

**Call for papers for a panel proposal at the  
International Interdisciplinary Congress Mundos de Mujeres/ Women's Worlds 2008  
July 3-9, 2008, Madrid ([www.mmww08.org](http://www.mmww08.org))**

**Panel Title**

**Gendered foundations of migration theories and policies**

"Migrations" is one of two central themes of *Women's Worlds 2008*. Against that background, we would like to organise a panel to discuss the gendered foundations of migration theories and policies from an interpretative perspective. Our central assumption is that what people know about gender – the way they perceive and reason about differences between the sexes – is plural and that this plural knowledge is reflected in migration policies and theories alike.

For example, while some countries boost the migration of mothers because they expect them to return to their children, others condemn the relocation of women with children as a threat to family life. The knowledge generated by international organisations also rests on different assumptions about gender: While the IOM's campaign against trafficking in women conveys an image of women as mere victims, the World Bank's research on gender and remittances suggests that migrant women are central agents of economic development. On the theoretical side you find approaches that explicitly draw on conservative notions of the male breadwinner family and the dependent female migrant while other theories appear gender neutral, but do implicitly assume a male migrant as their prototype.

Papers of the panel might engage one or more of the following themes:

- analyses of the explicit and implicit gendered foundations of migration theories from different fields (economics, sociology, political science...);
- case studies on particular gender selective migration policies (of certain states, international organisations...);
- analyses of negotiations of migration policies and the gendered foundations of different positions and interests (state actors, migrant organisations, business associations...);
- analyses of the mismatch between stated policy objectives on gender and migration and policy outcomes;
- clarification of concepts in use (gender bias, male bias, gender knowledge, state sexism...) and of their contribution to an interpretative analysis of migration policies and theories.

**Proposals for papers**

The panel submitters welcome proposals for individual papers. They should contain the following information:

- Individual paper title
- Paper abstract (300 words)
- Author information (name, affiliation, email-address)

Proposals should be sent to the following addresses: [Helena.Schwenken@uni-kassel.de](mailto:Helena.Schwenken@uni-kassel.de) and [pia.eberhardt@uni-kassel.de](mailto:pia.eberhardt@uni-kassel.de) no later than **February 15, 2008**. Inquiries may also be sent to that addresses. You will receive feedback on your proposals by February 20<sup>th</sup>. The final panel proposal will have to be submitted to Women's Worlds 2008 by the panel organizers by February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Panel convenors**

Dr. Helen Schwenken, Assistant Professor in Political Science, University of Kassel, Germany

Pia Eberhardt, M.A., Research Associate, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kassel, Germany