

# Human mobility in a globalising world

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Guest editors

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The present publication is the fourth collective publication by the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Global Change and Human Mobility (Globility).

The fifth Globility meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> April, 2003, in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. The local organizer was Pere Salva-Tomas (University of the Balearic Islands). Forty-five scholars from seventeen countries attended and twenty-three papers were presented. The sixth meeting was a Session organised together with the European Society for Geography (Eugeo) during the RGS-IBG Annual Conference in September 2003 in London.

The Globility Commission has decided to publish the results of the meetings in Palma and in London within the framework of collaboration already established with C. Vandermotten, co-editor of *Belgeo*. P. Salva was particularly involved in the organisation of the Palma di Mallorca conference; his initiative and organisational skills made the Globility meeting accessible also to colleagues coming from developing countries and to young scholars with limited means. For this reason, we must also thank the University and the Government of the Balearic Islands (Universitat de les Illes Balears e il Govern de les Illes Balears).

For some of the scholars who collaborated in this edition of *Belgeo* it is also particularly difficult to

access international publications. These are necessarily produced in English, a language and culture foreign to the great majority of those that contribute to the Commission's work. Furthermore, not all the names of the researchers who contribute to Globility are sufficiently well-known in Anglo-Saxon literature to have commercial <<pulling power>> and therefore are of little interest to the publishers that base their activities on economic sustainability. The freedom of choice granted by *Belgeo* has enabled us to select the contributions on the basis of quality rather than their reputation. This is a great opportunity for those that have the possibility of accessing the international market of culture, but also for those readers who will in this way become acquainted with different worlds and schools of thought of great value, even though at times unfamiliar. Thus, Globility has created within its framework a group of scholars who have learned to know each other better, to collaborate and who succeed in undertaking all of this in a climate of friendship and mutual respect. Like all the IGU Commissions, Globility

is an open entity and is thus particularly interested in welcoming new arrivals and collaborations.

The selection of the papers and the proposals for their re-elaboration are the result of a joint effort with P. Salva and C. Vandermotten. The special issue could not have been realised in the manner and timeframe desired without the skill and continuous collaboration of Tania Lines, who also provided linguistic editing.

from 'Editorial'

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