

**CMRN
GRAMNET**



UNBORDERING FUTURES

MIGRATION STUDIES IN URGENT TIMES

**A
TRANSDISCIPLINARY
PHD CONFERENCE**

**UNIVERSITY OF
EDINBURGH**

4-5 MARCH 2026

WELCOME

“Empires crumble, capitalism is not inevitable, gender is not biology, whiteness is not immutable, prisons are not inescapable, and borders are not natural law” — Harsha Walia, *Border and Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism*.

The global proliferation of border controls and violence, increasing hostility towards migrants, and the hyper-mediatisation of migration all make an evidence-based understanding of the experiences of those on the move more urgent than ever. At the same time, broader societal changes — the erosion of democratic institutions and human rights, and a shift to the right — provide renewed purpose to calls to ‘demigrantise’ the field: that is, to consider (im)mobilities as both a deeply human and universal phenomenon.

Organised by the University of Edinburgh’s **Citizenship and Migration Research Network** (CMRN) and the **Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network** (GRAMNet, University of Glasgow), and sponsored by the **Social Policy Association**, and **Politics and International Relations, GENDER.ED**, and **CRITIQUE** at the University of Edinburgh, this interdisciplinary PhD conference is a solution and hope-oriented response to these societal challenges.

Welcome to **Unbordering Futures**.



UNBORDERING FUTURES: TIMETABLE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2026

*Location: G.21, Paterson's Land, Moray
House, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8
8AQ*

10:00 - 10:30	Arrive
10:35 - 11:00	Welcome
11:00 - 12:00	Panel 1: Kinship, Queerness and the Body
12:00 - 13:15	Panel 2: Education and Borders
13:15 - 15:00	Lunch and World Cafe
15:00 - 16:30	Panel 3: Contested Belonging, Building Community



UNBORDERING FUTURES: TIMETABLE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2026

*Location: Violet Laidlaw Room,
Chrystal Macmillan Building, 15a
George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD*

09:00 – 09:15	Arrive
09:15 – 10:30	Panel 1: Class and Gender – Thinking Intersectionally
10:30 – 12:00	Panel 2: Knowing Differently – Participatory Approaches
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch and Publishing Panel
13:30 – 14:45	Panel 3: Making Claims – Subjectivities and Solidarities
14:45 – 15:00	Break
15:00 – 16:30	Panel 4: Framing Migration – Media, Policy and Publics
16:30 – 16:45	Reflections



KINSHIP, QUEERNESS
AND THE BODY

11:00 - 12:00, G.21, PATERSON'S LAND, MORAY HOUSE

Discussant: Francesca Stella, University of Glasgow
Chair: Bria Trosclair, University of Glasgow

Marta Perez
Fernandez

Queering the border: a
(re)construction

University of Edinburgh

Jelena
Sofronijevic

Chewed Up: Representing the
Body of the Artist Displaced
through War

Robert Gordon University



EDUCATION AND
BORDERS

12:00 - 13:15, G.21, PATERSON'S LAND, MORAY HOUSE

Discussant: Maria-Grazia Imperiale, University of Glasgow
Chair: Meg Wishart, University of Glasgow

Yilin Wang
*University of
Glasgow*

Supporting EFL Teachers in Refugee
Education Contexts: Critical, Intercultural,
and Trauma-Informed Pedagogical
Approaches in Jordan

Ogonna
Nnamoko
*University of
Strathclyde*

Unbordering Higher Education: Immigration
Regimes, Postcolonial Legacies, and the
Experiences of Black African International
Students in Scottish Universities

Adebolaji
Nimyel
*University of
Glasgow*

Navigating Identity and Belonging Between
Borders and Books: Intersectional
Inequalities and the Retention of Forcibly
Displaced Students in Scottish Higher
Education

CONTESTED BELONGING, BUILDING COMMUNITY

15:00 - 16:30, G.21, PATERSON'S LAND, MORAY HOUSE

Discussant: İdil Akıncı-Pérez, University of Edinburgh
Chair: Kirstin Sonne, University of Edinburgh

Sukru Kagan Surucu Seventh Floor: Externalisation of Asylum and Reconstructing the UNHCR's Mandate

