



REFUFAM Final Conference

**NAVIGATING THE POLITICS OF (DIS)INTEGRATION:**  
**REFUGEE FAMILIES' PATHWAYS TO INCLUSION**

23-24 April 2025

Odisee, University of Applied Sciences

Campus Schaerbeek, Brussels



## Day 1 (Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025)

**8:30-9 – Coffee & Registration**

**9.00-9:45 - Welcoming & Introduction ([Prof Robin Vandevoordt](#))**

**9:45-11:15 - Keynote 1 - [Prof Adrian Favell](#) - *Evaluating the Politics of Disintegration***

**11:15-11:30 – Coffee Break**

**11.30-13:00 - Parallel Session 1**

### Panel A - Rethinking the concept and practice of 'integration', discussing alternatives 1

- Rytter, M. Lind Kusk, M. – *From integration to reorientation. Refugees' processes of orientation after resettlement*
- Casellas Connors, I. - *Breaking Boundaries: Unveiling Racialized Administrative Burdens in Refugee Postsecondary Access*
- Golamrej Eliasi, L. - *Existing and desired child and family services from Afghan women's point of view in Finland*

### Panel B - Integration, family dynamics and parenthood 1

- Boyang, Y. - *Replicating the Matriarchal or Patriarchal Household Structure: the subordinate Inclusion of Grandparents and Their Influence on Their Migrant Children's Friendships*
- Ciziri, N. - *(Dis)Integrating Families: Refugees' social histories and their encounters with education in Sweden*
- Fuchs, L. M. Hagos, S. Z. - *Resilience in Precarity: How Afghan and Eritrean Refugee Families Navigate Systemic and Contextual Challenges to Integration in Germany*
- Hasan, F. - *Exploring Agency- Structure Nexus in Shaping Marital Relations: Syrian Families in Germany*

### Panel C – Access to (social) rights for persons with international and temporary protection in the EU; equal treatment in the context of migration

- Ganty, S. – *tbc*
- Kienast, J. – *tbc*
- Ferolla Vallandro do Valle, M. – *tbc*
- van den Bogaard, R. M. – *tbc*

**13-14 - Lunch**

**14-15.30 – Parallel Session 2**

### Panel A - Rethinking the concept and practice of 'integration', discussing alternatives 2

- Ahmed, A. - *"Integration from Below": Towards a Decolonization of the Debates on Migrants/Refugees' Integration in the Global South*
- Blankvoort, N. Dodevska, I. Manser-Egli, S. - *The Scientism of Integration: Colonial Modernity Logics Within the Integration Science-Policy Nexus*
- Ceylan, D. - *The Hidden Agenda of Western-centric ECEC: the consequence of postcolonial, white and racist ECEC practices on the lived experiences of Turkish and Syrian families and children on the move/in exile*
- Rybakowska, K. - *Navigating Hospitality and Integration: Refugees in Egypt*

### Panel B - Integration, family dynamics and parenthood 2

- Myllylä, M. - Parenting while waiting - *Asylum-seeking families' struggle for meaningful participation in reception centres in Finland*
- Nandi, S. El Abed, O. Bradley, M. - *In the Meantime: Family, Gender, Race, and "Para-Solutions" Pathways for Refugees in Amman, Jordan*
- Gustafsson, H. Engblom, R. - *Deservingness and Temporal Borders: the Reproduction of Global Mobility Hierarchies in Swedish Family Reunification*

### Panel C - Infrastructuring arrival: envisioning the migration-integration nexus beyond crisis

- Arnaut, K. Beeckmans, L. Meeus, B. - *How can arrival infrastructures be sites of integration?*
- Tsavdaroglou, C. - *Stasis as catalyst of mobile commons: people on the move in Thessaloniki*
- Saparova, M. - *Infrastructuring collective (and) care in arrival settings: A day off gatherings of Central Asian domestic workers in Istanbul*
- Anaraki, S. - *Sofas on the move: infrastructuring objects reflecting and acting upon politics of exclusion in brussels and Belgium*
- Lubberhuizen - *"I speak all the languages of the greenhouse, except Dutch of course": Exploring minor integration in agricultural spaces of arrival*
- Guérin, L. Revilla, R. - *Differentiating old and new comers. How housing policies produce migrants' temporal categories.*

