



UBC Migration

January 2020 Newsletter

WWW.MIGRATION.UBC.CA

Letter from the UBC Migration Co-Leads

BY ANTJE ELLERMANN & SUZANNE HUOT

The beginning of 2020 marks the two-year anniversary of the founding of UBC Migration. What began as a small group of UBC faculty, funded by the university's *Grants for Catalyzing Research Clusters* program, has grown into a network of 50 UBC faculty, over 40 graduate students, and 11 community partners, in addition to many colleagues beyond UBC. After two-years of being funded as an "emerging" cluster, in the latest competition we were successful in moving up to "established" cluster -- a testament to the commitment and efforts of many of our cluster members, and in particular our fantastic steering committee, to make UBC Migration happen! As cluster co-leads, we want to take this occasion to reflect on our work over the past year and to share with you our plans for the coming year.

Looking Ahead in 2020

We are hitting the new year running with a busy January (see event news below), before slowing down some for February and March to engage in strategic planning around the following three priorities areas identified by UBC Migration's **Steering Committee**.

> Catalyzing Research & Institution Building

A key priority for 2020 will be for us to take steps towards the longer-term *institutionalization* and *funding sustainability* of UBC Migration. This will include applying for Centre status within the Faculty of Arts.

A related priority is the facilitation of new research collaborations. Beginning in April, we will provide a limited number of matching and seed funding *grants for cluster faculty to develop new research collaborations*. Details about this competition will be circulated in February.

The funding increase that our promotion to established cluster brings will allow us to secure much needed administrative support. This support will include a full-time research coordinator staff position, and graduate student appointments as Communications Officer and Assistant to the Community Liaison.

As our cluster continues to grow, we look forward to monthly community luncheons during the academic term to allow faculty, postdocs, graduate students and

community partners to come together and socialize and informally network over food.

Our *research groups* will continue their work in 2020. Groups are open to all cluster members.

For any inquiries, please contact the relevant group coordinator. We also welcome initiatives to form new group collaborations.

The *Mobilities* group, coordinated by Gaocheng Zhang (Italian Studies), works within the mobilities paradigm to engage in cultural studies of historical and current migrations. In 2020, the group will organize a conference, host a roundtable for graduate students conducting mobilities-related research and participate in a lecture series in conjunction with the newly established UBC Public Humanities Hub.

The *Borders* group will meet regularly during the academic term to present research and discuss readings on questions related to border governance, such as movement across international borders; securitization of borders; cross-border labour mobility; and imagined and constructed borders. The group's activities are coordinated by Asha Kaushal (Law).

The *Migration & Indigeneity* group is committed to advancing the decolonization and Indigenization of migration studies through research, teaching, and engaging in dialogue with scholars and activists. The group is coordinated by Antje Ellermann (Political Science).

IN THIS EDITION...

Letter from Co-Leads
[page 1]

Book Q&A
Gaocheng Zhang
[page 4]

Events
[page 5]

ANTJE ELLERMANN



SUZANNE HUOT



> Mobilizing Knowledge and Community Outreach

As a second area of engagement, we will continue to promote the sharing of migration research and knowledge, and promote strong partnerships between academic and community members.

As in previous years, we will continue our *public lecture series*. This year, we will open up a *call for speaker nominations* to our entire membership, both for external speaker and for internal research presentations. Stay tuned for further details.

We will also continue to make available *financial support for conference travel* for cluster members to present migration research at an academic conference in Canada. Don't miss the call for applications, which will be circulated soon.

The cluster's *Community-University Partnership* group will continue to support community-university partnerships. Our community Liaison, Sean Lauer (Sociology), supported by Saguna Shankar, a Ph.D student in Library, Archival and Information Studies, will conduct a survey to assess the research capacity, needs, and priorities of settlement agencies in BC. The group will work together with AMSSA (The Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC) to establish a Research Advisory Council to facilitate community-university collaboration around research priorities.

The Community-University Partnership will continue to organize workshops, which will be open to all cluster members. This year's workshops will focus on evaluation research, knowledge mobilization strategies for community-university partnerships; and graduate student training in community-based research.

