

Swiss Network of young Migration Scholars

Annual Report 2018/2019

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1. Activities

1.1. Association

The administrative year started on October 18, 2018 with the general assembly at the Reitschule in Bern. It was followed by a screening organized by the group Ciné-Migration at the Reischule. This public event was the opportunity to discuss migration with a larger audience, which is one of the goals of the association.

During the year, the executive committee committed to keep the members updated about ongoing projects and to organize new activities, such as the writing retreat.

1.2. Working Groups and Activities

1.2.1. Collective inter-disciplinary publication on « Asylum abuse »

The manuscript of the collective publication has been finalized this year, as well as peer-reviewed. The feedbacks are very positive and only minor modifications have been requested.

Additionally, we managed to secure funding from the *Haute école de travail sociale de Lausanne* (HETSL) for the translation of the introduction and conclusion from French to German. This will enhance the coherence of the book, as contributions are written both in French and in German.

We are now waiting for the contributors to finish their modifications before we can send the final manuscript to *Seismo Verlag* for publication.

1.2.2. Fakten statt Mythen – Des faits plutôt que des mythes

The blog "Fakten statt Mythen / Des faits plutôt que des mythes" was launched in 2015 as a cooperation between the SNyMS and the Swiss Refugee Council (SFH/OSAR) and finalized in 2019. The aim was to juxtapose the assertions and myths about asylum and migration policy issues with actual facts and scientific insights and thus contribute to objectifying the public debate.

From 25 November 2015 to 28 February 2019, the cooperation partners published a total of 142 "Facts instead of Myths" articles on the SFH Website, Facebook and Twitter. The blogposts reached an audience of experts from policy, academia and journalism. The more topical and controversial the posts were, the more reactions they generated. The articles on the credibility of asylum seekers ("Viele Asylsuchende lügen!" – Wirklich?) and on spending on asylum («Die liegen uns nur auf der Tasche»), but also on imprisoned minors, on climate refugees or on what's really behind the asylum statistics, were very well received by the public and were widely shared in the social media.

1.2.3. Ciné-Migration / On the mov(i)e

In 2019 the CineMigration Group screened 'Deportation Class' at the Cinema Able in Lausanne. Annika Lindberg was invited as guest speaker regarding her work on detention, while Lisa Marie Borrelli commented on the general situation of deportation practices within Europe.

A second screening is planned for the end of the year, most likely taking place at the Reitschul Cinema, after the last higher turnout. It is planned to screen three short movies, which evolve around migrant narratives regarding their mobility.

1.2.4. Tandem

The SNyMS Tandem, a peer-mentoring programme for SNyMS members that was launched in February 2018 has been continued. The idea is that SNyMS members organize themselves in pairs and regularly meet in order to exchange ideas, discuss progress and questions, to give each other feedback and support. While it is primarily addressing PhDs it is also open to members at a more advanced stage of their academic careers. As the SNyMS has members from different disciplines, working on different topics and in different places, the goal is to provide a good match for interested members as well as more opportunities to build professional ties and exchange across disciplines and universities.

Currently, there are two active Tandem teams. A new call will be published soon in order to include more SNyMS members in the programme.

2. Some Facts and Figures on...

2.1. ... Members

As of 31 July 2019 the association had 42 members. In the last year 2 members joined and 1 member left the association. Still the profiles of the members are very diverse: there are PhD students and post docs, there are members from different Universities, disciplines and regions.

A number of members continue to be organized in the working groups with members participating in the project "Abuse", ciné-Migration, in the blog project "Fakten statt Mythen" and in the new project "Tandem".

With the new newsletter "News from the board" the members are informed about the ongoing projects and activities of the association. In addition, the mailing-list, the website and the yammer group, the association can provide diverse possibilities to communicate.

2.2. ... Finances¹

The financial status of the association is still very good. SNyMS is funded through the membership fees of 30 CHF per member per year and the NCCR on the move contribution. As the project cost and the administrative costs are very low, the assets grow. The SNyMS is looking for projects of our members to sponsor.

There are some uncertainties about the NCCR on the move contribution in the year 2019/2020, as the NCCR on the move starts the second phase.

¹ Covering the period from 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019.

SNyMS is facing some difficulties regarding the payment behaviour of its members.

in CHF	expenses	revenues
Balance at 1. July 2018		6604.95
NCCR on the move Contribution		1000
Membership Fees		1007
CinéMigration	604.55	
Admin Costs	164.65	
Total Revenues and Expenses	769.2	2007
Balance at 30 June 2019	7843.20	

3. Outlook

Next year, the association will continue its ongoing projects, but also plans to create new ones. Among the ongoing projects, we plan to create new “Cinemigration” events, as this format has met with an enthusiastic response from members and the wider public alike. We also plan to organize more writing retreats. Indeed, the first writing retreat, taking place in autumn 2019, has been quickly booked out and we are looking forward to create similar events for our members in 2020. Furthermore, the association will be in charge of organising, jointly with the Centre de droit des migrations (CDM), the annual doctoral seminar on migration in spring 2020. Other projects are in planning, such as the publication of a publication series on vulnerability & migration on the International Law Blog (<https://voelkerrechtsblog.org/>). The association of course welcomes other project ideas and is always happy to support members’ projects.

Bern, 12. October 2019