



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO



laboratorio di studi critici
sulle migrazioni forzate



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA

**CALL FOR PANELS for the
Escapes fourth annual conference
Parma (Italy), June 8th to 9th, 2017**



Rethinking Forced Migration Theories, Practices, Languages, and Representations

Escapes is a network of Italian academic researchers, practitioners, lawyers, non-profit and voluntary organizations, and front-line workers engaged and committed in the study, observation and critical analysis of forced migrations, with a specific focus on the Italian case. Italian is the primary language of the conference. However, in order to consider the great interests of European and International researchers and practitioners on the Italian case, this edition accepts also proposals for panels in English.

Since late 2013, the public, media, and political discourses focused on asylum seekers and refugees have grown substantially, reaching their peak in the summer of 2015 when the "refugee crisis" label was coined to describe the escalation of arrivals and the situations in several European countries. A crisis that apparently has deeply involved also the legal and moral principles that were at the foundation of the European Union project. During 2016, populist movements (both in Europe and in the US), which have among their main goals to fight against refugees and migrants, have achieved political and electoral success. Locally, this political and social climate resulted in acts of discrimination and aggression carried out against migrants and refugees. At the same time, civil society, associations, and activists across Europe have been establishing initiatives of solidarity and support, along with practices of resistance and mobility undertaken by migrants themselves.

Consequently, the topic of refugees has gained the attention of the European political agenda, becoming the argument to balance domestic and international political equilibriums. Academic research, for its part, has increasingly turned its gaze to the processes of forced human mobility in order to analyze the changes in flows and compositions, in the national and

European policies, in the social integration processes, and in the social and psychological dynamics that characterize the stories of migrants.

The Escapes fourth annual conference aims to provide academic researchers, decision makers, practitioners, activists, and front-line workers with opportunities to extensively discuss on forced migration topics, with particular attention to the transformations underway and to the experiences lived by the subjects involved. Rethinking forced migrations today involves the deconstruction of established theoretical frameworks as well as a critical investigation of the main issues under discussion, such as the policies and forms of government, the roles of academic research, or the experiences that are able to break the emergency logic and involve the system, communities, and refugees in systematic and integrated processes of social inclusion.

The **call for panels** is therefore aimed to bring attention to people who have lived as protagonists in the social processes just outlined: migrants, active individuals and groups from civil society, workers daily engaged in the reception system, researchers - academic and otherwise - that deal with forced migrants from different perspectives and disciplines. What paths, inside and outside the institutional system, are the migrants who recently landed in Europe taking? What are the roots and routes of these global forced migration? What actions and social practices characterize the experience of applying for asylum in this historical moment? What social actors, in what roles and with what effects, have supported or opposed the mobility towards and within Europe? What are the most significant experiences in terms of migrant reception, and what local projects have promoted forms of protection alternative to the emergency logic?

Among these conference topics, great consideration is acknowledged to theoretical and analytical perspectives that support scientific research, especially when they shed light on the methodological issues of research practices and difficulties in the implementation of research results. Indeed, during the conference, the social and political impacts of research on refugees as well as ethical issues will be the objects of discussion and reflection.

Panel proposal submission rules

Panel proposals must be sent to the Scientific Committee **by January 30th, 2017**. All proposals should be sent to migrazioniforzate@unimi.it with the subject "**Escapes Conference 2017**".

Proposals may not exceed 600 words. They must include:

- a brief description of the **contents** that the proposer wants to discuss within the panel, preferably already organized as '**call for presentations**';
- a description of the **panel format** (i.e. scientific paper presentation, case discussion, round-table with panelists, workshop, etc.);

The proposal must also include the name of the proposer(s), their titles, membership institution/organization, a brief curriculum vitae, and the e-mail address of the contact person. Italian will be the official language of the conference. However, panel proposals in English are encouraged in order to facilitate participation of foreign researchers (simultaneous translation will not be available).

Each panel will last 2 hours, with 4 presentations at the most. The conference's organizing committee reserves the right to merge panels that focus on similar topics (upon consultation of the proposers).

Timeframe

- January 30th, 2017: call for panels deadline;
- Mid-February, 2017: notification of panels accepted;
- Mid-February, 2017: launch of the call for presentations;
- Early April, 2017: call for presentations deadline;
- End of April, 2017: notification of accepted presentations and publication of the conference final program.

The conference is organized by "**Escapes: Research Centre for Critical Studies on Forced Migrations**", established at the University of Milan - Department of Social and Political Sciences, Department of Cultural Heritage and Environment, and Department of Language Mediation and Intercultural Communication, in collaboration with the University of Parma.

Further news and updates on the conference will be published on the website www.escapes.unimi.it

Scientific Committee

Luca Ciabbari, University of Milan; Emanuela Dal Zotto, University of Pavia; Marco Deriu, University of Parma; Elena Fontanari, University of Milan; Tiziana Mancini, University of Parma; Michele Manocchi, Western University, London ON-CA; Chiara Marchetti, University of Milan and Parma; Vincenza Pellegrino, University of Parma; Barbara Pinelli, University of Milano-Bicocca.

Photo: Alessandro Sala, Roma Tiburtina.