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# DETECTING AND MITIGATING BIAS IN MIGRATION RESEARCH

**30-31 MARCH 2023**  
**CÓRDOBA. SPAIN**

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# DETECTING AND MITIGATING BIAS IN MIGRATION RESEARCH

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# AGENDA

## Thursday March 30

13:00-13:45 Informal welcome @IESA-CSIC

14:00-16:00 Lunch (@ nearby restaurant)

16:00-16:10 Formal welcome and introduction  
**Sebastian Rinken & Agata Górný**

16:10-17:00 **Complementing conventional web survey data with new measurement opportunities to achieve better or new in sights**

**Keynote** address by **Melanie Revilla**  
IBEI. Institut Barcelona Estudis Internacionals

17:00-17:30 Debate

17:30-18:00 Refreshments (on-site)

18:00-20:00 **Panel session 1: Detecting and mitigating bias in surveys**  
Including debate; chair: **Steffen Pötzschke**

**Dixie Brea** University of Bergen  
*Reaching the refugee population in survey research: Differences in contact and collaboration among potential participants in Norway*

**Agata Górný & Kasia Porwit** University of Warsaw  
*Stratification of the sample as a means to reduce response bias in internet surveys using Facebook and Instagram ads*

**Lucía Granda & Rosa Soriano** University of Granada  
*Bias in Migration Research on the Spanish-Moroccan border*

**Riccardo Ladini, Ferruccio Biolcati & Francesco Molteni**  
University of Milan  
*How to sample migrants in general population surveys when population lists are not available? A respondent-driven approach*

**Vera Messing, Blanca Szeitl & Bence Ságvári**  
Central European University, Budapest  
*Answers as expected? The effects of survey mode on estimates of migration attitudes in self-completion and face-to-face interviews of the European Social Survey*

**Stefánia Toma** Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities  
*Romanian Roma Migrants Abroad and at Home: mixed method approaches in surveying hard-to-reach and hard-to identify populations*

Dinner (21:00--) (self-paid)

## Friday March 31

9:30-11:30 **Panel session 2: Bias in administrative data and classification categories** Including debate; chair: **Evren Yalaz**

**Tatiana Eremenko** University of Salamanca  
*Estimating and describing the legal status of child migrants to France through a multi-source approach*

**María Soledad Escobar** Autonomous University of Madrid  
*Geographical areas instead of nationalities? The use of 'Latin American' and 'EU14' categories in research on migrant political participation*

**Michael Haan** Western University  
*The Many Forms of Bias in Migration Research in Canada*

**Helen Packwood** University of Edinburgh  
*Integrating methods to shed light on the trajectories of young migrants in Scotland*

**Xinyi Zhao** Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research  
*Identifying and Mitigating Bias in the Study of Scholarly Migration using Bibliometric Data*

11:30-12:00 Coffee break (on-site)

12:00-13:30 **Panel session 3: Positionality in qualitative research** Including debate; chair: **Laila Omar**

**Ester Höhle, Sascha Kranich & Uwe Hunger**  
University of Applied Sciences Fulda & University of Giessen  
*Mobile students from the Global South and their commitment to the development process in their home countries: Possible interview biases*

**Jae Hyun Park** University of Sussex  
*Identifying and mitigating biases as an insider-outsider researcher, an immigration officer researching with refugees*

**Yolanda López García** Technical University Chemnitz  
*Migrant researchers researching migration: Critical reflection toward the bias of studying the mobility of people sharing similar characteristics of origin*

13:30-14:30 **Wrapping up: key issues and take-home messages**  
**Agata Górny & Sebastian Rinken**

14:30-16:30 Lunch (@ nearby restaurant)

## Keynote speech by Melanie Revilla

### **Complementing conventional web survey data with new measurement opportunities to achieve better or new insights**

The expansion of the Internet and the development of a range of new active and passive measurement tools, particularly on mobile devices, present exciting opportunities for researchers. Compared to conventional surveys, using these new measurement opportunities (e.g., visual data or metered data) could reduce respondent burden, improve data quality, and extend measurement into new domains, allowing to answer questions that could not be answered so far and to improve the decisions of key actors (e.g., government). However, very little research has implemented such possibilities, and even less has assessed the data quality associated with such approaches. Thus, there is a huge need for further research in this area. This presentation will go through the main potential advantages of these data (focusing on a couple of them), but also explain the challenges/risks that researchers are facing when using such data. Moreover, some examples of the research that we are doing to learn more about these new data types to help researchers using them in the best way possible will be presented.



**Melanie Revilla** [mrevilla@ibei.org](mailto:mrevilla@ibei.org)

IBEI Institut Barcelona Estudis Internacionals

Melanie is a survey methodologist researcher at IBEI (Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals). Since 2020, she is the Principal Investigator of the WEB DATA OPP project (<https://www.upf.edu/web/webdataopp>), funded by an ERC starting grant. Before moving to IBEI, she was Deputy Director of the Research and Expertise Centre for Survey Methodology (RECSM) and adjunct professor at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain). Her main areas of research include survey measurement errors, data quality, mode of data collection, web surveys, mobile participation, and metered data. For more details, see: [https://www.ibei.org/es/melanie-revilla\\_275804](https://www.ibei.org/es/melanie-revilla_275804)

peu Fabra (Spain). Her main areas of research include survey measurement errors, data quality, mode of data collection, web surveys, mobile participation, and metered data. For more details, see: [https://www.ibei.org/es/melanie-revilla\\_275804](https://www.ibei.org/es/melanie-revilla_275804)

#### Related readings:

- Bosch, O. J. and Revilla, M. (2022). When survey science met web tracking: Presenting an error framework for metered data. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A (Statistics in Society)*, 1– 29. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rssa.12956>
- Revilla, M. (2022). How to enhance web survey data using metered, geolocation, visual and voice data?. *Survey Research Methods*, 16(1): 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.18148/srm/2022.v16i1.8013>

For further suggestions see <https://www.upf.edu/web/webdataopp> (“dissemination”).

