

## *Workshop proposal nr.40*

**Title:**            **Descendants of immigrants in Western societies**

**Organizer(s):**  Arnfinn Haagensen Midtbøen, Norwegian Institute for Social Research  
Jon Horgen Friberg, Fafo

**Email:**            [a.h.midtboen@samfunnsforskning.no](mailto:a.h.midtboen@samfunnsforskning.no) and [Jon.Horgen.Friberg@fafo.no](mailto:Jon.Horgen.Friberg@fafo.no)

### **Descendants of immigrants in Western societies**

It is widely acknowledged that the long term impact of immigration will not primarily be determined by the fate of the immigrants, but by those of their children and grandchildren. Today, new generations of youth with diverse ethnic backgrounds are coming of age in a time of economic crisis and increasing ethno-religious and political tension across the western world. Will these young people be able to overcome the social, cultural and class barriers that separate so many of their immigrant parents from the native majority populations? Today, the answer to this question seems increasingly vital for the long term social cohesion of western multicultural societies. While the challenge of integrating recently arrived immigrants into labour markets and receiving societies may be costly, difficult and politically controversial, it is a challenge that both immigrants and receiving societies can perceive as a temporary transitional process. However, if boundaries of social class and inequality permanently converge with ethnic, racial or religious boundaries across generations, it will be a far more serious challenge – not least for egalitarian societies like the Nordic countries.

In this workshop, we invite scholars from across disciplines and countries to join in an academic discussion of questions related to the wider integration of children of immigrants and young people of ethnic minority background. We welcome contributions which focus on identity, belonging on the one hand, and social mobility in terms of educational success and employment outcomes on the other. We welcome papers that use both quantitative and qualitative methods in order to disentangle the structural, social and cultural dimensions of inter-generational integration, as well as the complexities of risks and resources that young people face – within educational systems, labour markets, families, transnational ethnic communities, peer-groups, the attitudes of wider society, and the role of gender.