate cultural practices, the public arena, the institutional level, and the social fabric. Colombia is at a crucial historical juncture. Long-lasting peace will not be possible without memory-seeking initiatives that think creatively about the past and its place in imagining the future. This project will bring together the most adventurous groups who are seeking to open up ways of thinking about peace in Colombia and its neighbour Peru.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#).

Paid to care: domestic workers in contemporary Latin American culture

Dr Rachel Randall, School of Modern Languages

The project explores paid domestic workers' (self-)representation in contemporary film, testimonial literature and digital and visual culture from across Latin America. It argues that domestic workers – who are often rural-urban migrants – have become key cultural figures that condense concerns surrounding intersectional experiences of race-, gender- and class-based discrimination. It also investigates the ways in which the legacy of transatlantic slavery weighs on modern day domestic labour relations in Latin America.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#).

Dr Katie Bales, Lecturer in Law

My research centres on forced migration, labour law and the welfare state and I have worked on the State's compliance with human rights obligations with particular focus on welfare reform and the immigration detention of children. My current research project focuses on the political economy of state organised forms of work including prison labour, workfare, community payback and labour within immigration detention. I also have an interest in access to higher education for forced migrants and helped to establish the sanctuary scholarship scheme at the UoB as well as sitting as a trustee for Bristol City of Sanctuary.

(de)Bordering: creative research exploring the politics of immigration and the environment through planting

Professor Bridget Anderson, Professor of Migration, Mobilities and Citizenship, Department of Sociology, Politics and International Studies, Professor Katharine Charsley, Professor of Migration Studies, Department of Sociology, Politics and International Studies, Dr Nariman Massoumi, Lecturer in Film and Television, Department of Film and Television. With, Charli Clark, Artist, Dr Paul Hurley, Researcher and Artist, University of West England.

Beginning in Spring 2021, this project will work collaboratively with relevant communities, gardeners, and artists to design and develop two plots in the Royal Fort Gardens at the University of Bristol. The team will co-design two hospitable spaces with and for migratory humans and nonhumans. The two plots will be thematically connected by themes of north/south and coming/going. They will seek to reflect the human experiences and cultures of global migration but will also be designed to be welcoming and appropriate to the needs of other species' migration. The site will take the role of a living laboratory to open a space for new conversations and thinking around the politics of immigration and the environment.

For more information see the [\(de\)Bordering website](#)

3. Bodies, borders, justice

This research challenge explores how state borders create and manage sexual, racial, cultural, age, ability and class differences. It examines the effects of bordering on human relationships, on rights and on justice.

International mobility – often labelled as ‘migration’ – tends to come with weakened rights and vulnerability to injustice, ranging from oppressive inclusion to violent exclusion. State borders create, reflect and reinforce many other forms of bordering within state territories manifesting, for example, in ‘hostile environment’ policies and their consequences.

The ‘bodies, borders, justice’ research challenge studies how the making of borders intersects with and contributes to the construction of sexual, racial, cultural, age, ability and class differences. Borders and differences are both shaped by and structure personal relationships, and this research challenge foregrounds the role of emotions in facilitating or undermining interpersonal bonds in contexts such as schools, workplaces, civil society and family homes.

From a critical perspective, we unpack the past and present (re)production of embodied and territorialised cultures, including languages, religions and artistic practices, through legal and social institutions in the global North and South. Our overarching aim is to develop, in dialogue with other academics, professionals and activists, strategies to expand the possibilities of justice in a mobile world.

Key concerns include:

- How do state bordering practices and nationalised imaginaries contribute to creating other social categories, particularly ‘race’?
- How are identities mediated by the representation of mobility in written, oral and visual discourses?
- What common processes lie behind the subordination of various mobile populations?
- What conceptions of justice legitimise attempts to immobilise people for certain periods in specific locations, from the state to the prison?