## Contributions to panel sessions

Contributions are listed in alphabetical order of first author; authors who attend the workshop are highlighted in bold



**Dixie Brea** [dixie.brea@uib.no](mailto:dixie.brea@uib.no)  
University of Bergen @UiB

*Reaching the refugee population in survey research: Differences in contact and collaboration among potential participants in Norway*

In light of the growing interest in academic research among refugee populations in European countries following the 2015 refugee crisis, this paper assesses the likelihood of response and willingness to participate in survey research among refugee groups in Norway. One of the main focuses of survey research is why some people do not participate in surveys. Research on migration often has a low response rate, especially among refugees. Migration researchers face several methodological and ethical problems when dealing with survey responses and data collection. Small samples, unfamiliar contexts, and response bias are some of these problems. Confidentiality issues, misunderstandings, and recruitment problems may also arise. This paper addresses some associated pitfalls and implementation problems based on an example of a quantitative survey intended for refugees in Norway. Although there are no best practices, methodological and ethical considerations should be taken more carefully to identify biases in migration research among refugees. Keywords: Refugee populations, survey implementation, sampling, migration research

**Speaker's bio:** As a doctoral candidate in the Department of Psychosocial Science at the University of Bergen, and a member of the SAW research group, I have been looking at the explanatory models and symptoms management of mental health problems, as well as integration aspects among some refugee groups in Norway as part of the leading project in the SAW research group: <https://www.uib.no/en/rg/saw/114420/clinical-encounters-refugees-suffering-mental-health-problems>. The research for this Ph.D. is also interdisciplinary (social and health sciences), using a mixed-methods approach. My Ph.D. article has been published in BMC Psychology, and I will submit my dissertation soon this year. Previously, I worked in public health research and was a member of the NJMR book review editorial board <https://journal-njmr.org>. My other affiliations include the Junior Scholars' Network of Migration: IMER, <https://migrationresearch.w.uib.no>, and NNMF, <https://mirnorway.wixsite.com/network>.

**Tatiana Eremenko** [teremenko@usal.es](mailto:teremenko@usal.es)  
 University of Salamanca [@usal](https://twitter.com/usal) [@tneremenko](https://twitter.com/tneremenko)

*Estimating and describing the legal status of child migrants to France through a multi-source approach*

Although the 2007 Regulation marked an important milestone in the access to “relevant, timely and accurate data” on international migration to the EU, data needs for some areas, such as child immigration, are still not met (European Commission, 2018). While increasing at-

tention to children in the most vulnerable situations (asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, children entering the EU irregularly) have led to specific data collections on these groups, the estimation and description of “regular” child migration flows also poses conceptual and methodological challenges. This paper examines to what extent existing data sources allow identifying and describing the legal status of child migrants to France (defined as migrants aged less than 18 at time of arrival), a country in which minor foreigners are not required to hold a residence permit. We compare findings based on residence permit statistics published by Eurostat (internationally comparable data) and the Ministry of Interior (national data), as well as two recent surveys: Longitudinal Survey on the Integration of First-time Arrivals (Elipa 2) and Trajectories and Origins (TeO2). We show that existing residence permit statistics based on age at issue (Eurostat), or admission category (Ministry of Interior) provide only a partial estimation of this group, as many child migrants receive a first residence permit at 18 years in “adult” categories (for example, through regularisation for work or family reasons) or never apply for a residence permit (due to previous acquisition of French citizenship through family-based or individual naturalization). As a result, in the context of France, existing statistics provide a biased picture of child migration both in terms of volume (under-estimation) and legal status (inclusion of child-specific legal categories only). Given the importance of legal status for successful integration, we discuss in detail the consequences of this situation for understanding the experiences of child and youth migrants in Europe today and how statistics can be adapted to describe more accurately the experiences of this group.

**Related reading:** The paper I will present is based on results from my PhD thesis (revised and updated with new data). As there is no published paper yet, I’m providing the thesis citation (in French, see chapter 7): Eremenko, T. (2015). Les parcours des enfants de migrants vers la France <https://tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-01542988/>

**Speaker’s bio:** I trained as a demographer (University of Strasbourg, MSc, 2007; University of Bordeaux, PhD, 2015), worked as a post-doctoral researcher at INED and CSIC, and since September 2022 am Assistant Professor at the University of Salamanca (USAL). My research focuses on international migration and mobility in Europe, experiences of immigrants and their descendants, as well as the role of public policies in shaping these processes. It falls into three broad areas: 1) International

migration dynamics, with a particular interest in identifying and estimating flows of hard-to-count migrant groups: child and youth, temporary and return migrants, EU nationals, posted workers. 2) Family processes among immigrant populations: family migration and reunification, family formation (union, fertility) and structures (single parent families, transnational families), as well as labour market participation and living conditions. 3) Experiences of children and youth in migration: legal status, education, health, and well-being. The analysis of data on migration (advantages, limitations, existing data gaps) is another line of my research and I have organized conference sessions on these issues (IFMS 2018, IMISCOE 2019), participated in data collections (Survey of Newly Arrived Immigrants in France, Elipa 2) and collaborate with administrations to explore possibilities for research use of their data.



**Ma Soledad Escobar** [marias.escobar@uam.es](mailto:marias.escobar@uam.es)  
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid [@UAM\\_Madrid](https://twitter.com/UAM_Madrid)

*Geographical areas instead of nationalities? The use of 'Latin American' and 'EU14' categories in research on migrant political participation*

In migration studies, employing broad geographical categories to define certain communities has become a very widespread practice over the last decades. In research carried out in the United States and Europe, it mainly affects people from Latin American countries, who are usually grouped under the category 'Latinos' or 'Latin American'. In Europe, this practice also affects migrants from the richest EU countries, who are often differentiated from Eastern European nationals. The reasons for these categorizations are multiple and include the intention of not leaving out any national group or the need to guarantee data compatibility, bearing in mind that it is a widespread practice in the Social Sciences. Although the choice of each broad category is almost always not arbitrary but responds to several criteria, e.g. geographic proximity, similar country average incomes, as well as reasons for migration, in practice it implies blurring the differences that may exist between nationals of different countries regarding these and other criteria. This paper aims to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using the categories 'Latin Americans' and 'UE14 citizens' in studies on the political representation of minorities. Focusing on the disadvantages, employing these large categories prevents researchers from knowing, for instance, to what extent the quality of democracy and the political history of the origin country affect the political participation of their citizens abroad. Our data comes from the APREPINM project (The political representation of the immigrant population in Spain, by its Spanish acronym), carried out by a team within the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the Universidad Autónoma of Madrid (Spain).

