Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA)

Universiteit van Amsterdam (UvA)

VU University Amsterdam

Institute of Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES)

Winter Course

January 17 – January 30, 2020

Migration in the Margins of Europe

for Master & PhD students in

Social and Political Sciences

The Institute of Migration and Ethnic Studies of the University of Amsterdam, the department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of the VU University of Amsterdam and the Netherlands Institute at Athens, organize this intensive winter course in collaboration with Greek universities and NGOs.

About the course

The collapse of the eastern Block at the beginning of the 1990s and the larger socioeconomic transformations in Africa and Asia resulted in massive migration flows to Greece and Europe in general. Undoubtedly the East Mediterranean became one of the entry “gates” of Europe as its geographical position is at the margins, at the crossroads of Asia and Africa in the south of the Mediterranean Sea, and includes the large Aegean basin with thousands of islets and islands that serve as mobility networks.

Within a few decades the social life in the wider region transformed with a large proportion of the population being immigrants who are living in the countryside or in various neighbourhoods of the capital city of Athens. In these contexts, migrants are trying tactically to make their lives despite the high unemployment rate, the stigmatization and the marginalization they encounter. Therefore, a major part of our seminar will focus on how immigrants experience such new conditions and how they adapt or adopt in the new cultural contexts.
More recently the flows of refugees have been intensified as a result of the wider political changes in the middle East, Asia and Africa while Europe is facing one of the most challenging periods of its contemporary history. As the idea of fortress Europe is becoming reinforced, “the entry points” in Greece have to share disproportionately with all other Europeans the management and social policy of the new flows.

The course will be supplemented with a small field research in the centre of Athens and students will be able to contribute to our migration project by recording and illustrating life experiences of refugees and other immigrants.

**Structure of the course**
From **January 17 until January 30, 2020** the seminars will run daily, at the NIA in Athens. The courses will combine field research in specific neighbourhoods of Athens and in selected NGO’s. The seminar will focus on a general theoretical context in relation to migration, anthropological theory, contemporary approaches to field research in an urban setting and an overview of the current situation in Greece. Most days there are going to be one to two intensive sessions of three hours each. In the sessions the lecturers give an overview of the theory of social anthropology in relation to migration with particular reference to key debates and a clear focus on migration in Greece and Europe/Mediterranean. In the late afternoon/evenings students will be able to conduct their small field research. In preparation to the seminar, all students are expected to have read the literature before arrival to Greece.

**Aim**
The aim of the seminar is to give students an overview of current debates and research topics in relation to refugees and migration, illustrate the current issues in Greece in a comparative manner and give some directions in relation to fieldwork in Greece or other European and Mediterranean areas. By participating in a small field research, the students gain some practical experience in the new context, use their skills, make new contacts and learn how to place their findings within wider local and global processes.

**Method**
During the seminar the students are expected to participate actively in all the courses and conduct a small field research. The “migration project” focuses on the areas of central Athens. In collaboration with local NGO’s and research groups, students will be able to come in contact with various immigrants/refugees to discuss, interview and research specific topics. Students will record and collect life experiences of migrants and will have to describe their material in a presentation at the end of our course. Each student will also be writing a paper based on the field research experiences and the theoretical information acquired during the courses.
Course requirements, language and credit
The course is available to MA and first year PhD students with a relevant background (e.g. in anthropology, sociology, migration studies, political science). All lectures will be given in English. The course will be concluded with a paper (3000 words) handed in by the 1st of March for those who would like to receive the suggested accreditation by NIA. Students at Dutch Universities may choose this course in the MA programs of the Graduate Schools of Social Sciences. For eligibility please contact your BA/MA coordinator.

Results
At the end of the seminar (30th of January), students give a presentation in relation to their observation. These presentations will be commented by the lecturers on style and logic as well as on the conceptual content. Finally, the seminar will be evaluated by students, lecturers and staff of the NIA in a general discussion.

Participation – application
Only Master and early M.Phil/PhD students from the Social Sciences can participate in the seminar. Students can apply by sending the application form (which can be found on the NIA website) until the 15th of November 2019. The successful applicants will be notified by the 22nd of November. The number of participating students is limited (max. 20 students), so we encourage early registration. Selecting criteria will apply.

Costs and subsidies

Seminar fee:
- 350€ for EU and Turkish Students including accommodation
- 200€ for EU students who will not need accommodation
- 450€ for Overseas students including accommodation

Accommodation
During the course the Institute will offer accommodation to the participants/students in guest rooms or in hotels in close proximity to the institutes. Students will be sharing their rooms. The institute will publish contact details as soon as students are accepted. For more information regarding accommodation please contact the NIA secretary Mrs Emmy Makri at emakri@nia.gr and nia@nia.gr
For more information regarding the course, please contact:
Dr Tryfon Bampilis  Tel: + 30 210 9210760; Mobile: + 30 6976465830, nia@nia.gr

More information concerning accommodation at NIA and how to reach the institute is available on the website (www.nia.gr).

Organizing Committee:
Dr. Tryfon Bampilis (NIA)
Ass. Prof. Barak Kalir (UvA)
Dr. Flip Lindo (UvA)
Prof. Dimitris Dalakoglou (VU)