SMUGGLING WORKSHOP 2017:
THE THEORY AND PRAXIS OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION FACILITATION
The University of Texas at El Paso
April 6-8, 2017

The facilitation of irregular migration has been primarily articulated as a violent, exploitative practice under the control of transnational crime in a fashion often plagued with ahistorical, state-centered articulations of class, race and gender. Furthermore, the language of crisis, crime, violence and terrorism often present in migration discourses has facilitated the surveillance and control of specific geographic locations and bodies.

Against this backdrop, the 2017 edition of the Smuggling Workshop is a gathering space for scholars to critically, collectively and empirically ground the theory and praxis of irregular migration facilitation. Held in the aftermath of the US executive orders and Brexit, and taking place on the US Mexico border in the context of anti-immigrant and xenophobic policies and practices, religious and ethnic bans, alongside increased calls for punitive migration enforcement amid migratory flows, the workshop seeks to create a space for active, organized and strategic reflection and research on irregular migration and clandestine transits and their controls.
Conveners

Gabriella E. Sanchez | University of Texas at El Paso
Antje Missbach | Monash University in Melbourne
Luigi Achilli | European University Institute

Chairs

Sheldon Zhang | University of Massachusetts - Lowell
Julia O'Connell Davidson | University of Bristol
David J. Kyle | University of California - Davis
Wendy Vogt | Indiana University- Purdue
Robert Barsky | Vanderbilt University
Neil Howard | University of Antwerp
Nicholas Natividad | New Mexico State University
Victoria Stone-Cadena | City University of New York

Presenters

Alexandra Ricard-Guay | European University Institute
Blanca Navarrete | Programa de Defensa e Incidencia Binacional
Caitlin Blanchfield | Columbia University
Carlos Zavala | Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez
Dylan Corbett | Hope Border Institute
Fernando Loera | Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez
Gilles Reckinger | Universität Innsbruck
Jared Van Ramshorst | Syracuse University
Jill Alpes | VU University of Amsterdam
Joseph Lelliott | University of Queensland
Kyunghee Kook | University of Nottingham
Luca Rainieri | Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies
Lupe Flores | University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley
Mjriam Abu Samra* | University of Oxford
Nassim Majidi* | Sciences Po's CERI, Wits University's ACMS
Nicola Mai | Kingston University London
Nina Kolowatnik | Columbia University
Ophelia Rivas | O'Odham VOICE against the WALL
Elijah Marrietta | O'Odham VOICE against the WALL
Oscar Hernandez | Colegio de la Frontera Norte - Matamoros
Patrisia Macias-Rojas | University of Illinois at Chicago
Rebecca Powell | Monash University
Simona Ardovino | European Commission
Sine Plambech | Danish Institute for International Studies
Soledad Alvarez Velasco | King's College London
Tekalign Ayalew Mengiste* | University of Stockholm
Stephanie Maher | University of Washington
Wayne Palmer | Binus University Jakarta
Yaatsil Guevara Gonzalez | Universität Bielefeld

*Scholars impacted by the US Executive Orders and EU immigration controls which prevented them from attending the workshop.
Program

6 APRIL:

08:30–09:00  Registration – UTEP Student Union: University Suite 312

09:00 -09:10  Opening Remarks

09:10-09:20  Welcome
Dr Larry Valero | Chair, National Security Studies Institute

09:20-09:35  UTEP’s Welcome
Dr. Diana Natalicio | President, University of Texas at El Paso

09:35-09:50  Statement on the Impact of the Executive Orders
Community Members

10:00-10:30  Looking Back – Moving Forward: Grounding the Theory and Praxis of Human Smuggling in a time of crisis.
Sheldon Zhang | University of Massachusetts Lowell

10:30-10:45  Coffee break

10:45-12:00  Session 1 – BANNED: Scholars Impacted by US Executive Orders and Migration Regulation and Enforcement
Chair: Nicholas Natividad – New Mexico State University
Tekalign Ayalew Mengiste* | University of Stockholm
Navigating through Crises: Transit Experiences of the Horn of Africa’s Migrants in Libya
Nassim Majidi,* Michael Collyer and Saagarika-Dadu Brown | Sciences Po’s CERI, Wits University’s ACMS; University of Sussex; Samuel Hall
Smuggling of Migrants to Canada
Mjriam Abu Samra* and Luigi Achilli | Oxford University; European University Institute.
Beyond Smuggling: Palestinian Transnational Networks across Militarised Borders

12:00-13:00  Lunch Break: Acacia Room 102A
13:00-14:30  Session 2 – Migration Enforcement and Anti-smuggling/trafficking Policies: Responses and their Contradictions

Chair: David Kyle | University of California Davis

Luca Rainieri | Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies

Gilles Reckinger | Universität Innsbruck
The European Border Regime as Facilitator of Exploitation? Ethnographic Research with Sub-Saharan Africans in Italy.

