International Geographical Union
Union Géographique Internationale

Report of Commission Activities 2008-12

IGU Commission on Global Change and Human Mobility
(GLOBILITY)

http://130.54.245.7/geo/globility/
1. Membership

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B. The number of commission members in total (129) and by 48 country as of 31 December 2011.

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2. Meetings

A. The meetings Globility commission organized during the period 2008 through 2012 with information on their locations, dates, and numbers of participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<th>year</th>
<th>Oral Contributors</th>
<th>participants</th>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>City</td>
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<td>Month</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<tr>
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<td>November</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>Cologne</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>26-30</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>25?</td>
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<td></td>
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</table>

B. A brief summary of the questions addressed at each meeting and the findings or conclusions resulting from the discussions. Please highlight the new ideas and insights identified at each meeting and their immediate and long-term theoretical and practical implications.

From the Tunis meeting were discussed issues of human mobility seen in a chronological perspective in relation to the spatial dimension. This was done for Africa, the Middle East, Asia, America and Europe. Were considered foreign communities in major cities to test the possibility of identifying possible logics governing settlements of immigrant communities. Were also addressed issues of those flows that can not be defined tourism and migration, and even those which develop over space and in a different location and integration of the work activities. From the meetings of 2009 and 2010 attention was also paid to international economic crisis, the effects of this on urban development and housing market, and the interrelationship with human mobility. These issues have raised major scientific problems but also the interest of some scientific journals that have turned to Globility for the publication of special issues.

C. The IGC Cologne 2012 Conference
At the Cologne Conference 2012 Globility has proposed two sessions, one on general themes and the other on the specific relations between human mobility, economic growth and
sustainable development. The number of abstracts received will organize 7 sessions

3. Networking

Globility has maintained contacts with other IGU Commissions. In particular with the Tourism, the Population and the local development Commission. But there was not the possibility of holding joint meetings since the organization of 9 meetings have required a significant commitment by Globility members. Universities around the world in recent years have suffered from the funding reduction. This has made difficult the participation of a much larger number of researchers at the Globility meetings. In particular, the meetings organized independently from IGU by Globility as those of Gran Canaria (2009), Haifa (2010) and Rome (2011) did not require a registration fee. In the period 2008-2012 no economic contribution was received by IGU. Instead resources were found to organize local activities and study visits at the expenses of local organizers. For this reason, at Globility Rome meeting has been experienced the broadcasting of live streaming of the contributors. 99 listening groups have been registered following the Globility Conference. The material of the streaming live is being revised for inclusion in the Globility website. Considering that each listening group could have by at least 4 people it is possible to calculate that a few hundred researchers followed the meeting in Rome at no cost for their trip and staying in Rome. Streaming live in Rome must be tested further, verified and improved. But in spite of all the limit of what was initiated in Rome the experience could contribute to new forms of international cooperation especially in a time of economic crisis.

4. Publications

A. Newsletters, special journal issues, and books published or anticipated during the 2008 to 2012 period (provide complete citations for all publications).

The following special issues have been published as a common
results of Globility activity.

A part of the papers presented at Globility's Tunis Meeting held in August 2008 was published at Croatian journal Migracijske i etničke teme (Migration and Ethnic Themes), Vol.24, No.4, 2008.

This issue includes the following four:

Wei Li and Lucia Lo: People – Money Co-movement and the Ethnic Financial Sectors in Canada and the U.S.
Cristóbal Mendoza and Ortiz Guitart: Spanish Professionals in Mexico City: Narratives on Work and Labour Markets

Rosalia Avila Tapies: Building Friendship Networks and Intercultural Spaces: The Case of Japanese Women in Spain

Makrem Mandhouj: International Migration and Socio-Spatial Dynamics in the Tunisian Sahel: The Case of the Town of Sayada


In preparation, they should be published during 2012, are the following special issues of scientific journals;

BELGEO, Belgian Journal of Geography
List of articles and volumes published by Globility members on the issue of global change and human mobility, in English and/or their national languages:


Chaban N., Williams A.M. and Holland M. (2011), ‘Crossing cultures: Analysing the experiences of NZ returnees from the EU (UK vs. non-UK), International Journal of Intercultural Relations 35: 776-90

Chaban N., Williams A.M. and Holland M.(2009), Return Migrants in New Zealand, IPPR report,


citizens, Jimbun-chiri (Japanese Journal of Human Geography) 63 (6).


cross-border marriage migration: Demographic patterns and social issues (IIAS


foreign residents of Japan: Salient features and multivariate explanation,


economic development and interregional interactions in the globalization context”. Rostov-on-Don, June 15-18, 2011 года. Rostov-on-Don, Vuzovskaya kniga, 2011, pp. 82-95. 26829 s.


GENTILESCHI M.L. 2009, Alcuni aspetti dell’emigrazione sarda in Argentina tra Ottocento e Novecento, relazione al Convegno L’emigrazione delle popolazioni insulari del Mediterraneo in Argentina fra il XIX e il XX secolo, Villacidro (CA), 22-23/9/2006, in R. Callia, M. Contu (a cura di), L’emigrazione dalle isole del Mediterraneo all’America Latina tra XIX e XX secolo.


http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/geogrevjapanb/81/1/_contents/-char/ja/


Imploding populations in Japan and Germany, Leiden and Boston: Brill, 420-442.

in S MacKay (ed), Refugees, Recent Migrants and Employment, challenging barriers


Ishikawa, Y. (2010): Role of matchmaking agencies for international marriage in

Ishikawa, Y. (2011): Recent in-migration to peripheral regions of Japan in the context


Ishikawa, Y. ed. (2011): Chizu de miru nihon no gaikoku-jin (Mapping foreign


Japan: Marital and job opportunities, in Yang, W.-S. and Lu, M. C.-W. eds. Asian


knowledge transfer: a case study of Slovak doctors, *Social Science and...


Köppen, B. et al. (ed.): Internationalisierung: Die unterschätzte Komponente des demographischen Wandels in Deutschland? Schriftenreihe der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Demographie Bd. ##, Norderstedt: BOD


McDonagh, J.; Nienaber, B. und Woods, M. [2012 accepted]: Globalization and Europe’s Rural Regions. (Ashgate)


Nienaber, B. and Roos, U. [2012 in print]: Der demographische Wandel und die Integration von Migranten in den saarländischen Kleinstädten Perl und Schmelz. In:


residents in Japan), Kyoto: Nakanishiya Publishing Co. (in Japanese)


Rostami S. & Parolin B. (2009), Rural Transportation Needs - a GIS-based analysis, VDM, Germany (available for sale on www.amazon,com)


Salis S. and Williams A.M. (2010), 'Knowledge Sharing through Face-To-Face Communication and Labour Productivity: Evidence from British Workplaces,' British Journal of Industrial Relations V48(2): 436-459


40 (4): 806-830.

Shaw G. and Williams A.M. (2009), ‘Knowledge Transfer and Management in Tourism Organisations: an emerging research agenda’, Tourism Management 30 (3) 325–335


to Japan: Salient features and multivariate explanation, Environment and Planning A


United States: Students, non-students, and recent brides of non-Japan-born American


Weidenfeld A., Butler R., and Williams A.M. (2010), ‘Why cluster? Text and sub-text in the engagement of tourism development policies with the cluster concept’, in D Dredge and J Jenkins (eds), Tourism Planning and Policies: Case Studies, Ashgate


Williams A.M. (2008), ‘International retirement migration, a northern European

Williams A.M. (2008), It’s not what you know, but where you know: human capital, knowledge and international migration, London Metropolitan, ISET Working Paper Series No 7, pp 32


Williams A.M. (in press), 'Tourism, migration and human capital: knowledge and skills at the intersection of flows', in W C Gartner and C Hsu (eds.), Handbook of Tourism Research.