> Interdisciplinary and Policy-Engaged Teaching and Learning

Building on graduate student training programming over the past two years -- the Migration Research Methods Summer School in 2019 and the Graduate Student Conference and Professional Development Workshops in 2019 -- we will embark on new teaching and training initiatives with the medium-term goal of establishing a Migration Studies *graduate certificate*.

Dan Hiebert (Geography) was recently awarded a Killam Connection Grant to offer an *interdisciplinary graduate course on migration* in the fall of 2020. This new course will be offered jointly through the Geography and School of Public Policy and Global Affairs programs, and will host 2 world-renowned migration policy experts, Demetri Papademetriou and Margie McHugh. Demetri Papademetriou is the founder of the Migration Policy Institute and convenes the Transatlantic Council on Migration. Margie McHugh is a leader in the field of education policy relating to immigrant integration. The new course will be jointly taught by Hiebert,

Papademetriou, and McHugh, in addition to several other cluster faculty. In September 2020, UBC Migration will sponsor a Migration & Citizenship pre-conference at the American Political Science Association's annual meeting in San Francisco, organized by Matthew Wright, and Antje Ellermann (both Political Science). This initiative will take place in collaboration with our institutional partner, the Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative.

Last, but certainly not least, this newsletter would not be possible without the capable support of Dustin Gray, a Ph.D. student in Geography who serves as the cluster's Communications Officer. Dustin's work will keep our growing cluster better engaged and informed through newsletters, social media, and a more dynamic website.

We look forward to a productive and collaborative 2020! And we hope to see many of you at our big cluster party on January 27. Please [RSVP here](#).

Looking Back at 2019

Last year, we continued our *public research talk series*, which brings renowned migration scholars from diverse disciplines to UBC to share their research with us. Our speakers included Marc Helbling (University of Bamberg, Germany), Fran Meissner (Delft University of Technology, Netherlands), Leti Volpp (UC-Berkeley), Alison Mountz (Wilfried Laurier University) and Lisa Molomot (University of Arizona), Tim Cresswell (University of Edinburgh), Juliet Stumpf (Lewis & Clark Law), Douglas Sanderson (University of Toronto), and Loren Landau (Wits University, South Africa). We also hosted research talks by several of our own cluster faculty and postdocs: Amira Halperin (postdoc, Sociology), Asha Kaushal (Law), Ben Goold (Law), Gaoheng Zhang (Italian Studies), Nancy Clark (University of Victoria, Nursing), and Hongxia Shan (Education). We experimented with live-streaming and video-recording one of our talks -- if you missed Tim Cresswell's talk "On Friction," you can [watch it here](#). We will do this more regularly in 2020, thereby making our talks accessible beyond campus.

In addition to bringing migration scholars to UBC, we also funded 8 cluster faculty, postdocs, and graduate students to present their research at the *International Metropolis* conference in Ottawa.

2019 included a focus on the needs of our graduate student members. In November, our graduate student representatives Sandra Schinnerl (Interdisciplinary Studies) and Molly Joeck (Law) organized a *graduate student conference* designed to promote networking with community experts. The cluster also ran a series of career development events for our graduate student members interested in non-academic career paths.

From its inception, UBC Migration has been committed to building partnerships with local community organizations who support immigrants and refugees. In 2019, our

Community Liaison, Sean Lauer (Sociology), in collaboration with community partners, developed a [Memorandum of Understanding between Universities and Community Partners](#) that will be introduced at the upcoming [Migration Research Workshop](#) on January 17. Other university-community events included a workshop on community-university partnerships, followed by a tour of the ISSofBC Welcome Centre, a workshop on Engaging Immigrants in Research, and a town hall session on experiences of female refugees with disabilities in the Canadian labour market. Several cluster members were successful in securing funding for collaborative research with community partners: check out the collaborations of [Sara Pavan](#) (postdoc, Political Science, now Program Design and Evaluation at BC Women's Hospital) with S.U.C.C.E.S.S., and [Suzanne Huot](#) (Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy) with La Fédération des parents francophones de Colombie-Britannique, l'Association Francophone de Surrey, and l'Eglise Souffle de Vie.

