

## Call for Papers RC 38 Forum of Sociology 6-11 July 2025 in Rabat, Morocco

### Migration Narratives: Biographical Perspectives on Migration Movements in Morocco

**Session organizers:** Youssef Abid (University of Frankfurt), Gwendolyn Gilliéron (University of Strasbourg, IC-Migrations, France), Catherine Therrien (Al Akhawayn University Ifrane, Morocco)

Morocco stands at the crossroads of various migration movements. Historically, the country experienced significant emigration to Europe after gaining independence, resulting in a Moroccan diaspora of nearly five million people. In recent decades, however, Morocco has increasingly become both a “transit” and a destination country for migrants from all over the world. Various studies highlight the complex migration history of Morocco, which is intertwined with its colonial and slavery past, alongside recent developments in Moroccan foreign policies.

While political sciences approaches have examined the changes in the Moroccan and international migration politics, socio-anthropological perspectives have focused more on the lifeworlds of migrants and how the different migration movements challenge social cohesion. Yet, there has been very little research done on the biographical trajectories of migrants in Morocco. Narratives of migrants are rarely considered. Thus, we know very little about individual trajectories, migration projects, personal reflection and strategies, and how these are situated within a broader social and transnational context.

This session aims to analyze the migration movements in Morocco from a biographical perspective. Migrant narratives offer insights into their worldview and agency, highlighting the challenges and opportunities they encounter throughout their journey. The biographical approach allows us to understand migration projects from an actor-centered approach embedded within the lives of individuals. Furthermore, adopting a narrative perspective within the Moroccan migration context shifts the focus from the dominant Western-centric narrative of migration as a “crisis” to be managed, enabling us to explore alternative narratives and give voice to more marginalized accounts.

The session invites papers addressing the following questions:

- Why are migratory routes and trajectories so changing and complex and what are the turning points that shape migration trajectories?
- What are the individual migration projects of people migrating to/through Morocco, and how are these intertwined with social structures?
- How do local and transnational connections impact and guide migration trajectories and projects?

- What new avenues of analysis can the narrative approach uncover?

We welcome contributions from various disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, history, political science and related fields, that use biographical and narrative methodologies to explore these questions.

### Key Points for Submission

**Abstract submission:** August 05 - October 15, 2024 - 24:00 UTC/GMT via ISA Confex:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2025/webprogrampreliminary/Session20423.html>

For submitting your abstract, you should prepare:

1. **Title**
2. **Keywords** - Up to four custom keywords.
3. **Author(s)** - Presenting author and any co-authors. There is a limit of seven (7) authors.
4. **Abstract** - Abstract text may not exceed 300 words and can be entered in either English, French or Spanish. Please review the languages accepted in the session you want to submit for.

### Duties and Deadlines

- **Abstracts Submission Opens:** August 5, 2024
- **Abstracts Submission Closes:** October 15, 2024 - No deadline extensions.
- **Abstracts Selection Closes:** November 10, 2024
- **Abstract Relocation Closes:** November 30, 2024
- **Notification of Acceptance:** December 5, 2024