

International Workshop

Death in migratory context. Methodologies, funeral services, vulnerabilities.

Tuesday, July 5th 2022

Paris Campus Condorcet, Conference center ("Centre des Colloques"), room 50.

The REFPOM project ("Circulating the dead. Post-socialist funeral rituals and economies in a migratory context"), funded since 2018 by the National Agency for Research, aimed to explore two lines of research on the treatment of death in migration in the post-Soviet space. The first approach aimed to study funeral rituals as a place where the boundaries between the formal and informal economy and the power relations between community and institution are played out. A second approach was interested in how death in migration affects the construction of family memory and relations to political institutions, especially in a context of weak institutional involvement on this issue.

In addition, this project assumed that the post-Soviet space conveys specific features: the colonial and Soviet history, the central role of Russia as a destination country for regional migration, a relatively easy border crossing that contrasts with the great administrative complexity of the arrival in Russia, and the informal nature that characterizes the highly profit-oriented Russian funeral sector. These were all factors likely to affect in a similar way how people in migration deal with death and mourning situations. Still, despite a number of shared features, we were able to observe significant differences depending on the origin of the migrants, due for example to the political and diplomatic relations between the countries of departure and arrival, or to the level of structuring of village organizations in the country of arrival.

With this workshop, the members of the REFPOM project want to share the results of the four years of research, and to open their work to discussion as well as to geographical and methodological comparison. In order to enrich the reflection and to outline future research avenues, the workshop will be structured by three sessions:

- The first will address methodological issues in the investigation and dissemination of research on death and risk in migration situations
- The second will focus on the emergence of a sphere dedicated to the production and distribution of specialised funeral goods and services.
- The third will address the manufacture of vulnerabilities at work in a context of migration.

Programme

9h – Welcome with coffee and tea

9h30 – Presentation of the REFPoM Project and outcomes

10h-10h30 – **Dilbar Turakhanova** (lawyer and legal consultant, Tajikistan): “Labour migration from Central Asia to Russian Federation from the perspective of human rights”

10h45-12h45: Roundtable – Working on migration life and death stories

Participants: **Audran Aulanier** (sociology, CEMS/EHESS), **Marc-Antoine Berthod** (anthropology, High School of Social work and Health, Lausanne), **Anne Gosselin*** (demography, INED), **Sandra Pellet*** (economics, University of Créteil/Erudite), **Marine de Talancé** (economics, Univ. Gustave Eiffel/Erudite, DIAL), **Dilbar Turakhanova** (Law, independant consultant), **Ariane Zevaco*** (anthropology, CEToBAC/EHESS).

Moderated by Marine de Talancé and Ariane Zevaco.

12h45-14h – Lunch Break at the Faculty Club, Campus Condorcet

14h-15h45: Panel – The emergence of specialised funeral market and services

Chair: **Juliette Cleuziou** (anthropology, LADEC/University Lumière Lyon 2).

Discussant: **TbC**

Speakers:

Nada Afiouni* (British studies, University Le Havre Normandie / GRIC): “The Funerary profession along ethnic and religious lines (France, UK).”

Diego Carnevale (history, Università di Napoli Federico II): “The body of Others: the burials of non-Catholic in 19th century Naples.”

Carolina Kobelinsky* (anthropology, LESC/CNRS): “Reducing Distance, Reproducing Difference. Engagements with Materialities Surrounding the Border Dead in Catania.”

15h45-16h15 – Break

16h15-18h: Panel – Vulnerabilities at work. Migrations and international division of labour

Chair: **Lucia Direnberger** (sociology, LEGS/CNRS)

Discussant: **Daniel Kashnitsky** (public health and anthropology, Higher School of Economics)

Speakers:

Nodira Kholmatova (sociology, University of Amsterdam): “Central Asia - Russia migration industry: navigating legal precarity, labor exploitation and return migration.”

Camille Fauroux (history, University of Toulouse) and **Fatma Çingir Kocadost** (sociology, Centre Maurice Halbwachs): “Undocumented Turkish and Kurdish workers in 1980's Paris: Migration, Precariousness and Resistance.”

Ya-Han Chuang* (sociology, CERI/Sciences-Po): “The Changing face of ‘made-in-Europe’ Chinese migrants in textile industry (Paris/Budapest).”

Organization committee:

Juliette Cleuziou, anthropology, University Lumière Lyon 2/LADEC

Lucia Direnberger, sociology, CNRS/LEGS

Marine de Talancé, economics, University Gustave Eiffel/Erudite

Ariane Zevaco*, anthropology, associated to CETOBaC (EHESS-CNRS)

****Fellow of the French Collaborative Institute on Migration***