**Related reading:** Escobar, S. Pérez-Nievas, G. y Cordero, G. (2021). Killing two birds with one stone?: The inclusion of immigrant-origin women on Spanish local party lists. *Migraciones*, (51), pp.153-180. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14422/mig.i51y2021.006>.



**Speaker's bio:** María Soledad Escobar is a postdoctoral researcher at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. At the beginning of her career, she joined the Permanent Migration Observatory of Andalusia; a center belonged to the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC). Her work experience has focused on analyzing the attitudes of native population towards immigrants and the integration processes of immigrants at both the labor and relational levels. She has also participated in the writing of publications on the evolution of public opinion towards immigrant population, the impact of the economic crisis on the labor situation of young immigrants and the integration processes of immigrant population at the regional level. From 2018 to 2022, she was a member of the APREPINM project (¿Ayuntamientos Plurales? Representación Política de los Inmigrantes en España). Using the APREPINM database, her Thesis (La representación política de las mujeres de origen inmigrante en las candidaturas municipales en España: un análisis desde la interseccionalidad) analyses the descriptive representation of women-origin immigrants on local party lists. The thesis obtained the qualification of Distinction Cum Laude. María Soledad is currently a member of AccessIN, an European project aimed at analysing the social inclusion and access to basic services of third-country nationals.



**Agata Górný** a.gorny@uw.edu.pl  
**Kasia Porwit**

University of Warsaw

*Stratification of the sample as a means to reduce response bias in internet surveys using Facebook and Instagram adds*

Internet surveys have grown in importance in quantitative studies on international migrants. At the same time, the usage of Facebook and Instagram adds to recruit respondents has become particularly popular as a cost-efficient and fast method. However, next to selection biases embedded in internet surveys – e.g. overrepresentation of persons using social media and those better educated – Facebook and Instagram adds' algorithms provide for an additional source of bias. As adds' campaign progress algorithms learn which users to approach to get the highest click/view per number of adds response, based on characteristics of users. The operation of those algorithms is a black box for researchers making it difficult to evaluate the bias in the response rate. Our contribution is to evaluate the efficiency of stratification of the sample as a mean to reduce biases caused by the optimisation of Facebook and Instagram algorithms. The studied case is an internet survey on Ukrainian migrants in Poland during the war in Ukraine conducted in July-September 2022 by the Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw (N=7617). In the recruitment process, the sample was stratified by region (16 voivodeships in Poland) and additionally by gender and age of migrants at the later stages of recruitment. We will demonstrate how Facebook and Instagram algorithms apparently strengthened gender bias in the sample towards overrep-

resentation of women. The latter is the general tendency in internet surveys that was additionally strengthened by the war context of Ukrainian migration making Ukrainian men particularly reluctant to participate in the survey. We will also demonstrate the geographical distribution and age structure of the sample against official registries, arguing that stratification of the sample helped us to obtain a satisfactory sample of Ukrainian migrants in Poland during the war.

**Speaker's bio:** Agata Górný is an associate professor at the University of Warsaw at the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Deputy Director of the Centre of Migration Research. She is also the deputy president of the Committee for Migration Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. An economist and sociologist by education, her research interests include the methodology of migration research – especially survey methodology - contemporary migration processes, primarily immigration to Poland and Central and Eastern Europe, and socio-economic integration of migrants in the host society.

Co-author's bio: **Katarzyna Porwit** is a research assistant at the Centre of Migration Research at University of Warsaw (CMR) and Member of the Management Board of the Centre for Migration Research Foundation. She completed Postgraduate Studies in International Migration Processes and Methods (UW) and Postgraduate Studies in Statistical Data Analysis (AGH UST). Her research interests focus on the quantitative methods in studies on socio-economic aspects of Ukrainian immigration to Poland. She had experience with different quantitative research designs with regard to sampling, and modes of data collection, including the Respondent Driven Sampling method. She has contributed to several methodologically oriented migration research projects. Currently she takes part in the research programme "Between Ukraine and Poland" - first panel study of Ukrainian migrants in Poland. She is also an official Health Behaviour of School-aged Children network member since 2019, focussing on the impact of migration on the life of children and adolescents.



**Lucía Granda & Rosa Soriano** [igranda@ugr.es](mailto:igranda@ugr.es)  
University of Granada @CanalUGR

*Bias in Migration Research on the Spanish-Moroccan border*

Snowball sampling is a very useful technique when studying hard-to-reach or hidden population; in migrations research, is a key method when contacting subjects in an irregular and vulnerable situation. This is the case for the qualitative research we have been conducting for the last two years on the Spanish-Moroccan border in the city of Melilla. After the closure of the border in March 2020, many people who commuted daily from Morocco to Melilla to work decided to stay in the city irregularly so as not to lose their incomes source. We aim to study the

survival strategies of domestic workers, a group characterized by a high level of precariousness and feminization. However, throughout this research we have detected possible biases that could condition the results, such as the source of data. Two of the most frequent starting points to create the snowball network have been non-governmental organizations and employers. Regarding the latter, we analyzed the interviews considering that they could be conditioned by this link, and we found that sometimes the network created by the same person did not ensure heterogeneity. For example, one of the informants provided the data of three domestic workers, but they were from the same town and similar migration process. On other hand, we found that those we accessed through NGOs (not only the women contacted directly by these organizations, but those accessed through this network) were in a similar situation, limiting the sample heterogeneity; most of them had experienced situations of violence, had received legal and labor assistance, and were in an advanced process of integration in the city. After identifying these biases, we developed some strategies to guarantee heterogeneity. We intended to directly access to the source of the data. To this end, we conducted observation fieldwork like the first phase of an ethno-survey in different locations of the city, such as the border or public spaces where they were doing companionship work. As a result of this observation, we identified some locations in which it was possible to ask these workers directly, such as health centers, cafeterias, etc.

