



Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY

Annual Conference

Migration and Mobilities Research Network at Edinburgh Napier University

(Re)Mapping Mobility: Migration, Thresholds, and the Politics of (Dis)Placement

19 June 2025 (as part of Refugee Week)

Location: Merchiston Campus, Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh, EH10 5DT

Keynote Speaker:

Professor Julia O'Connell Davidson, University of Bristol

Keynote Address:

Moving Through the Thresholds of the Human: Migrants, Exiles, Slaves, and Criminals

The conference will also include a screening of two documentaries, presented by one of the filmmakers:

Voices from Ipswich

A participatory documentary film where a group of teenagers and young men from Africa explore what it is like to arrive and settle as a refugee in the United Kingdom

Car Wash

A short film exploring how government policies in the UK, particularly the denial of the right to work for people seeking asylum, create conditions that leave them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, pushing them into 'modern slavery'.

To attend (without presenting): you must register at <https://events.humanitix.com/mmrnconference>

To present: see below on how to send your proposal

Call for Papers

In an era of increasing political polarisation, economic instability, and shifting geopolitical landscapes, the experience of migration is increasingly marked by liminality. Many people who have experienced migration find themselves in a state of being 'in-between' – neither fully embedded into their new environments nor entirely tethered to the places they left behind. From bureaucratic delays that prolong the legalistic limbos of denied (legal) recognition, to physical, affective and psychological states of being stuck, the thresholds of migration have become sites of negotiation, tension, and contestation.

This conference seeks to explore contemporary experiences of (voluntary and forced) mobility and migration with a focus on those who navigate precarious and transitional spaces - those waiting, those being pushed, and those existing in liminal conditions of uncertainty. How do different actors - states, institutions, communities, and migrants themselves - define and manage these states of flux? How does mobility intersect with broader structures of governance, global inequalities, and cultural reconfigurations? How are narratives of 'home' and 'arrival' disrupted by prolonged states of impermanence?

We welcome contributions from diverse disciplinary perspectives, including but not limited to anthropology, sociology, geography, political science, history, cultural studies, and migration studies. The conference aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on the lived experiences of migrants and the broader structural forces that shape their trajectories.

We invite proposals for individual contributions that engage with themes including (but not limited to):

- Migration, waiting, and temporality: bureaucratic limbo, refugee camps, detention centres, and asylum processes
- The politics of thresholds: borders, checkpoints, transit zones, and non-spaces
- Forced displacement and the experience of being 'stuck'
- Marginalisations and exclusions: racialised, gendered, and classed experiences of migratory liminality
- Narratives of non-belonging: literature, film, art, and media representations of migration in flux
- Hostile environments and policies of deterrence
- Informal economies, precarious labour, and survival strategies in liminal spaces
- Digital and virtual mobility: how technology mediates mobility, exile, and the sense of belonging
- Generational perspectives: children, youth, and aging in the in-between
- Comparative and historical perspectives on migration and non-belonging
- Transnational solidarities and acts of resistance in border regimes

We encourage traditional academic papers but also welcome creative forms of expression.

To Submit a Paper Proposal

Please send proposals (up to 300 words) to mmrn@napier.ac.uk by **5 pm, Monday 28 April 2025**. Please include your full name and institutional affiliation.

Please note: this is an in-person event; there is no registration charge; no travel or participation subsidies are available.

We will confirm acceptance by **Tuesday, 6 May 2025**.