



## **MiReKoc 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR CONFERENCE**

**“Border, Mobility and Diversity: Old Questions, New Challenges”**

**November 20-21, 2014**

*Migration Research Center at Koç University (MiReKoc), Istanbul*

***CALL FOR PAPERS***

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

**Douglas S. Massey, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and  
International Affairs at Princeton University**

Migration studies is a relatively new field of academic scholarship which, in spite of its novelty, has gathered exceptional momentum in understanding the real-world situations through theory. Over the last two years the questions of ethnic diversity, integration problems, demographic demise and the management of refugee movements indicate that there is a growing need for a policy making process which utilizes the findings of both theory and research. However, the field of migration studies is also marked by shortcomings and biases, leaving room for improvement. These include the over accumulation of research about certain topics, aspects of migration and geographies, the domination of the receiving country’s perspective in the theoretical frameworks and the lack of extensivity of the systematic and sound research methodologies. Within this context, research centers play a central role in promoting studies on theory and research, *and* in linking them with policy.

The international migration conference with the theme of “Border, Mobility and Diversity: Old Questions, New Challenges” will take an inter-disciplinary approach to draw on the past and current state of migration studies and to determine a vision and direction for its future. It is aimed to bring together a wide range of scholars, researchers, policy makers and organizations to discuss various aspects of migration studies.

**Three main themes** of the conference are determined as:

#### *Borders and Border Regimes*

Borders are being defined and redefined in this global age, reflecting on the patterns and dynamics of migration. Many states today are adopting policies to facilitate the mobility of certain populations in their territories, while implementing strict border and visa regimes to regulate or restrict the movement of others. Under the current conditions, the issues of borders and irregular migration emerge as new challenges to the growing “management” rhetoric in the debate over immigration and asylum policies.

#### *Migration and Mobility: Conceptualizing the Movement of Persons*

Technological innovations in transportation and communications facilitate the potential for international migration around the world. As the movement of persons across borders increased, accelerated and diversified based on structural factors and/or individual motives, scholars began questioning the



convenience of the concept of migration as a way of capturing different patterns and categories. In the current age new concepts, such as mobility have risen to prominence to better illustrate the fluidity of movements across geographies.

### *Diversity and Integration*

Over the past decades, the concepts of diversity and integration have served as prominent research lenses through which to elaborate the consequences of migration for the local, national and international settings. These two concepts are essential for analysis, development and evaluation of migration and refugee policies. Within this context the following questions are crucial: How will policy makers maintain diversity while developing policies to integrate incoming migrants? Is it possible to move beyond the zero-sum approach on diversity and integration?

The discussions will be based on these three main themes, touching upon a wide range of topics in the field of migration studies. The conference will be hosted by Migration Research Center at Koç University (MiReKoc) in Istanbul, on the occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in the field of migration research. Established in August 2004, MiReKoc provides an institutionalized hub for migration research in Turkey, encompassing domestic, regional and global facets of migration. The two-day conference will include four roundtable sessions on *migration theory & research*, *migration policy*, *the Turkish migration regime* and *migration research centers* with prominent guest speakers. Moreover, a call for papers (CfP) is open to all scholars, researchers and graduate students, from various disciplines including political science, international relations, economics, sociology, anthropology, history and demography who are interested in presenting their cutting-edge research on: *borders and border regimes*; *migration and mobility*; *diversity and integration*. A total of 18 papers will be accommodated during the conference in six parallel sessions.

### **Participation and Registration**

People interested in presenting a paper are invited to send their applications to [mirecon@ku.edu.tr](mailto:mirecon@ku.edu.tr) before the due date of abstracts. The applications should include: presentation title, abstract (of no more than 300 words), 3-4 keywords, home institution and affiliated department(s) and co-authors (if applicable). Decisions will be communicated by June 30, 2014 and submission of full papers is expected by October 31, 2014. Guidelines for full papers will be announced with the acceptance notifications. A selection of papers from the conference will be published by reputable international publisher and will be considered for a special issue in a scholarly journal. Registration fees are 100 € (300 TL) for Regulars and 50 € (150 TL) for citizens of the Soft-Currency Countries, to be paid on site. Fees for conference participants include: participation in all scientific sessions and activities, conference programme and materials as well as coffee breaks.

### **Abstracts Due: May 31, 2014**

Acceptance Notifications: June 30, 2014

Final Paper Submission Due: October 31, 2014