

AAC International Conference

**Migratory circulations and urban change:  
perspectives from the South**

10-12 June 2025 - Paris, Campus Condorcet

This conference aims to explore the impact of international migration on metropolises in the Global South, adopting an innovative approach that emphasizes mobility and migratory circulations. Within the field of urban studies, both internal migration (Da Cunha et al., 2009; Chavez Galindo et al., 2016) and international migration are often analyzed through the lens of migrant integration into the cities where they settle. A substantial body of literature has emerged on this topic, addressing a range of issues including integration, inclusion, hospitality, ethnicity, the social division of urban space, and socio-spatial segregation (Battegay, 1992; Haumont and Authier, 1996; Miret, 2001; Fusco et al., 2015; Córdoba, 2016; Faret, 2017; Babels, 2018; Güngördü, 2018; Miret and Audebert, 2019).

Less frequently, when migration's impact on urban transformation is examined from the perspective of origin cities, the focus tends to be on the influence of migrant remittances on housing construction or renovation (Simon, 1985; Pinçon, 1999; Varrel, 2009; Lessault et al., 2011; Ardila, 2019; Perraudin, 2020; Jolivet, 2024). According to Dureau and Imbert (2019), these studies position migrants as key actors who not only integrate into their host cities but also influence them, whether as neighborhood residents, investors in their countries of origin, or immigrant entrepreneurs.

The increasing complexity of global migratory movements has led to overlapping dynamics: a single city or neighborhood may simultaneously serve as a place of origin, destination, transit, and return (Herrera and Sorrensen, 2017). In Anglophone countries, research on transnational urbanism and translocality highlights the increasingly intricate role of migrants in shaping the urban fabric (Smith, 2001; Brickell and Datta, 2016; Çağlar and Glick Schiller, 2018). The expansion of migratory flows—particularly those linked to tourism, education, and trade—also calls into question the binary distinction between origin and host cities (Cortes and Faret, 2009).

From a theoretical standpoint, research on "dwelling" and research on "circulations" would benefit from being brought into dialogue. The paradigm of dwelling in migration ("habiter" in French) seeks to integrate various facets of the spatial experience of families situated within a transnational space (Ceriani-Sebregondi, 2003; Imbert et al., 2014; Niang, 2017; Miret, 2022). This concept is part of a shift in geography in the 21st century, in which the term "dwelling" acquires a broader meaning, encompassing "the practice of places and the significance of places... associated with representations, values, symbols, and imaginaries that refer to geographic locations" (Stock, 2004). "Understanding modes of dwelling requires analyzing how individuals endure, confront, adapt to, and invent their integration into their environment" (Morel-Brochet & Ortar, 2012). For migrants, the multifaceted circulations within a migration field give rise to specific modes of dwelling.

Similarly, the insights provided by the concept of "arrival infrastructures" (Meeus et al., 2020), which have thus far primarily been derived from studies conducted in Northern cities, enrich the study of the anchor points of migrant transnationalism (Baby-Collin, 2014; Miret, 2022). These approaches are particularly valuable in their attempt to capture the "superdiversity" of migration (Vertovec, 2007; Biehl, 2020). Specifically, they highlight the necessity of combining a spatial approach with a reflection on the various scales of place and temporalities. Indeed, within the same location, we may observe successive or simultaneous migrations, or even migrations in preparation; these can result in either long-lasting or ephemeral settlements, each leaving distinct traces and producing different urban materialities or social relations. Similarly, the temporalities of public action—such as urban or migration policies—and urban change also play a significant role. For example, the degradation, normalization, or improvement of a working-class neighborhood, changes in the real estate market, or the persistence of housing infrastructures designed to be temporary (such as camps and provisional settlements) are key factors to consider. In Latin America, the recent large-scale settlement of Venezuelan migrants in cities of neighboring countries provides a clear illustration of these issues.

These observations raise several key questions that will be central to this conference. While it is now widely acknowledged that migrants and their families are active agents and producers within the urban environment—through their practices, investments, and representations—it is important to ask: How do they contribute to the creation of cities in their countries of origin? What urban representations and practices are transmitted across spaces through their movements? What effects do segmented, intersecting, or intertwined migratory patterns have on the urban fabric? In areas of intense migration, how do dynamics of integration, hospitality, and social division within urban spaces take place, and do they differ in the so-called Global South from the patterns often observed in the literature focused on so-called Northern cities?

This conference, part of the CIMODYN research program (ICM/Paris 1, 2022–2024), thus extends a dual invitation: to capture the urban effects of these multifaceted migratory reconfigurations and to do so from the perspective of Southern metropolises, which serve as privileged observatories due to their rapid transformations since the latter half of the 20th century and their strong connections with migration.

The sessions will foster disciplinary and geographical diversity, focusing on various dimensions of migration's contribution to the production of urban space, including spatialities that subtly imprint the urban landscape with traces of diasporic presence—sometimes faint "traces," or even rendered invisible by other phenomena (Hernández-León, 2018; Faret et al., 2019). Thus, the presentations will address cities in the Global South, whether these serve as places of departure, 'return,' resettlement, arrival, transit, or circulation, analyzing the forms of urban change resulting from these processes. Topics may include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- The role of migration-earned financial income and remittances in the physical transformation of buildings and the real estate market;
- The perceptions and representations of urban space by migrants and their relatives, shaped by the experience of international migration, which may influence investments, consumption practices, or adjustments in residential trajectories;
- The role of the state and formal agents (ranging from NGOs to real estate agents) or informal agents (such as daily accommodation traders, subletting agents, etc.) in the reception of migrants, their integration, and the regulation of their urban investments;
- Shifts in spatial practices influenced by migration, among other factors;
- Local dynamics of socio-spatial stratification and reorganization brought about by migratory movements, particularly regarding diversity and the organization of co-presence;

- The neighborhood as a site for transmitting "circulatory knowledge," where the redeployment of migratory networks may contribute to the emergence of new migration projects (Hernández-León, 1999; Tarrus, 2001);
- The appropriate scale for observing these phenomena, questioning the advantages and limitations of focusing on "neighborhoods."

Based on the presentations, four thematic sessions will be organized. Special attention will be given to the methodological reflection underpinning the research and the empirical quality of the case studies.

The event aims to develop a significant international dimension, both through the topics and fields addressed and through the composition of the scientific committee, which will be invited to engage in discussions during the roundtables and paper sessions. An international panel of invited researchers will open the conference with a roundtable to contextualize research on the Andean Americas, alongside studies on cities from other regions of the world (Africa, Asia, and the Middle East).

### Conditions for Participation

The conference will be held at the Condorcet campus from June 10 to 12, 2025.

To foster meaningful discussions, a limited number of presentations will be selected. Members of the scientific committee are committed to attending the entire event, and we encourage participants to make similar arrangements.

Participation in the conference is free of charge and includes lunch; however, registration is required.

Presentations may be delivered in French, Spanish, or English. However, all participants are requested to prepare a PowerPoint presentation in English to ensure its accessibility for all attendees.

**Contribution proposals should not exceed 600 words** and must be accompanied by a brief biographical note (maximum 5 lines). **Submissions should be sent by January 31st, 2025**, to the following email: [urbamig2025@gmail.com](mailto:urbamig2025@gmail.com).

For more information, please consult: <https://cridup.pantheonsorbonne.fr/projets-recherche/cimodyn>

### Scientific Committee

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### Organizing Committee

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