**Speaker's bio:** Lucía Granda holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology (University of Granada). She is currently teaching and doing her PhD under the University Teacher Training Program (FPU) of the Ministry of Universities at the Department of Sociology of the University of Granada. Member of the research group Social Problems in Andalusia (SEJ129). Her research interests focus on migration, gender and border studies, with a particular focus on the survival strategies of cross-border women workers at the Melilla border.

**Co-author's bio:** Rosa Soriano is senior lecturer of the Department of Sociology, University of Granada. PhD Thesis Award granted by the National Economic and Social Council (2004). In the last fifteen years, the international collaboration as participant or coordinator of research projects with a wide range of foreign universities has been outstanding. Since 2015, Mrs. Soriano is member of a international research network on issues related to globalization, industrial relocation, migration and gender. She has been Principal Investigator (together with Antonio Trinidad Requena) of the Project Reconstructing the countryside in non-border regions in relocation and migration: The cases of Morocco and Mexico (CSO2013-40646-P) funded by the Ministry of Innovation and Science, which focused on the effects of the maquiladora industry on migration, considering gender and border as dependent variable. She is currently PI of the project: Social processes in the virtual store: The purchase of clothing after COVID-19 (PY20\_0034) funded by the Autonomous Government of Andalusia focused on the same processes, but from the point of view of places of consumption. She has specialized in migration, globalization, gender from an inter-sectional perspective and multisite research.

**Michael Haan** [mhaan2@uwo.ca](mailto:mhaan2@uwo.ca)  
Western University @WesternU



*The Many Forms of Bias in Migration Research in Canada*

Immigration research in Canada increasingly relies on multiple administrative data files. This presentation will discuss the nature of these data, and provide an overview of how these data reduce some forms of bias but enhance others. Special attention will be paid to how these data impact the ability to accurately measure internal migration.

**Speaker's bio:** Michael Haan (PhD, University of Toronto, 2006) is an Associate Professor at Western University. His research interests intersect the areas of demography, immigrant settlement, labour market integration, and data development. Dr. Haan is widely consulted by provincial and federal governments for policy advice in the areas of immigration, settlement services, the Canadian labour market, and population aging. Dr. Haan is currently investigator or co-investigator on over ten million dollars of research focused on immigrant settlement, developing welcoming communities, and identifying the factors that predict successful retention of newcomers. Since receiving his PhD in 2006, he has already published over 75 articles and reports on these topics.



**Ester Höhle, Sascha Kranich & Uwe Hunger**  
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University of Applied Sciences Fulda & University of Giessen

*Mobile students from the Global South and their commitment to the development process in their home countries: Possible interview biases*

Educational migration, i.e. studying abroad, should support poorer countries in their socio-economic development. The focus of our project are alumni from the Global South who studied in the USA or in Germany with the help of a schol-

arship. We investigate to what extent they contribute to the development of their country after their studies. We are planning qualitative and quantitative interviews, whereby contact with the alumni will be guaranteed by the DAAD and Fulbright. The project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). In our contribution, we want to reflect on the following possible biases. An attempt is made to control the effects by comparing information from the population with information from the survey (Kühne 2009: 115; Höhle/Krempkow 2020). - Success bias: It can be assumed that alumni who are more in line with the goals and expectations of the program (e.g. commitment) or who are professionally successful are more likely to take part in the survey than those who do not correspond to social desirability. This can lead to an over-representation of those who are committed/more successful. Studies examining the connection between career success and willingness to participate come to different conclusions (Windzio/Grotheer 2002; Kühne 2009: 112; Kuhnke 2005). - Success bias & coverage error (e.g. Dillmann 2000): It can be assumed that the availability of the alumni decreases, the longer the sponsored studies have passed. If the e-mail address has changed, it can be assumed that committed/successful alumni are more likely to actively maintain contact, which can lead to over-representation. - Sponsorship effect: The invitation to the survey via the scholarship programs can influence the response behavior in favor of social desirability (Kühne 2009; Häder 2006).

**Related readings:** Höhle, Ester und Krempkow, René (2020): Die Prüfung der Datenqualität bei einer heterogenen, teilweise unbestimmten Befragtengruppe. In: Qualität in der Wissenschaft (QiW) 2/2020, S. 50–60.

**Speaker's bio:** Ester Höhle, M.A. is a sociologist with a background in higher education research, social structure analysis and gender studies. Her research interest is on academic careers, working conditions in academia, and on international comparison. Her work has a strong empirical emphasis with a focus on quantitative methods. Since October 2022 she has been working together with Prof. Dr. Uwe Hunger and Dr. Sascha Krannich in a DFG-funded project at the University of Applied Sciences in Fulda. The focus of the project is on mobile alumni from the Global South and the question of how they can contribute to the development of their home country after their studies in Germany or the US. Previously, she worked as a research assistant in several third-party funded projects at the University of Stuttgart, the Technical University of Munich (TUM), the International Center of Higher Education Research in Kassel (INCHER) and the Humboldt University in Berlin. At INCHER-Kassel, her work focused on academic careers, particularly postdoc careers. There she worked in an international cooperation project with 18 countries from several continents and devoted herself to the international comparison of academic career structures, working environments and the effects on work, satisfaction and intention to leave. Ester published a number of articles in peer-reviewed journals, chapters in anthologies and co-edited a book in the Springer edition with Prof. Ulrich Teichler.

**Co-authors' bio:** Sascha Krannich is research associate at Giessen University, Germany, and co-editor of the Springer VS series „Studies on Migration and Integration Policies.“ He holds a PhD from Munster University, Germany. His research focuses

on international migration and development, student migration, immigration policies, and global health. In the frame of his research projects, he conducted several research stays abroad – including at University of Oxford; Princeton University; University of California, Los Angeles; Universidad Javeriana, Colombia and Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico. Currently, he is conducting research projects on international student migration in Germany and the United States (funded by the German Research Foundation) and on transnational health-related commitment of the global Tamil diaspora in Sri Lanka (funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation). Dr. **Uwe Hunger** is Professor of Political Science with a focus on migration at the University of Applied Sciences Fulda. His research focus is on migration and integration policy in Germany and in comparative perspective. He is also Private Lecturer at the Institute of Political Science at the Westphalian Wilhelms-University Münster.