In 2019 we continued to deepen our commitment to *policy-engaged outreach*. In January, we hosted a delegation of 34 Swedish delegates from the Kronoberg Region in Sweden. David Green (Economics), Dan Hiebert (Geography), Richard Johnston (Political Science), Sean Lauer (Sociology) and Miu Chung Yan (Social Work) gave presentations on different aspects of Canada's immigration system. We also hosted the Director General, Communications, of IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) for a conversation about the government's #immigrationmatters campaign. Late last year, a representative of Statistics Canada offered a session on Refugee Statistics. And this month, on January 15, Ümit Kiziltan, Chief Data Officer at IRCC, will offer a workshop for cluster members interested in working with IRCC data.

UBC Migration also continued to be active in *town hall events* and conferences in Vancouver. In March, several cluster faculty (Antje Ellermann, Political Science; David Green, Economics; Dan Hiebert, Geography; Steve Weldon, SFU Political Science; Rima Wilkes, Sociology) presented at the Conference Board of Canada's "Winning the Immigration Conversation" conference. In October, Antje Ellermann (Political Science), Suzanne Huot

(Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy), and Yang-Yang Zhou (Political Science), participated in a town hall collaboration with AMSSA entitled "Why Should I Care? Refugees and Canada in 2019" ([watch here](#)), which was funded by a pilot Engage Grant obtained through UBC Community Engagement. In November, UBC Community Engagement and UBC Migration organized a [President's Roundtable](#) on *UBC's Role in Migration and Integration*, which brought together 53 participants including President Santa Ono, senior administrators, faculty members, graduate students, staff and members of the local community. Participants focused on six action items: research matchmaking, institution building, foregrounding racial inequality, supporting aging-out youth, UBC as a settlement community, and university/sector collaboration.

Much of our cluster's work takes place in smaller, thematically-organized, [research groups](#). We will introduce the work of these groups in more detail in future newsletters. For now, let us just highlight two activities.

The Migration & Indigeneity group recently compiled a *teaching resource* for instructors that facilitates the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and critiques in the teaching of migration courses. Compiled by Rima Wilkes (Sociology), the syllabi tool can be [accessed here](#).

Earlier in the year, the Policy group, led by Richard Johnston (Political Science), hosted a 2-day *Canadian Election Study workshop* that brought together migration scholars from the U.S., Canada, and UBC to explore immigration, diversity, and multiculturalism policy in relation to survey experiments and the Canada Election Study.

One of the biggest accomplishments of 2019 was our success in the Faculty of Arts competition for a President's Excellence Chair in Global Migration (spearheaded by Antje Ellermann and Richard Johnston, both Political Science). The search for this prestigious Chair is currently under way, and we anticipate that this new position will add to our existing research and institution-building momentum.

CALL — for — NEWS

We invite all members of UBC Migration to send in news items for inclusion in our next newsletter. We look forward to receiving news about new publications, professional appointments, or other honors, conferences / workshops organized, and major grants received.

Please include "member news" in the subject line of your email. We look forward to hearing from you!