**15.30-15:45 – Coffee Break**

**16:30-18 – Social Activity**

## Day 2

### 9-9:30 – Coffee & Registration

### 9:30-11 – PARALLEL SESSION 3

#### Panel A - Integration as care work

- Benchekroun, R. Grondelaers, H. - *The role of housing and social infrastructure in navigating friendship for mothers living in liminality*
- Seghers, M. Poeze, M. - *The (un)seen work of cultural brokers in education: bridging gaps between newcomer parents and schools*
- Setoodeh, A. Houborg, E. Thylstrup, B. - *(In)visible lives in limbo - rights in a grey zone. Policy, law, and practice in responding to substance use problems among undocumented migrants in Denmark*

#### Panel B – Forgotten practices of so-called “integration” and current developments in Belgium

- tbc

#### Panel C - Well-being of refugee families after arrival

- Groeninck, M. Debruyne, P. Geldof, D. - *Politics of care towards well-being. Understanding the effect/affect of policy gaps on refugee families' well-being*
- Bruhn Kjeldsen, M. Roets, G. - *Family reunited refugees' class journeys and their capacity to aspire*
- Welschen, S. Lucas, P. - *Arriving at Amsterdam. The interplay between migrant trajectories, differentiated migration policies and the infringement of social dignity*
- Vindevogel, S. - *Unravelling Family Support in Superdiverse Settings: Insights into the Role of Migrant Community Resource Persons*

### 11 -11.15 - Coffee break

### 11.15-12:45 – PLENARY SESSION: Policy Recommendations & Lived Experiences

- For four years, the REFUFAM consortium examined the effects of government policies on the lived experiences of refugee families in Belgium. In this plenary session we present our findings in the form of 10 Policy Briefs that contain more than 100 Policy recommendations, as well as a book that offers a nuanced account of refugee families' lived experiences.

### 12:45-14 – Lunch

### 14-15:30 – PARALLEL SESSION 5

#### Panel A - Going local: studying (dis)integration at the municipal level

- Schweitzer, R. Garcés-Mascreñas, B. - *Local policy dilemmas regarding migrants' access to housing and employment across the EU*
- Orsini, G. - *Policy gaps and support services across complex policy environments: comparing “integration” policies targeting refugee families in Belgium and Italy*
- Maeve Powlick, K. Vlasman, E. Briar, G. - *Finally In? Or still out...? Experiences of Young undocumented adults transitioning into Dutch higher education*
- Shahid, A. - *Prioritizing Long-Term Integration and Inclusion: Insights from Community Research on Migrant and Refugee Experiences*

#### Panel B - Gendering Integration

- Cruz, T. Denis, R. Villalba, E. Mancilla, M. - *Marginalization and discrimination in Child Custody Arrangements: The Struggle of Latin American Migrant Women in Family Court System*
- Mguni, M. Livaha, P. - *Respect of family relations in the EU: Safeguarding this right for women and girls from communities that practice female circumcision*
- Hassan, N. - *Excluded to be Included: The nexus of language and (dis)integration for Afghan women*

#### Panel C - Family Reunification in Europe: Exposing Inequalities (Book Presentation)

- Desmet, E. Belloni, M. - *Exploring Inequalities in Family Reunification in Europe: Perspectives from Legal and Social Sciences*
- Arapiles, S. Mekonnen, D. - *Family Reunification for 'Paperless' Eritrean Refugees: A Pie in The Sky or a Realisable Right?*
- Ancite-Jepifánova, A. - *Your Relationship is Genuine, but Your Marriage is Not: Defining Marriages of Convenience in EU and UK Law*

#### **15:30-15:45 – Coffee Break**

**15:45-17:15 – Keynote 2 - [Prof Halleh Ghorashi](#)** - *The value of epistemic multiplicity to decolonize the dominant Dutch integration discourse*

#### **17:15-17:30 – Closing Remarks**

**More information:**

This is the final conference of REFUFAM, an interdisciplinary consortium examining the impact of Belgian migration-related policies on the social inclusion of refugees and their family members. The consortium is funded by Belspo Brain.be 2.0, and includes partners from Ghent University (coordinator), Odisee University of Applied Sciences, Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) and the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL).

[www.refufam.be](http://www.refufam.be)

**Practicalities:**

The conference which is organized by the entire REFUFAM consortium, will be held in the premises of the Odisee University of Applied Sciences, in the Schaerbeek Campus (Address: Av. Huart Hamoir 136, 1030 Brussels)