**Riccardo Ladini, Ferruccio Biolcati & Francesco Molteni** [riccardo.ladini1@unimi.it](mailto:riccardo.ladini1@unimi.it)  
University of Milan

*How to sample migrants in general population surveys when population lists are not available?  
A respondent-driven approach*

The use of population lists is the golden standard for obtaining representative probabilistic samples of immigrant subpopulations. However, those lists are not always available to survey researchers. This is the case of Italy, where the use of population lists is not allowed for institutions (e.g. universities) and survey programs (e.g. EVS, ISSP) not adhering to the official statistical system. In these situations, the suboptimal strategy consists in the use of electoral lists, which do not include non-Italian citizens. To overcome this issue and minimize the resulting bias, we propose a strategy for the inclusion of non-Italian citizens, first employed in the CoValues survey carried out in Lombardy in late 2022. Aimed at analysing the native-migrant divide in values, the survey employs the same probabilistic sampling design of the Italian edition of the European Values Study to collect interviews among the Italian citizens. To sample non-Italian citizens, it employed a focused enumeration strategy, namely, a spatial sampling design driven by respondents themselves. Each respondent was asked to name the three nearest addresses where he/she thought people with a foreign origin were living. This strategy allows a first screening of the immigrant population, by providing to interviewers addresses where to plausibly find non-Italian citizens. A rather rigid protocol was then employed for sampling those individuals. This contribution aims at analysing the pros and cons of this strategy, by evaluating its effectiveness and comparing the distribution of the immigrant sample with the distribution of the immigrant populations according to the more relevant characteristics. All in all, we will discuss to what extent this strategy could overcome the issue of sampling lists in general population surveys.

**Speaker's bio:** Riccardo Ladini is an assistant professor of political sociology at the Department of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Milan, where he is also a member of the SPS Trend Lab. His current position is financed by a project on green issues, within the programme "Opt-Green: Public Opinion and Green Transition". Inter alia, he is interested in analyzing the influence of religiosity on social and political attitudes. Moreover, his research interests deal with the methodology of survey and experimental research. He is a member of the Italian team of the European Values Study.

**Co-authors' bio:** Ferruccio Biolcati is full professor of sociology at the Department of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Milan. His main research interests deal with religiosity and value change. Ferruccio Biolcati is co-founder of spsTREND, a survey research lab on social and political change. He is Italian PI for the European Values Study (EVS) and the World Values Survey (WVS), he is also member of the Scientific Committee of both EVS and WVS. Francesco Molteni is an assistant professor at the Department of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Milan. His research interests include religion and religious change, immigration, and human values. He is member of the Italian European Values Study (EVS) group and of the spsTREND group. He is the author of "A Need for Religion: Insecurity and Religiosity in the Contemporary World" (2020).

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 Technical University Chemnitz



*Migrant researchers researching migration: Critical reflection toward the bias of studying the mobility of people sharing similar characteristics of origin*

Migrant researchers investigating migratory phenomena that are close to them? This presentation focuses on the qualitative analysis of migration studies. It aims to discuss the role of researchers - who are themselves migrants - and who study the mobility of people with whom they share several background characteristics such as ethnicity, nationality, professional background, etc. Sharing characteristics can, on the one hand, allow access to a community or group of people. It may enable deep understanding of taken-for-granted knowledge that might be omitted by researchers who do not belong to or do not have that deep knowledge of the community. On the other hand, it may be precisely this deep involvement, the factor to overlook unquestioned taken-for-granted knowledge. Furthermore, the shared sense of belonging between researcher and researched may be a factor in the omission of some information due to pride, shame or other cultural codes. Hence, reflection is needed on the role of researchers studying migration: what strategies and methods should be followed

to be transparent and mitigate biases? The importance of critical reflection on researchers' own migration will be discussed throughout this presentation, as well as the importance of revealing biases, preconceived ideas, feelings and thoughts in relation to the research topic and analysis of this type of research. This presentation is mainly based on the author's qualitative research on Mexican and Latin American migrants in Germany, being herself a migrant, an academic from Mexico who migrated to Germany. Her research has been inspired by the bricolage method, using mainly life stories and thematic analysis as tools. Throughout the presentation, other cases of migrant researchers studying this type of migration will be mentioned as illustrations.

**Speaker's bio:** Yolanda López García is Junior Professor of Intercultural Practice with a focus on Digital Cultures at the Institute for German and Intercultural Communication Studies at the Chemnitz University of Technology (Germany). Her academic background is interdisciplinary: PhD in Philosophy from the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena (Germany), MA in International Migration and Intercultural Relations from the University of Osnabrück (Germany) and BA in International Relations from the Jesuit University of Guadalajara (ITESO) (Mexico). Her research interests are migration studies, interculturality, the postdigital everyday life, postdigital (inter)culturality and postdigital social imaginaries (social E-Maginations). Yolanda Lopez has over 10 years of experience in migration research and intercultural communication. She has worked at the University of Guadalajara (Mexico), the Pedagogical University of Karlsruhe and most recently at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, where she was research assistant at the Department of Intercultural Business Communication and coordinator of the Virtual Institute for Quality Education of the European Campus of City Universities EC2U Alliance at the FSU Jena.



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*Answers as expected? The effects of survey mode on estimates of migration attitudes in self-completion and face-to-face interviews of the European Social Survey*

The changing technological and social environment of survey data collection has led researchers to seek new avenues of data collection techniques and a rethinking of traditional survey methods. However, the method of data collection may have an important influence on who participates in a survey and how people answer questions. These two seemingly different phenomena are summarised under the term "mode effect". This paper compares data of self-completion (ESS Push-to-Web) and face-to-face (classical ESS) survey modes on attitudes towards immigrants in Hungary. Both surveys used probability-based sampling and identical questionnaires. We discuss the mode effect by comparing four data sets: the PtW data with the data of the classical ESS



face-to-face survey of two ESS survey rounds (round 9 and round 10) between 2019 and 2022. Attitudes towards immigrants as measured by these surveys are evaluated in one-, two- and multi-dimensional (GLM models) analyses. Findings of the study suggest that despite the equal weighting of key demographic variables in the surveys, respondents may report different attitudes because they may have different levels of engagement with or different access to surveys depending on the survey mode. Another important finding of the study is that survey mode has an independent influence on measurements: in GLM models where all other demographic factors are fixed, survey mode has a significant effect on how respondents report their attitudes, and this effect overrides the original demographic correlations.

