



research seminar

(Temporary) Labour Migration and Agriculture in the EU: Time, Borders, and Vulnerabilities

The agricultural sector in the Member States of the European Union relies, just like many other countries of the Global North, on a continuous supply of a migrant workforce. A large share of this phenomenon is organised through various forms of temporary labour migration, both when it comes to migration from third countries (the Seasonal Workers Directive) or intra-EU migration (the Posting of Workers Directive).

The legal construction of these different forms of temporary labour migration relies on a fundamental fiction, where migrant workers are admitted to a given Member State, but are not entirely there -in terms of their lack of access to pathways to citizenship, social rights and entitlements, or equal working conditions. This contributes to the obfuscation of the structural presence of this migrant workforce in the agricultural sector.

The seminar explores several examples of this construction, from a legal, economic, and sociological perspective. Through these examples we aim to explore how spatiotemporal elements (shifting borders, temporariness, labour market needs...) are deployed to manage and enforce temporary labour migration, and how those impact the vulnerability of migrant workers.

07 March 2025, 09h00-12h20

Salle Redslob, Faculté de droit

1 Place d'Athènes, 67000 Strasbourg

Prior registration required for online attendance:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/pSWpjh-KSXiy6QfxQLpnKg>

09h00-09h10 **Opening Speech - They are still essential: The quest for social justice for agriculture migrant workers**

Fabiola Mieres (ILO)

09h10-09h30 **Agricultural sector, migration and labour supply in Poland: Change or more of the same?**

Justyna Hejman-Mancewicz (CNRS - University of Strasbourg)

09h30-09h50 **Regularity in irregularity? Shades of (il)legality of seasonal migrant work in Poland**

Kamil Matuszczyk (CMR - University of Warsaw)

09h50-10h10 **Discussion**

10h10-10h20 **Coffee Break**

10h20-10h40 **From transnational to internal migration: the case of seasonal workers under the GECCO scheme in Spain**

Audrey Deverson (CNRS - University of Strasbourg)

10h40-11h00 **Discussion**

11h00-11h20 **Finnish berries, Thai workers: Shifting practices for state-facilitated cheap, seasonal labour**

Minna Seikkula (University of Tampere)

11h20-11h40 **Temporary labour migrants in the Swedish forests: recent developments in the socio-legal construction of the berry pickers**

Andrea lossa (University of Kristianstad)

11h40-12h00 **Discussion**

12h00-12h10 **Closing Speech - Spatiotemporal scales and the regulation of temporary labour migration in agriculture**

Marco Rocca (CNRS - University of Strasbourg)