

Call for Papers

International Workshop

From Asia to the EU: Labour Migration and Social Protection

General information

Hosted by the CASTLE Centre for the Study of Transnational Families, organised within the project ‘Caring for the Vulnerable – Transnational Social Protection of Bangladeshi Migrants’ Families in the EU (CASTLE 2)’, co-funded by the European Union through the Migration Partnership Facility of ICMPD.

Project webpage: <https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/castle2/>

Format: Hybrid

Funding: travel and accomodation can be funded for accepted participants, on request

Venue: FSPAC2 building, BBU, str Minerilor 85 Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Date: 3-4 November 2026

Working language: English

The CASTLE Centre is pleased to invite submissions for the International Workshop “From Asia to the EU: Labour Migration and Social Protection”.

The workshop offers a forum for critical reflection on the ways in which migration reshapes social protection arrangements, access to welfare, care relations, and family support structures in both countries of origin and destination. It welcomes interdisciplinary contributions that examine the social, political, economic, and institutional dimensions of labour migration from South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia to the EU.

Particular attention will be given to the relationship between labour mobility (in the form of mid- to long-term transnational migration) and transnational forms of social protection (understood broadly to include formal, marketized as well as relational – family, community- and network-based – protections) with an emphasis on the inequalities and vulnerabilities that emerge across the migration process. By fostering

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exchange among scholars working across different disciplinary and geographical contexts, the event aims to contribute to current academic debates on migration governance, migrant labour, transnational family life, and the changing architectures of welfare and protection in an era of intensified mobility.

Conceived as a scientific event dedicated exclusively to academic exchange, the workshop provides a platform for the presentation of original research, theoretical interventions, comparative analyses, and methodological reflections on labour migration and social protection.

Keynote Speaker

Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot, Université libre de Bruxelles

Principal Investigator of the AspirE project (2023-26)

Profile: <https://aspire.ulb.be/team/research-team/asuncion-fresnoza-flot>

Topics of Interest

We invite paper proposals addressing, though not limited to, the following themes:

- labour migration from Asia to the European Union;
- transnational social protection;
- migrant workers and access to welfare;
- labour precarity, vulnerability, and inequality;
- migration and transnational family arrangements;
- care circulation and social reproduction in migration contexts;
- recruitment systems, labour intermediaries, and mobility infrastructures;
- migration governance and institutional frameworks;
- comparative perspectives on Asian migration to Europe;
- social protection across origin and destination contexts;
- migration, gender, and labour;
- conceptual and methodological approaches to migration and social protection.

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Eligibility

The workshop is open to:

- researchers and faculty members;
- postdoctoral scholars;
- doctoral candidates.

Types of contributions

We welcome submissions in the form of:

- empirical research papers;
- theoretical papers;
- comparative analyses;
- conceptual contributions;
- methodological reflections;
- case-study-based research.

Submission guidelines

Please submit:

- a paper title;
- an abstract of 250–300 words;
- 4–5 keywords;
- author name(s);
- institutional affiliation;
- email address;
- a short biographical note of 80–100 words.

Submissions should be sent to: castle@fspac.ro

Subject line: CFP – From Asia to the EU – Workshop

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Note on travel funding

Travel and accommodation costs for accepted speakers can be covered on request.

Important Dates

Call launch: 30 April 2026

Abstract submission deadline: 30 June 2026

Notification of acceptance: 15 July 2026

Final programme: 31 July 2026

Workshop date: 4 November 2026

Publication Prospects

Selected papers may be considered for publication in a collective volume or for submission to a special issue of an academic journal, subject to editorial selection and peer-review procedures.

Contact

CASTLE Centre for the Study of Transnational Families

<https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/castle/en>

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