

# COMPARATIVE POPULATION STUDIES ■

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## ***Special Issue 2026 in Comparative Population Studies (CPoS) –***

### ***Call for Papers***

#### ***Title: Migration Trajectories Across the Life Course***

##### ***Guest editors:***

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##### ***Motivation and objectives***

Migration, both within and across countries, holds profound significance at individual and societal levels. Yet, our understanding remains partial due to a predominant focus on static, binary categories – movers vs. stayers; internal vs. international migration – driven by data constraints, disciplinary silos and methodological challenges. These approaches often frame migration as an isolated, one-off event, overlooking its recurring and diverse nature over and across individual life courses. This oversight leaves key dynamics – like lifetime sedentarism, return migration, circular migration, and the connections between internal and international migration – less understood, despite their importance for understanding migration's broader impacts. Consequently, we do not yet understand well how the heterogeneity of migration trajectories – based e.g. in the timing, direction, frequency, or distance of moves – shape long-term individual outcomes like social integration, economic stability, or well-being.

Furthermore, it limits insights into how migration and immobility affect population dynamics, such as attraction, retention, and churn, and how they shape socio-spatial inequalities at various levels. Finally, ignoring trajectory dynamics hampers our understanding of how migration is determined, failing to recognize its self-reinforcing nature or the countereffects of negative experiences and unmet expectations. That is, it underestimates how past experience and migration background influence future mobility.

While the life course perspective has a rich tradition in migration research, offering critical insights into how migration unfolds over time, it has often been applied without fully addressing the complexity of trajectories. Building on this tradition, scholars are increasingly emphasizing the need of a more explicit and nuanced focus on trajectories to explore these complexities and to address the limitations faced by earlier research (e.g., Coulter et al. 2016; McCollum et al. 2020; Vidal and Lersch 2021; Bernard 2022). Recent advancements in longitudinal datasets, innovative methods, analytical frameworks, and growing interdisciplinary collaboration now make it feasible to adopt a trajectory-based approach that fully accounts for the multi-dimensional nature of migration across time and space.

The proposed special issue aims to leverage these developments, providing deeper insights into diverse migration trajectory patterns and their long-term individual and societal implications. It is initiated by the scientific panel on Lifetime Migration of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), and aligns with its mission to promote research on migration that:

- (i) Recognizes the heterogeneity of migration behaviours across diverse populations, spanning from lifetime sedentarism to repeat and chronic migration;
- (ii) Integrates internal and international migration into a continuum of population movement, identifying their linkages over the life course; and
- (iii) Establishes how migration trajectories relate to individual life chances as well as societal well-being and inequalities.

### ***Submission guidelines and selection process***

We welcome the submission of articles that make substantive contributions along these lines, covering diverse geographical regions and both historical and

contemporary periods. Empirical contributions should ideally leverage longitudinal data and methods to offer a more in-depth analysis of migration trajectories over the life course. Contributions from early career researchers are particularly encouraged.

The paper selection process consists of two stages.

In the first stage, submissions undergo an initial screening to assess their alignment with the call's objectives and compliance with CPoS standards. Authors must submit either an extended abstract or a full article by May 15, 2025. Extended abstracts should be at least 4 pages long and provide sufficient detail to assess the quality of the final paper, including summaries of all planned sections and preliminary results. Submissions at this stage should be sent to [lifelongmove@ced.uab.es](mailto:lifelongmove@ced.uab.es), with a copy to [cpos@bib.bund.de](mailto:cpos@bib.bund.de).

Papers that pass the screening will proceed to external peer review. The final versions for peer review must be submitted no later than September 1, 2025, though early submissions are encouraged. Authors can submit their papers by logging in or registering at [CPoS](#), indicating that the submission is part of the special issue "Migration Trajectories Across the Life Course".

### **Suggested schedule**

While the following schedule provides a general timeline, please note that articles will be published online as soon as they are accepted, without needing to wait for the entire set of special issue articles to be finalised. Once all contributions are accepted, they will be formally integrated into the special issue.

15 May 2025:	Call for papers deadline (extended abstracts or full drafts)
Early June 2025:	Call for papers decision
1 September 2025:	Manuscript submission (full drafts) – earlier submissions are possible and welcome as they help streamline the review process
Sept–Nov 2025:	First round of review
Dec–Jan 2025/26:	Revisions by authors
Feb–March 2026:	Second round of review
April–May 2026:	Second revisions by authors
June–July 2026:	Production phase



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**CPoS in figures**

Downloads per months (average 2024): 9,601

Days from submission to publication (average 2024): 349 (< 1 year)

Acceptance rate (2024): 30%

