NORDIC MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION RESEARCH: OVERVIEW AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

POLICY PAPER 3/2017

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NORDIC MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION RESEARCH: OVERVIEW AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

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PREFACE

Following the recent large influx of refugees and migrants into Europe, the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation decided to increase the resources to be spent on integration efforts in 2016 and 2017. They also suggested the introduction of a Nordic research venture on integration.

In light of this, the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation and the Nordic Committee of Senior Officials for Education & Research (ÄK-U) asked NordForsk to produce an overview of Nordic migration and integration research, including relevant policy recommendations. This report is in response to this request.

NordForsk would like to offer its sincere thanks to Dr Tuomas Martikainen, Dr Niko Pyrhönen and Dr Johanna Leinonen from the Migration Institute of Finland, for taking on the task of writing the report. NordForsk also thanks Gustav Björkstrand, Grete Brochmann, Bernadette Kumar, Allan Krasnik, Per Mouritsen, Joakim Palme, Unnur Dís Skaptadóttir, Eskil Wadensjö and Nordregio for their valuable contributions to the work.

Oslo, March 2017

Gunnel Gustafsson
Director of NordForsk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Migration and integration are currently highly contentious topics in political, public and scientific arenas, and will remain so in the near future. However, many common migration-related prejudices and inefficiencies in the integration of the migrant population are due to the lack of sound, tested and accessible scientific research. Therefore, the study of migration – by developing basic research and by properly resourcing novel methodological approaches and interventions – will be instrumental in providing a better knowledge base for decision-makers and promoting a more informed population at large. This is the grand purpose this overview report seeks to facilitate.

This report was commissioned by NordForsk in August 2016, and has been written by two senior researchers at the Migration Institute of Finland (MIF), Niko Pyrhönen and Johanna Leinonen, with supervision by MIF's director Tuomas Martikainen. It is based on two main sources:

1) interviews with 56 Nordic experts on migration and integration conducted in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden in late 2016, and

2) an online survey of 356 respondents, distributed to researchers via mailing lists of several Nordic research networks and institutions.

The report also includes an overview of current migration trends, a review of central aspects of Nordic migration and integration research, and an overview of research infrastructure in the field.

The authors set out on this five-month project with an ambitious goal of charting the current state of Nordic field of migration and integration research. On the one hand, the importance and topicality of this work have been underlined by an emerging sense of global and local migration crisis in the aftermath of a sudden and rapid influx of refugees and asylum-seekers into Europe since the autumn of 2015. On the other hand, an overview such as this is also needed to develop Nordic research collaboration in a contested, polarized and politicized field. We believe that documenting, analyzing and distributing critical assessment and constructive ideas expressed by researchers with a remarkable array of disciplinary and thematic expertise can help unleash a wide range of unrealized potential and further develop Nordic added value to its fullest extent. The most important results are outlined in this summary, and discussed in more detail in the main body of the report.

While all the respondents who participated in this project acknowledge the salience of the crisis sentiment in public, political and scientific debates, most would also like to engage in research that further problematizes and deconstructs the very term 'refugee crisis'. Considering that the number of international migrants has increased by 60 percent since 1990, and that the number of refugees in 2014 was the highest since World War II, it seems evident that there was a crisis already before the crisis. Demographers, human rights lawyers, and researchers of international relations point out that the rising volume of asylum-seekers has revealed a general disillusionment in the ability of international conventions to adapt properly to 'the new age of migrations'. As a result, more and more migrants are falling between rigid legal categories and thus being defined as 'irregular'. However, many respondents point out that the local manifestation of this crisis is often one of national solidarity, which especially in the Nordic context has long been marked by a mythical yearning for a common national purpose exemplified in the Swedish concept of 'folkhemmet', the peoples' home.

The formation of distinct political fault lines between those emphasizing global responsibility of the Global North for the refugees and those advocating the use of advanced border measures to bring migrancy under political control started as far back as the early 2000s. Many respondents are worried about a similar polarization of research into 'humanist' and 'technocratic' 'epistemic communities'. Such a development is particularly evident in the endeavors to conceptualize migration as a 'stress test' for the Nordic welfare state. There is consensus among the research community that directly policy-relevant approaches are needed to create more resilient systems for integrating migrants. Indeed, excellent register and census data make the Nordic countries a unique comparative context for 'most similar' research designs. However, in order to find corroboration between different studies and empirically gauge for best practices, the respondents call for more harmonized data, definitions and framings – supported by theoretical development that challenges methodological nationalism and the notion of Nordic exceptionalism.

Even though most Nordic research institutions consist of markedly multidisciplinary staff, there is much room for improvement in cooperation between humanists and social scientists. Respondents agree that rigorous nesting of qualitative and quantitative approaches in the same research projects and work packages is called for in order to reach more sound empirical conclusions. It is worth noting that the researchers themselves are overwhelmingly positive towards increased introduction of such nested approaches. A commonly raised concern, however, is that the funders are not able to properly merit or incentivize experimental, mixed-method projects, and rarely request explicitly that these projects are to be completed in collaboration between institutions from more than one Nordic country.

When asked to discuss specific gaps in the contemporary Nordic research on migration and integration, researchers list methodological questions as being among the most common concerns. Here most of the respondents underline the importance of more careful and expansive historical contextualization and network-embedded research of informal movements. Researchers of civil society and the media sphere hope to see new computational methods adopted to tackle big data-related hurdles, possibly also offering prognostics on how to counter increasing xenophobia. Health and welfare researchers, in particular, point to the need to introduce longitudinal and 'life-course' follow-up projects and action research components with scalable intervention pilots.

