

Information Behaviour Research on Migration: Current Trends and Future Directions

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Abstract

This workshop aims at bringing together researchers conducting information studies about migration. Research on migration, including forced migration, has been an ever-growing domain in information behaviour research over the past twenty years. Information studies have looked at a variety of migration-related contexts, populations and challenges, and used a range of methods and theoretical approaches. This field of study is continuously being developed by an active and evolving research community scattered across various continents. If such diversity makes the richness of the field, it also makes it difficult to grasp as a delineated body of research. By bringing together researchers working on this topic from across various countries and at various stages of their academic career, this workshop aims to: 1) build a community of researchers working in this field; 2) provide a snapshot of the current trends in information studies on migration; 3) provide a safe space for critical reflections around current challenges and ideas for future research. Researchers working on this topic are invited to give a short presentation about their current work. Presentations will be followed by a group discussion around the common themes, questions and challenges raised during the talks.

Key issues addressed by the Workshop

Research on migration (both internal and external, voluntary and forced) has been an emergent domain in information behaviour research over the past two decades, as it provides a perfect lens through which to examine a range of migration-related issues. Indeed, the ability to access, use and make sense of information is crucial for people to take an active part in society (Caidi & Allard, 2005). Yet, people who migrate to new environments are confronted with complex information needs and sociocultural differences that hamper their capacity to effectively seek, use and share information, and fractures their information landscapes (Lloyd, 2017). Understanding how people who migrate interact with information can therefore enable host societies to facilitate their inclusion.

Studies have looked at different migrant social groups, including migrant workers (Baharuddin, Masrek & Shoid, 2015; Fisher *et al.*, 2004; Bronstein, 2019), undocumented migrants (Newell, Gomez & Guajardo, 2016), international students (Hicks, 2019), older migrants (Caidi *et al.*, 2020), asylum seekers and refugees (e.g., Kainat *et al.*, 2021; Le Louvier & Innocenti, 2021; Lloyd, 2020; Oduntan & Ruthven, 2019) in all continents. The literature has highlighted a variety of information needs, information literacy practices and information barriers that provide important insights into the challenges that these migrant social groups face, as well as opportunities for drawing practical recommendations for authorities, cultural institutions and civil society actors to help mitigating these issues.

New information behaviour studies are continuously needed to understand and react to changes in migration trends and immigration policies, and to events such as the COVID-19 pandemic that disrupt societies on a global scale. For this purpose, it is essential for information researchers to share practices and keep track of the evolution of the field. Yet, in a domain where conference participation generally requires the publication of original papers, platforms that facilitate these informal exchanges are still lacking.

This workshop aims to provide such a platform by consolidating the community of researchers working in this field. For this purpose, we build on the dynamics started in previous workshops¹ to provide a safe space

for researchers at any stage of their careers and at any point in their research projects (design, data collection, publication, etc) to share ideas and come together as a group.

Workshop structure

The workshop will be covered in half-a-day. It will be structured around 2 to 3 thematic panels. Each panel will include a series of lightning talks of approximately 10 minutes each. Lightning talks presenters will provide an overview of their most recent projects, highlight the questions they would like to discuss and share their vision for the future. This will create a snapshot of the current trends in information studies on migration and of associated methodological and theoretical challenges. Following each panel, the workshop will provide space for feedback and informal discussions. A keynote listener will be invited to listen, absorb and digest the different discussions and to summarise what they have heard at the end of the workshop. This will allow us to enrich our collective knowledge and body of practice and draw paths for future research.

Call for contributions

The workshop **welcomes submissions** for presenting a **lightning talk of ca. 10 minutes** about information behaviour research on migration. We welcome researchers at any stage of their career, from PhD students to established scholars.

If you want to be part of a panel, please send a short abstract (250 words) summarising the work you would like to present and the questions you would like to raise to kahina.le.louvier@northumbria.ac.uk.

****Submission deadline: 31 May 2022.****

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