

# ***Handbook on Mediterranean Migration Studies***

## **Outline and Call for contributions**

### **Editors:**

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### **The main purpose and the regional focus of the *Handbook***

Mediterranean and Migration are probably two sides of the same coin. Migration in the Mediterranean is as old as the spatial awareness of the Mediterranean. The movement of populations constitutes the bedrock of Mediterranean history. But patterns and dynamics of this mobility, political and governance reactions have changed over time. Cities, empires, colonial, economic, social and cultural relations of the past still shape current migratory and associated population movement<sup>1</sup> patterns and the geopolitics of governance. Even if today, the views of these flows are mostly unipolar, from South to North, from East to West, reality is telling us that there are some new emerging trends that announce the multipolarity of human movement. These consist of migratory return, transnational relations linking the Mediterranean shores, but also skilled and life-style migrants from North to South, from West to East. Different migration and associated population movements patterns are emerging, and more traditional ones are being analysed within a mixture of drivers.

Factors driving migration and associated population movements in the Mediterranean can be mixed: demographics, employment, integration, nationalistic and religious extremism, human rights infringement, instability of governments, climate change and environmental pressures, life-style, etc. Employment, specifically youth employment, is a challenge within Mediterranean countries, to the North, East and to the South and form a distinctive feature of the Mediterranean regional system in the third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These economic, political, cultural and social factors are in need of scientific research, fostering a multidisciplinary debate while avoiding explicit or subtle Euro- and Western-centrism. There is a need to articulate and follow a “regional methodology”, incorporating a multiplicity of perspectives and understandings of the same phenomenon. There is also a need to break the epistemological monism, atomism

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<sup>1</sup> By “associated population movements” we mean those population movements in which "asylum seekers" request asylum but are unable to do so, thus remaining as migrants. This is quite a mainstream feature in the Mediterranean. There is a growing number of citizens from countries in Africa and even Asia who cross the Mediterranean but are not recognized as refugees. UNHCR refers to these migrant groups as "mixed migration flows".

and reductionism of whatever Mediterranean Migration and associated population movements' research. The mixture of population movements, together with climate change induced-migration are also new dynamics of contemporary Mediterranean Migration, as well as different geo-migration politics that arise from European Union and European States and other Southern and Eastern states' interest.

The complexity of relations, uncertainty of situations, and the complex ecological system around the Mediterranean needs to be articulated following a holistic approach. Whist also connecting the past with the present following a philosophy of history. One that also allows us to address blind spots, amnesia, silences and politically constructed ruptures with a past that is still present through migratory and associated population movements. The main ambition of this *Handbook* is to review past and current trends that will certainly influence future scenarios of the Mediterranean and may shape the undergirding research agenda on Mediterranean Migration and associated population movements.

### **The Mediterranean scale of analysis: scope of Mediterranean Migration Studies and mapping current research agenda**

Mediterranean migration is viewed as a contemporary research topic from Mediterranean studies and a geographical area from Migration studies. This *Handbook* is at the intersection of Migration and Mediterranean studies, and it is the outcome of such a dialogue. This means that the geographical scale prevails over the migratory condition when defining Mediterranean Migration. In other words, Mediterranean Migration is about whatever population movement is circulating within the Mediterranean area, for any reason, be them European, African, Asian or originating from any of the Mediterranean shores.

This Mediterranean scale of analysis is key when delimiting the scope of Mediterranean Migration studies. It invites us to follow a regional methodology and also to conduct most of our research findings towards a region-making process, detaching what is distinctive from this region of the world, but also what is common to migration and that which we can also encounter in other regions. The Mediterranean is where three continents meet but also it is considered as the most diasporic region in the world (Gallant, 2016; 205), it remains the world's least peaceful region (Global Peace Index 2018) and by far the world's deadliest zone (UNHCR and IOM last reports).

This *Handbook* seeks to map the current Mediterranean Migration Research agenda by selecting current innovative perspectives and approaches with a promising further research path. It also seeks to bring together an existing community of scholars already contributing to the development of this field of research from all the shores of the Mediterranean and beyond.

As editors, our premise is that in spite of an existing burgeoning literature, this field is dispersed and unarticulated between the Mediterranean and Migration Studies. The **main scientific purpose** of this *Handbook* is two-fold: First, to collect and map the body of knowledge that has been accumulated these last two decades of the XXIth century; Second, to define and open this new Mediterranean Migration research agenda for the coming years.

The *Handbook's* wishes is to map and strengthen current research development trends from a multiplicity of disciplines and geographical angles (North and South, East and West). It also aspires to enable the reader to move beyond eurocentrism and to provide arguments for the construction of alternative to state-centric and EU-centric narratives. In other words, this *Handbook* seeks to encourage the reader to carefully consider where and with whom most of our knowledge starts and consequently informs

politics and society. As well as who may use and who may benefit from this production of knowledge.

