

## **SOSGEO2800 – Migration, diversity, and inequality**

### **Course content**

This course provides a theoretical and empirical introduction to contemporary migration and consequences of migration. Whereas migration always has characterized human societies, contemporary patterns of global migration are novel in their political, ethnic and religious significance for diversity and equality within and across nation-states. International human rights regimes counter regional and nation-state independence in struggles over asylum requirements, family reunion rules, welfare rights for migrants and their children, and integration policies. Discussion of migration, refugees and integration increasingly characterize public debate, and questions concerning migration and integration rate high in national as well as regional polls about important political issues and in elections.

This course will focus on understanding contemporary migration in a historical and comparative perspective, with a major empirical focus on Europe. Why does migration create such political turbulence, and what are the reasons behind contemporary migration? How does migration connect with diversity, and does migration increase or decrease national and global patterns of inequality? Do for instance the children of immigrants and ethnic minorities fare worse or better than natives in getting jobs, education and more informal social inclusion? Theories of ethnicity, nationalism, transnationalism and racism will inform the discussion of how migration links with diversity and inequality in the contemporary world.

### **Learning outcome**

#### **Knowledge**

The course will provide:

- An overview of major trends in global migration and its consequences for diversity and inequality within and across nation-state borders
- Key social-science concepts and theories used in the study of migration and diversity
- Analytical perspectives in explanations of migration, diversity and inequality

#### **Skills**

You will develop the skills to.

- Critically assess media and political debates about migration and integration
- Use different concepts and theories in order to understand and explain migration and diversity
- Critically review empirical studies of migration and diversity
- Discuss and write about migration and diversity, following the basic rules of scientific inquiry

#### **Competences**

- Think analytically about migration, diversity and inequality
- The ability to think about contemporary processes in a comparative and historical perspective
- The ability to distinguish between academic knowledge versus personal perceptions
- Respect for ethical considerations involved in scientific work in general