



Universiteit van Amsterdam (UvA)

Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA)

VU University Amsterdam

Winter Course

January 20, 2025 – January 31, 2025

Migration in the Margins of Europe

**for Master & PhD students in
Social and Political Sciences**

DEADLINE 20 NOVEMBER 2024

Staff of the University of Amsterdam, the department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of the VU University Amsterdam and the Netherlands Institute at Athens, organize this intensive winter course for the twelfth consecutive year. As this course is highly popular, we encourage early registration. The course **will take place in Athens from the 20th to the 31st of January 2025.**

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. Wars and political changes in the region have resulted in various humanitarian crises and populations affected by large scale changes are being forced to leave their homes. 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 try to contribute to our migration project by recording and illustrating life experiences of refugees and other immigrants, NGO policies and Greek perspectives on migration.

Structure of the course

The seminars will run daily at the NIA in Athens and in outside spaces. 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. In the sessions the lecturers give an overview of the theory of social anthropology/social sciences 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, students are expected to have read the short obligatory literature sent to them six weeks before the beginning of the course.**

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.



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 of (3000 words)** for those who would like to apply at their departments for 5 ECTS points. Students at UvA may choose this course in the MA programs of the Graduate School of Social Sciences at the Faculty of Social Sciences. For eligibility, please contact your MA coordinator.

Results

At the end of the seminar, students give a presentation in relation to their research and observations with a short analysis of their findings. 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.

Participation – application

Only **Master and early M.Phil/PhD students from the Social and Political Sciences** can participate in the seminar. Students can apply through the NIA website (www.nia.gr) until **20 November 2024 midnight**. The successful applicants will be notified by the **25 of November 2024**. In case your application has been successful, the course fees will have to be paid by **4 December 2024**. The number of participating students is limited (max. 20 students), so we encourage early registration. Selecting criteria will apply. Please be aware that a cancellation of your participation is possible up until two weeks before the start of the course with a 50% refund of the course fees. After that date no refunds will be made.

Costs

Seminar fee:

-150€ for all EU students who will arrange on their own accommodation or don't need any.

-350€ for EU Students including accommodation arranged by NIA

-600€ for non-EU overseas students including accommodation arranged by NIA

Students are expected to cover their airplane tickets from the Netherlands or country of origin to Athens and back to the Netherlands or country of origin. Lunch and dinner costs are not included.

Scholarships

For this course we are able to offer one FLIP LINDO scholarship which is covering **350€, (EU fees and accommodation)**, for students who come from a refugee background/family and for students who face economic hardship. Students will need to write in their letter of application the reasons they want to apply for this scholarship and they will need to provide documentation to support their claim. In order to apply



for the scholarship, you first need to apply online for the course and then send an email titled "FLIP LINDO SCHOLARSHIP" to Dr. Tryfon Bampilis at tryfonb@nia.gr. In your email, please attach a) the letter uploaded at the online application system b) a letter stating the reasons for applying for this scholarship c) relevant documents that prove your status/current situation. The successful applicant will be notified by the **25 of November 2024**.

Accommodation

Due to the restricted capacity of the NIA guestrooms only 13 students can be accommodated at the Institute. Accommodation at the NIA is shared, usually one room is for two students. Consequently, a limited amount of students might have to arrange accommodation on their own and pay the non-accommodation fee depending on the amount of students and the date of application. For that reason, **we encourage early registration**. The institute will publish accommodation 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, tryfonb@nia.gr, trifonb@yahoo.com, or nia@nia.gr

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

Organizing Committee:

Dr. Tryfon Bampilis (NIA)

Ass. Prof. Barak Kalir (UvA)

Prof. Dimitris Dalakoglou (VU)