email to: admin.migration@ubc.ca

Faculty Feature

BOOK Q&A WITH GAOHENG ZHANG

Migration and the Media: Debating Chinese Migration to Italy, 1992-2012

University of Toronto Press

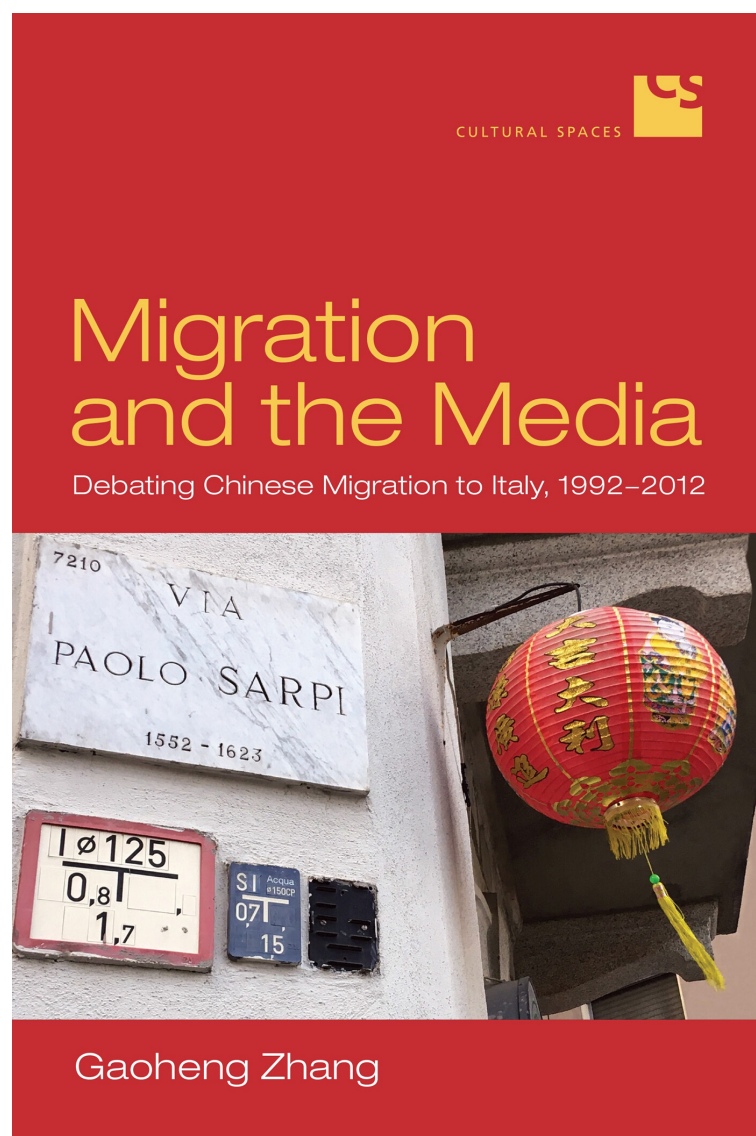
What are the main themes and takeaways in *Migration and the Media*?

The main themes of the book are: Chinese migration to Italy since the 1990s and its conveyance to the public via the news media, such as television news, newspapers, and internet forums. I put Chinese migrant journalism in dialogue with various kinds of the Italian media in order to see how debates about the Chinese migration evolved. How did this migration lead to media debates about the merits and drawbacks of immigration to Italy in terms of economic globalization and migrant integration? Why did the media often view Chinese migrant in Italy and mainland Chinese or the Chinese Central Government as one group?

I argue that Chinese migration was a particularly compelling example for the media to speak about these issues. By reformulating Robert E. Entman's definitions of framing, I view the Italian-migrant and local-global frames as structuring the ways in which journalists chose to depict and debate the Chinese migration settlement in Italy, using these frames to define its problems, diagnose its causes, and pass moral judgments about it. In addition, I draw on sociologist Ann Swidler's notion of culture as a repertoire to argue that journalists, politicians, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders contributed to an Italian-Chinese migrant repertoire, from which many news articles drew for their coverage of the Chinese migration during 1992-2012.

What were your motivations in taking on this project?

I was motivated to write this book because often social scientists who examine Chinese migration to Italy, as well as activists in Italy who advocate for these migrants' integration, are frustrated at how the media depicted the migration in an erroneous way, even though these academics and activists repeatedly pointed journalists to the better and more informed sources on the migration. I started to wonder why journalists kept, say, referring to the so-called Chinese mafia as a way of understanding the impressive onset of Chinese migration to Italy in the early 1990s. And their reasoning seemed to be: Where did the Chinese obtain the money to migrate and to set up their own factories on such a massive scale? Well there must have been criminal organization that helped them. And look, didn't the Triad and other Chinese diasporic criminals infiltrate the US in the past? That's what's happening to Italy now! In fact, these Chinese care only



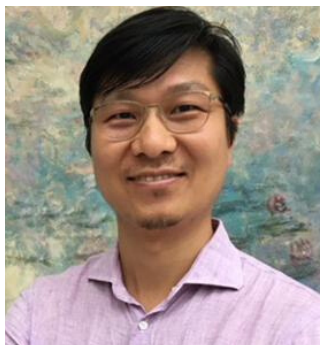
for work and do not come into contact with Italian society at all and they send their money back to China.

