

EULab Summer School on Labour Migration in the European Union

Call for insights for the Young Scholars Workshop
on Vulnerability of Labour Migrants
NEW Deadline: 10 June 2023

Naples and online (on MS Teams)

Monday, 26 June 2023

10:00 - 13:00

Aims of the Young Scholars Workshop

The Workshop aims to bring together young researchers under the age of 35 from a variety of backgrounds (international and European law, social and political sciences as well as international relations). The ultimate objective of the Workshop is to allow not only the exchange of research ideas and perspectives but also to foster a fruitful discussion on crucial aspects of career development with specific reference to interdisciplinary migration studies (such as for instance research project design, interdisciplinary approaches to research topics, dissemination of research outcomes, and so forth). Participants will be given the opportunity to discuss both their research and their concerns in relation to career building and development in an interactive and informal environment under the direction of senior academics with specific expertise in the field of migration studies, including through the lens of the notion of vulnerability.

Contact us

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Methodology

The Young Scholars Workshop aims to foster a discussion on career development in relation to the specific area of migration studies. Therefore, participants will be encouraged to present their research topics and to highlight the specific issues or obstacles they have encountered while carrying out such research, as well as to share their doubts with other researchers in the same field. To facilitate this discussion, the Workshop will be divided in two parts. The first part will be devoted to short presentations by participants concerning the subject of their Insight and, more generally, their research area and their specific research topics. In this first part, participants will be encouraged to share both successes and failures experienced in their academic activities. A second part of the Workshop, then, will draw on the experiences gathered in the first part and will consist in a reflection on the most effective strategies to overcome the most common obstacles concerning career development in the field of migration studies.

The background

As the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) acknowledged in 2018, migrants “are not inherently vulnerable, nor do they lack resilience and agency”. Vulnerability is the result of intersecting factors, which may be associated to the situation in the country of origin or of arrival, to the conditions of the travel, and/or to the specific characteristics of each person. Ensuring access to appropriate protection requires the individual assessment of the situation of each migrant.

This approach reflects the position of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). According to this agency, during the assessment of applications for international protection, officers must consider if the asylum seeker fits into one or more categories of vulnerable individuals who might include, for example, people of diverse sexual orientations and genders, people with disabilities, racialized people, children.



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The ultimate goal of acknowledging the unique vulnerability of people who belong to a particular group is to give special consideration to the demands of its members. However, the protection needs of vulnerable migrants should be balanced with the need to preserve their agency, *viz.* not to treat them as powerless victims.

This attitude proves to be especially crucial for the protection of labour migrants, with particular attention to sectors where the rate of (in)formal employment of third country nationals is significantly high, such as agriculture and domestic work. For example, informing migrant workers about their rights and the duties of the employers may be one of the means to fight labour exploitation, ensure protection to the victims of abuses, and, at the same time, to empower those who suffered a violation of their fundamental rights.

Submission of insights

To facilitate interactions and discussions, prospective participants are invited to submit a short insight in the form of talking points, posters, outlines, bullet points or conceptual maps concerning their research on one or more of the following topics:

- Personal and situational vulnerability of labour migrants
- Vulnerability of migrant workers under international law (including soft-law instruments)
- Vulnerability of migrant workers in the case-law of international (quasi-)judicial bodies
- Protection of vulnerable migrant workers under EU law
- Special residency permits under national law towards vulnerable migrant workers (e.g., to the benefit of victims of labour exploitation)
- Legal means to fight labour exploitation of migrant workers (e.g., in the agricultural and domestic sector, working in the gig economy such as food delivery platforms)
- Challenges in the identification of and in providing redress to victims of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation
- Obstacles faced by undocumented migrants in accessing socio-economic rights (including but not limited to social security benefits, labour protections on the workplace, and so forth)



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- Social inclusion of migrant workers and the role of the civil society
- Travel-related vulnerabilities of migrants flowing by sea and land
- Gender perspectives on labour migration
- Climate change as a pull factor of labour migration
- Means to empower labour migrants
- Challenges posed by the conflict in Ukraine to migrant workers

Insights should be submitted by 10 June 2023 to eulab2020@gmail.com with the subject line “2023 Young Scholars Workshop”. Submitted insights should not exceed 500 words and should include a description of the research questions and topics analysed by the prospective participant at the time of the submission. Successful applicants will be informed by 15th June 2023.

Organisation

The Young Scholars Workshop will take place in a hybrid form: it will be held in person at University of Naples Federico II (Italy), and online, on MS Teams.

Participation to the Young Scholars Workshop is free.

Participants will be asked to cover for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Lunch and coffee breaks will be provided by the EULab Summer School.

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