



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TRENTO
Dipartimento di
Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale



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FONDAZIONE
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CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI TRENTO E ROVERETO

IMISCOE

Standing Committee
Education and Social Inequality

***Forced Migration and Displacement in Higher Education
Theoretical Perspectives, Methodological Challenges and Policy
Implications***

International Workshop

Department of Sociology and Social Research - University of Trento

9th -11th September 2026

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Organizing Committee:

Ahmad Akkad, Department of Education University of Oxford

Chiara Bassetti, DSRS and SPaRe Lab University of Trento

Thais França, ISCTE-Lisbon

Ester Gallo, DSRS and SPaRe Lab University of Trento

Cristina Mazzero, DSRS University of Trento

Monica Tassaduque, DSRS University of Trento

Location: Department of Sociology and Social Research ([DSRS](#)), Via Verdi 26 (Trento).



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Wednesday 9th September 2026

Meeting Room/Sala Riunioni 2 (2nd Floor) | Catering: Room 12 BM (1st Floor)

8:45 – 9:00 **Registration**

09:00–9:30 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Brief introduction by the organisers and a representative from the UniTrento/International Migration Lab.
- Articulation of the workshop's objectives: fostering interdisciplinary reflection, establishing a research network, and planning a special issue.
- Roundtable introduction of the participants, with the idea of collecting expectations about the workshops and initial questions.

9:30–11:00 **Panel Session 1**

Chair: Thais França (ISCTE-Lisbon)

Can We Speak of 'Refugee Higher Education' in Europe? Paradigms, Policies and Politics, by Ian M. Cook (Dublin City University)

Discussant: Marie-Agnès Détourbe (University of Toulouse)

Rethinking Higher Education in Protracted Crisis: Governance, Meaning, and Knowledge Production – the Case of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, by Melissa Matar (King's College London)

Discussant: Eugenia Blasetti (University of Parma)

11:00–11:30 **Coffee Break and Networking**

11:30–13:00 **Panel Session 2**

Chair: Michela Sempredon (University of Parma)

Exiled Scholars as Knowing Subjects in Academic Humanitarianism: Struggles over Recognition and Tactics of Repositioning, by Betül Yazar (Independent researcher)

Discussant: Tiffany Cone (University of Doha for Science and Technology) (Online)



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Epistemic Justice and Displaced Students in Italian Higher Education:

Premature Concern or Timely Debate?, by Monica Tassaduque (University of Trento)

Discussant: Marcela Gola-Boutros (University of Sussex)

13:00–14:00 **Lunch**

14:00–16:15 **Panel Session 3**

Chair: Christina Clark-Kazak (University of Ottawa)

‘I guess it’s solidarity...or something like that!’ A study of the motivations and experiences of UK-based academics participating in the Council for At Risk Academics’ Syria Programme, by Tom Parkinson (Royal Northern College of Music) and Nidal Ajaj (Independent Researcher)

Discussant: Betül Yazar (Independent researcher)

Hospitality as a conceptual lens to critically analyse, discuss and re-assert the role of higher education towards forcibly displaced students and scholars, by Marie-Agnès Détourbe (University of Toulouse)

Discussant: Dareen Assaf (Sheffield Hallam University)

Displaced yes, but deserving: balancing performativity and humanitarianism in university policies for displaced students, by Cristina Mazzero (University of Trento)

Discussant: Tom Parkinson (Royal Northern College of Music)

16:15–16:30 **Coffee Break and Networking**

16:30–18:00 **Panel Session 4**

Chair: Asli Vatansever (Independent Scholar)

Former Afghan academics’ post-displacement professional trajectories across four countries, by Mohammad Naeim Maleki (University of East Anglia) and Mir Abdullah Miri (University of Bath)

Discussant: Melissa Matar (King’s College London)

Held at the Threshold: Displacement Capital and the Post-Fellowship Transition for At-Risk Academics in UK Higher Education, by Dareen Assaf (Sheffield Hallam University)

Discussant: Nadiya Ivanenko (University of Oxford)



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18:00–18:10 **Closing remarks of Day 1**

