

Swiss Network of young Migration Scholars

Annual Report 2022/2023

1 Highlights

SNyMS has continued its activities over the year 2022/2023. At the General Assembly on 4 October 2022, which was held online, four previous members of the Executive Committee finished their term (Lisa Maria Borelli, Anne Kneer, Anne-Cécile Leyvraz, Barbara von Rütte) and four new members (Angie Gago, Léa Hemmi, Jyothi Kanics, and Maja Łysienia) were elected.

The newly composed Executive Committee took up its work and redistributed responsibilities as follows: Nula Frei (President), Nesa Zimmermann (Vice President), Monika Plozza (Finance), Jyothi Kanics (Membership), Angie Gago (Projects), Léa Hemmi (Events) and Maja Łysienia (Communications).

The Executive Committee has met online an average of every 2 months. On 21st April 2023, they met for a retreat in Zurich to reaffirm a common understanding of the mission and vision of the SNyMS as well as to define priorities for their joint work going forward. An informal lunch for SNyMS members and interested scholars was also held during this retreat.

In the past year, the social media presence of the SNyMS has been greatly expanded. On LinkedIn and Twitter (X), updates are posted, such as information on publications by our members, conferences or calls for paper.



2 Projects

2.1 Writing Mornings

Since 6th January 2023 we have organized online Writing Mornings on Fridays twice a month. In August, we organized four Summer Writing sessions every Friday under the title “Boost your Summer Writing”.

2.2 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. In 2023, one Tandem was formed between a SNyMS member, Matthis Schnell, and an external member.

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

2.3 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-Network 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.

3 Events

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

3.1 General Assembly 2022

The SNyMS General Assembly took place on October 4th 2022 online. It was followed by a public conference featuring Anna Wyss as a Key note speaker. In her key note address “Disentangling entangled mobilities”, Dr Anna Wyss presented her reflections on knowledge production forms within migration studies.

3.2 Doctoral Seminar 2022

The yearly Doctoral Seminar took place in Muntelier-Löwenberg from October 13th to October 14th and brought together about 25 scholars from various disciplines and at various stages of their careers. It was jointly hosted by SNyMS and the *Centre suisse de droit des migrations* under joint leadership of the Universities of Neuchâtel, Bern and Fribourg. The next edition is scheduled to take place on March 14th and 15th 2024. A call for papers will be published in late 2023 or early 2024.

3.3 Informal lunch meeting at Kalkbreite, Zürich

The in-person meeting of the Executive Committee in Zurich on April 21, 2023 was an opportunity to organize an informal Lebanese lunch at Kalkbreite. The meal brought together several members and potential new members, in an excellent atmosphere.

3.4 Dinner to thank former members of the Executive Committee, Bern

A dinner was organized in Bern on May 16, 2023 to thank former Executive Committee members. This provided an opportunity for old and new members to get together and, for some, to meet each other in person for the first time.

3.5 Webinar on ECHR case-law on family reunification

We plan to organize in September/October a webinar given by a lawyer from the European Court of Human Rights on the subject of family reunification, following the important judgment in the case of [*B.F. And Others v. Switzerland*](#).

4 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 **twitter** account ([@MigrationNet](#)) and the **website** (www.migrationscholars.ch).

SNyMS is also present on **LinkedIn**, where information is published 2-4 times a week concerning SNyMS’ activities, as well as information about important conferences and webinars concerning migration. The accomplishments of the SNyMS’s members are also promoted via LinkedIn. As of 30 June 2023, SNyMS’ LinkedIn has 310 followers, 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 social media.

5 Members

The SNyMS network currently comprises **77 members**. During the reporting period, **fourteen 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.

In Summer 2023, the Executive Committee prioritized reconnecting with our wider network of members (approximately 80 migration scholars, consisting of current active and passive as well as former members and persons who had expressed interest in becoming member) and reached out individually to hear from them regarding their expectations of the network and to explore possibilities for collaboration. This member survey will inform our work plan for the coming year.

6 Finances (1.7.2022 – 30.6.2023)

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 third year that we have not requested any funding from the NCCR-on the move. Due to the end of the pandemic, the SNyMS Executive Committee was able to organize an in person retreat to plan future activities.

	Expenses (in CHF)	Revenues (in CHF)
Balance on 1 st July 2022		9676.25
Membership fees		750.00
Executive Committee retreat including lunch with members	676.95	
Executive Committee dinner (with former and current members)	564.00	
Website (Wix: 2 year plan)	305.99	
Bank account fees	83.90	
Other expenses	760.70	
Total expenses and total revenue	2391.64	750.00
Balance on 30th June 2023		8'034.71

7 Outlook

The Executive Committee is committed to aligning its activities even more closely with the needs and ideas of the network members. To this end, as mentioned above, it is currently conducting a **survey** among all members. It is already apparent that we will offer more activities in the future that serve **networking** and support the **professional advancement** of members (including more Writing Retreats, Career Talks and possibly Peer Mentoring). The Executive Committee will consult further and inform members again in due course.

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, 4th September 2023