

Call for Contributions to the Panel

Remittances and Inequality: A Blank Spot on the ‘Research Map’

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“Migration and Inequalities. In Search of Answers and Solutions”

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Remittances have been at the center of the scientific debate of migration research for decades. This applies especially to tangible remittances (money and goods) but in the last two decades, research on intangible remittances (economic, environmental, political, and socio-cultural ideas and practices) has caught up. Empirical analyses have repeatedly confirmed that migrants transfer not only money to their origin countries but a variety of ideas and practices.

Despite the continued research interest, remittance research suffers from several research gaps. One of them is the interrelationship between remittances and inequality. With regard to tangible remittances, a limited number of analyses exist but the results vary and mainly look at remittances’ impact on income inequality. Regarding intangible remittances the topic is even less explored. To our knowledge, no paper exists that specifically analyses the interrelationship between intangible remittances and inequality.

This opens up a wide array of interesting questions such as ‘How do remittances in their various forms influence inequality in origin countries?’, ‘How do the different dimensions of inequality (e.g., spatial, gender, class) influence the transfer of remittances?’ or ‘How do tangible and intangible remittances intersect in their impact on inequality?’. This panel aims to tackle these questions from an interdisciplinary viewpoint in order to put a spotlight on this hardly explored field of research. We welcome analyses from all disciplines and empirical as well as theoretical approaches to get a multifaceted understanding of the complex interrelationship between remittances and inequality. Please send your abstract, which should be no longer than 250 words, to pinkow-laepple@iamo.de and r.king@sussex.ac.uk until 20.11.2022. Please include a title and some key information on your affiliation. The presentations are envisaged to eventually lead to a publication in a special issue.