

3rd International Conference on Transnational Academic and Scientific Mobility  
Redefining the subjects of academic, scientific and student mobility:  
new subjects and migratory dynamics  
July, 7-8, 2020 – University of Granada, Spain

The so-called knowledge society has produced discourses and narratives that celebrate the mobility of people as one of the keys to promote socio-economic development globally, through the production, circulation and transfer of knowledge. Thus, countries and regional blocks have developed different strategies to attract those they consider that can foster creativity and introduce new skills and know-how for the productive sectors contributing to the advancement of society in general. In this context, academic, scientific and student mobility emerge as a special category of migratory movements. In this way, the States and / or the economic blocks devote special attention to migration policies in order to facilitate the movement of people involved in academic and scientific activities, through the creation of different categories of visas and residence permits. Institutions that likewise have an interest in attracting this sort of skilled labour - laboratories, hospitals, technology companies, universities, etc. - have also created special working conditions and contracts for these groups- higher salaries, cooperation agreements with institutions of the countries of origin, sponsoring family visa. Meanwhile, higher education institutions in destination countries try to attract international students through innovative and high-quality training offers, since they identify students as an alternative source of revenue.

However, the subjects of academic and scientific mobility, including students, are not homogeneous. And in spite of the positive narrative about this type of mobility, when compared to other types of migration - low-skilled labour migration, family reunification – society's hierarchies and power relations continue to operate, even if in a different way, shaping these flows unevenly. Therefore, the discourse of academic, scientific and student mobility as a less problematic, more desirable and category that boost the improvement of socio-economic conditions globally is a fallacy.

Global geo-political asymmetries stand as one of the first controversial point within academic, scientific and student mobility. The predominant direction of these flows from the Global South-to Global North shows the existence of hierarchies between knowledge producing centres. Hence, it reaffirms that the discussions about brain-drain have not been overcome as suggested by the "brain circulation" narratives. In fact, not all scientists, scholars and students are invited to circulate "freely" across borders. Gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, countries of origin among others also shape the "right" of mobility among academics, students and scientists. As Grosfoguel (2002) states, the ideal model of the scientist remain as a white man, Christian and from the global North. However, the agency and resistance of academics, scientists and students "less desired" challenges the invisibly regulations imposed on this movement and denounce the existing exclusions dynamics.

Therefore, thinking about international academic, scientific and student mobility as a social phenomenon forces us to reflect on how the development of official discourses promoting and celebrating the referred mobility categories are not enough to cover all its complexity and the its subjects' diversity.

From the analysis of the different normative contexts, region and nationality and the markers of difference, this conference seeks to approach the heterogeneity and complexity of international academic, scientific and student mobility from different perspectives, economic, political, social and

cultural, considering the role of global power dynamics and the different migratory profiles in order to build new categories of analysis and intervention.

Theoretical and methodological works will be accepted, as well as case studies, focusing on following questions:

- To what extent are discourses on the knowledge economy being transposed to States and regional blocks' migration policies in order to promote scientific, academic and student mobility?
- To what degree are international students seen by higher education institutions in destination countries as a channel of promoting knowledge circulation or are they seen as merely revenue or an strategy to increase the institutions internationalization level?
- What role do international students play in the knowledge economy?
- Who are the desired and idealized subjects of the scientific, academic and student mobility identified in the migration policies?
- How does the biases on the narratives pro scientific, academic, and student mobility on the shape the profile of the subjects of such mobility?
- Which role does the intersection of socio-cultural markers of difference (race, gender, social class, age, religion) in the mobility experiences of these subjects?
- What resistance strategies have been articulated by academics, scientists and students against the dynamics of exclusions in scientific, academic and student mobility?, or What barriers exist to hinder the articulation of such strategies?
- What are the new categories of analysis that emerge when we consider scientific, academic and student mobility in their complexity, taking into account economic, political, social and cultural aspects?

According to this reflection agenda, the axes of discussion will mainly cover:

- The role of policies - migratory, labour and educational - in the dynamics of scientific, academic and student mobility
- Epistemic-conceptual challenges in addressing international academic, scientific and student mobility
- Available statistics and measurement problems
- Markers of difference in academic, scientific and student mobility - Experiences of resistance in academic, scientific and student mobility
- International students as actors in the knowledge economy

The proposals guidelines are:

Abstract: 300 words – including author's name, institution affiliation and e-mail

Language: English, Spanish and Portuguese

Format: PDF

Deadline: March 20, 2020

The proposal should be send to the following e-mail: **scientificmobility2020@gmail.com**

The results will be announced on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April