

Swiss Network of young Migration Scholars

Annual Report 2023/2024

1 Highlights

SNyMS has continued its activities over the year 2023/2024. The main highlights of this period were the **keynote speech** of Clara Bombach on the everyday lives of children in Swiss asylum camps held after the General Assembly 2023 and the **doctoral seminar** organized in March 2024 in Ligerz together with the *Zentrum für Migrationsrecht/ Centre suisse de droit des migrations* under the joint leadership of the Universities of Neuchâtel, Bern and Fribourg.

2 Executive Committee

On 5 October 2023, at the General Assembly, one new member of the Executive Committee (Enja Jäggi) was elected. As of 1st January 2024, Angie Gago stepped down from the Executive Committee to fully engage in other commitments. Accordingly, in 2024, the Executive Committee was composed as follows: Nula Frei (President), Nesa Zimmermann (Vice President), Monika Plozza (Finance), Jyothi Kanics (Membership), Enja Jäggi (Projects/Events), Léa Hemmi (Cinemigration) and Maja Łysienia (Communications). In summer 2024, a call for new members of the Executive Committee was announced.



The Executive Committee has met online an average of every 2 months. On 6th June 2024, 4 members met in person for a retreat in Bern to discuss the ongoing and planned activities, in particular the General Assembly to be held in October 2024 and the writing retreat planned for November 2024. An informal lunch for SNyMS members and interested scholars was also held during this retreat.

3 Events

During the past year, the association organized several events, both on-line and in person.

3.1 General Assembly 2023 and Keynote Speech, Fribourg

The SNyMS General Assembly took place on October 5th 2023 in person at the University of Fribourg and online. It was followed by a keynote speech of Clara Bombach – a SNyMS member. In her address “Waiting for transfer - Everyday life of children and their families in camps.”, Clara Bombach presented findings from her ethnographic study on the everyday lives of children in Swiss asylum camps. An informal apéro for SNyMS members was held after the keynote speech.

Swiss Network of young Migration Scholars

UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG AND ONLINE
Thursday 5 October 2023

16.45 **General Assembly**
only for active SNyMS Members
<https://unilu.zoom.us/j/69237683707?pwd=2kFqc3l0V2F6bktsU1bNHhNkZ3Zz09>

17.15 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**
Waiting for transfer - Everyday life of children and their families in camps
Speaker: Clara Bombach
open to all
<https://unilu.zoom.us/j/61379121519?pwd=aF94T1p3THZlZlZlO1DlTnFhNFZGRZs09>

18.15 **Apéro**  Room: MIS 03 3014 Miséricorde 03
Avenue de l'Europe 20
Université de Fribourg
@Ancienne Gare

3.2 Doctoral Seminar, Ligerz

The annual Doctoral Seminar took place in Ligerz from 14th to 15th March 2024 and brought together fifteen scholars from various disciplines and at various stages of their careers. It was jointly hosted by SNyMS and the *Zentrum für Migrationsrecht/ Centre suisse de droit des migrations* under the joint leadership of the Universities of Neuchâtel, Bern and Fribourg. The next edition is scheduled to take place in autumn 2025. A call for papers will be published in spring/summer 2025.

3.3 Informal networking lunch, Bern

The in-person meeting of the Executive Committee in Bern on June 6th 2024 was an opportunity to organize an informal networking lunch at the restaurant Grosse Schanze.



3.4 Writing Retreat, Rapperswil-Jona

The SNyMS Writing Retreat will take place on 8th to 10th November 2024 near Rapperswil-Jona: in the beautiful Kloster Mariazell. The retreat will offer the SNyMS members the possibility to focus on their individual projects and discuss it with other migration scholars.

4 Projects

4.1 Tandem

The *SNyMS Tandem* is a **peer-mentoring programme** for SNyMS members to exchange ideas, discuss progress and questions, to give each other feedback and support in a peer-to-peer-setting. SNyMS provides the platform to link members who are from similar disciplines or are working on different topics. In addition, there is the possibility of a mentoring tandem between more advanced researchers and younger members of the Network.

Members interested to set up or join a Tandem are asked to write to info@migrationscholars.ch.

4.2 Review Lab

The *SNyMS Review Lab* is an initiative to provide members with **a platform to exchange drafts** (articles, book chapters, project proposals, grants, etc.) **and to give each other feedback**. Members of the SNyMS Review Lab commit themselves to give each other feedback on their texts and to receive input on one's own writing projects.

Complementing the Writing Days and the Writing Retreat, the SNyMS Review Lab aims to support young scholars in their writing projects and provide a platform for scholarly exchange. It works on a 'Karma' basis - you get feedback if you also give feedback. Always on a friendly, respectful, confidential and constructive basis! It takes place virtually, on an on-demand basis.

Inspired by this platform, several members of the SNyMS have exchanged texts and given each other mutual reviews.

Members interested in submitting a draft to the SNyMS Review Lab are asked to write to info@migrationscholars.ch.

5 Communication

Members are regularly informed about ongoing projects and activities of the association via the **newsletter**. In addition, the Executive Committee communicates with the members via the **mailing-list**, its **X** account (@MigrationNet) and the website (www.migrationscholars.ch). SNyMS is also present on **LinkedIn**, where information is published 2-5 times a week concerning SNyMS' activities, call for abstracts and papers, important conferences and webinars concerning migration, job opportunities in academia in migration field and available grants. The accomplishments of the SNyMS' members are also promoted via LinkedIn.

In the past year, the social media presence of the SNyMS has been greatly expanded. As of 13 August 2024, SNyMS' LinkedIn has 1.289 followers (an increase from 310 followers as of June 2023), both SNyMS members and other persons interested in our network.

In addition, members are encouraged to inform us (info@migrationscholars.ch) about their new publications, conferences, and any other information they would like us to promote on the SNyMS social media.



Swiss Network of young Migration Scholars SNyMS

Bringing together migration researchers and practitioners in and around Switzerland

Higher Education · Bern · 1K followers · 51-200 employees

6 Members

The SNyMS is currently comprised of **31 active members**. During the reporting period, **18 new members** joined the association. The profiles of the members are very diverse, including doctoral students, Postdocs and other migration scholars coming from different Universities and disciplines as well as beyond academia.

7 Finances (1.7.2023 – 30.6.2024)

The financial status of the association is still very good. SNyMS is funded through the membership fees of 30 CHF per member per year. This is the fourth year that we have not requested any funding from the NCCR-on the move.

	Expenses (in CHF)	Revenues (in CHF)
Balance on 1 st July 2023		8'034.71
Membership fees		1'125.00
General Assembly and member apéro	190.10	
Executive Committee retreat including lunch with members	23.40	
Bank account fees	160	
Other expenses (e.g. travel)	260.14	
Total expenses and total revenue	633.64	9'159.71
Balance on 30th June 2024		8'526.07

The executive retreat including venue and lunch was partially paid for by Jyothi Kanics (CHF 247.70), the amount was reimbursed in July 2024 and will therefore be part of next year's annual report.

8 Outlook

The Executive Committee is committed to aligning its activities even more closely with the needs and ideas of the network members. The priority will lie, in the future, on networking activities of different kinds. Also, successful activities such as the writing days and the writing retreat shall be continued.

Since the financial situation of the association is still very positive, we **explicitly encourage our members to approach us with ideas**, be it a conference or a workshop that the SNyMS could co-finance, a collaborative research project, a networking event or any other idea, as long as it is in line with the goals of the association.

Bern, 13 August 2024