**Related readings:** Szeitl, Blanka, Vera Messing and Bence Ságvári (forthcoming): Answers as expected? The effect of survey mode on estimates of sensitive attitudes in self-completion and face-to-face interviews.

**Speaker's bio:** Vera Messing is research fellow at Democracy Institute, Central European University, Budapest since 2008 and a senior research fellow at the Center of Social Science since 2004. She has over 15 years' of experience in empirical research on ethnicity, minorities, migration, social exclusion, media representation of vulnerable groups and ethnic conflicts as well as social science methodologies. Her work focuses on comparative understanding of different forms and intersections of social inequalities and ethnicity and their consequences. She is specifically interested in policy and civil responses to ethnic diversity in the field of education and labour market. She was part of the coordination team of EDUMIGROM (FP7), a workpackage leader in NEUJOBS project (FP7), lead the Hungarian team of ASSESS - Integration of Vulnerable Migrants and the Bridge to Business: Bridging Young Roma and Business projects. She is a principal researcher of the Hungarian team of the European Social Survey (ERIC). Currently, she works on 'MIMY: Migrant youth integration and empowerment' (H2020) researching on young migrants in vulnerable conditions as well as on a national research on the impact of COVID on education and teachers. Her publication list includes over 50 articles and book chapters in journals such as *Identities*; *Ethnicities*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Intersections*. *EJPS* and *European Education*.

**Co-authors' bio:** Blanka Szeitl is a PhD student in Mathematics at the Bolyai Institute of Szeged University as well as a junior research fellow at the Center for Social Sciences. Her research interest centers on survey methodology, sampling and weighting surveys and the mode effect inherent to various survey modes. Bence Ságvári is senior research fellow at the Centre for Social Sciences (HAS CSS) and the director of its Computational Social Science group. From 2011, he is the Hungarian national coordinator for the European Social Survey (ESS), one of the largest cross-national comparative social surveys in the world. He has been represented as the Hungarian partner in several cross-national comparative survey projects, such as EU Kids Online (EUKO) or World Internet Project (WIP) and ESS SUSTAIN-2. In 2014/15, he was Visiting Fulbright Professor at Indiana University, Bloomington (USA). His work includes research on social values, attitudes on attitudes; survey methodology; social network analysis; and Big Data.

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*Integrating methods to shed light on the trajectories of young migrants in Scotland*

This paper responds to the call for renewed methodological reflection in migration research. It presents findings from a longitudinal, mixed methods research project on young migrants in Scotland; a country which is experiencing sustained population growth (reversing historic trends) driven by net migration. Fresh research into a generation of 'New Scots' (a term coined by the Scottish Government) faces the familiar and daunting challenges associated with studying migrant populations – ready access to data, reliability, and representation. This study adopted a rigorous and integrated mixed methods approach, creating opportunities for different methodologies (and the epistemological ideas which underpin them) to interact and inform each other. Migrant school students (aged 16-18 years) took part in the study over two years. In-depth interview (n=95) and focus groups (n=2) explored the experiences and aspirations of young migrants and their UK-born peers. Simultaneously, the project linked two national educational datasets and generated new analysis on the educational outcomes of 'New Scots'. The longitudinal nature of the project allowed the methods to intersect and inform each other at every stage; from the selection of schools, students, interview questions, to variables, statistical models and the interpretation of results. Migrant students were invited to interrogate and interpret the quantitative findings based on their own experiences and in turn this shaped the statistical analysis and how results were presented and understood. The findings reveal the stark differences in the educational outcomes of young migrants' students in Scotland. It highlights for the first time that Polish-born students often lag behind other migrant groups in terms of progression to Higher Education. This is despite high aspirations and educational achievement at school. This research raises important questions about equality and migrant education but also offers a methodological contribution; illustrating the power and potential of integrating mixed methods within migrant research.

**Related reading:** Packwood, Helen. 2022. "Successful Transitions? Tracing the Experiences of Migrant School Leavers in Scotland" *Education Sciences* 12, no. 10: 703. <https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci12100703>

**Speaker's bio:** Helen is a lecturer in Social Policy and Social Research Methods at the University of Edinburgh. She is also part of the staff team at the Research Methods Training Centre (<https://research-training-centre.sps.ed.ac.uk/>) within the School of Social and Political Science. Her research focuses on two key areas of social policy analysis - education and migration studies. Helen has considerable expertise in mixed methods research and in linking administrative and census data to examine

ethnic and migrant inequalities in educational outcomes. Her research is longitudinal and combines quantitative and qualitative data to shed light on the (re)production of inequality. In addition to her academic roles, Helen has worked within local and national government as a researcher and also has front line experience teaching in secondary and tertiary education settings.



**Jae Hyun Park** [j.park1@ids.ac.uk](mailto:j.park1@ids.ac.uk)  
University of Sussex

*Identifying and mitigating biases as an insider-outsider researcher, an immigration officer researching with refugees*

This paper is on how an insider-outsider researcher, a South Korean immigration officer, informed the research question and methodological choices in a research on how Burmese refugee returnees from South Korea contributed to development in Myanmar. This is based on a qualitative research which took place in Korea and in Myanmar in 2018, using life history interviews, observations, and grounded theory methods, but infused with participatory ideas as collective co-analysis and researcher reflexivity, considering the researcher's positionality. The research was initially designed as participatory, but during fieldwork the methods were adapted to the refugee returnees' limited availability and challenges in engaging as a group.

The researcher's positionality as an immigration officer provided an extensive knowledge on the context and access to key participants. However, there were challenges in navigating power, empathy and boundaries with the participants as well as addressing ethical issues. Different power dynamics prevailed as mostly an outsider researcher in Myanmar with the intersectional identities of a female non-national student. In both the insider and outsider positionalities the researcher needed to grapple with her biases towards the participants, the concepts and the data.

