

Nordic Geographers Meeting 2019, Trondheim, Norway, June 16 – 19 2019

”Tightening the noose – the impact of constricted migration policy on sexual and gender minorities”

Session conveners

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As neoliberal and populist policies are enforced in countries in the EU, borders are becoming increasingly difficult to cross and welfare regimes are weakened. The options for individuals to migrate to the EU are diminished and existing migrants are left with lesser resources in host societies. Contemporary cultural politics of immigration is also increasingly organized around cultural unfitness of migrants in the host society. Simultaneously, Western democracies have gradually marketed tolerance of sexual diversity as a distinct and inherent characteristic of their culture, distinguishing them from the homophobic rest. This while establishing a sexual humanitarian apparatus that turns out to shape, in a restrictive way, the asylum system. In this call for session presentations, we ask for scrutiny of how these shifts are affecting sexual and gender minorities, who appear as paradoxical figures in these politics. On the one hand, their non-normative sexualities require the protection offered by Western democracies, following self-claimed inherent tolerance of sexual diversity. On the other hand, the non-whiteness and the non-homonormative conformance of sexual and gender minorities provokes political and societal anxiety about their cultural unfitness. Without denying sexual and gender minorities agency, we ask how these new border and welfare regimes are creating hindrances and challenges and how coping strategies are employed. We call for intersectional analyses of migratory experiences across different routes and of migrant experiences in host societies. We welcome paper presentations that consider questions and themes such as:

- Migration and welfare reforms as sexual and racial regimes
- State and border control/enforcement as sexualized and racialized practices
- Sexual and gender identity formation/expression/performances and migratory processes
- Urban/rural differences in reception of sexual and gender minorities
- Embodied migrations and scales of oppression
- Migration and mobility of queer asylum seekers/refugees
- Intersections of homophobia, transphobia, racism, ableism, and islamophobia

Abstracts of 250 words should be submitted to thomas.wimark@humangeo.su.se, florent.chossiere@u-pem.fr and deniz.akin@ntnu.no before the 10th of December. Authors will be notified about the status of their submission as soon as possible thereafter.

Conference website www.ntnu.edu/geography/ngm-2019.