Research challenge co-ordinator: [Dr Natasha Carver](#), Lecturer in International Criminology,

[View the Bodies, Borders, Justice webpage](#)



Selected Research

Dr Natasha Carver, Lecturer in International Criminology, School for Policy Studies

My research focuses on family life and intimate relationships after migration. My particular interest is on how states use legislation in the name of protecting their 'national culture', and the impact such measures have on migrants. As such, I work on arranged/forced and transnational marriage, female genital circumcision/mutilation (FGC/M) and the criminalization of migrants and migrant families more broadly. My forthcoming book, *Marriage, Gender and Refugee Migration* (Rutgers UP, 2020), examines perceptions of 'families-in-crisis' among Somali migrants to the UK. I have two ongoing research projects. The first (with Saffron Karlsen, Christina Pantazis and Magda Mogilnicka, University of Bristol) critically appraises legislative and policy measures aimed at preventing and eliminating FGC/M (see project entry below). In the second project I am examining group prosecutions of people from a migrant background for child sexual exploitation in the UK, and (often) their subsequent deportation.

Dr Mengia Tschalaer, Marie Curie Research Fellow, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies

I have recently completed a two-year [European Commission Horizon 2020 funded research project on queer asylum in Germany](#). I am concerned that despite the Directive 2011/95/EU, which recognizes human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds for seeking asylum in Europe, lesbian, gay, trans, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) people seeking asylum remain often unrecognized and invisible in the asylum system. My data shows that LGBTQI+ refugees and people seeking asylum face particular legal and social challenges that are related to stereotyping, lack of socio-legal support, and poor housing situations. First, while recent EU policy and law reflect reform endeavours to improve the quality of sexual orientation/gender identity asylum interviews, decision-making on LGBTQI+ claims remain poor and inconsistent and often rely on stereotyping. Second, LGBTQI+ people seeking asylum often lack access to legal and social support because there is a lack of information for LGBTQI+ refugees on how to find support and where. Third, LGBTQI+ refugees and people seeking asylum feel a heightened sense of loneliness and social isolation as they are often inadequately housed; they also experience hate crime and sexual assault, which increases the risk of mental health related issues such as depression and suicide.

Kept apart: couples and families separated by the UK immigration system

Katharine Charsley (Sociology, Politics and International Studies, University of Bristol), Helena Wray (University of Exeter) Emma Agusita (UWE Bristol), Caroline Combs and Paige Ballmi (Reunite Families UK) and Rissa Mohabir (Trauma Awareness)

The UK immigration rules require sponsoring spouses to have a minimum income that is above fulltime earnings at minimum wage. In addition, the migrant spouse is required to prove a level of language proficiency. Waiting times for immigration decisions have lengthened and both visa refusals and fees have increased, resulting in lengthy periods of separation even for those families who are eventually successful. Those kept apart by the UK immigration system often do not know anyone with similar experiences. These families turn to internet communities for advice on the practical, bureaucratic, emotional and financial stresses involved. This research uses co-produced poetry and illustration to explore the impacts of this separation, and how British partners separated from their loved ones live with the profound uncertainty of their situation.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#).

Jáfia Naftali Câmara, PhD Researcher, School of Education

My research focuses on refugee and asylum-seeking students' experiences and perspectives of education in the United Kingdom. I am examining how policy impacts the access to education and experiences of education once enrolled, as well as education's role in promoting [or not] integration and belonging in schools and communities. I aim to discover how students will respond to this study's context, which has been designed to include participatory methods and recognise their experiences, celebrate their cultures and amplify their voices in the context of education.

At present, I am part of a team at the School of Education developing a new leadership programme for supporting young refugees (see more [here](#)). I am also writing a report on the impact of laws and regulations related to COVID-19 on migration and (im)mobilities in Brazil, for the Max Planck Society.

ETHOS – Toward an empirically informed theory of justice and fairness

Professor Bridget Anderson and Dr Pier-Luc Dupont, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies (SPAIS) and Migration Mobilities Bristol (MMB)

ETHOS was a Horizon 2020 project (Jan 2017 to Dec 2019) involving researchers at Migration Mobilities Bristol and five other institutes in the Netherlands, Portugal, Austria, Hungary and Turkey. 'Justice' is a word that is widely used in politics and policies in many different countries and also in the European Union itself. We were interested in uncovering what different people –activists, policymakers, professionals, the person on the street– mean by 'justice' and 'fairness' to better understand the possibilities of justice, and also why for some people it seems so difficult to achieve. The studies informed a wide range of stakeholders (grassroots activists, trade unions, educationalists, policymakers and others) about different understandings and experiences of justice with a view to supporting attempts to reverse inequalities and to promote justice.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#).

