



*** M.A. in Migration Studies



*** תכנית דוקטורט בג'יאוגרפיה

Call for Papers on Gender and Forced Migration

Tel Aviv University on, April 29th, 2021

Gender is an important factor in forced migration and its resulting patterns, due to cultural, identity and contextual diversities. The causes, experiences and consequences of forced movements impact women and men and their gender roles differently. The term 'forced migration' is used to denote a range of contexts in which a person is compelled to leave their country or place of habitual residence due to factors such as overriding economic, security (e.g. gang violence) or protection concerns (in asylum cases).

While migration research has traditionally focused on the male experience of labor migration, flight from persecution due to political activities and other irregular movements, female migration has largely been associated with work in the domestic sector, as a dependent in asylum cases brought by male family members, or as victims of trafficking or sex work. For a long time, they were of considerably less interest to academics and policymakers. However, over the last two decades, both the reality and perception of forced female and male migration has changed considerably. Indeed, many receiving countries today are experiencing an increase in female forced migration at a rate, which equals or exceeds that of men. In some regions of the world such as in the Americas female migration has become the dominant form, a pattern referred to as the "feminization" of migration. Due to both the rising numbers and the reasons behind these movements, scholars have begun devoting more attention to the gendered patterns of migration and forced migration in particular.

In addition to the focus on the male experience of migration, research has also long neglected the effect of other variables and their intersectionality. Gender has been perceived as a one-dimensional variable, while other factors were ignored such as class, race, ethnicity,

education, and social structures in the country of origin which can contribute to the vulnerability of women, girls and other marginalized groups. An analysis which considers gender as an isolated component has proven to be superficial. To fully understand gendered experiences of forced migration it is necessary to analyze the multiple layers of disadvantage and their intersectionality, especially in the context of discrimination, violence against women, traditional patriarchal systems and governance structures in the country of origin, as well as in the host country. A gender analysis of forced migration also includes the experiences and patterns related to LGBTI migration, which has risen significantly in recent years and is expected to increase in the future. Additional research focusing on the specific experiences and vulnerabilities of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals during the migratory journey and upon arrival is important to improving the physical and psychological well-being of these groups- which are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and human rights violations.

These gaps in forced migration research raise relevant questions and indicate a strong need for the application of a comprehensive gender perspective. With this context in mind, a workshop will be held at Tel Aviv University with a focus on gendered focusing on the gendered dimensions of forced migration, humanitarian action, intersectionality, and practices such as “sextortion” (sexual extortion). The main objectives are to gain a deeper understanding of needs in the field and to expose the current research activities on the topic.

The workshop is organized by the Graduate Program on Migration Studies, the Program on Emergency and Disaster Management and the NCJW Women and Gender Studies at Tel Aviv University in collaboration with the Israeli School of Humanitarian Action and SID- ISRAEL.

The workshop will take place at **Tel Aviv University on April 29th, between 12:00-16:00. If the consequences of the COVID-19 will limit us, we will hold a virtual workshop.**

Researchers (including graduate students and practitioners) are hereby invited to send abstracts no longer than two pages (500-1000 words) describing their research. The research should relate to gender in the context of ‘forced’ migration. This may, however, include a nuanced understanding of diverse pressures that ‘force’ women, men and LGBTI to migrate (such as family or gang violence, severe economic need etc.) and thus include both voluntary

and involuntary movements. Proposals may consider gender aspects at any stage of displacement or forced migration, including pre-departure in order to analyze the reasons for leaving the country of origin, during transit and in the host country.

Subjects may include, but are not limited to:

- a. How does gender affect one's risk factors during migratory journeys?
- b. What other socio-economic and cultural characteristics compound or diminish those risks?
- c. Do current patterns of female forced migration convey insights regarding changing gender roles (e.g. economic, political) and what influence women/men can bring to bear on new solutions - both in the country of origin and the host country?
- d. Examples of policies and protection systems that hold promise in addressing the gendered aspects of forced migration
- e. How do socio-economic status/class and gender affect each other and the vulnerability of migrants (male, female, LGBT)?
- f. Do current anti-migration and refugee policies, practices and rhetoric contain gender dimensions (intentionally or by their effect)?
- g. Are values such as dignity, human rights, respect for diversity and humanitarian imperatives upheld differently depending on gender biases?

For further inquiries, contact: **Dr. Ina Kube: inakubbe@gmail.com** Or **Rosa Da Costa: rosafidalgodacosta@gmail.com** OR **Dr. Einav Levy: e.levy@bhumanitarian.com**

Please submit your paper abstract at the latest by **March, 11th**, to:

Dr. Ina Kubbe: inakubbe@gmail.com

Decisions on the acceptance of abstracts will be provided within two weeks time.