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UNESCO CHAIR in Population, Migrations and Development

Director: Raimondo Cagiano de Azevedo

Secretary General: Benedetta Cassani

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UNESCO CHAIR in "Population, Migrations and Development"

Editorial

Waiting for a joint "EU asylum and migration strategy". How many more deaths in the Mediterranean?

"A terrible human tragedy is taking place at the gates of Europe. And not for the first time," said Jean-Claude Mignon, head of the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly, just following the umpteenth tragedy involving African migrants off the island of Lampedusa, resulting in the death of 300 persons and the rescue of about 160. Indisputably, Mr Mignon is right. Over the last 20 years, thousands of migrants have died making the journey to Europe's southern external borders, often in dangerously overcrowded and unseaworthy boats. For many of them the goal was to travel north in the EU, to Scandinavia, the Netherlands or Germany, where they hoped to find job, humanitarian protection and less hostility from anti-immigration groups.

In this context, according to UNHCR data, 2013 represents one of the largest movements of migrants across the Mediterranean, with the numbers increasing fast. More than 4.600 left Libya in September, compared to 755 in the same month last year. Of the 32.000 who have landed in Italy this year so far, 7.500 are Syrian and a further 7.500 Eritrean. These unprecedented figures highlight the urgency of the state of affairs along the entire migratory routes crossed by migrants from sending, to transit and host countries and call for an immediate EU's action.

However, despite migrants mobility across the EU borders -whether voluntary or forced- is appearing with increasing regularity on the agendas of EU's member states, the EU is still far from a common immigration and asylum strategy. The steps taken by the EU immediately after the Lampedusa's disaster have been few and undefined. To date the only action taken to stop the growing number of *migrant deaths at sea* has been the adoption of the European Council Conclusions of 24 and 25 October 2013, which emphasized the importance of addressing the "root causes of migration flows by enhancing cooperation with the countries of origin and transit, including through appropriate EU development support and effective return policy".

Nevertheless, with the exception of the establishment of the "Task Force for the Mediterranean" led by the Directorate General for Home Affairs of the European Commission, these conclusions did not propose any concrete EU policy action to support both migrants and countries of origin, transit and destination. As well as no strategic plan has been released to increase dialogue and cooperation at the EU level and to improve alertness and national responses for the protection of all migrants, irrespective of their legal status.

Astonishingly, the Council asked to postpone the discussion on the "EU asylum and migration strategy" at a further summit meeting in June 2014, "when strategic guidelines for further legislative and operational planning in the area of freedom, security and justice will be defined". This was, without a doubt, a true slap against the protection of migrant and refugee rights on the European borders and a missing chance for the EU policymakers.

What is sure is that in absence of a joint EU's response, further migrants' deaths in the Mediterranean are more than predictable, especially if the EU's policing along the external borders will be enhanced. Several studies (see, for example, Hein De Haas and Sergio Carrera) have shown that increasing border controls have only displaced migration routes, forcing migrants and refugees to travel along more dangerous routes and making them dependent on smugglers, who facilitate irregular border crossings. If there is a lesson to take from this shameful waste of human lives, it is the urgency of the definition of a strong EU legal framework to protect those third country nationals subject to the EU border management. This is essential to guarantee a solid legal basis that offers protection for the rule of law, as well as democratic accountability and humanitarian protection in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice.