Memorials to people who have died and to those missing during migration: a global project

Ann Singleton, Senior Research Fellow, School for Policy Studies

Migration across the globe has resulted in the deaths or 'missing' status of hundreds of thousands of people. How the impact of loss on such a scale is recognised and understood is a major social challenge; from a baseline appreciation of what this means within the context of our shared humanity, to cognisance of the human impact of policy decisions and responsibility for the consequences of these decisions. This challenge is amplified when the loss occurs across bodies of water and in desert and remote mountainous areas, where the bodily evidence is removed from sight.

This project directly addresses these complex issues through the creation of an interdisciplinary research platform. Its goal is to 'presence' the missing people and those left behind, in the minds and narratives of policy makers and wider society. We are working with researchers in migration policy, human rights, heritage studies, forensic archaeology and oceanography, along with key UN organisations (IOM GMDAC, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNESCO) non-governmental organisations, family and migrant organisations and charities to establish how best this should be done.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#).

Dr Devyani Prabhat, Reader in Law

I am an expert on British nationality and citizenship and have written three books on various aspects of nationality and citizenship. I have a specific interest in young people and children and their right to nationality as well as rights associated with long term legal status such as refugee and stateless status. At present I am working on statelessness and the right to vote with partners in Asylum Aid (now named Consonant), UNHCR and UNICEF.

Leadership programme for school leaders supporting young refugees

Dr Robert Sharples, Martin Preston, Jáfia Naftali Câmara and Ava Khalfaoui, School of Education

There is an urgent need for school leaders across the UK to have access to specialist training in refugee education. This project will create a suite of training materials for UK school leaders, with three commercial education providers: Better Bilingual, Hounslow Language Service and the EAL Academy.

The companies will share access to the bespoke academic input, draft the training materials, share them for peer learning and user testing facilitated by the academic team, and then refine the products for commercial use.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#).

Pankhuri Agarwal, PhD Researcher in Sociology, School of Sociology, Politics, and International Studies

The research is a socio-legal multi-sited ethnography of the lived legal experience of internal migrant workers (sex workers, brick kiln workers, construction workers, manual scavenging workers, domestic workers, and others) through various legal sites (courtrooms, police stations, shelter homes, prison, government offices) in Delhi, India. Even as citizens, internal migrants lose access to welfare rights once they cross the physical boundaries of their home states and move to Delhi, as welfare provisions (such as housing, food, and health) are dependent on their proof of residence. Some of these workers by accident, choice or force, come under the purview of the anti-trafficking laws and are 'rescued'. By following their post-rescue legal journey, the research argues that legal release and rescue from 'slavery' does not lead to 'freedom' because anti-trafficking interventions do not account for the lack of socially recognised personhood of internal migrants in India.

Dr Negar Elodie Behzadi, Lecturer in Human Geography, School of Geographical Sciences.

I am a feminist political geographer and ethnographer interested in exploring the ways in which intersectional forms of exclusion and marginalisation are (re)produced and contested in stressed environments and migratory contexts. My migration-related work has so far focused on two main themes. First, I have ethnographically explored questions of male seasonal labour migration from Tajikistan to Russia and the social local impacts on women and children's lives. Second, I am currently working on a project entitled 'Call me by my name: childhood memories and the intimate geopolitics of assimilation in postcolonial France'. This partly auto-ethnographic project explores memories of name changing amongst migrants in France who obtained French nationality in childhood or youth as a starting point to understand how racialised geopolitical processes are internalised and resisted by children youth and families who navigate the borderlands of citizenship. This project also draws on visual methodologies - including reflexive documentary film-making and factual animation.

FGM-safeguarding and migrant-citizenship

Saffron Karlsen and Magda Mogilnicka, School for Sociology, Politics and International Studies; Natasha Carver and Christina Pantazis, School for Policy Studies; and Janet Howard, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is considered by the UN to be a ‘global concern’ and it has been frequently claimed that ‘tens of thousands’ of girls are at risk in the UK. The government has responded with stringent legislative and policy measures, but these measures have been implemented without substantial evidence regarding either the level of risk or the potential impact of such approaches on those targeted by the legislation and policy. Based on six focus groups, our first [report](#) finds that safeguarding has been experienced as stigmatising, unjustified, and as an assault on belonging and citizenship. A sense of the exploitation of a disempowered community pervaded focus group discussions. The report highlights valuable opportunities for policymakers and other professionals to improve approaches to FGM-safeguarding in schools, [healthcare settings](#), and by social services and the police. It also highlights the ineffectiveness and negative impact of national policy.

