

**Shifting the Focus, Creating New Collaborations:**

**Exploring International Migration Issues in Rural and Marginalized Areas**

A large part of research in migration studies focuses on urban centers. Context-specific social processes surrounding international immigration to and diversity in rural regions, small villages and marginalized, or *downscaled*, areas have been widely omitted by scholarship and policy. However, the often specific social make-up, community structures and spatial developments in those areas, may bring about dynamics that are different from those in big cities.

There are researchers from different fields, such as rural geography and migration studies, who are committed to researching topics related to international migration into rural areas. In this workshop we will explore how the different disciplinary traditions influence the research of migration in rural areas. Is there a difference in concepts and methodology used? How can we incorporate the insights from the different disciplines to enrich the research?

This workshop invites early career researchers, PhD candidates, post-Doc researchers and master students, who are keen to shift, decenter or broaden the focus on international immigration into rural areas, villages, marginalized and shrinking areas to come together. Building on co-creation, it aims to provide inspiration, tools and a community to do so. We hope to work towards creating critical and fruitful research on migration processes in rural and marginalized areas together.

The event will consist of two sessions, the first takes place on **2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021, 10-12.30h** and requires a short preparation exercise a few days before the meeting. The second meeting is on **16<sup>th</sup> June 10-12 and 14-16h**. Below you find more precise information on the two sessions.

**Sign up:**

To apply and prepare for the event we ask you to fill in the following [form](#)<sup>1</sup> before May 25<sup>th</sup>. In case we receive more application than spots available we make a selection based on the application forms. The selected participants will be notified no later than May 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Organizers:**

The event is organized by Jana Finke, Rianne Hadders and Jana-Sarah Hönnige from the Department for Human Geography and Spatial Planning, Utrecht University. They work for the H2020 project

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://fd21.formdesk.com/universiteitutrecht-geo/DAMR-PhD-event>

## [Welcoming Spaces.](#)

For content questions contact Jana Finke: [j.c.finke@uu.nl](mailto:j.c.finke@uu.nl) or Rianne Hadders: [r.hadders@uu.nl](mailto:r.hadders@uu.nl). For practical questions, please email Jana-Sarah Hönnige: [j.s.hönnige@students.uu.nl](mailto:j.s.hönnige@students.uu.nl).

### ***Session 1: Exchange Platform***

**Date:** June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021, 10-12.30h

**Format:** Online via Zoom

The goal is to provide early career researchers with a platform for exchange and possibly future collaboration. In this interactive meeting we come together to exchange insights and questions on immigration and immigration related social processes rural and marginalized areas, that arise from our research. That will allow us to co-create session 2. Prior to the meeting, everyone will have submitted their reflections on the input form.

### ***Session 2: Workshop with advanced scholars***

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> June 10-12h and 14-16h

**Format:** Online, via zoom

The second session brings early-career researchers and advanced researchers together, to stimulate cross-fertilization and discussion between different academic fields to stimulate critical debate of the state of the art of research on migration to rural and peripheral areas. In an interactive roundtable, advanced researchers from different disciplines (rural sociology, geography, migration studies, other critical social /political scientists) exchange thoughts on the questions arising from session one. Splitting up in workshops, all participants will share their reflections on one shared methodological or theoretical dilemma, stimulating exchange between early career and advanced scholars from different disciplines.

*Guests for the panel (to be confirmed):*

- ***Prof. Michael Woods - Aberystwyth University***

Prof. Michael Woods' research interests focus on rural geography and political geography. He is Co-Director of the Centre for Welsh Politics and Society / WISERD@Aberystwyth, an interdisciplinary research centre bringing together geographers, political scientists, historians and other researchers. He is also Aberystwyth Co-Director of the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD), and Co-Director and Theme Leader for the ESRC WISERD/Civil Society Research Centre (2014-19). Mike holds a prestigious European Research Council Advanced Grant, GLOBAL-RURAL, which investigates globalization and rural areas (2014-19) and is Co-ordinator of the €5m IMAJINE project, funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme to examine territorial inequalities and spatial justice (2017-2021).

- ***Dr. Rosario Sampedro - University of Valladolid***

**Rosario Sampedro** (PhD in Sociology) is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of Valladolid (Spain). She has thirty years of researching experience in rural sociology, rural development and gender issues, with a focus on the different dimensions of mobility as a key factor of current rural societies. She is a member of the Research and Study Group “Southern and Mediterranean Europe” (European Society of Rural Sociology). She has coordinated INMI-RURAL, a research project focused on the settlement of foreign immigrants in depopulated rural areas in Spain, funded by Spanish Research and Innovation Programme “Challenges of Society”, for the period 2016-2019 (CSO2015-67525-R, MINECO / FEDER).

- ***Prof. Sarah Neal – University of Sheffield***

Sarah Neal is Professor of Sociology at the University of Sheffield. Her research interests and publications are focused on the following areas and their intersections: ethnicity, race and multiculturalism; community, belonging and in/exclusion; rural and urban spaces; quotidian social life; sociology of policy processes and qualitative methods. Sarah is Editor (with Karim Murji) of the International Sociological Association journal *Current Sociology* and she is a member of the Editorial Board of *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

- ***Dr. Marlies Meijer – Utrecht University***

Marlies Meijer is Assistant Professor of Human Geography and Spatial Planning at Utrecht University. She has a background in spatial planning and rural development studies and holds a PhD in Human Geography and Spatial Planning from the Radboud University Nijmegen (2018). This PhD Research focused on community-led and informal planning practices in depopulating regions across Europe. For this research project she worked as a visiting researcher at Universidad de Santiago de Compostela (Spain) and Linköping University (the Netherlands). Her current research focusses successes and failures of citizen initiatives in rural and urban depopulating contexts.

- ***Prof. Birgit Glorius – University of Chemnitz***

Prof. Dr. Birgit Glorius is Professor of Human Geography with a focus on European Migration Research and a member of the Institute for European Studies at the TU Chemnitz. She studied geography in Erlangen-Nuremberg, Würzburg and Austin / Texas. She completed her

doctorate at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg with a thesis on Polish migration to Germany from a transnational perspective. She has been working at the TU Chemnitz since 2013. Her research focuses on migration research and demographic change; She also works on socio-geographical topics and questions of regional development. Regional research focuses in recent years have been the Saxon-Czech border area, Bulgaria and the Western Balkans.