Ph.D. in "Life Course Research" – Socio-demographic curriculum

Academic Year 2026-2027

Migration

Objectives

This two-week course aims to equip students with the essential tools to approach migration studies from a quantitative perspective, with a focus on both internal and international migration, as well as populations with a migratory background. Students will acquire the theoretical and methodological knowledge needed to analyze migration histories, socio-demographic characteristics, and behavioral patterns of immigrant populations and their immediate descendants. The course begins with an introduction to key definitions and data sources, as well as an overview of mobility patterns in Europe and Italy. It then addresses the main theoretical approaches to the causes and consequences of migration and examines a range of substantive domains, including settlement models, humanitarian migration, undocumented migrants, migrants' health, family formation and fertility, educational and labour market trajectories, working conditions, citizenship acquisition, and the life course outcomes of immigrants' descendants.

Program

Week 1 - Internal and international migration (25 - 28 January 2027)

Monday 25.01 h. 10.00-13.00
Teacher: Impicciatore R.
An overview of international migration in Europe and Italy. Causes of international migration.

Tuesday 26.01 h. 9.00-12.00
Teacher: Trappolini E.
Migrants in Italy: a historical overview and their role in the labour market

Wednesday 27.01 h. 10.00-13.00
Teacher: Barbiano di Belgiojoso E.
Internal migration and emigration of international migrants

Thursday 28.01 h. 10.00-13.00
Teacher: Barbiano di Belgiojoso E.
Health of migrants

Week 2 - Socio-demographic behaviours of immigrant population (15-17 February 2027)

Monday 15.02 h. 10.00-13.00 (online)
Teacher: Buonomo A.
Second generation, school, and work.

Tuesday 16.02 h. 10.00-13.00
Teacher: Gabrielli G. (Benassi F.)
Citizenship and naturalization. Settlement models and integration. A spatial approach

Tuesday 16.02 h. 14.30-17:30
Teacher: Gabrielli G. (Garcia Pereiro T.)
Family formation. Migrant fertility.

Wednesday 17 h. 10.00-12.00
Teachers: Gabrielli G. and Barbiano di Belgiojoso E.
Discussion and review of selected papers published on international journals

Rules for student-led debate on migration topics.

As part of the PhD course in Migration Studies, students will participate in a structured, student-led debate aimed at fostering critical thinking, theoretical engagement, and the ability to mobilize empirical evidence in scholarly discussions. Students will be asked to form four groups and to select two debate topics. For each topic, one group will be assigned to argue in favour of the selected position, while the opposing group will critically challenge it. Students are expected to support their arguments with references to scientific literature, comparative evidence, and, where appropriate, policy implications.

Therefore, the debate will be organized as follows:

- Topic 1
  - Group 1: Supporters
  - Group 2: Opponents

- Topic 2
  - Group 3: Supporters
  - Group 4: Opponents

List of possible topics (students may also propose additional topics, subject to approval by the instructors):

1. The management of regular entry channels is appropriate, and the planned quota of arrivals is sufficient to meet the labour market's needs.

2. It would be advisable to amend the citizenship law based on the principle of *ius sanguinis*.

3. The contribution made by foreigners in terms of social security payments is not sufficient to offset their burden on the pension and healthcare systems.

4. A higher level of immigration would make it possible to address the challenges of demographic ageing.

5. The demographic behaviours of the immigrant population always adapt to those of the native population

6. The socio-economic conditions of immigrants' children in Europe are better than those of their parents

IMPORTANT: Personal opinions do not need to match the group's assigned position. For example, even if you personally believe that the citizenship law should be changed (Topic 2), you may join a

group that argues the opposite stance. This approach is intended to strengthen analytical reasoning and make the simulation more effective.

Suggested thematic lectures

Conceptual framework and theories
Massey, D. S., Arango, J., Hugo, G., Kouaouci, A., Pellegrino, A., & Taylor, J. E., 1993. Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal. *Population and Development Review*, *19*(3), 431–466

International migrations in Europe and Italy
Strozza Salvatore, De Santis Gustavo (Eds), 2017, *Rapporto sulla popolazione. Le molte facce della presenza straniera in Italia*. Bologna: Il Mulino (*In Italian*)

Internal migration
Impicciatore Roberto, Panichella Nazareno, 2019. Internal Migration Trajectories, Occupational Achievement and Social Mobility in Contemporary Italy. A Life Course Perspective. *Population, Space and Place* 25(6).

Immigrants' descendants
Gabrielli Giuseppe, Impicciatore Roberto (Eds), 2022, Children of Immigrants in Southern Europe: Overcoming Ethnic Penalties, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, special collection 48(10). Also available as a book published by Routledge (2024).

Fertility
Sobotka Thomas, 2008, The rising importance of migrants for childbearing in Europe. *Demographic Research* 19:225-248.

Family formation
Kulu Hill, Hannemann Tina (eds), 2016, Partnership dynamics among immigrants and their descendants in Europe, *Demographic Research*, Special collection 18.

Integration
Penninx Rinus, Garcés-Mascareñas Blanca, 2016, Integration processes and policies in Europe: Contexts, levels and actors. (IMISCOE research series). Cham: Springer Open.

Citizenship
Strozza Salvatore, Conti Cinzia, Tucci Enrico, 2021, *Nuovi cittadini. Diventare italiani nell'era della globalizzazione*. Bologna: Il Mulino (*In Italian*)

Requirements
Basic knowledge of the methods used for data collection, measurement and analysis of demographic phenomena.