Our second report (coming soon) systemically reviews available data from which prevalence levels might be established. This work finds serious inadequacies in the data available, but also sufficient evidence to indicate that the level of risk among those living in the UK is minimal, with the numbers of girls affected in the tens rather than the tens of thousands. As a result of this work we are now working with local stakeholders to improve safe-guarding approaches; we have given evidence to the Scottish Executive; and we are part of the International Research Council on Genital Cutting Practices.

Deportability and the Family

Dr Melanie Griffiths, University of Birmingham. The project ran in 2014-17 at The Centre of Ethnicity and Citizenship at the University of Bristol.

University of Bristol-based qualitative research investigating the impact of insecure immigration status and changing Article 8 rights on mixed-nationality families in the UK. Between 2014-17, researchers worked with 30 couples/families consisting of foreign national men with precarious or unlawful immigration status, and their British partners and children. The research found that precarious immigration status and risk of immigration detention and deportation have potentially catastrophic effect on the whole family, including children and British citizens. Living under chronic insecurity, with restricted access to employment or services, and the ongoing threat or reality of separation by detention or removal, lead to extreme harm to people’s private lives, relationships, finances, stability and physical and mental health. The [report from this project](#) was launched on 8th June 2021, in collaboration with the NGO [Bail for Immigration Detainees](#) and Chaired by [Shami Chakrabati CBE](#). Speakers included [Sonali Naik QC](#) and a parent directly affected by these issues.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#).

4. Trade, labour, capital

This research challenge seeks to understand the mobility of people and its relation to the movement of goods, services and money. We are also interested in how the relationship between markets and migration is imagined and represented.

The search for markets for goods, land, labour and work has been one of the primary drivers of the movement of people, both historically and in contemporary times. In the past, this quest led to movements of people in a discernible direction, but today the flows of migration and goods are more complex in their directionality. Meanwhile the movement of finance capital is increasingly critical but under-explored by researchers.

Key research questions include:

- How are these movements, and our understandings of them, gendered?
- Do the movements of workers always go hand in hand with movement of capital?
- Does capital always precede, with workers following? Could it be that labour flees when capital arrives?
- What are the implications of different forms of capitalism for these relationships?
- What role do cities, sub-national territorial formations and regional arrangements play in capitalism(s) and what does this mean for understanding flows of people?
- Do crises in regimes of capital accumulation offer new opportunities that allow us to challenge anti-migrant animus?
- Do terms like trade, labour, capital and migration aid or hinder our understanding of their relationships?

Research challenge co-ordinator: [Dr Manoj Dias-Abey](#), Lecturer in Law

[View the Trade, Labour, Capital webpage](#)



Selected Research

Transnational organised crime at sea: new evidence for better responses

Professor Timothy Edmunds, Professor of International Security, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies, and Professor Christian Bueger, Professor of International Relations, University of Copenhagen.

In recent years, maritime security has climbed high on the international agenda. Yet research on transnational organised crime at sea that can inform political and security responses on a national, regional, or international level remains weak. Such research concerns how different maritime crimes, such as piracy, illegal fishing, or smuggling relate to and re-enforce one another. This knowledge is not only vital to protect maritime zones and safeguard maritime borders, but also to ensure the freedom of navigation and safety of shipping. In the global South, it is also a vital element in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through advancing the so-called blue economy.

The project will cross-fertilize existing research on maritime crime from different disciplinary backgrounds and data sources to develop an evidence base for analysis and policy making. It will then compare three sub-regional maritime security governance systems with each other – the Western Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, and the South Pacific. Through studying these areas, the project offers new insights into how maritime crimes and transnational security problems can lead to new forms of international cooperation. The project will also develop essential guidelines and an outline of the best and most promising practices for how to tackle maritime crime.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#)

The Citizenship Industry

Dr Sarah Kunz, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies

This project, funded by a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship, examines Citizenship-by-Investment (CBI) with a focus on the powerful 'Citizenship Industry' – the corporate sector developing, managing and promoting CBI. While international borders are hardening, CBI is expanding and multiple passports are fast becoming a prime status symbol of the global super-rich. This project examines CBI and its reformulation of citizenship, redrafting of state-corporate relationships, commodification of mobility and reworking of global inequality. The project maps the 'new geographies of belonging' of the super-rich and explores how wealth accumulation and migration are becoming increasingly interlinked projects.