The general horizon is to overcome the fragmentation of knowledge and data, and to find exploratory avenues reducing the gap between research insights and knowledge, public opinion, and policies. Along with this rationale, we have then requested contributors to have both a critical view regarding the current state of the arts on Mediterranean Migration Governance and to prioritize innovative ways of sources and knowledge production. Hence, giving voice to what it is being silenced and/or excluded from the mainstream narrative and practice. We have then requested that all contributors have a substantive engagement with Mediterranean Migration Studies, as to help shape this particular regional area of migration studies.

How can the chapter's findings be articulated within a shared focus? Mediterranean studies have a descriptive, explanatory but also a normative dimension. It is about region-making. At the end, all contributors will need to provide some thoughts about how their own arguments and findings may contribute to Mediterranean region-making in a economic, political, social, cultural identity and even in terms of values.

This *Handbook* covers the overall Mediterranean regional dimension on migration, with the long-term purpose of being a centre of reference providing a solid basis for future research synergies. This cross-cutting and inter-disciplinary approach, the broad geographical scope, as well as the key-fact that the *Handbook* seeks to integrate regional, national, and North-Eastern-South complementarities are the distinctive features of its focus. It links Mediterranean and Migration Studies by articulating three sub-regions (Southern Europe, Northern Africa and Middle East) or the so-called MENA countries

The *Handbook* also seeks to showcase a plurality of approaches to and applications of Mediterranean Migration, contributing to a regional approach on migration. It then defends this regional methodology by scaling Mediterranean migration issues. This necessarily involves thinking of the Mediterranean both as a “scale of geopolitical governance” and as an analytical category of analysis.

### **Main objectives of the *Handbook*: a summary**

We can summarize the objectives of this *Handbook* following six broad principles:

1. To articulate a systematic, shared, innovative and accessible accumulated corpus of knowledge, capable of developing a Mediterranean Migration Research agenda.
2. To encourage knowledge exchange between senior and young researchers of both sides of the Mediterranean, and of scholars working on Mediterranean Migration and associated population movements all over the world.
3. To promote conceptual and methodological advancement for a comprehensive understanding of Migration and associated population movements in the Mediterranean region.
4. To promote the potentialities of Migration and Human Mobility for the economic, environmental, cultural, political, and social development of the Mediterranean.
5. To place Mediterranean Migration Studies within the Global Migration Agenda.

### **The rationale of the *Handbook* and basic areas covered.**

In the last few years, the Mediterranean gained more and more relevance in European and Migration Studies and, currently, it is a regional focal point where several types of large-scale human displacement converge. This is a multi-scalar (global and

local) challenge with major effects on origin/transit/destination countries, border/integration/diversity policies, and geopolitical strategies. Indeed, if we review the recent European policy agenda on Mediterranean Migration and associated population movements the keywords identified would probably be unpredictability, complexity, and also lack of evidence-based narratives and policies on current migration dynamics and governance systems.

There is a paradox that, despite the great importance of migration and associated population movements in the Mediterranean region, a *Handbook* tackling that specific research agenda does not exist. Academic, social and political demands should be better substantiated by covering all the geographical area through a complete focus on Mediterranean Migration, promoting multi-sited and comparative research, multi-level analysis, and intersectional studies.

This *Handbook* is pioneer in this initiative contributing to develop an understanding of the migration dynamics, addressing taxonomies of motion and the diverse manifestations of human mobility, the drivers of migration and their interdependence, while also maximising its benefits to the Mediterranean area and coping policy mechanisms at origin and destination.

The cross-cutting and inter-disciplinary approach and the broad geographical scope of the contributors are the distinctive features of its focus. What interest us is to frame this focus through different parts and chapters that may be innovative and may feature our historical Mediterranean time. The general aim is to illustrate the significance of the regional dimension of migration through the research on the drivers, means and causes of Migration Dynamics and Migration Systems. This goal will go a step further by promoting research dissemination contributing to a comprehensive understanding of diaspora policies, diversity, intercultural, integration, and governance challenges within North, South and the Eastern Mediterranean states and cities. It will also cover a large set of questions related to the Migration Research Agenda, such as: Market and Economy, Politics and Policies, Super-Diversity and Intersectionality, Media, Society, Welfare and the Environment.

