

Title: **Unequal Returns**

Organizer(s): Erlend Paasche (PRIO) and May-Len Skilbrei (UiO)

Email: [m.l.skilbrei@jus.uio.no](mailto:m.l.skilbrei@jus.uio.no)

### **Unequal Returns**

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We hereby submit a proposal for a single-session workshop for the 2016 NMR Conference, based on the research project MIGMA, which deals with the relationship between ‘migration management’ and ‘how migrants manage’ (<http://www.jus.uio.no/ikrs/english/research/projects/migma/>). In line with the theme for the conference we focus on how social inequalities are relevant for the practice and outcomes of return policies, steadily climbing higher on the agenda of European host states (Paasche 2014). Return policies targeted towards irregular migrants and rejected asylum seekers, including deportations, removals and so-called ‘voluntary’ assisted return, are highly topical today at a time of unprecedented volumes of asylum seekers to Europe. A considerable share of today’s asylum migrants will be rejected by the host state and legally obliged to return, and many will contest the power of that state to put that decision into effect. Next to the power asymmetry between the state and the noncitizens who resist it from its margins, there are other social inequalities that shape the interactive relationships at play in the field of coerced return. Possible topics include relevant discourses and legal-bureaucratic processes of return as well as the human dynamics and social inequalities

- between the irregular migrant and representatives and citizens of the host state
- between the irregular migrant and conationals as well as other migrants in the host state
- between the migrant and non-migrants in the country of origin
- other relevant actors

Paasche, Erlend (2014). Why Assisted Return Programmes Must Be Evaluated. PRIO Policy Brief 08/14.