

INVITATION

to a Three-Day Online Seminar

on Gender and Communities

“Gender and Transnational Migration during COVID-19”

DATES

Monday 6-12-2021

Tuesday 7-12-2021

Wednesday 8-12-2021

TIME

18.00-20.00 Greece

17.00-19.00 Norway

16.00-18.00 Iceland

Theme

The **three-day online seminar** will focus on the impact of the pandemic on transnational migration flows and transnational migrant communities, focusing especially on the gendered aspects of border crossings and community building during a period of increased social anxiety, socioeconomic precarity and the rising influence of racist and ultra-right-wing anti-migrant views and policies.

First, it will explore how the pandemic and the measures that governments have taken to prevent its spread have increased vulnerabilities amongst people on the move, who are already disadvantaged because of gender-based persecution in the country of origin, gender-based violence during their journey and/or broader forms of structural gendered inequality. Vulnerable groups of migrants, which are mostly women but also LGBTQ+, children and men, are protected by international law, but are often deprived of access to relevant protection and support services in the framework of the measures against the

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spread of COVID-19. In many cases, these vulnerable groups find themselves trapped in relations of dependency, violence and exploitation because of their gender, which intersects with race, class, migrant status, religion and sexual orientation. The conditions of gendered vulnerability of these migrant groups are reinforced during periods of lock downs, when domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence in rooms, apartments, camps and on the streets intensify, while socioeconomic precarity becomes pervasive.

Second, it will examine how European, national and local governments have responded to the pandemic in regard to migrant movements and border security, emphasizing the intersections between gendered based vulnerability and the emergence of institutional and social racism legitimised on the grounds of the COVID-19 health emergency. Following a more widespread trend in European politics towards anti-migrant ultra-right-wing discourses, many governments have used the COVID-19 restrictions as an excuse to deprive migrants of their rights. In this context, there have been several alarming reports of unlawful push backs in Greece, but also a policy of continuous restrictions of movements for people living in camps. Moreover, during lock downs access to accommodation, education, social and medical protection for migrant groups has become an everyday reality even when they are recognised asylum seekers, refugees, survivors of GBV, and trafficking. This is especially in European states and regions, where ultra-right wing ideologies and racism have penetrated mainstream discourse and politics guiding policies and responses to COVID-19.

Finally, the seminar will address how migrant communities have responded to the on-going crisis, what strategies they have used to cope with the pandemic, but also with the ensuing economic hardships and lack of access to social welfare that many of their members experienced because of socioeconomic and legal precarity. Against these anti-migrant policies and ultra-right-wing ideologies, migrant communities devise their own strategies to fight against gender inequalities, gender-based violence, racism and precarity and produce their own strategies of socioeconomic and political well being and welfare. These strategies constitute examples of how bottom up responses to COVID-19 and gender inequalities.

The seminar is open to students, activists, thinkers, as well as professionals who are working in related fields and are interested in conducting research on gender and COVID-19.

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The seminar will explore the following questions:

- How does the pandemic influence the migrant border crossing of people vulnerable because of gender?
- How do governments respond to challenges regarding transnational migration and gender during the pandemic?
- How do migrant communities respond to the challenges of the pandemic and the institutional racism that is often intensified in the context of the health emergency?

Program

Monday 6-12-2021: “Gendered approaches and Transnational Perspectives of Gender and Migration”

Tuesday 7-12-2021: “Border Control and Transnational Migrant Movements during COVID-19”

Wednesday 8-12-2021: “Gender and Communities during the pandemic: Alternative bottom up Welfare Models and Social Dynamics”.

The seminar is being organised in the context of the ProGender Project by the [Centre for Gender Studies of Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences](#)

Seminar Coordinator

Nelli Kambouri is a political scientist and gender scholar. She currently works as associate research fellow at the Centre for Gender studies Panteion University and as a senior research fellow at the University of Hertfordshire UK, where she conducts research on platform labour in urban spaces (Horizon 2020 Project PLUS) <https://project-plus.eu/> and on a tender for EIGE on “Gender, Digitalisation and the Future of Work”. In the past, she was involved in the research, scientific management and implementation of two FP7 projects, GeMIC, Gender, Migration and Intercultural Interactions (www.gemic.eu), Mig@net Transnational Digital Networks, Migration and Gender (<http://www.mignetproject.eu>) and RESCUE (<http://www.rescueproject.eu/>), Combating Trafficking in Women for Labor

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Exploitation in Domestic Work, and the tender Female Genital Mutilation in Europe funded by EIGE. Her work and publications focus on gender theory and analysis, gender violence, migration, social movements, and new technologies, media and science. She has taught in the past gender labour and social policy at the Department of Social Policy of Panteion University and held a scientific advisory post in the General Secretariat for Gender Equality at the Greek Ministry of the Interior for the International Labour Organisation.

To **apply** please visit the following link: <https://progender.panteion.gr/discussion/gender-and-transnational-migration-during-covid-19/>

You will need to upload a short CV and motivation note. If the number of applications exceeds the available places, applicants will be selected based on their CV.

Good knowledge of English is required. The seminar is free of charge.

Deadline for applications: Thursday 2nd of December 2021

For more information please visit our website: <https://progender.panteion.gr>

Certificates of participation will be given to participants upon request.

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