A range of methodological approaches were used such as an iterative process of returning to the participants for individual or collective analysis on the researcher's initial analysis, as well as reflexive practices such as journaling, reserving time for periodic reflections, and regular discussions with a wide range of researchers and practitioners in Myanmar, Korea and the UK. These helped address existing biases as a long-term practitioner with a pre-existing relationship with the participants but also navigate sensitive themes as racism, which emerged through the analysis. By distancing from policy, paradoxically the researcher could come up with tangible policy recommendations based on her 15-year experience in the field of refugees.

**Speaker's bio:** Dr Jae Hyun Park is a Senior Tutor at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, where she completed her PhD on Burmese political refugee returnees and development in Myanmar. Prior to joining academia, she

has been a practitioner in the field of refugee and migration for over 15 years having worked at the South Korean Ministry of Justice, UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Uganda and Sri Lanka and South Korean NGOs on North Korean human rights and on South Korean asylum system. Her research interests are refugee law and policy, transnationalism, social remittance, racism, migrant integration and feminist/participatory methodology.



**Stefánia Toma** [mastefania76@yahoo.com](mailto:mastefania76@yahoo.com)

Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities

*Romanian Roma Migrants Abroad and at Home: mixed method approaches in surveying hard-to-reach and hard-to identify populations*

Research aiming to collect data on Roma ethnic migrants faces several limitations that stems in methodological, empirical and even ethical considerations. Collecting ethnic data always bears the possibility of over- or under-estimation of the researched population, especially if we want to collect data on hard-to-reach and hard-to-identify populations, like for example in the case of the Roma minority. There are surveys among the Roma population that tried to use different sampling methods (using auto- and/or hetero identification, or both, or combining administrative data, or using proxies) highlighting the difficulties in identification. Another identified methodological problem is that researching in disadvantaged ethnic communities brings in the issue of over-representing marginality and racialized poverty (see the surveys on the Roma population of the Fundamental Rights Agency). Including the participation of the Roma in international migration in the equation raises even more questions: situational identity (declaring another ethnic identity abroad or in the digital sphere), the length of migration (short-term migrants might hide their travels fearing losing social assistance) and the effect their return might have locally (changes in practices of identification) are just few topics that worth to discuss. My presentation will explore shortly the above topics based on the previous Roma and/or migrant surveys highlighting the methodological difficulties in the context of broader social processes (international migration, identity politics and integration policies). I will conclude (using the example of the MIGROM survey) that a mixed-method methodology that oversteps the classic qualitative-quantitative dichotomy and the ideal of representativeness could be beneficial in researching hard-to-reach and hard-to-identify populations (ie. using qualitative research – on filed and/or online prior to survey, identify local organizations, cooperate with local administrations, increased samples, multi-lingual approach, multi-sited ethnography, in-group field-workers, lengthy post-data collection randomized control).

**Related readings:** Toma, Stefánia; Fosztó, László. "Roma within Obstructing and Transformative Spaces: Migration Processes and Social Distance in Ethnically Mixed

Localities in Romania.” *Intersections. East European Journal of Society and Politics*, vol. 4, no. 3(2018): 57-80. DOI:[10.17356/ieejsp.v4i3.396](https://doi.org/10.17356/ieejsp.v4i3.396)

**Speaker’s bio:** I am a sociologist and anthropologist at the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities. My area of interest includes anthropology of ethnic minorities and ethnic relations, migration, economic anthropology and sociology of education. My recent research interest is focused on how different social networks change the local society and what are the conditions of a long-lasting social cohesion between different ethnic groups. Most of my research work is with rural Roma communities. During the last few years, I was the substitute representative for Romania in ETHMIGSURVEYDATA COST Action 16111 International Ethnic and Immigrant Minorities’ Survey Data Network and worked on the Romanian database of ethnic and migrant surveys. In the HOMInG ERC project I was interested how return of migrants shapes social and spatial relationships in multiethnic communities. I would mention two more projects where we used different methods of identifying Roma ethnic persons and Roma migrants: SocioRoMap – Socio-graphic mapping of the Roma Communities in Romania for a community-level monitoring of changes with regard to Roma integration and MigRom – The Immigration of Romanian Roma to Western Europe: Causes, effects, and Future engagements strategies).



**Xinyi Zhao** [zhao@demogr.mpg.de](mailto:zhao@demogr.mpg.de)

Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research

### *Identifying and Mitigating Bias in the Study of Scholarly Migration using Bibliometric Data*

In the current era of knowledge-based economies, highly skilled people are the most mobile population group worldwide. A lack of fine-grained data on the international migration of researchers makes it difficult to understand the in- and out-flow patterns and costs associated with this kind of mobility, especially on a global scale. The idea of using the historical records of researchers to follow their geographical movements can be traced back to a study by Rosenfeld & Jones (1987) on the movements of psychologists in the US that used a sample from the biographies of members of the American Psychology Association. The digital revolution and the advent of digitized sources of bibliometric information enable us to expand this simple idea to cover a large number of data points with a flexible level of granularity that is suitable to our research objectives. Recent methodological innovations for repurposing bibliometric data to study internal migration within country boundaries have made the process of inferring migration events from affiliation addresses more reliable. Despite this, this method also has some limitations. The reliability of migration detection may not be the same for all fields, given that their average publication rates vary (e.g., physics vs. history). Another limitation is that the migration events of researchers may not be captured

in the absence of publications. In addition, because of the possible differences between publication years and migration years, the temporal patterns of the data should be interpreted with caution. Facing the possible bias in migration detection using bibliometric data, one method is to validate the detection results and capture the bias by surveying the sample of researchers. Based on the validation and bias analysis, the method can be further improved to better serve the migration study.

**Related readings:** Zhao, Xinyi, Samin Aref, Emilio Zagheni, and Guy Stecklov. 2022. "Return Migration of German-Affiliated Researchers: Analyzing Departure and Return by Gender, Cohort, and Discipline Using Scopus Bibliometric Data 1996–2020." *Scientometrics* 127 (12): 7707–29. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-022-04351-4>.

**Speaker's bio:** I am a PhD student in the lab of Digital and Computational Demography at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research and also affiliated with the Department of Sociology at the University of Oxford. My main research interests include applying digital and computational innovations (e.g. new types of data and methods) in demography and social science, with a particular interest in migration and gender disparity. I am also interested in the methods of scientometrics, spatial data analysis, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). My ongoing research relies on large-scale digitized bibliometric data to document and analyze the international migration of researchers, and to examine the gender disparity across disciplines and geographies in academia.

