

Migration and Mobilities Research Network (MMRN)  
**Annual Conference 2026**  
***Migration, Mobilities, and the Politics of Hostility and Hospitality***  
 Edinburgh Napier University | Sighthill Campus | 23 June 2026

**Address:** [9 Sighthill Ct, Edinburgh EH11 4BN, United Kingdom](#)

**Registration:** <https://events.humanitix.com/mmrn2026>

## Draft Conference Programme

*Please note, last minute changes to the programme are possible and will be communicated to all registered presenters and attendees by email*

09:30 - 10:00	<b>Coffee and Registration</b> <b>Location: LRC1</b>	
10:00 - 11:00	<b>Opening:</b> Dr Kiril Sharapov <b>Keynote:</b> <i>Manufacturing Statelessness in the Middle East</i> Prof. Nergis Canefe, York University, Canada <b>Location: SIG_1.D.05</b>	
11:00 - 12:15	<b>Panel 1:</b> Theorising Hospitality: Decolonial and Non-Western Frameworks <b>Location: SIG_3.D.03</b>	<b>Panel 2:</b> Hostile Environments: State Policy, Welfare, and Exclusion <b>Location: SIG_3.D.08</b>
12:15 - 13:15	<b>Film Screening:</b> <i>The Textile Generation</i> (Dir. Haya Altamimi; co-produced with Dr Ann Zuntz & Dr Alessandro Columbu) + Discussion <b>Location: SIG_1.D.05</b>	
13:15 - 14:00	<b>Lunch break*</b>	
14:00 - 15:15	<b>Panel 3:</b> Accommodation, Containment, and the Politics of Shelter <b>Location: SIG_3.D.03</b>	<b>Panel 4:</b> Displacement, Belonging, and Urban Margins\ <b>Location: SIG_3.D.08</b>
15:15 - 15:35	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
15:35 - 16:50	<b>Panel 5:</b> Voice, Representation, and Knowledge Production <b>Location: SIG_3.D.03</b>	<b>Panel 6:</b> Borders, Labels, and Conditional Welcome <b>Location: SIG_3.D.08</b>
17:00 – 18:00	<b>Networking Reception</b> <b>Location: LRC1</b>	

\* Since we are not charging any registration fee to attend this event, lunch is not provided by the conference. Attendees are welcome to purchase meals at the University Canteen or nearby local cafes at their own expense. Alternatively, you are welcome to bring your own lunch. Designated indoor seating spaces are available on campus, as well as outdoor areas, subject to weather.

## Conference Book: Call for Contributions

We are compiling a short conference book to accompany the 2026 MMRN Annual Conference. We invite all registered participants, whether presenting or not, to submit a brief contribution of up to 200 words.

This is entirely optional and there is no obligation to contribute. Submissions can include a summary of your current research, a call for collaborators or research partners, or a note on work in progress. There are no formatting requirements beyond a plain Word document or email body text.

Please send your contribution to [mmrn@napier.ac.uk](mailto:mmrn@napier.ac.uk) with the subject line **MMRN 2026 Conference Book** before the registration deadline. Please include your name, institutional affiliation (or independent researcher/practitioner), and a title for your entry.

When submitting, please indicate your preferred circulation option:

- **Option A:** circulated only to registered conference participants
- **Option B:** included in the publicly available conference book on the MMRN website

Presenters' abstracts will be included under Option B automatically unless you indicate otherwise or request Option A.

## Panel Details

### Panel 1: Theorising Hospitality: Decolonial and Non-Western Frameworks

Room 1 | 11:00 - 12:15

This panel challenges Eurocentric conceptions of hospitality by bringing alternative epistemologies and theoretical frameworks into conversation with dominant approaches in migration and refugee studies. Papers draw on the construction of the 'ideal foreigner' in Chinese state media, postcolonial critiques of international student mobility, and a literary analysis of conditional hospitality and the tourist gaze in contemporary refugee fiction to question who defines the terms of welcome, and on whose knowledge those terms are built.

#### Papers:

**Hao Xie** (University of Warwick)

Conditional Hospitality and the Cultural Politics of Representing 'Foreign Immigrants' on Chinese State Television: Bond with China

**Mostafa Gamal** (Queen Margaret University)

International Student Mobility: (B)ordering Assemblages and the Context of Education

**Helle Marie Vatne** (University of Agder)

Hospitality and the Tourist Gaze: An Analysis of The Good Deed by Helen Benedict

### Panel 2: Hostile Environments: State Policy, Welfare, and Exclusion

Room 2 | 11:00 - 12:15

This panel examines how states produce hostility through law, policy, and institutional design, even while performing hospitality or invoking humanitarian commitments. Papers address the exclusion of British citizen children from welfare through immigration controls, citizen-led initiatives to host migrants in France and how hostile state policies constrain them, and the contradictions of neoliberal cosmopolitanism in Malta, where migrants are needed but not wanted.

