

Thursday, 22nd October, 5.30 pm
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Women who stay, women who migrate. Gender perspectives on contemporary mobility.

Barbara Pinelli (Roma Tre University) and Francesca Alice Vianello
(University of Padua)

In the 1970s, when a reflection was opened on the relationship between human mobility and the migration of women, it was believed that this field of research only focused on a specific female and that the experiences of women were not as capable, as those of men, of showing the gears of wider social, economic and structural systems. In the following years – thanks to the feminist approaches to migration research - it was understood how much gender is a structuring principle for migrations (and structured by them), and that the intersection of gender and migration is a privileged analytic space which sheds light on social processes and nets, structural dynamics, systems of poverty and exclusion.

The talk by Barbara Pinelli connects the documentary *Village of Women* – which tells the male exodus from a small country in Armenia to Russia from the point of view of the women who remain and the ways in which they reorganize family networks and the entire community life - with a research conducted on the Euro-Mediterranean border and focused on the forced migration of women. By linking these two works, the aim is to show the central role of women's studies, which explore the systems of contemporary mobility in different ways in order to discuss the social structures of inequality and oppression, resistance and struggles, suffering and the reorganisation of life in marginal conditions.

The talk by Francesca Alice Vianello addresses the issue of the consequences of both male and female migration on their home communities. Starting from her research experiences in some Eastern European countries, the researcher will examine, from a gender perspective, the social construction of absence and presence, the relationships between those who leave and those who stay, as well as the ways of reorganizing family and relationships across borders.

Barbara Pinelli is a researcher in Cultural Anthropology at Roma Tre University and co-founder of the research centre Escapes - Lab of Critical Studies on Forced Migration (University of Milan). It deals with political asylum and forced migration intersected with gender, focusing mainly on border politics in Southern Europe. Her research is focused on women's asylum trajectories and is related to the emergence of gender-based violence, the social-political construction of vulnerability and suffering, the racialisation/sexuation of forms of control.

Francesca Alice is a researcher in Sociology of Economy and Labour at the University of Padua. In her research, she is particularly concerned with the analysis of labour migration from a gender perspective. In the last few years, she has been investigating the impact of the economic crisis on male and female migrant workers, Eastern European female migrations, multi-local migrant families, domestic and care work and its implications for health. She has recently completed the research project “Migration and Occupational Health: Understanding the Risks for Eastern European Migrant Women.”

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