## Organising Committee (coordinators of IMISCOE's Meth@Mig SC)



**Justyna Salamońska** has been chairing IMISCOE's Standing Committee Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research (Meth@Mig) since 2020. She is Associate Professor at Kozminski University, Department of Management in Networked and Digital Societies. Justyna holds a PhD in Sociology from Trinity College Dublin. She previously carried out research and taught at Trinity College Dublin, European University Institute, University of Chieti-Pescara and University of Warsaw. Justyna works in the area of contemporary migrations and cross-border mobilities in Europe using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Currently she serves as the PI on two research projects on multiple migrations, MultiData and MULTIMIG, financed by the National Science Centre Poland. She was also a Polish team leader on research projects in the area of migration and posting of workers, financed by the European Commission (under Horizon2020 and EaSI programmes).



**Agata Górny** is an associate professor at the University of Warsaw where she holds positions of the head of the Population Economics and Demography Chair at the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Deputy Director of the Centre of Migration Research. She is also the deputy president of the Committee for Migration Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. An economist and sociologist by education, her research interests include the methodology of migration research – especially survey methodology - contemporary migration processes, primarily immigration to Poland and Central and Eastern Europe, and socio-economic integration of migrants in the host society.



**Laila Omar** @LailaMOmar is a Sociology PhD Candidate at the University of Toronto. Her research interests include international migration and qualitative methods, with a special focus on the integration process of refugees and immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa in Canada. More specifically, Laila explores how Syrian refugee mothers and teenagers experience time and conceptualize their futures after their resettlement in the host country and during different stages of uncertainty. Her research is funded by the SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship and is published in Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies.



**Steffen Pötzschke** @stpoetzschke

is a postdoctoral researcher and deputy team leader of the GESIS Panel at the GESIS – Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences in Mannheim (Germany). Furthermore, he is a corresponding member of the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (University of Osnabrück, Germany). Steffen holds a master's degree in International Migration and Intercultural Relations and a doctorate (Dr. phil.) from the University of Osnabrück. Steffen participated in several migration research projects and has profound practical knowledge in designing and implementing cross-cultural surveys. In his recent research, he investigates the possibility of using social networking sites as tools to sample hard-to-reach populations.



**Sebastian Rinken**

(PhD, European University Institute, 1996) is deputy director of the Spanish Research Council's Institute for Advanced Social Studies (IESA-CSIC) in Córdoba. He has published widely on immigrant populations' social integration and natives' attitudes toward immigration and immigrants, addressing issues such as the relation between ideological polarization and anti-immigrant sentiment, as well as the methodological challenge of eluding social desirability bias, among many others. His methodological repertoire includes qualitative approaches, probability-based surveys, non-probability sampling for on-site and online surveys, and survey experiments.



**Evren Yalaz** @EvrenYalaz

is a senior researcher at Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration, University of Pompeu Fabra (GRITIM-UPF) and a senior research analyst at Trilateral Research. She holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science at Rutgers University. Her research interests include qualitative research in migration studies, research ethics, migrant transnationalism, political integration, and social movements. She also carries out research in the field of new and emerging technologies and engages in ethical, legal, privacy, and socio-economic impact assessments.





## Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research (Meth@Mig)

Meth@Mig is one of the Standing Committees of IMISCOE, Europe's largest network of migration scholars. Meth@Mig provides a forum for discussing methodological approaches and tools in migration research and assessing the best options available for tackling manifold methodological challenges. The Standing Committee takes on a pluralist perspective as it addresses (1) issues relevant across a wide range of research methods in migration studies, such as obtaining informed consent in cross-cultural settings, gaining access to hard-to-reach populations, operationalising relevant concepts, and leveraging the potential of new communication technologies, as well as (2) issues relevant for specific research approaches (be they quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods or experimental) as applied to the study of international migration in all its facets and dimensions.

The Meth@Mig SC places special emphasis on sharing innovative procedures and on interconnecting researchers from different methodological schools as well as migration scholars and experts in research methodology. The activities include research promotion and publications, training events and management of network of scholars interested in migration research methods, including meetings at the IMISCOE annual conferences, other events as well as presence in social media.

We invite you to join Meth@Mig. An online application is available on our website: <https://www.imiscoe.org/research/standing-committees/methodological-approaches-and-tools-in-migration-research>

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## Institute for Advanced Social Studies (IESA-CSIC)

The Institute for Advanced Social Studies (IESA) is a research center in social sciences that pertains to Spain's foremost public research institution, the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). The IESA is dedicated to analyzing social and political reality with a view to answering questions such as the following:

Are citizens prepared to decide about their municipality's budget? How is people's health influenced by social conditions? How can we improve the fit between the innovations needed by economic actors and those fomented by public research policies? When aiming to protect endangered species, is it possible to square the interests of agriculture, ecologists, and hunters?

The Institute's scientific activities are carried out by four research groups:

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- IBC: Social Identity, Subjective Well-Being and Human Behaviour
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- TRAMAS: Territory, Rurality, Agriculture, Environment and Sustainability

These research groups are instrumental to IESA's capacity of addressing some of the outstanding challenges of our time and cooperating with a wide range of private and public institutions in the diagnosis of the problems entailed, as well as the design and evaluation of public policies.

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The IESA edits the *Revista Internacional de Sociología (RIS)*, one of the world's most prestigious Spanish-language journals in its field. RIS is referenced by the most demanding bibliometric indexes (JCR/SSCI and SCOPUS).

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## PRACTICALITIES

Address: Campo Santo de los Mártires 7, 1004 Córdoba, Spain

Location and transport: The IESA is situated in the historical center of Córdoba, close to the world-famous Mosque and just across the Royal Palace (Alcázar de los Reyes).

From the train station (Córdoba Central), you can reach the IESA by foot in about 20 minutes, just walking down the tree-lined Paseo de la Victoria. Alternatively, you can catch the N°3 bus (which takes quite a detour) or a cab.

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From station to IESA walking







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