

Workshop proposal nr.8

Title: **Intersectionally gendered trajectories of labour migration to and within the European Economic Area**

Organizer(s): Unnur Dís Skaptadóttir, University of Iceland

Anna Matyska, University of Tampere

Email: unnurd@hi.is and Anna.Matyska@uta.fi

Intersectionally gendered trajectories of labour migration to and within the European Economic Area

Labour mobility within and to the European Economic Area remains topical. On one hand, labour migration from third countries is perceived as a solution to the weakening dependency ratios in Europe, and to the labour deficit particularly in health and social care as well as in manual professions such as construction. On the other hand, the EU strives to compete over highly educated workforce, i.e. the “best migrant talent”. Economic inequalities continue to produce labour mobility within the European Economic Area, which has been further accelerated by the crisis in the Eurozone. A brain drain has been reported to take place in the austerity-ridden Greece, for instance. In many national labour markets, the gendered, ethnicised and classed figures such as the “Polish construction worker”, the “Filipino nurse”, or “Ukrainian domestic worker” have become recognizable in public discourse. However, the status of different types of labour migrants varies widely in Europe, from the rights of family reunification to the recognition of skills and qualifications to salary levels and types of contract. In general, third country nationals’ access to both rights and professional circles remains weak throughout the EEA, but also this often depends on the destination country, the nationality, gender and class of the migrant, as well as on the profession. This panel is interested in empirical research on how different national labour markets within the EEA are both shaped by labour immigration, and how the national migration and employment regimes also shape the migrants’ position therein. The panel seeks papers that illuminate the role of various collective bodies, from market to state actors to trade unions and beyond, in shaping migrants’ working lives and their experience of mobility to and within the EEA. The panel is particularly interested in the gendered and classed aspects of the phenomenon, including how institutions produce particularly gendered and classed migration streams and how they affect the labour market structures of sending and receiving countries in gendered and classed ways.