20:00 **Social Dinner 1: [Restaurant ‘L’Antico Pozzo’](#)**



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Thursday 10th September 2026

Meeting Room/Sala Riunioni 2 (2nd Floor) | Catering: Room 12 BM (1st Floor)

09:00–10:30 **Panel Session 5**

Chair: Mohammad Naeim Maleki (University of East Anglia)

At-Risk and Displaced Scholars and the ‘Sanctuary Cliff’: Rethinking University Support and Inclusion, by Ahmad Akkad (Department of Education, University of Oxford)

Discussant: Asli Vatansever (Independent Scholar)

Displacement as Condition: Forced Migration and the Limits of Higher Education, by Tiffany Cone (University of Doha for Science and Technology)

Discussant: Ester Gallo (University of Trento)

10:30–11:00 **Coffee Break and Networking**

11:00–12:30 **Panel Session 6**

Chair: Ahmad Akkad (Department of Education, University of Oxford)

Complementary education pathways for refugee students in Higher Education in Europe and Canada. A literature review, by Eugenia Blasetti (University of Parma), Michela Sempredon (University of Parma), Christina Clark-Kazak (University of Ottawa), Parisa Azari (University of Ottawa)

Discussant: Ian M. Cook (Dublin City University)

From Access to Success: The Role of Institutional Habitus in Shaping Refugee Trajectories in Brazilian Higher Education, by Marcela Gola-Boutros (University of Sussex)

Discussant: Cristina Mazzero (University of Trento)

12:30–13:30 **Lunch**

13:30–15:00 **Panel Session 7**

Chair: Cristina Mazzero (University of Trento)

From “at Risk” to Difference: Intersectional Perspectives on Displaced Scholars, by Thais França (CIES-Iscte) and Eleonore Kofman (Middlesex University)

Discussant: Mir Abdullah Miri (University of Bath)

Academic Displacement as Forced Mobility: Rethinking Academic Careers in Times of War, by Nadiya Ivanenko (University of Oxford)

Discussant: Parisa Azari (University of Ottawa)

15:00–15:15 **Coffee Break and Networking**

15:15–16:45 **Panel Session 8**

Chair: Tom Parkinson (Royal Northern College of Music)

Priced Out: The Market Value of Displacement, by Asli Vatansever (Independent Scholar)

Discussant: Eleonore Kofman (Middlesex University)

Science, with Care. Paths of Transnational Social Action and Responsibility among Displaced Scholars in Europe, by Ester Gallo (University of Trento)

Discussant: Ahmad Akkad (Department of Education, University of Oxford)

16:45–17:00 **Closing remarks of Day 2**

20:00 **Social Dinner 2: [‘Orso Grigio’ Restaurant](#)**

Friday 11th September 2026

Room/Sala Poggi (1st Floor) | Meeting Room/Sala Riunioni 2 (2nd Floor) | Meeting Room/Sala Riunioni 3 (3rd Floor)

Catering: Room 12 BM

09:00–10:30 **Parallel Breakout Groups: Identifying Research Priorities and Special Issue Themes**

- Three interdisciplinary groups: each will be tasked with discussing and identifying:
 - **Group 1: Theoretical and Conceptual Gaps.** What are the most pressing theoretical questions and conceptual developments needed in the field?
 - **Group 2: Empirical Gaps and Methodological Challenges.** What are the critical empirical lacunae, and what innovative methods could address them?
 - **Group 3: Policy, Practice, and Institutional Responses.** What are the key policy recommendations and effective institutional strategies that warrant further investigation?
- Groups should also consider potential themes or sections for the special issue based on their discussions.
- A designated rapporteur in each group will capture key points.

10:30–11:00 **Coffee Break and Networking**

11:00–12:00 **Plenary Feedback**

- Rapporteurs briefly present their key findings and proposed themes.
- Facilitated discussion to synthesise these ideas, identify common threads, and refine the core theme(s) for the special issue.
- Discussion on potential target journals, preliminary timeline, and possible editorial team members.

12:00–12:45 **Special Issue/Edited Book Planning and Future Collaborations**

12:45–13:00 **Concluding Remarks and Future Outlook**

Self-catered lunch. Thank you!