University of Edinburgh

Ryan Swan
University of St. Andrews

The Racial Hierarchy of Integration: Insight from Refugees from Arab States in Scotland

Rezaur Rahman
Queen Margaret University

Laying the Groundwork for Connection: Exploring Community Perceptions on Bridging Differences in West Lothian, Scotland



CLASS AND GENDER – THINKING INTERSECTIONALLY

09:15 - 10:30, VIOLET LAIDLAW ROOM, CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN BLDG

Discussant: Ann-Christin Zuntz, University of Edinburgh
Chair: Kirstin Sonne, University of Edinburgh

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| Halima Sadia
Tasnim
<i>University of
Strathclyde</i> | Returning Home: Wellbeing and Gendered
Experiences of Low-Skilled Returnee
Migrants in Bangladesh |
| Yajie (Mia)
Dong
<i>University of
Edinburgh</i> | Revaluating Capital Across Borders: Intra-
Class Differentiation Among Middle-Class
Chinese Migrants in the UK and Ireland
(Post-2020) |
| Zhanar
Dolanbayeva
<i>Queen Margaret
University</i> | Diffractional Becomings: Collective Career
Narratives of Highly Qualified Refugee
Women Professionals in the United Kingdom |
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KNOWING DIFFERENTLY — PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES

10:30 - 12:00, VIOLET LAIDLAW ROOM, CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN BLDG

Discussant: Alison Phipps, University of Glasgow

Chair: Cetta Mainwaring, University of Edinburgh

Ioana Livia
Dobre
*University of
Strathclyde*

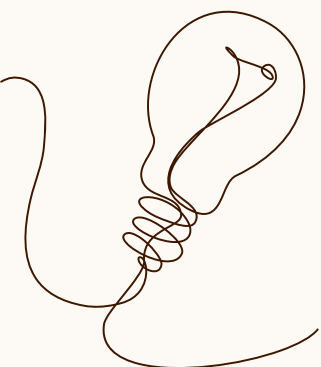
Exploring Experiences of Citizenship,
Homemaking and Belonging with Young
Romanian Roma in Post-Brexit Scotland: A
Participatory Project

Paria
Moazemi
Goodarzi
*University of
Glasgow*

Unbordering Memory: Everyday Politics of
Belonging in the Iranian Diaspora

Bria Trosclair
*University of
Glasgow*

Imagining Ontologically Secure Futures
with Migrants in Glasgow: Activating
Heritage Using PAR



MAKING CLAIMS — SUBJECTIVITIES AND SOLIDARITIES

13:30 - 14:45, VIOLET LAIDLAW ROOM, CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN BLDG

Discussant: Karolina Benghellab, University of Glasgow

Chair: Meg Wishart, University of Glasgow

Toni Iman
Kania
*Edinburgh Napier
University*

Can Homo Sovieticus Dream of Better Futures? Fostering Hopeful Praxis for Revolutionary Intercommunalism Against the Immigration Industrial Complex

Phoebe
Malone
*University of
Glasgow*

Beyond Bare Life: How Spatial Governance of People Seeking Safety Shapes Civic Solidarity in Samos, Dunkerque, and Glasgow

Kirstin Sonne
*University of
Edinburgh*

Knowledge practices among civil society organisations supporting and advocating for migrants

FRAMING MIGRATION — MEDIA, POLICY AND PUBLICS

15:00 - 16:30, VIOLET LAIDLAW ROOM, CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN BLDG

Discussant: Dan Fisher, University of Glasgow

Chair: Bria Trosclair, University of Glasgow

Margarita Permonaite
University of the West of Scotland

Criminalisation and Exclusion: How Do Scottish Media Narratives of Asylum Seekers Compare with the Narratives of Asylum Seekers Themselves?

Dean Ross
University of Glasgow

Alternative Nationalisms and Immigration: A Comparative Study of Scotland and Catalonia

Akeem Babatunde
Robert Gordon University

Navigating Barriers: Examining the Challenges Faced by Social Workers in Addressing the Social Needs of Looked After Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Young People in Scotland