Sarah is also working on book that is an ethnographic account of the category 'expatriate' across three sites and explores what the transformations and shifting alliances of the category reveal about broader reconfigurations of power in a postcolonial world.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#).

Dr Manoj Dias-Abey, Lecturer in Law

I am currently involved in two relevant research projects. The first considers the UK's Seasonal Workers Pilot programme for the agricultural sector. Although the Home Office has overall responsibility for the pilot programme, it is managed by two private operators. By comparing the pilot programme with other comparable guestworker programmes (such as Canada's Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program), this project examines the critical role played by private labour brokers. The second project looks at the legal strategies of activist trade unions which work with migrant workers (such as the IWGB). Rather than litigation being an end in itself, this project considers whether going to court serves these unions' broader organising goals.

Reimagining the Pacific: images of the ocean in Chile and Peru, c.1960 to the present

Dr Paul Merchant, Senior Lecturer in Latin American Film and Visual Culture, Department of Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, and Dr Rebecca Irons, Research Associate, Department of Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies.

Reimagining the Pacific examines visual and audio-visual responses to contemporary social and environmental challenges in Chile and Peru. Around the world, coastal communities are facing significant changes, both ecological (such as rising sea temperatures) and as a consequence of human activity (for instance through flows of migration). Chile and Peru have been identified as two of the countries likely to be most affected by climate change, with their fishing industries vulnerable to rising sea temperatures, and their coastal regions vulnerable to the El Niño phenomenon. In a time of ecological crisis, the ability of visual and audio-visual media to further engagement with and understanding of environmental issues has come under increasing scrutiny. The project seeks to address how these responses can inform other changing coastal environments across the world on how to live and respond amidst such challenges.

For more information see the [Reimagining the Pacific website](#)

Professor Tonia Novitz, Professor of Labour Law

My concerns lie predominantly with temporary migration of workers and their abuse within trade in services. I have been engaged in tracking exploitation of 'posted workers' linked to European Union trade in services, with respect to the various violations of their labour rights, including associational freedoms. I have drawn parallels with movement of natural persons under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the Annex to that instrument in Movement of Natural Persons, which fails to refer to labour standards. While there are signs of progress such as the 2018 amendment by EU Directive 2018/957 to the EU Posting of Workers Directive in 2018, it is vital that on the international stage (and in the context of transnational supply chains) we begin to acknowledge more fully the connections between trade law and migration and human rights law. I am currently engaged in a European Commission funded Horizon 2020 Project on Sustainable Market Actors for Responsible Trade (SMART) tracing EU and international regulatory issues arising in relation to trade in textiles and mobile phones. From a sustainability perspective, we are seeking to build social and migration concerns into trade relations.

Dr Rutvica Andrijasevic, Senior Lecturer in Management

I am currently working on a research monograph entitled 'Just-in-Time Labour for Just-in-Time Production: Transnational Production and Migrant Labour Incorporation in Central and Eastern Europe'. The book draws on the insights I gained as Principal Investigator on the research project 'The Future of Labour in Europe in China-led Globalisation. A Case Study of Foxconn' (2013-2018). The book aims to bring together migration studies and international business and management studies in order to address a knowledge gap on forms of labour recruitment and regimes of control engendered by the expansion of transnational industries to Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

Once marginal to the study of migration, global supply chains are increasingly recognised as key to labour migration and to the management of migration flows. Using just-in-time production as a primary prism for examining the working and living conditions of migrant workers in the electronics supply chain, my research seeks to determine how transnational production acts as a source of novel forms of control and exploitation of migrant labour, or what I call 'just-in-time labour' (JITL). In focusing on the structural relevance of JITL for globalized organisation of production, the aim of the proposed research is to develop a systematic conceptual and analytical framework for understanding the social and political impact of transnational industries in Europe.

Dr Gregory Schwartz, Lecturer in Management

My research looks at labour mobility between EU member and European 'third country' states in the context of uneven and combined Europe, interrogating whether mobility can redress the linked crisis tendencies in production and social reproduction. This work builds on ongoing research looking at the prospects of labour provisions in EU-Ukraine DCFTA (Association Agreement). This concern stems from intensified pressures in the sphere of social reproduction triggered by states and markets attempting to defer crisis tendencies in production by shifting the costs of transformations to the domestic and unpaid spheres, while social reproduction is being reconstituted by markets, the responsibility for it being privatised and individualised, and the capabilities of individuals and households to meet this responsibility receiving inadequate support.

