

IFCU  
Social Sciences International Research Group

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023**  
**“Youth mobility in the 21st century”**

Dear Rectors, Friends of the IFCU International Research Group in Social Sciences:

On behalf of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), I am pleased to inform you that the next meeting of the International Research Group IFCU-Social Sciences will take place from **11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023** in the city of Zagreb, Croatia, at the **Catholic University of Croatia**. The theme chosen for this meeting is **“Youth mobility in the 21st century”**. The issue of mobility is of great importance in the century we are living in, since it is a planetary phenomenon, whose causes are multiple and complex. The dynamics of human mobility, although in constant evolution, have been studied and treated from various points of view according to the responsible bodies, but they continue to pose a real challenge in terms of international law, reception, insertion and inclusion for societies, governments, and the Catholic teaching profession itself. Young generations are greatly involved in processes of mobility for a variety of reasons.

Universities in general, and Catholic universities in particular, can contribute to enriching reflection and to providing data that will make it possible to base policies that respect human dignity, as well as to promote, at their level, initiatives for the reception and recognition of students and/or teacher-researchers concerned by this mobility.

This will be the sixth international event of this group and the first one after the pandemic forced stop. Previously we met in 2018 at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), Lima, Peru, to reflect on the “Role of the university in the care of the common home”, and previously, in 2017, at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, in Milan, Italy, to address the issue of “Youth and Inequalities”. In this post-pandemic phase, the group is relaunching a Research Programme on the new generations, starting with an issue of great relevance and topicality.

In the attachment you will find the call. We sincerely hope that representatives of your institutions will be able to attend this important meeting within the framework of the Catholic universities of the world.

# IFU RESEARCH GROUP- SOCIAL SCIENCES

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

*Catholic University of Croatia*

*Zagreb, 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> October 2023*

**1<sup>st</sup> Call**

### **YOUTH MOBILITY**

### **IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

*The Bible recounts the history of a humanity on the move, for mobility is part of our human nature. Human history is made up of countless migrations, sometimes out of an awareness of the right to choose freely, and often dictated by external circumstances. From the banishment from Eden to Abraham's journey to the promised land, from the Exodus story to the deportation to Babylon, sacred Scripture describes the struggles and sufferings, the desires and hopes, which are shared by the hundreds of thousands of persons on the move today, possessed of the same determination which Moses had to reach a land flowing with "milk and honey" (cf. Ex 3:17), a land of freedom and peace (From the address of his holiness Pope Francis to the members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the holy see for the traditional exchange of new year greetings, 11 January 2016)*

Human mobility is the mirror of the extraordinary acceleration of global processes of social, economic and cultural change. It is also the consequence of increasing inequalities. Young people are largely involved in processes of mobility for a broad variety of reasons: war, violation of human rights, economic instability, climate change, and environmental disasters. In addition to this a wide variety of flows is also driven by other motivations, such as consumption, tourism, recreation, retirement, marriage and search of new lifestyles. Others move for educational or job opportunities, such as international students.

In a context of permanent and intersecting crises (health, environmental, economic, and geopolitical crises), human mobility deserves further attention, with a particular focus on young generations who are largely affected by the consequences of the multiple crises. Accordingly, it is worth studying the impact of recent crises on the possibilities and necessity to cross borders, on the reasons underpinning the decision to leave, and on the new theoretical and empirical challenges in the study of human mobility. Recent transformations also call for a reflection on the implications of recent changes at the policy level.

The challenges of human mobility and its implications are multiple in terms of exchange between different cultures and values, identities, rights of crossing borders, solidarity, discrimination, exclusion, and rise of new populism and nationalism. In particular mobility is boosted and supported by the increasing development of new information and communication technologies which facilitates interconnections and changes the way in which we communicate. ICTs have greatly increased opportunities for mobility and have deeply affected our everyday existences making it easily thinking beyond borders.

Human mobility calls for a global approach guided by solidarity and forward-looking policies based on the centrality of human-being.

The complexity of the concept - which should be understood taking in consideration both global change and local development - implies some crucial theoretical, analytical and methodological challenges for social sciences.

In this frame the conference theme calls for exploring the concept of human mobility (in its various forms), with a specific focus on youth, from different theoretical perspectives and with diverse methodological approaches. In particular, we encourage presenters to analyse the intricate connections of social, cultural and political dynamics which characterised contemporary processes of mobility of young people also in the light of the most recent crises (Covid-19 pandemic, war between Russia and Ukraine, etc.).

To foster the understanding of youth mobility, we encourage contributions on the following topics:

- mobility in times of crises (e.g., new challenges; new trends; implications at policy level);
- mobility and social and economic inequalities
- mobility and the role of new technologies
- Environmental and climate change as drivers of contemporary international migration
- Transnational communities
- Transnational life paths
- Lifestyle and consumption between local and global
- Global governance of human mobility
- mobility and human rights
- Reflexivity and the use of categories in studies on human mobility (e.g., migrant/citizen; “second generation youth”)
- Immigrants and their descendants (Identity, Voice, discrimination, inclusion/exclusion, attitudes toward ethnic minorities).

**Abstracts of up to 400 words should be sent to Social Sciences Research Group IFCU ([pablo.vidal@ucv.es](mailto:pablo.vidal@ucv.es); [rita.bichi@unicatt.it](mailto:rita.bichi@unicatt.it)) by 20th April, indicating in Subject: Social Sciences proposal.**

Authors should clearly reflect the title of the paper, the institution of origin, its name, and precisely identify their position in the institution.

The Organizing Committee has very advanced the possibility that the best communications, adapted, can be published in a monographic issue of the Journal Studi di Sociologia, indexed in Sociological Abstracts Proquest and requested for Scopus.

The selection of abstracts will be made by the Executive Committee of the Group after the closing of the submission period and will be immediately communicated to the interested parties.

The speakers will participate in the expenses with an amount of 80 Euros.

Students and participants without papers who wish a certification of their participation will collaborate with 40 Euros.