

International Panel on Migration and Asylum (IPM/GIEM)

Discriminations and category-based policies research group

Research team :

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Her current research focuses on the Europeanization of borders, immigration and anti-discrimination policies.

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Her main interests lie in migration policies in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa.

The International Panel on Migration is a scientific, interdisciplinary, international, independent and permanent platform that brings together scientists from social sciences. It will build on the wealth of expertise and scientific knowledge in a field that has expanded since the 1990s both in and outside of academia. The Panel is led by and composed of scientists who prompt the questions and issues that the IPM/GIEM itself chooses to address (rather than being driven by governments, funders or policy agendas). Its commitment to promoting a purely scientific stance on migration matters, makes it a unique but much-needed institution in challenging times for policymaking, politics and public opinion.

Context

Migration has become a focal point of public attention throughout national and international political arenas over the past few decades. Policy debates and public knowledge, however, tends to be heavily skewed by misleading images, distorted facts, and a biased framing of migration and asylum issues. It has been demonstrated, time and again, that – regardless of actual numbers or changing impacts of immigration – media representations of migration issues directly affect public opinion, raising or calming levels of concern.

Among the combined effects of political discourses and media representations of migration issues, there has emerged a kind of paradigm in public understanding, suggesting simple reasons behind migration (economic betterment or political persecution), binary policy choices to manage migration (open or closed borders), and straightforward implications for receiving societies and economies, either positive (a demographic solution for ageing societies), or negative (social turmoil, labour market competition).

In the meantime, scientific studies of migration causes, processes and effects have developed significantly worldwide. Across the global academic community, there is indeed a wealth of high quality and reliable data, knowledge and theoretical understanding – reviewed, debated and corroborated according to professional standards of scientific method. The engagement of the scientific community in challenging the accepted paradigm in public understanding is the main proposal of this initiative.

The call for an International Panel of Migration

In the context of the European Council held on June 28th 2018, three French researchers Virginie Guiraudon (Sciences Po, CEE), Hélène Thiollet (Sciences Po, CERI) and Camille Schmoll (Université Paris Diderot) launched a call to create an International Panel of Migration and Asylum (IPM), following the experience of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Since the open letter was published, over 700 researchers from 17 countries have endorsed the call. The IPM founders and signatories stand in favour of evidence-based policies and against misleading perceptions of migration and asylum. Researchers voice a growing concern about data manipulation, and misperceptions that pollute the public debate, such as the illusion of an invasion of migrants from Africa or Asia to Europe, or the ignorance of the costs and benefits of immigration for employment, health or growth.

The IPM asks for a radical change of paradigm in dealing with international migration and asylum, based on rational, realistic, scientifically-informed and humanly driven approaches. It calls for an emergency meeting of scientists and experts, to work with civil society representatives, policy makers and political leaders.

Missions

The Panel's mission is to serve as a brokering and clearing house for robust scientific knowledge on migration. It also aims at challenging preconceived ways of thinking about migration and asylum with a scientifically rigorous, independent and dispassionate approach.

The IPM federates researchers to :

1. Communicate research results more effectively to the general public and to policy makers, by making it audible and available;
2. Recast and rephrase current migration debates on solid scientific grounds.

The Panel's mission involves :

- Publishing regular *assessment reports* on scientific knowledge on migration and asylum. A report will be a compendium of thematic chapters dealing with issues and topics relevant to public debates and policy-making on migration.
- Publishing *thematic reports* on an *ad hoc* basis.

Structure

The IPM is represented by a founding community composed of around 700 scientists' signatories of the call. The scientific community of IPM is composed of all the signatories of the call and includes professional networks and scientists as well as independent researchers.

