

Frédérique Channac • Research Proposal / Garnet Mobility

Frédérique Channac participates in two Garnet workpackages. The activities of these two workpackages are due to start on Month 13, at the beginning of her 6 month mobility programme.

These two workpackages are:

5.1.3. The European Union and Africa.

5.2.3. Theoretical Issues on the European Union, the United Nations, Political Multilateralism and Global Governance.

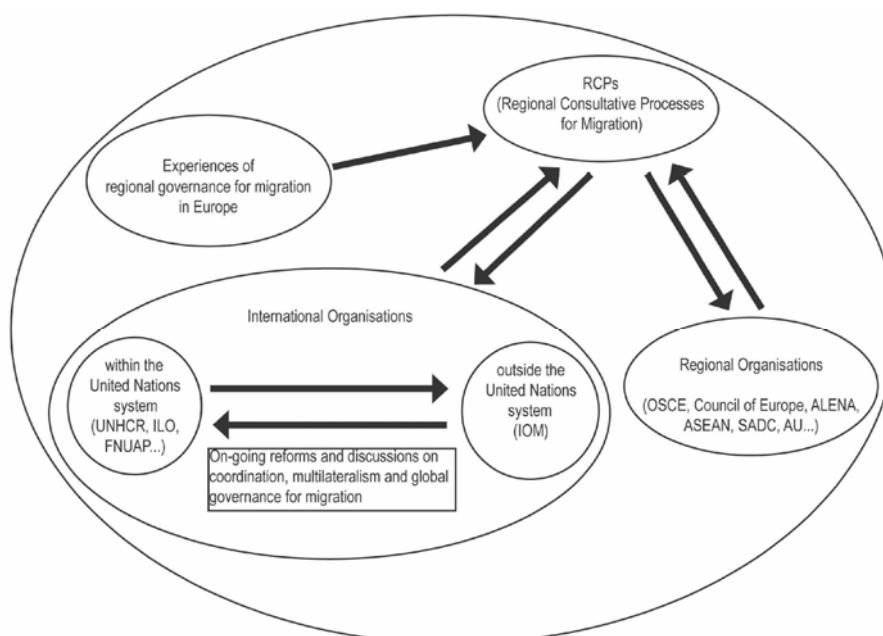
The proposed research aims at developing a comprehensive approach of regionalization and governance in the field of international migration. It will focus primarily on the evolutions of multilateralism and institutional arrangements at the regional and global levels. The main purpose is to analyse and understand in which way the trend towards the regionalization of migration policies and programmes that occurred during the last decade and the concomitant trend of reforms in global multilateral institutions – and particularly within the UN system – could be conducive to the development of a multi-level governance for international migration. A second, complementary, purpose is to better understand the role of the European Union in supporting and disseminating its experience in “regionalizing” migration policies towards other regions in the world, and how this externalization of the EU migration policy enters in congruence – or not – with the idea that building blocs at the regional level could be a first policy step towards developing a global governance of migration.

The issue of global governance for international migration has gained ground and has become one of the utmost priorities on the international agenda since the end of the 1990s. For instance, this has been very recently illustrated by the hand-over to the UN General Secretary of the Global Commission on International Migration’s Report on “Migration in an interconnected world: New directions for action”. For now, international migration remains a very sensitive issue for international cooperation. Policies in this field remain linked to state sovereignty issues and mainly developed on a national or a bilateral basis, while these transnational flows are developing and changing in nature, challenging the very definition of territorial boundaries and state sovereignty. Frédérique Channac’s research proposal deals with a topic lying at a cross-road between several theoretical issues. In that sense, it rejoins the discussions that should take place on theoretical issues and concepts in Workpackage 5.2.3.

Since the end of the 1990s, two main trends are emerging in the field of international migration. First, international organisations engaged in reforms and reorganized their structures and programmes. Second, and simultaneously, a new form of intergovernmental cooperation developed in various regions of the world. These new regional institutions are now known as Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs). For example, and without claiming to be exhaustive, such processes have been initiated in Europe – *Intergovernmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and Migration Policies in Europe, North America and Australia* and *Budapest Process* –, in central and eastern Asia – *Bali Conference, Manila Process, Issyk-Kul Dialogue* –, in north and south America – *South American Conference on Migration (Lima Process), Regional Conference on Migration (Puebla Process)* –, and in Africa – *MIDSA (Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa), MIDWA (Migration Dialogue for West Africa), AU/IMP Conferences for East Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region, and 5+5 Dialogue between countries of southern European Union and northern Africa*).

This worldwide development of RCPs derives mainly from the transfer of regional cooperation experiences having taken place in Europe earlier, from the 1980s. In this respect, our research will underline this question of policy transfer and the question of European experiences as models of regionalization of migration governance in other regions, and, particularly, in the less developed regions in the world: How does this transfer occur? Under which conditions? Who are the actors of this transfer? What are the institutional and political consequences of the transfer? This trend towards the externalization of European experiences in governance for migration entails a feed-back effect, that is the convergence of norms, practices, rules and policies of the States participating in these RCPs. This could explain why this regionalization is sustained by International Organizations – regional and global, within or outside the UN system –, as part of a larger strategy consisting in building blocs towards the emergence of a real multi-level governance in the field of international migration.

Shaping a multi-level governance for international migration



The proposed research will focus in particular on the RCPs initiated in the less developed regions. Recently, the Report of the Global Commission on International Migration underlined the difficulties facing these less developed countries, more than others, in formulating migration policies¹.

In studying the participation of African countries in the RCPs initiated in these regions, we will analyze its consequences and evaluate its real impact in terms of institution designing, decision-making and policy formulation in these countries; the main questions underlying our analyse being “under which circumstances and environment, in which way and to what extent, does the transfer of European experiences of migration governance can – or not – benefit African countries?” and “what role can international multilateral organisations play in the emergence of a multi-level governance for migration, for instance by providing institutional, technical and financial support and expertise to these less developed countries within – or without – the framework of RCPs?”.

¹ GCIM, 2005, *Migration in an interconnected world: New directions for action*, p.2, <http://www.gcim.org>.