The increased need for and lower capacity to engage in social reproduction leads to EU and national governments using legal, policy and practical responses to the intrinsically linked problems of production and social reproduction, while the transnationalisation of entitlements and rights, of citizenship and residency, in Europe defined by EU's 'freedoms of movement', position labour mobility as an important mechanism through which such problems can be addressed. This raises the question of whether such responses in an economically integrated but unequal Europe are sustainable, or whether they tend to promote regressive redistribution within and between countries, producing benefits in some parts of Europe and for some groups while exacerbating them in other parts and for other groups, thus leading to new forms and degrees of inequalities in Europe.

Professor Jonathan Beaverstock, Professor of International Management

My research focuses on highly skilled professional and managerial international labour migration and mobilities between global financial centres, triggered through inter-company transfers (in global banks and financial and professional service firms) and self-initiated movements. This research explores both demand (firm) and supply (labour) side factors which: (1) compel such elite labour, which I have referred to as transnational managerial elites, to circulate between global financial centres as an essential internationalisation strategy of knowledge-intensive firms; and (2) produce elite world city transnational communities through their exclusive social, cultural, economic and 'networked' practices.

I am also interested in the agency of transnational professionals in the production and circulation of knowledge within/between organisations and their role in the competitiveness of global financial centres. Recent work has focused on international business travel in knowledge intensive organisations and the role of global talent pools and 'pipelines' in the competitiveness of London's fintech economy.

Migrants and systemic resilience: a global COVID-19 research and policy hub (Mig-Res-Hub)

Professor Bridget Anderson, University of Bristol, and Professor Martin Ruhs, Migration Policy Centre (MPC), European University Institute (EUI)

The primary aim of Mig-Res-Hub is to facilitate global and comparative research on how migrant labour shapes the vulnerability and resilience of essential economic sectors and public services to the current COVID-19 crisis and to similar (and likely) pandemic shocks in the future, and to discuss the implications and options for future immigration and other public policies around the world. There is little doubt that epidemics and pandemics will happen again, but their effects will depend critically on human action including efforts to improve the resilience of the provision of essential goods and services.

The Hub will concentrate on three essential sectors around the world – the food production sector, health services, and social care – and their associated cross-country supply chains. A particular focus will be on exploring how the relationship between reliance on migrant workers and the systemic resilience of the food, health, and care sectors vary across countries with different institutional and policy frameworks for the provision of these essential services.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#).

Migration, development and global transformations

Ann Singleton, Senior Research Fellow, School for Policy Studies

The Migration, Development and Global Transformations (MDGT) programme brings together World University Network (WUN) migration researchers and data experts in a research incubation activity supported by ongoing research and policy collaboration between the University of Bristol and the International Organization for Migration's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre.

Some migration policy areas are already relatively well researched, such as remittance costs, trafficking and many dimensions of labour migration. Others remain as 'hidden' forms of migration, and often are indicators of new and emerging dynamics of migration and development. These dimensions include South-South migration, the 'hidden economy', intra-regional migration, internal and urban-urban migration, the production of vulnerability, the importance of a rights agenda and the significance of gender analysis. A further crucial gap lies in policy. Policy failures such as those evident in the Mediterranean humanitarian crisis, highlighted the need for a clear policy focus in migration research in the coming decade, something that will require collaboration between and across the disciplines.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#).

Border geographies in medieval European writing

Professor Helen Fulton, Chair in Medieval Literature, Department of English, and Dr Jan Shaw, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English, University of Sydney.

This project seeks to build an ongoing international partnership between Bristol's Centre for Medieval Studies (CMS) and the Medieval and Early Modern Centre (MEMC) at Sydney. Issues relating to border communities, spaces, and mobility are as topical in Australia as they are in the UK, and an understanding of the medieval pre-nation-state world as global and connected by trade, yet patrolled and segregated by institutional power, is key to developing new intellectual ideas about the function and nature of border spaces as agents of control. Planned outcomes from the network include grant applications, co-publications, conference sessions, video-linked seminars, postgraduate exchanges, and staff exchanges.

