

## **Research workshop on the Economic Recession and Migrant Worker Employment: exploring the intersections and impacts social science can make in this area**

*Venue:* Faculty of Business, Dublin Institute of Technology  
(Room 3073, Aungier Street)

*Day/Date:* Friday 11 September 2009 (10am to 4:30pm)

We are pleased to announce a British Council funded research workshop on the Economic Recession and Migrant Worker Employment. Supported by the European Institute of Construction Labour Research (CLR), Dublin Institute of Technology, Northumbria University and the University of Manchester, this workshop seeks to bring together social science researchers to debate and discuss on how the recession has impacted upon migrant worker employment trends across Europe, and the consequences these might have on employment relations in general. The workshop will explore contributions social science researchers can make in policy making in this area. The workshop will also address the plurality of social science research methodology and how intersections of methods can help advance our understanding of the issues relating to the economy and migrant worker employment. There is not a sector-based approach in this workshop, although empirical discussions will be drawn from the construction, manufacturing and financial services industries. The workshop is most likely to centre the attention on Europe, emphasising particularly the experiences from Ireland, Sweden, Poland and the UK.

Internationally, migration remains a politically sensitive issue. There is increasing (if ungrounded) fear, especially in developed nations, of unprecedented levels of immigration. Across Europe, for example, attempts are being made to strengthen borders to curtail immigration, and in particular clandestine immigration, from outside the European Economic Area. Immigration is a complex issue. Yet the diversity of migrant populations in terms of legality, routes to entry, length of stay and purpose of migration etc. can often be ignored in public discourse on immigration. Instead, popular views of immigration can confuse migrant populations as homogeneous and tend to militate against further immigration flows. Consequently, governments across the world have responded by embracing some form of managed migration. The current economic recession has seen governments taking on a somewhat nationalistic, protectionist approach to regulating labour markets, further reinforce the 'no outsider' mentality that can often prevail in debates on migration.. At the same time, migrants from the recent accession states in the EU have been reported to return eastwards. This raises interesting questions about the dynamics of employment relations and future developments in the economy, including the following:

- What is the relationship between developments in the global economic situation and the state of migrant worker employment? How has one led to the other and vice versa?
- How has employment relations been shaped by the rise and fall of migrant worker employment?
- What are the impacts of these phenomena in the wider social context?
- What are the governmental and corporate policies that are relevant in these areas and how will possible interventions influence future directions in this area?
- How can social science research and methodological considerations advance our understanding of the complex dynamics surrounding the economy and migrant worker employment?

If you are interested in attending this workshop, or even participating in the proceedings, please contact Dr. Paul W Chan on [paul.chan@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:paul.chan@manchester.ac.uk) or telephone +44 (0) 161 275 4319 for more information. For more information, please visit the URL on DIT's website: <http://www.dit.ie/news/archivecurrentyear/workshopontheeconomicrecessionandmigrantwor/>.

## Programme on Friday 11 September 2009

Time	Description	Speaker
1000 – 1015	Welcome	Matt Burney British Council Ireland
1015 – 1050	Theme 1: Setting the context The political rhetoric of Managed Migration: Experience from the United Kingdom	Paul W Chan University of Manchester
	Migration dynamics in the context of boom and bust	Professor Jane Hardy University of Hertfordshire
1050 - 1100	<i>Coffee/tea on the run</i>	
1100 – 1300	Theme 2: Current research Institutional perspectives of managed migration: connecting the global and local through the regions	Ian Fitzgerald Northumbria University
	Social development and the Polish transformation	Marcin Fronia Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities
	Labour migration and the Irish construction industry	Torben Krings Trinity College Dublin
	Migration dynamics: experiences from Northern Ireland	Stephen McPeake Ulster University
1300 – 1400	<i>Lunch</i>	
1400– 1445	Theme 3: Methodological considerations Moral panic and discourse theory: potential application to migration research	Rafal Smoczynski Linköping University
	Statistics and data mining tools: migration research application	Agnes Maciocha Dublin Institute of Technology
1445 – 1500	<i>Coffee/tea on the run</i>	
1500 – 1630	Theme 4: Future of migration research and policy	
	Plenary discussion and identification of possible areas for future research proposals	All (Incl. potential participation from partners on the OPENCities project)

If you are interested in attending this workshop, or even participating in the proceedings, please contact Dr. Paul W Chan on [paul.chan@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:paul.chan@manchester.ac.uk) or telephone +44 (0) 161 275 4319 for more information. For more information, please visit the URL on DIT's website: <http://www.dit.ie/news/archivecurrentyear/workshopontheeconomicrecessionandmigrantwor/>.