



JOHANNES GUTENBERG
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

Research Cluster Transnational Aging

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Retirement migration to the „global South“ Current insights and future perspectives

March 11-13, 2020, Mainz, Germany

Call for Abstracts

Retirement migration has become a multifaceted field of research since the end of the twentieth century. Recently, research has drawn attention to the growing evidence about retirement migration from relatively affluent countries of the “global North” to less economically well-off countries of the “global South.” The latter includes countries in Southeast Asia, South and Central America, Africa and Eastern Europe. This development points to the increasing global interconnectedness of aging in relatively affluent countries and raises critical questions about the interrelation of global inequalities with age and aging in the “global North”. Low pensions, old age care and health related problems, social, emotional or intimate limitations in the countries of origin, and the search for new experiences have been identified as important reasons for moving to countries in the “global South”, as these countries appear to provide extended options for action and participation in old age. Research points out the ambivalences of these mobilities at the level of old age life worlds. While they might imply extended options for life in old age, they also contain considerable constraints and vulnerabilities. Equally, in their global interconnectedness, these developments raise critical questions about the implications for the countries of destination and the challenges to the old age regimes in the countries of origin.

Against this background, the symposium will provide an international space for scholars interested in current developments of retirement migration in its “North-South” nexus. It aims to reach a broader and deeper understanding of these developments in their global interconnectedness, their implications for the life worlds of the actors involved, and the social, political and economic implications for the respective countries.

We invite researchers to present abstracts that focus on relevant empirical as well as conceptual, methodological, and theoretical issues. We especially welcome abstracts that focus on - but need not to be limited to - the following aspects:

Social and political backgrounds: How can retirement migration in its North-South nexus be explained? What are the historical, political, social and economical conditions, structures and processes that shape and support retirement migration to countries of the „global South“?

Life circumstances and life worlds of the retirement migrants: Who migrates to countries of the „global South“ in old age and why? What characterizes the experiences of retirement migrants when moving to economical less affluent countries? How can their life circumstances and life worlds be described and conceptualized? What challenges and risks retirement migrants face?

Social support and social protection: What challenges and needs for social support and social protection emerge when moving to and living in countries of the „global South“ in old age? How are they contested? What are the possibilities of social support and social protection available to older people? What are possible implications for social welfare strategies and social policy?

Challenges and repercussions for the countries involved: What are the significance and repercussions of retirement migration for the countries of destination? How do they challenge old age regimes in the countries of origin and what social and political implications do they entail?

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: Participants will be selected based on paper abstracts. *Abstracts should not exceed 400 words and are to be submitted by email at c.schweppe@uni-mainz.de. Final date for abstract submission is July 31, 2019.*

LOCATION AND DATE: The symposium will take place March 11-13, 2020 at the Institute of Education, University of Mainz, Germany.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Limited financial support towards travel and hotel costs for invited speakers might be available.

ORGANIZATION: The symposium is organized by Research Cluster Transnational Aging at the University of Mainz, Germany.

TEAM: Prof. Dr. Cornelia Schweppe and Annika Müller, M.A.