Migration

2 sessions:

1. (Re)bordering the State: Multi-Level Governance and the Politics of Migration Management

Session organiser: Dan Fisher, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom, **E-mail**: dan.fisher@glasgow.ac.uk

Forced migration scholars are well aware of the pitfalls of 'methodological nationalism' (Wimmer & Glick Schiller 2002). Through the studies of borders and border*ing*, it has become evident that the sites of border control both extend far beyond, and deep within, the boundaries of the nation state (Andersson 2014) and are repeatedly brought into being through moments of 'everyday bordering' (Yuval-Davis *et al* 2017). Even though matters of asylum and immigration remain issues for *central* government in most countries, other levels of government (e.g. federal states / municipalities / local authorities) are increasingly become engaged in borderwork – voluntarily or otherwise – through legislation or reliance on central government funding. The same can be said of Third Sector Organisations (TSOs).

Yet how TSOs and different levels of government *interact* with central government in the context of border control, asylum reception and refugee integration (Glorius *et al* 2019) has yet to be explored in depth. Whilst scholarship has identified four types of government interaction concerning migration (Scholten 2013), focused on local mayors in bridging the gap between central government and local communities in the context of new asylum accommodation centres (Miellet 2022) and have identified collaboration breakdowns between central government and local governments (Bassoli and Campomori 2024; Fisher 2025), it is our contention that the nuances of these complex intra-government interactions require further academic attention .

We therefore invite theoretical, empirical, and methodological contributions that explore the interplay between different forms, or scales of migration governance. Contributions may address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Shifting scales of governance: How changing geopolitical, economic, and environmental conditions reshape the relationships between central, regional, and local authorities in migration and border management.

- State–non-state interactions: Investigations of the roles of Third Sector Organisations, NGOs, private actors, and communities in co-producing or contesting migration governance.

- Multi-level (dis)connections: Empirical or theoretical explorations of collaboration, conflict, or policy misalignment between levels of government in migration, asylum, and integration contexts.

- Temporalities of governance: How moments of crisis, rapid policy change, or emergency measures reconfigure multi-level relations in migration management.

- Comparative perspectives: Cross-national or cross-scalar analyses illuminating how different governance models respond to migration-related challenges in an era of geopolitical and climatic turbulence.

- Conceptual innovation: Work that extends or rethinks existing frameworks for understanding multi-level governance (e.g. Scholten's typology) or offers new ways to conceptualise power, responsibility, and accountability.

2. **Restlessness, Resilience and Relocation: Community-Driven Retreat in a Changing Climate**

Session organiser: Kokorsch Matthias, University Centre of the Westfjords, Iceland, **E-mail**: matthias@uw.is

This session explores the conference's theme of restlessness by delving into the concepts of relocation and retreat: eroding coastlines, thawing permafrost, changing precipitation patterns and weather extremes unsettle not only land and livelihoods, but also the prospect that people, infrastructure and entire communities may have to move. Reducing the impacts of climate change increasingly includes relocating people and assets out of high-risk areas, yet very few communities are preparing for, or managing the risk of, displacement.

Relocation is often framed as managed retreat. To emphasise a participatory and justice-oriented adaptation, recent work and practice have shifted towards community-driven relocation, which contrasts with the mainly ad hoc, post-disaster and reactionary approaches. While relocation is sometimes referred to as a last resort, communities in remote and Arctic/Nordic settlements must in practice balance a combination of hazard- and risk-specific options: early warning systems, permanent mitigation, temporary evacuation, reconstruction and, in some cases, permanent relocation.

The session invites empirical, conceptual and methodological contributions that examine how risk-based and participatory approaches, including Indigenous groups and knowledge systems, can shape decisions on relocation and alternatives. We particularly welcome work that brings in new knowledge on: (1) changing climate risk pictures and community resilience; (2) relocation from high-risk areas. Lessons from past and ongoing relocations, including non-climate hazards (e.g. volcanic eruptions) and their impacts on societal safety, economies and well-being; (3) emergency preparedness and crisis management. (4) alternatives such as *Build Back Better* in light of sustainable community development.