For more information see the [Border Geographies website](#)

Globalising luxuries

Dr Tamar Hodos, Reader in Mediterranean Archaeology

This project is a collaboration between Bristol University and the British Museum to explore the production and distribution of luxury objects around the wider ancient Mediterranean world. It seeks to integrate the skilled craftsmen and traders into the social narrative of luxury object manufacture and dissemination.

The project emphasises the variety of people involved in production and exchange in the past, and well as shared and divergent social practices of materials in common. The significance of this approach does not lie just in learning more about the ancient world. It is applicable to contemporary society because of our own social relationships with the material world. Today, the same object may concurrently have overlapping and different social or symbolic meanings for diverse populations, while its production and distribution connects people in complex ways across time and place. Understanding the relationships between our social lives and material worlds helps us foster better relationships with one another, especially when overcoming social and cultural differences. Objects 'belong' to many more than just their final consumers. Luxuries – in the past and present – extend across the full spectrum of society in any era.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#).

Re-visiting child sex tourism, re-thinking business responses

Professor Julia O'Connell Davidson, Professor in Social Research

The phenomenon of 'child sex tourism' (often now discussed as a form of 'modern slavery') has been a focus of concern and action for more than two decades. Child rights NGOs have lobbied very successfully for more robust legislation against the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and greater international cooperation amongst law enforcers to target perpetrators. Anti-child-sex-tourism campaigning has spurred industry-driven, corporate social responsibility responses, such as The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, with a mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry in order to prevent CSEC. Yet, a recent global study by ECPAT (2016) concludes that despite these efforts, the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism 'has expanded across the globe and out-paced every attempt to respond at the international and national level'.

This project explores whether patterns of sex tourism have changed over the past 20 years. Have NGO-led efforts to raise-awareness of child sex tourism altered the attitudes and practices of tourists? Have industry led CSEC education and training initiatives actually reached front-line tourism workers in Jamaica? A known barrier to rolling such initiatives out to tourism workers is the fact that many are in transient, temporary and poorly paid jobs. Moreover, in Global South contexts, many local people are unable to secure even precarious employment in the formal tourism sector. Instead, they are left to 'hustle' a living in the informal tourism economy by providing a range of services. For a small number, this includes sexual services.

More information on the MMB project page [here](#).

Working for 'five a day': risk and resilience in the food system. A multi-sited ethnography of the labour that feeds one city

Dr Lydia Medland, British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies

Food security is a major concern as the UK moves towards exiting the European Union. For many decades, rural sociology and economic geography have been of little interest to the public, yet in the wake of economically reconfiguring agricultural systems, it is of renewed significance. With Bristol as its urban starting point, this project will explore the changing social context that provides the UK with its government-recommended 'five a day'. As the UK is about to undergo radical change in areas of trade and subsidy arrangements, livelihoods are at risk, which also means that 50% of food produced and consumed in the UK is under question. Through a methodology that examines five enclaves of fruit and vegetable production, this project will explore who is bearing the costs of risks to our food system.

The project will also consider how food insecurity intersects with migration and mobility. Many seasonal workers are EU citizens, yet this is likely to change. This project will research how the composition of workers transforms as the UK-EU relationship changes. The current Seasonal Workers Pilot programme may be expanded and this could change working relationships as workers from outside the EU would not have the same rights.

More information on the MMB project webpage [here](#).

Hidden narratives of transnational organised crime in West Africa

Dr Gernot Klantschnig, Associate Professor in International Criminology, School for Policy Studies, Dr Philippe Frowd, Associate Professor in the School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa, and Dr Elodie Apard, researcher in African Studies Curator, French Institute for Research in Africa.

Over the last 15 years, West Africa's role in illicit flows (the illicit trade in goods and people) and their control has become a central concern for international and domestic policy makers, with attention coalescing around threats such as drug trafficking and irregular migration. Despite this growing policy interest, illicit flows and related transnational organised crime (TNOC) in the region have not yet been systematically studied. The project asks whether crime of a transnational and organised form exists in West Africa and investigates the understandings of it held by people acting on different sides of the law. Using the cases of the Tramadol trade and irregular migration in two of West Africa's major trade and control hubs (Lagos, Nigeria and Agadez, Niger), the project seeks to uncover the 'hidden narratives' of TNOC. These narratives will help to better understand what these illicit activities mean in West Africa, what has caused their emergence and what could potentially help to address them as a policy issue.

For more information see the [Hidden Narratives website](#)