Williams A.M. and Balaz V. (2008), International mobility, learning and


Williams A.M. and Baláž V. (2008), Air travel reregulation and regional economies in Europe: unintended and forseen consequences for productivity, London Metropolitan, ISET Working Paper Series No 3, pp 31


Williams A.M.(2008), 'Employability and international migration: theoretical perspectives',


C. The URL of the commission’s web site.

http://130.54.245.7/geo/globility/

The Globility web site managed since the year 2000 by prof Yoshitaka Ishikawa represents the major instrument of information among the Globility Commission members. It constitutes also the archive of the Globility Commission since it contains all the documents produced by Globility since the year 2000.

6. Continuation

A. The new name of the commission, if it is to be changed.

The Commission confirms the name “Global Change and Human Mobility” and the acronym Globility when it can be applied

B. A concise (100-200 words) statement of the commission’s mission.

On the base of the achievements in the previous activities, Globility has sought to answer the following questions:

1. What are the necessary conditions for a change in the dimensions and characteristics of international mobility? Is there sufficient empirical evidence of this change?

2. Is there an indication of the need for a new dialectic between the global and local dimensions? Is it possible to create a model to interpret how human mobility constitutes an element of connection between the local and global dimensions?

3. What are the implications of the new forms of mobility? What are their causes and effects?
4. What are the characteristics and dimensions of the changes relating to mobility?

5. What are the interactions between the forms of mobility identified? Is it possible to identify a new theory of human mobility? Can a satisfactory empirical analysis be conducted on the basis of this new theorisation?

6. What are the effects of global economic crisis in the current trend of human mobility flows? Are there empirical evidences regarding the complexity of mobility in this economic postfordist stage?

C. A list of the individuals who will comprise the new commission’s steering committee.

1. Membership

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D. The work plan envisaged for the new commission, including a description of the scholarly importance of the anticipated results of the commission’s work during the 2012-2016 period.

The work plan envisaged during the 2012-2016 period Globility studies are hindered by the difficulty in correctly detecting and studying the phenomenon at a general level. The phenomenon will be analysed on a combination of researchers at global and local level.
Each territory is capable of activating original mobility processes with characteristics and implications which do not occur in the same way elsewhere. If each place is a separate case then at an international level general qualitative conditions can be indicated, but certainly not a precise correspondence of quantitative definitions and characteristics. The local level and the territory become the favoured parameters for the observation of flows.

Indeed, at this level it can be better assessed to what extent the economic development of a location determines the activation of population flows, whether temporary or definitive, and vice versa, that is, to what degree these flows contribute to development in its various stages.

Further issues to be considered with specific attention will be:

1. Environmental factors, reflecting their growing importance in the contemporary mobility patterns, especially in the developed world. Some of these factors have been considered in different categories (e.g., in social reasons linked to quality of life), which is not any more justified. Environmental group of mobility may include: escaping air pollution and transport congestions in central cities, search for more moderate climate (e.g., north-south human mobility in the USA), etc.

2. Better schooling for children, a factor for mobility of many families, especially for the young ones with children.

3. Health concerns: an emerging factor of new age mobility, as people with respiratory problems (e.g., asthmatics) and arthritics choose to move to areas with drier climates, such as sunny arid regions and deserts, e.g., in the USA and Israel.

4. Urban crime, or more specifically, an attempt to escape from it is another cause of mobility.

5. Availability of state-sponsored (i.e., public) housing drives people from one area to another in which such housing is available, especially in welfare states of Scandinavia where states invest a lot in its provision for the needy.
6. The impact of financial crisis in the demand of the labour market and its consequences in the traditional flows from Southern countries to the US and to the EU, especially in areas whose economic growth was based on labour-intensive activities with small requirements of capital.

7. The implications of the new migratory policies in certain areas that have been externalising the control of borders, as an integral component of the actions and policies that, while favouring the free circulation of people between certain countries, have also contributed to the construction of “fortress states”.

8. The increase in the demand of qualified immigrants in those developed countries specialized in human capital, R&D activities and other specific services and in those named as emerging countries.

9. The economic changes brought by the recession define a heterogeneous scenario between the human mobility and the new global economic processes, with differentiated local effects and an uncertain dimension, what makes up a social and scientific challenge.