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 | San Diego State University
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

Presenters
Alexandra Richard-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
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
Patricia 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* | University of Stockholm
Stephanie Maher | University of Washington
Wayne Palmer | Binus University Jakarta
Yaatsil Guevara Gonzalez | Universität Bielefeld

*Scholars impacted by the US issued Executive Order bans and EU immigration controls which prevented them from entering the United States to attend the workshop.
Program

6 APRIL

09:00  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 the Executive Orders and Migration Regulation and Enforcement
Chair: TBA

Teka Ayalew* | University of Stockholm
Navigating through Crises: Transit Experiences of the Horn of African 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 | University of Oxford and European University Institute. Beyond Smuggling: Palestinian Transnational Networks across Militarised Borders

12:00-13:00  Lunch Break

13:00-14:30  Session 2 – Migration Enforcement and Anti-smuggling/trafficking Policies: Responses and their Contradictions
Chair: TBA
Luca Rainieri | Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

Gilles Reckinger | Université 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 2 – The “Unseen” dynamics of smuggling and trafficking: Reframing Discourses
Chair: TBA

Kyunghhee 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.

18:00 -20:00 Reception

7 APRIL

09:00-10:15 Session 4 – Between the everyday praxis and the legal construction of smuggling: brokers, shelters, transporters and courts.
Chair: TBA

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

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

10:15-10:30 Coffee break

10:30-11:45 Session 5 - Regional Cooperation and International Approaches in Smuggling and Trafficking Policy

Chair: TBA

Simona Ardovino | European Commission
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-Guy 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?

12:00-13:00 Lunch Break

13:00-14:30 PUBLIC EVENT: Immigration Enforcement in the Tohono O'Odham Nation.
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: TBA

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.

8 APRIL

08:00-9:00 Travel to Ciudad Juarez to Museum “La Rodadora”

09:30-10:45 Panel 7: Children, Youth and Human Mobility
Chair: Neil P. Howard | University of Antwerp
Oscar Hernandez and Tamara Segura | Colegio de la Frontera Norte - Matamoros
The experiences of minors in the local markets of drug trafficking and migrant smuggling in Texas/Matamoros.
Joseph Lelliott | University of Queensland
Children and Smugglers: Patterns, Characteristics and State Responses in the Australian Context.
Stephanie Maher | University of Washington
On youth, politics, and migration facilitation in West Africa.

10:45-12:30 Building Community through Research on the Border
Fernando Locra, Carlos Zavala and guests | Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez
A conversation with border youth (English interpretation provided).

12:30-13:00 Dylan Corbett (HBI) and Blanca Navarrete (PIB)
A conversation on borders, research and activism

13:00 Closing remarks

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1 Multiple countries have issued security warnings against traveling to Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. The community has experienced a great deal of violence and death, but it is also home to thousands of hardworking, resilient and strong people. 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.

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