Enza Roberta Petrillo
EuroSapienza Research Centre – Sapienza University

Seminars and conferences

2014 PROGRAMME

- January** - Presentation of the publication *“Capitalist Development in India’s Informal economy”* Routledge Editor 2013, by **Elisabetta Basile**, Faculty of economics, Sapienza University of Rome, **Rome**.
- 22-24 January** - **Angela Papparuso, Elena Ambrosetti** and **Tineke Fokkema** presents a paper on *“Migration Policies in Italy: their impact on the lives of Migrants”* at the IS Acccademy: Migration and Development ‘A World in Motion’ Final Conference, **Maastricht**.
- 14 February** - 30th anniversary of the European Union Treaty: Forum at the Italian Parliament, **Rome**.
- 24 February** - *“Database analysis”* Memorial day in honour of prof. Bernardo Colombo, **Padova**.
- 3 March** - Course on *“Population and Development”* led by **Elena Ambrosetti**, Faculty of Economics, Sapienza University of Rome, **Rome**.
- 5 March** - Presentation of the publication *“Sapienza in the Mediterranean Region”* by **Benedetta Cassani** during the International Exhibition of Architecture at the ENA Rabat, **Rabat**.
- 20 March** - Eurosapienza session of the programme *“Italian Universities for Europe”* on *“Towards a Euro-Mediterranean Community”*. Forum with the participation of **Staffan de Mistura, Antonello Biagini, Alberto Majocchi, Maurizio Franzini, Fabio L. Grassi, Michel Gras, Raimondo Cagiano de Azevedo** and **Francesco Gui**, Faculty of Economics, Sapienza University of Rome, **Rome**.
- 8-12 April** - **Enza Roberta Petrillo** presents the paper *“The EU’s Integrated Border Management Strategy: a helping hand to smugglers?”* at the Annual Meeting of the **Association of American Geographers, Tampa, Florida**.
- 10-12 April** - **Benedetta Cassani** and **Alicia Bernasconi** organize a session with CEMLA during the CUIA Days in Argentina, **Buenos Aires**.
- 1-3 May** - **Angela Papparuso** and **Elena Ambrosetti** present the paper on *“To Stay or to Return. The main determinants of return migration intentions among first-generation Moroccans living in Italy and Spain”*, by at the 2014 PAA Annual Meeting, **Boston, Massachussets**.
- 8 May** - International Seminar on *“Le droit d’émigrer”*, by **Catherine Wihtol de Wenden**, Sapienza University of Rome, **Rome**.
- 12 May** - Third Meeting of the working group on *“Frontières et migrations”*, promoted by CNHI, Rome and Paris Chapter, **Paris**.
- 26-30 May** - XVIII Aidelf International Symposium on *“Trajectoires et ages de la vie”* with the participation of the **Unesco Chair Rome Chapter**, University of Bari Aldo Moro, **Bari**
- 11-13 June** - **Elena Ambrosetti** and **Angela Papparuso** participate to the *General Conference of the Italian Society of Statistics*. **Cagliari**.
- 26 June** - Meeting of the Unesco Chair Scientific Committee at the EAPS 2014 General Conference, **Budapest**.
- 10 September** - Lecture on *“For a World Democratic Parliamentary Assembly”* by **Fernando A. Iglesias**, Director of the Spinelli Chair in Buenos Aires and World Federalist Movement Council Chairman, CIFE Conference room, **Rome**.
- October** - Fourth Meeting of the working group on *“Frontières et migrations”*, Rome and Paris Chapter, **Rome**.
- October** - **Graziella Caselli** participates to *“International Forum on Transmediterranean Migrations”* organized by Sapienza University of Rome and NEODEMOS. **Rome**
- December** - Publication of the MEMOTEF Department booklet on *“Europe’s Future”* with the contributions of **Mauro Vaccaro, Enza Roberta Petrillo, Elena Ambrosetti, Angela Papparuso** and **Cristina Giudici**



Research activities



The Egyptians youth and the slow transition to adulthood

by Elena Ambrosetti, Anna De Pascale, Angela Papparuso

Among the determinants of fertility, age at first marriage plays an important role in the Arab and Muslim countries and, hence, in Egypt. In Muslim societies, marriage is considered the unique institution where it is allowed to procreate; as a consequence to this, marriage and motherhood are considered as linked processes, under the social and demographic point of view.

Changes in the age at first marriage are still in process in Egypt. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to analyze the determinants of the transition to adulthood for young Egyptians. Taken into consideration the importance of marriage among Egyptian, our main hypothesis is that strong ties among family members can reduce the cost of marriage for young couples, especially for what concerns buying an independent house. According to the last census (2006), around 16 million Egyptians are between 18 and 30; young people under 30 forms the 63% of the total population. Marriage in Egypt is ruled by tradition, religion and differences in roles and responsibilities between men and women. In order to provide insight into the mechanism which lead demographic behaviors in a certain socio-economic environment, we will measure the macro level marital patterns in Egypt. For the micro factors, we will use the Survey of Young People in Egypt (SYPE), led by the Population Council in 2009 and providing a sample of 15,029 young people between 10 and 29. The survey contains information on five key issues related to the transition to adulthood: work, family formation, reproductive health, civic and political participation. In order to identify the determinants of marriage among young people, we will estimate two non-parametric models, separately for women and men.

Sex imbalances at birth in migratory context in Western Europe: evidence from Italy

by Elena Ambrosetti, Università di Roma "La Sapienza"; Livia Ortensi, Università degli Studi di Milano - Bicocca; Cinzia Castagnaro, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (ISTAT); Marina Attili, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (ISTAT)

This paper aims to explore SRB of migrants in Italy in order to shed light on the phenomenon of sex selection at birth and to help to address policies against that practice. Our objective is to analyze births from mothers with a foreign background from countries where sex selection at birth is widespread and that are among the largest immigrant communities in Italy. Data stems from the Survey on births from the Resident Population Registers and from the First Regional Survey on Sexual and Reproductive Health of Migrant Women held in Lombardy in 2010. Average SRB will be calculated for the period 1999-2011 by mothers' country of birth. Births of first, second and third order will be analyzed. A comparison with SRB in the origin countries will be provided. Using a multilevel approach the relation among SRB of children and the mothers' eventual experience of abortion will be explored. (Poster Session 3: Health of Women, Children, and Families, Annual Meeting, Population Association of America, Boston, MA, May 1-3, 2014)

Immigration Statistical Dossier 2013.