We seek to cover relevant areas and topics through **four main clusters**:

- Migration and Mediterranean Geo-political international relations
- Migration and Mediterranean Governance and politics
- Migration and Mediterranean Social and Cultural relations
- Migration and Mediterranean Economic and Labour Markets

**Subtopics of interest where you may place your chapters.**

- Taxonomies of motion in the Mediterranean
- Refugees/Forced displacements in the Mediterranean.
- Multi-level migration Governance in the Mediterranean
- Mediterranean Cities and Migration
- Migration and Employment in the Mediterranean
- Intercultural Relations in diverse Mediterranean settings
- Transnational Mediterranean challenges (political, cultural, social, economic)
- Citizenship Attitudes towards Mediterranean Migrations
- Conceptual and qualitative methodological innovations in Mediterranean Migration research
- Innovative data collections and statistics on Mediterranean migration
- Human Mediterranean geography
- Geo-politics and Diplomatic relations in Mediterranean Migration affairs
- External dimension of migration policies in the Mediterranean area
- Diaspora and return policies in the Mediterranean
- Climate change and migration in the Mediterranean

- Mediterranean Market and Migrations
- Young Mediterranean Migrants
- Social Mobility and Discriminations of Mediterranean migrants
- Mediterranean Media and Migration coverage
- History of Migrations in the Mediterranean.
- Labour markets, employment, and migration
- Demographics and migration
- Highly-skilled migration

### **Background of this Handbook Proposal**

This Handbook proposal is one of the key actions of *EuroMedMig*, a platform of researchers working on Mediterranean Migration created in 2018 on the occasion of the IMISCOE General Conference at Barcelona. *EuroMedMig* has become an IMISCOE Regional Network and it has received institutional support from Union for the Mediterranean.

It is also an activity within a three-year (2019-2022) Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Network Program (Project Reference: 611260-EPP-1-2019-1-ES-EPPJMO-NETWORK) entitled “Mapping European Mediterranean Migration Studies” (Acronym: *EUMedMi*) and coordinated by GRITIM-UPF. More information can be found [here](#).

As a preliminary actions, we have published some first drafts within the *EuroMedMig* Working Papers series and invited some contributors to discuss their first drafts during the *EuroMedMig* PhD Summer School that is to take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2021.

### **Market and target-audience**

There is clearly no similar initiative in the current scholarly market. There is a huge number of handbooks on specific aspects of migration and refugees (economic, child, gender, international law, security, social policy, etc.), there are also some on Mediterranean Studies (for instance R. Gillespie & I. Martín (2009). [Researching the Mediterranean](#). British Council. Cidob Editions,) or specific policies such as Mediterranean Politics (R. Gillespie & F.Volpi, F. (2018). *Routledge handbook of Mediterranean politics*. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge). Yet, there is no Handbook linking Mediterranean, and Mediterranean studies in an articulated way. In this sense, this *Handbook* is a first comprehensive initiative.

This *Handbook* will certainly interest a vast number of scholars working on Mediterranean Migration, young and senior researchers, but also policy makers and Civil Society Organizations’ high representatives, international foundations and organizations interested in linking the Mediterranean and Migration. Given the variety of contributors in terms of background, geographical distribution, and multi-varied approaches, we can easily reach a large readership. We will promote book reviews and build a strategic dissemination plan. Additionally, we envision organizing a book launch throughout the Mediterranean in the framework of our *EuroMedMig* platform.

### **Your abstract submission:**

Place your contribution within a cluster and subarea.

Title:

Abstract: max. 200/250 words

Brief bio (including email and website, ORCID): max. 200 words.

Deadline: 20th March

Confirmation acceptance or rejection: April

The purpose is to submit the book proposal in May 2021.

### **Brief Bios of editors:**

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Full Professor in the [Department of Political and Social Sciences](#), Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF-Barcelona). His main lines of research deal with contemporary issues of liberal democracy in contexts of diversity, especially the relationship between democracy, citizenship, and immigration. He conducts theoretical and empirical research on migration and in the Mediterranean area. He is the Director of [GRITIM-UPF](#) (Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration), and of the [Master's Program in Migration Studies at UPF](#). He is a member of the Board of Directors of the largest research network on Immigration in Europe [IMISCOE](#) and Chair the External Affairs Committee. He coordinates [EuroMedMig](#) (Euro-Mediterranean Research Network on Migration) and [EUMedMi](#) a Jean Monnet Network "Mapping European Mediterranean Migration Studies". Additionally, he is a member of editorial boards of several academic journals and an occasional contributor to media and policy debates.

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Ibrahim Awad is at present Professor of Global Affairs and Director, Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, at the American University in Cairo. He holds a BA degree in political science from Cairo University and a PhD degree in political science from the Graduate Institute of International Studies, University of Geneva, Switzerland. He has worked for the League of Arab States, the United Nations and the International Labour Organization, holding positions of Secretary of the Commission, UN-ESCWA, Director, ILO Sub-regional Office for North Africa and Director, ILO International Migration Programme.

He is currently Chair of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), hosted by the World Bank, Chair of the Steering Committee of the Euro-Mediterranean Research Network on International Migration (EuroMedMig) and Senior Fellow at the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. He also serves on the editorial boards of several academic journals.

For more information about his research activities and publications see: <https://www.aucegypt.edu/fac/ibrahimawad>