#### Papers:

**Jonathan Collinson & Andrew Jolly** (University of Sheffield / University of Birmingham)

No Recourse to Public Funds, Childhood Destitution, and the Paradox of Excluding British Citizen Children of Migrant Parents From Welfare Entitlements

**Nadine Camp** (Synergies migrations, France)

Hospitality, a Private Matter? How Migration Policies and Administrative Barriers Affect Citizens' Initiatives to Host Migrants in France

**Maria Pisani** (University of Malta)

Needed but Not Wanted, Invited but Not Welcome: The Limits of Neoliberal Cosmopolitanism, Reflections from Malta

### **Panel 3: Accommodation, Containment, and the Politics of Shelter**

Room 1 | 14:00 - 15:15

This panel explores how the spaces in which refugees and asylum seekers are housed (hotels, reception centres, and private homes) become sites where hospitality and hostility are entangled. Papers examine the outsourcing of asylum accommodation in UK hotels, the gendered experience of refugee women in German accommodation centres, and the class and racial dynamics of private hosting of Ukrainian refugees in Poland, revealing how shelter can simultaneously offer care and enact control.

#### **Papers:**

**Olivia Petie** (University of Birmingham)

Outsourcing Hospitality: Contracting, Subcontracting, and Host-Guest Relationships in Asylum Hotels

**Sayed Mahdi Mosawi** (University of Edinburgh)

Hosted into Limbo: Refugee Women's Experiences of Accommodation Centres in Germany

**Klaudia Kosicińska** (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań)

'I Don't Really Like Cooking, But You Just Have To Make Borscht': Class and Gender During Hosting Ukrainian Refugees in Poland After 2022

**Natalia Bloch** (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań)

Who Is the Most Deserving Victim? The Racialised and Gendered Hierarchisation of Refugees in Private Hosting in Poland

### **Panel 4: Displacement, Belonging, and Urban Margins**

Room 2 | 14:00 - 15:15

This panel explores how displaced people navigate belonging in urban spaces where their presence remains contested, precarious, or actively undermined. Papers examine the repeated displacement of Syrian refugees after the 2023 earthquake in Türkiye, the concept of 'destination immobility' among Afro-Colombians in Medellín, the limits of the mobility lens in understanding the experiences of urban refugees in Southern and Eastern Africa, and affective narratives of belonging and hospitality among displaced Afghan women.

#### **Papers:**

**Ibrahim Akkan** (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin)

Repeated Displacement and Fragile Belonging: The Impact of the 2023 Earthquake on Syrian Refugees in Hatay

**Michael Nabil Ruprecht** (University College London)

Displaced by Climate, Marginalized by the State: Afro-Colombians in Medellín

**Nicholas Maple & Lucy Hovil** (Refugee Law Initiative, University of London)

Getting Lost in the City: Rethinking the Value of a Mobility Lens in Investigating the Precarious Hospitality Shown to Urban Refugees

**Chaeyoung Yong** (University of St Andrews)

Affective Narratives of Hospitality among Afghan Migrant Women

## Panel 5: Voice, Representation, and Knowledge Production

Room 1 | 15:35 - 16:50

This panel interrogates who gets to speak, how stories of displacement are told, and the epistemological and ethical tensions inherent in migration research. Papers address how moderate locals respond to extreme social media discourse on refugees in Turkey, the possibilities and risks of digital storytelling as method, the emergence of refugee-led filmmaking as a counter-narrative to humanitarian representation, and the use of participatory art with Iranian diasporic women to 'unborder' dominant narratives of belonging.

### Papers:

**Emma Walker-Silverman** (University of Oxford)

How Do Ambivalent Locals Respond to Extreme Social Media Discourse on Refugees?

**Lena S. Opfermann** (University of Bedfordshire)

Storytelling in Migration Research: Transformative or Exploitative?

**Agnes Woolley** (University of Southampton)

Documenting Inhospitability in Recent Refugee Filmmaking

**Paria Goodarzi** (University of Glasgow)

Creative Practice as Border Work: Iranian Women, Belonging and Conditional Hospitality

## Panel 6: Borders, Labels, and Conditional Welcome

Room 2 | 15:35 - 16:50

This panel examines how categorical boundaries – refugee and migrant, student and worker, deserving and undeserving, early and late arrival – structure conditional hospitality and produce exclusion. Papers explore how gender-diverse refugees in Nairobi use and resist labels to access services, how highly skilled Syrians are welcomed as students but rejected as migrants, how 'residual' Liberian refugees navigate life after the cessation of refugee status, and how intra-diasporic class divisions among Venezuelans in the US foreclose solidarity.

### Papers:

**Joan Hope Mwangi** (SOAS, University of London)

Use of Labels to Access Services for Gender-Diverse Urban Refugees in Nairobi

**Lina Fadel, Katerina Strani & Jo Drugan** (Heriot-Watt University)

Welcomed as a Student, Not as a Migrant? Hospitality and Highly Skilled Syrians in the UK

**Tosin Durodola** (Refugee Law Initiative, University of London / University of Edinburgh)

Time and Power: Governing Late Arrivals through Hospitality and Containment after Refugee Protection Ends

**Francisco Llinás Casas** (University of Edinburgh)

Bypassing the Brokers of Modernity: Venezuela's Chronotopic Containment and Nomadic Power

## Film Screening

12:15 - 13:15 | Plenary

**The Textile Generation** (ca. 45 minutes + discussion)

Co-produced by filmmaker Haya Altamimi and academics Dr Ann-Christin Zuntz (University of Edinburgh) and Dr Alessandro Columbu (University of Westminster), this documentary uncovers the hidden history of Syrian textile traders in Manchester, challenging common understandings of globalisation and exploring how diasporas are actively remade across generations.