

Workshop proposal nr.6

Title: **European labour mobility: Bridging the gaps – or reinforcing inequality?**

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After a long period of closure, the intra-European labour market have anew been opened for free movement, in the recent decade spurring unprecedented flows of labour and skills from Eastern to Western Europe. During the same period, many European countries have been hit hard by the financial crisis which has affected migration streams as well as the regulatory responses in the receiving countries. The increasing transnational labour mobility poses a series of questions related to patterns and processes of migration, impact on labour markets, industrial relations, skills formation, ethnic relations and processes of social inclusion and exclusion, in both sending and receiving countries. From an academic point of view it is often argued that standard accounts of immigration, integration and citizenship based on models of postcolonial, guest-worker and asylum migration are unable to grasp the reality of this ‘new’ phenomenon, or to provide the necessary links to working life research. Do we need new theoretical grounding – new concepts – for our research on labour migration? Likewise, the transient and rapidly changing nature of European labour mobility poses serious methodological challenges to empirical research. In this workshop we welcome papers that explore theoretical, methodological and empirical questions about labour mobility in Europe today. Although we especially encourage papers dealing with labour migration to the Nordic countries, all contributions linking migration and labour markets are welcomed. Relevant themes can range from labour market changes, regulatory responses, recruitment strategies, working and living conditions among migrant workers - to studies focusing on skills formation and utilisation of skills and work place organisation.