Within the activities of the UNESCO Chair "Population, Migration and Development" and within the course of International Cooperation and Development on the 2nd of December organized, at the Faculty of Economics of Sapienza University, a seminar devoted to the presentation of the Statistical Dossier 2013. The Dossier offers a thorough analysis, with a large support of statistical data, various aspects of migration: international migration flows, the presence of immigrants and refugees in Italy, the different levels of social inclusion, the regional contexts. The seminar saw the participation of **Franco Pittau** and **Cristina Giudici** and was organized in collaboration with the Center for Studies and Research IDOS. <http://www.memotef.uniroma1.it/newdip/ricerca/seminari.php>

**IMMIGRAZIONE
Dossier Statistico
2013**



Visiting professor at Sapienza University

Tineke Fokkema, Senior Researcher at Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) has arrived at Sapienza University as a visiting professor at the MEMOTEF Department in the Faculty of Economics, Sapienza University of Rome. Ms. Fokkema will conduct her research period with Elena Ambrosetti.

On the 13th of December, Tineke Fokkema held a seminar on: "Loneliness among older migrants: A challenging research topic" at the Faculty of Economics of Sapienza University. The seminar was actively participated by students and young researchers.

Information

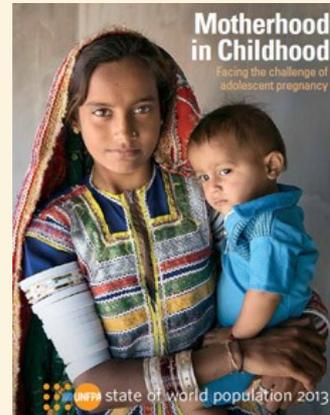
Publications

The State of World Population 2013

Every day, 20,000 girls below age 18 give birth in developing countries. Nine in 10 of these births occur within marriage or a union. Girls under 15 account for 2 million of the annual total of 7.3 million new adolescent mothers; if current trends continue, the number of births to girls under 15 could rise to 3 million a year in 2030.

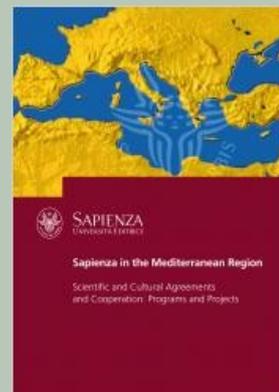
The State of World Population 2013, published by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, highlights the main challenges of adolescent pregnancy and its serious impacts on girls' education, health and long-term employment opportunities. The report also shows what can be done to curb this trend and protect girls' human rights and well-being. The report applies a multilevel ecological framework, which shows that adolescent pregnancies do not occur in a vacuum. They are the consequence of a combination of factors, including poverty, communities' and families' acceptance of child marriage, and inadequate efforts to keep girls in school.

The State of World Population 2013 calls for a shift away from interventions targeted at girls towards broad-based approaches that build girls' human capital, help them make decisions about their lives, including matters of sexual and reproductive health, and offer them real opportunities so that motherhood is not seen as their only destiny. This new approach must target the circumstances, conditions, norms, values and structural forces that perpetuate adolescent pregnancies on the one hand and that isolate and marginalize pregnant girls on the other. Girls need to have access to both sexual and reproductive health services and to information. They need to be released from the economic and social pressures that too often translate into a pregnancy, as well as the poverty, poor health and unrealized human potential that come with it. Tackling unintended pregnancy among adolescents requires holistic approaches. Because the challenges are great and complex, no single sector or organization can face them on its own. Only by working in partnerships, across sectors, and in collaboration with adolescents themselves, can constraints on their progress be removed. The State of the World Population 2013, "Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the Challenge of Adolescent Pregnancy," was released by UNFPA on the 30th of October worldwide. (www.unfpa.org/swp)



Sapienza in the Mediterranean Region

On Thursday, 7th November, At Sapienza University, was held a day dedicated to the promotion of research projects, training and mobility concerning Sapienza University in the Mediterranean area. The day's proceedings were opened by **Luigi Frati**, Rector of Sapienza University and saw the participation of **Antonello Biagini**, **Bartolomeo Azzaro** and **Luciano Saso**. The works continued with the presentation by **Isabella Camera d'Afflitto** of the publication: "Sapienza in the Mediterranean Region" (edited by **Benedetta Cassani**, Edizioni Sapienza 2013). The publication is a collection of the results of the homonymous initiatives that involved a working group composed of professors and experts interested in enhancing and promoting the commitment of Sapienza in the Mediterranean area. The results of this commitment, are collected in 54 descriptions of inter-university cooperation projects of Sapienza in the Mediterranean. The closing remarks of the proceedings were given by **Raimondo Cagiano de Azevedo**, coordinator of the programme "Sapienza in the Mediterranean Region". The Rome Chapter of the Unesco Chair also participated in the realization of the programme. (<http://www.uniroma1.it/sapienza/archivionotizie/sapienza-nel-mediterraneo>)



All the information and activities of The Unesco Chair "Population, Migrations and Development" are now available on an internet page contained in Sapienza University's web site.:

http://www.memotef.uniroma1.it/newdip/ricerca/altre_iniziative/cattedra_unesco/cattedra_unesco.php



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