My research departs from this kind of reasoning and arrives at the conclusion that journalists resorted to the example of Chinese migration to Italy to more generally discuss and debate economic globalization and migrant integration. It's not primarily about getting the facts right (although of course the history of media debates about the Chinese migration is rather intricate and cannot be summarized here); it's also about using it as an example to talk about other changes in Italian society that migration played a major role in making.

How would you situate this research in the larger field of Migration Studies? How do you see it contributing to contemporary debates?

The book's main contribution to Migration Studies is its focus on migration's relation with the media in specific and with culture in general. As recent well-known introductory books to Migration Studies show (such as *The Age of Migration* by Castles, et al. and *Migration Theory: Talking across Disciplines* by Brettell and Hollifield), the field remains largely the domain of the social sciences, even though these books often indicate that cultural studies of

GAOHENG ZHANG



migration is the new, emerging, or next frontier of research.

My book gives a substantial example of media and cultural studies of migration in relation to a specific migration. It is the first to examine both Italian and

Chinese migrant coverage, and the dialogue that emerged between the media and public conversations regarding mass migration and economic globalization stimulated by it. A detailed media and cultural analysis of Chinese migration to Italy was needed to understand how the Italians and the Chinese migrants perceived this growing migrant community in their social lives and cultural imaginations. In providing the first substantial media and cultural study of this particular migration, I followed the call of sociologists Robin Cohen and Gunvor Jónsson for more cultural analysis in migration studies.

How would you characterize your research process for the book? Were there any methodological challenges that you encountered in the field?

I did extensive archival research in several news agencies, including Italy's main public broadcaster, RAI, and its main private competitor, Mediaset. I also consulted materials in more regional archives, including those by Chinese migrants themselves. It was at first difficult to gain access to certain archives, such as Mediaset (while RAI is open to the public). But my network of academics in Italy helped me find the right contacts. It was also not easy to make connections with Chinese migrant sources, because 1) they were not always good with archiving, so many

relevant materials were lost; 2) there was no organized archive so one had to sift through many physical copies of the newspapers and magazines; 3) they didn't necessarily trust me as an outsider and as an academic when I requested to access their archives. Again, time and patience in the end gained me enough scope to access several such archives.

The main methodological challenge for me was to figure out how to make the dialogue between Italian media and Chinese migrant media materials work. The dialogue between pro-Chinese Italian media and anti-Chinese Italian media? Extremist media and mainstream media? Italian media and international media? The media in Italy is extremely politicized and very complex. So to arrive at a more general conclusion was not easy because one could easily get lost in so many positions and viewpoints about one particular migration.

Do you have any future plans to build on your findings in *Migration and the Media*?

I'm now writing a second book, which will be focused on migration and culture, particularly culture as in literature, cinema, Internet forums, and architecture. The context is contemporary Chinese migration to Italy and Italian migration to China. This project will enlarge the scope of the first book to include cultural dynamics other than the news media about the Chinese migration, Italian expats and architecture in China, and tourism in interaction with migration. Moreover, I will have a prominent angle on the role of American popular culture in regularizing cultural exchanges between Italy and China. For example, the Venetian Casino in Macau and in Las Vegas.

The tentative title is *Migration and Culture: Mobility between China and Italy via USA*.

January 16-17

MIGRATION RESEARCH WORKSHOP

UBC Migration will hold a two-day migration research workshop at S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Vancouver. The event will feature policy experts, community leaders and academics. The theme is 'experimental evidence and community-relevant knowledge'.

January 27

UBC MIGRATION CLUSTER PARTY

UBC Migration has organized a party to celebrate a new year of GCRC funding. The celebration will take place in the Fairmont Social Lounge, at St. John's College, which is located at 2111 Lower Mall on the UBC Campus.

UPCOMING

EVENTS

RSVP online:

migration.ubc.ca/events