

« Thinking Immigration and Integration Differently » A Belgian inter-university initiative

Why this initiative ?

The issue of migrations raises serious questions and debates at both the political and civil society levels in Belgium. Since September 11th, those debates turned into more passionate ones (Abu Jahjah, the Islamic veil, foreigners' voting rights, the overuse of the migratory theme in political discourse sometimes bordering xenophobia, etc.).

The existing studies on the subject regularly suffer from a lack of media coverage and the scientific recommendations are not often translated into effective public policies, as shown by the debate of ethnic employment discrimination. In the multitude of studies and a sometime alarmist media coverage, the people does not always realize the real successes that are in fact achieved through public measures or positive integration experiences.

This conference's objective is to show the current state of immigration and integration problematic by presenting a qualitative assessment of the most recent research. Not wanting to fall in the trap of easy hostile discourses charged with stereotypes that consider the immigrants and their family a source of menace, this conference hopes to contribute in the acknowledgement of the positive influence of immigration in Belgium.

The Project

From this assessment, an idea emerged in numerous Belgian universities to promote a great initiative called "**Belgian inter-university initiative on Immigration and Integration**" with the quadruple objective of:

- a) promote the existing scientific production and valorize it by broadcasting the information by all means and possible techniques;
- b) Finance new policy oriented researchs on crucial themes
- c) Bring some light on the topic without masking the real issues, and show the positive experiences of integration at the local, regional and national levels in various areas such as the educational, the economical, the municipal, and the neighbourhood spheres.

Contact :
CERMAC

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- d) Inspire ourselves of successful enterprises in other european countries to examine their feasibility in Belgium.

This great initiative, financed for the most part by a private grant will include the following:

1. It is a Belgian initiative, in the sense that it will be require the participation of the major universities and research institutions specialized in the migratory theme.
2. It is an initiative that want to point out its inter-university aspect in its conception and realization.
3. It is an initiative willing to involve actors from the civil society and the associative world, as well as all the organizations whose activities promote a better sensibilization, a better integration and non-discrimination policy such as: the King Baudoin Foundation, the Queen Paola Foundation, the MEDEA, and the Centre pour l'Egalité des Chances.

A two Steps project :

1. An important **conference** including an inaugural session and five thematic sessions on October 18th and 19th 2004.
2. A **financing effort for research project** including the best experts on migratory questions (Flanders and Wallonia-Brussels), whose invitation to tender will be made public in the first half of 2004, and whose predicted start will be October 2004.

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Organization

General Coordinator :

Bichara Khader : Cermac (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Monde Arabe Contemporain - DVLP-SPED - Université Catholique de Louvain)

Organization Committee :

Marco **Martiniello** : (Centre d'étude de l'ethnicité et des migrations - FNRS - Université de Liège).

Andrea **Rea** : Germe, (Groupe d'Etude sur l'ethnicité, le racisme, les migrations et l'exclusion - Université Libre de Bruxelles)

Jan **Vranken** (OASes - Policy Centre for Equal Opportunities - Antwerp University) & Christiane **Timmerman** (OASes - Policy Centre for Equal Opportunities - Antwerp University - UCSIA)

In cooperation with the following centres, foundations and organizations :

- Fondation Roi Baudouin
- Centre Pour l'Egalité des Chances
- MEDEA
- Fondation Reine Paola

And in collaboration with :

- *Royal Military School* (as the academic institution hosting the event)

Under the Patronage of the following institutions

- L'Université Catholique de Louvain
- L'Université de Liège
- L'Université d'Anvers
- L'Université de l'ULB

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Program

Octobre 18th :

Opening session: 2pm - 3pm:

Présidée par le Coordinateur, les Organisateurs et les responsables des Institutions associées.

- 2pm-2:10pm : Welcoming note of the coordinator
 - « **Thinking immigration positively** »
 - 2:10pm-2:30pm : Opening speech of **His Royal Majesty the King** or the **Prime Minister**
 - 3:30pm-3pm : Inaugural conference : *Philippe Fargues* :
 - « **Europe and its surroundings: demographic and migratory perspectives** »
- Small break

First Session: 3:15pm - 6:00pm :

Présidence : *Luc Tayard de Borms* (Fondation du Roi Baudoin)

- 3:20pm-3:40pm : *Frank Caestecker* (IPSOMA) :
- « **History of immigration in Belgium (1830-2004)** »
- 3:40pm-4pm : *Thierry Eggericks* (UCL)
- « **The demographic data on immigration** »
- 4pm-4:20pm : *Christian Kesteloot* (KUL-Leuven)
- « **Spatial representation of immigration** »
- 4:20-4:40 : *Jean Yves Carlier* (UCL)
- « **Evolution of foreigners rights** »

Coffee break

Second Session: 5pm - 7pm :

Presidence : *Josef de Witte* (Centre pour l'Egalité des Chances)

Immigrants and Politics

- 5pm-5:20pm : *Marco Martiniello* (FNRS-ULG)
- « **Immigration, political mobilization and participation : new trends** »
- 5:20pm-5:40pm : *Hassan Bousetta* (ULG)
- « **Cultural diversity and political representation: the Brussels exception** »
- 5:40pm-6pm : *Dirk Jacobs* (KUL):)
- « **The influence of political elites of foreign origine on the public debate relative to immigration et integration** »
- 6pm-6:20pm : *Marc Swyngedouw* (KUL):
- « **Who voted for candidates of foreign origine in 2003 in Flanders-Belgium?** »

Discussion and Cocktail

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Octobre 19th :

Third Session: 10am - noon :

Presidence : *Général Major Aviateur M. Singelé* (Commander of the Royal Military Academy)

Public Policies

- 10am-10:20am : *Andrea Rea* (ULB)
- « **The immigration policies in Belgium** »
- 10:20am-10:40am : *Jan Blommart* (RUG)
- « **The political discourse on immigrants' integration** »
- 10:40am-11am : *Marie-Claire Foblets* (KUL)
- « **Changes of the law on Belgian nationality** »
- 11am-11:20am : *Philippe de Bruycker* (ULB)
- « **The effects of the European integration on the belgian policies** »

Discussion and Lunch

Fourth Session: 2pm - 3pm :

Presidence : *Bernard de Taux de Wardin* (Fondation Reine Paola)

Sectoral Policies

- 2pm-2:20pm : *Nouria Ouali*
- « **Migrations and school policies** »
- 2:20pm-2:40pm : *Albert Martens* (KUL)
- « **Migration and the job market** »
- 2:40pm-3pm : *Marc Verlot* (UG)
- « **Educational policies** »

Discussion

Coffee break

Fifth Session: 4pm - 6pm :

Presidence: *Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb* (MEDEA)

Migrations and Collective Identity

- 4pm-4:20pm : *Christiane Timmerman* (UA - UCSIA) & *Jan Vranken* (UA)
- « **Identity Policies** »
- 4:20pm-4:40pm : *Johan Geets* (UA) & *Fauzaya Talhaoui* (UA), *Katrien VD Heyden* (UA)
- « **Families and migratory policies** »
- 4:40pm-5pm : *Meryem Kanmaz* (UG) & *Els Vanderwaeren* (UA)
- « **Praxis and the institutionalisation of Islam in Belgium** »
- 5pm-5:20pm : *Fabienne Brion* (UCL)
- « **Gender, Religion and Discrimination** »
- 5:20pm-5:40pm : *Brigitte Maréchal* (UCL)
- « **Transnational identities, the muslim case in Belgium** »

Discussion

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