Patrisia Macias-Rojas | University of Illinois - Chicago

14:30-14:45  Coffee Break

14:45-16:30  Session 3 – The “Unseen” dynamics of smuggling and trafficking: Reframing Discourses

Chair: Wendy Vogt | Indiana University

(TO BE CONFIRMED) Kyunghae Kook | University of Nottingham
The Precarious Journeys of North Korean refugees through underground smuggling networks.

Neil P. Howard | University of Antwerp
Are we really saving the children? On the anti-politics of anti-trafficking.

Soledad Alvarez | King’s College London
Historical, Socio-Economic, Political Dimensions of Coyoterismo along Ecuador-Colombia-Mexico.

Lupe Flores | University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley
Gendered Smuggling and the Reverberations of the Border Security Apparatus along the Río Grande.

18:00  Reception. Peter and Margaret De Wetter Center, UTEP Campus
7 APRIL

09:00-10:15  Session 4 – Regional Cooperation and International Approaches in Smuggling and Trafficking Policy

Chair: Victoria Stone-Cadena | City University of New York

Simona Ardovino | European Commission (via Skype)
The EU Policy Framework to Tackle Migrant Smuggling

Claudia Tazreiter, Sharon Pickering and Rebecca Powell | Monash University
Enhancing regional cooperation in responding to and preventing irregular migration in the South-East Asia region.

Alexandra Ricard-Guay and Anna Triandafyllidou | European University Institute
Is the current context in Europe a turning point for a new (combined) approach to human trafficking and migrant smuggling?

10:15-10:30  Coffee break

10:30-11:45  Session 5 – Between the everyday praxis and the legal construction of smuggling: brokers, shelters, transporters and courts.

Chair: Robert Barsky | Vanderbilt University

Yaatsil Guevara | Universität Bielefeld
Microcosms of power: Smuggling and brokerage practices in the Casas de Migrantes within the Central American-U.S. migratory corridor

Wayne Palmer and Antje Missbach | Binus University and Monash University

(To be confirmed) Lisa Akesson and Jill Alpes | VU University of Amsterdam
What is a legitimate mobility manager? Juxtaposing migration brokers with the EU state managed programs.

12:00-13:00  Lunch Break: Acacia Room 102A

13:00-14:30  Immigration Enforcement in the Tohono O'Odham Nation.
Rubin Center for the Arts, UTEP Campus
Ophelia Rivas and Elijah Marrietta – O’Odham VOICE against the WALL

Nina Kolowatnik and Caitlin Blanchfield | Columbia University
Re-assessing Surveillance: Documenting the Impact of Security Infrastructure in the Tohono O’odham Nation
15:00-16:30  **Session 6 -- The Affective and the Intimate in Irregular Migration**

**Chair:** Julia O'Connell-Davidson | University of Bristol

Jared van Ramshorts | Syracuse University  
*“La Migra, la Migra!”* Emotional and Affective Spaces of humor in irregular migration and human smuggling from Central America

Nicola Mai | Kingston University  
Understanding the sexual humanitarian bordering of migration and sex work through ethno-fictional filmmaking.

Sine Plambech | Danish Institute for International Studies  
The Death of a Migrant: Smuggling, Trafficking and Gender across the Mediterranean.

18:30-20:30  **A night at the movies: Debunking Human Smuggling and Trafficking Myths through Film Making. UTEP’s Rubin Center for the Arts**  
Screenings of *Samira* (27 min.) and *Becky’s Story* (27 min.) Discussion with the filmmakers.

End of UTEP's Events.

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8 APRIL

08:00-13:00  **Day Trip to Ciudad Juarez to “La Rodadora” –for participants only.**¹

---¹ Multiple countries have issued security warnings against traveling to Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. The community has experienced violence and death, but it is also home to thousands of hardworking, resilient and strong people. As a presenter and/or chair, you are welcome to join us as we cross the border on foot to spend a morning with friends, colleagues and community members in solidarity. Be advised a valid visa and passport will be required to re-enter the United States.

Photo credit: Reuters 2015 by Srdjan Zivulovic ©. Akram from Herat, Afghanistan, shows a picture of his friends on their journey to Europe.