The respondents acknowledge that policy-oriented research on certain topics, such as urban segregation, structural discrimination and large-scale labor migration, has matured much more across the Atlantic. As such, many advocate searching for more appropriate benchmarks for integration success and failure outside the Nordic context – instead of merely measuring employment and income gaps between the minority and majority populations against those in other Nordic countries. Most of the experts interviewed further suggest that focusing on minorities and the autochthonous population simultaneously is a particularly fruitful means for examining, illustrating and developing Nordic added value in migration and integration research.

The array of challenges is not limited to difficulties in crossing disciplinary boundaries, but is also reflected in the isolation of themes that are pursued in Nordic research projects. Such segregation can be seen, for example, in how policies and their effects in key research streams – movement, settlement and control measures – are commonly assessed by individuals in different research programs or work packages. While the increased availability of funding for sector-based research, especially in the aftermath of the crisis, is acknowledged as a good thing in principle, it also serves to further fragment the research field into more narrowly focused competencies. As rising research areas – such as forced migration, discrimination and health and well-being – are starting to reach the traction held by areas such as integration, labor market and education, there are even more reasons and more avenues for funders to develop Nordic research by demanding synthesizing, nesting and mixed-method approaches.

1. INTRODUCTION

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In 2015, the rapidly increasing number of refugees and asylum-seekers arriving through the Mediterranean or Balkan areas captured the attention of European audiences. In October 2015 alone, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) registered more than 210,000 people crossing the Mediterranean Sea to seek asylum in the European Union (EU), a number higher than during the whole year of 2014. Media worldwide disseminated images of migrants attempting to reach the shores of Europe via perilous routes and unsafe means of transportation. National and supra-national authorities and institutions responsible for migration policy and border enforcement debated intensely about how to contain the situation, and local level actors had to come up with ways to receive and provide basic sustenance for migrants, who ended up in both urban and peripheral localities.

Notwithstanding the repeated calls for synthesizing approaches that would generate a better understanding of the crisis and its divergent implications for Europe, public, political, and scientific debates over migration and its management have become even more polarized during the past year. One end of the discursive spectrum tends to highlight states' and the EU's humanitarian responsibilities in relation to the experience of the current and future migrant population and its role in civil society. The other end focuses on more technocratic avenues for advancing economic and governmental efficiency through various regulative measures. Most commonly these measures pertain to border control, repatriation, and irregular migration, but also seek to define the access to various welfare redistributions through legal categories of entry and residence.

A common denominator in the divergent approaches to migrancy is, however, an overarching sense of living amidst a global and local crisis that has revealed the deficiencies in the existing framework of international conventions for migration management. This sense of crisis both underlines and is brought about by the unpreparedness of the Global North in general, and of the EU and its member states in particular, in the face of an unprecedented influx of migrants moving for humanitarian reasons.

It is important to note that the contemporary differences in how the Nordic research community and the states approach migrancy are not a feature introduced by the recent developments. The five countries have long studied migrancy and developed related policies informed by their divergent historical and political experiences of migration. Sweden has been an exceptionally inclusive migrant-receiving country since World War II, while Finland only emerged as net-immigration country in the 1980s. Global migration to Finland did not pick up until the 1990s, decades later than its Scandinavian neighbors, and in 2006 it was still the EU-15 country with the lowest foreign-born population in proportional terms (United Nations 2006). Furthermore, the migration and integration policies of each Nordic country vary considerably, and efforts have been made to characterize this variance through certain shorthands. For instance, Denmark is known for its strict migration policy, Sweden has been regarded as the most liberal Nordic country while Norway and Finland are considered to land somewhere in between. The dynamics of migration politics and research in Iceland are on a decidedly smaller scale. Although the number of asylum-seekers quintupled from 200 in 2015 to some 1000 in 2016, and the foreign-born denizens already form a nearly 12 percent minority of the country's total population, the crisis framing is mostly missing in the Icelandic public debate. Research-wise, interest in migrancy has gradually increased in the country.

Some of these characterizations indeed capture something real. For instance, since the beginning of the refugee crisis in 2015, Sweden received the highest number of asylum-seekers in proportion to its population in the whole OECD area. Recently, however, there has been political pressure to implement something of a closure in Sweden as well. With the rise of right-wing populism, nativist extremism, and the support for welfare nationalism in each of the countries (except for Iceland), it seems evident that we are witnessing a departure from the common understanding of the Nordic region, where the traditional characterizations manifested in easy country-specific labels – and the mindset of methodological nationalism underlying them – hold true.

More and more, the Nordic countries are facing similar challenges not only as a result of the refugee crisis but also because of broader societal transformations, such as population ageing, neoliberalization of the Nordic welfare state, and increasingly polarizing political debates. These challenges also call for novel and experimental research approaches, especially when it comes to questions related to migration and integration in the Nordic area. The five countries in the region will continue to receive significant numbers of international migrants in the foreseeable future. Even though some members of Nordic societies may want to close borders completely, this is unlikely to happen in an interconnected, globalizing world. Migrants will continue to come for humanitarian, work, study, and family-related reasons, and they will try to carve out space and identities for themselves in the receiving societies. More research will thus be needed on these complex processes that can change the make-up of Nordic societies in a profound way.

But how has Nordic state-of-the-art research approached these questions recently, and what are the strengths of and lacunae in the Nordic research agenda and collaboration? Moreover – in order to bring about 'Nordic added value' as relevant and widely applicable source insight into global and local challenges of migration and integration – what kinds of considerations should the research community and funders be aware of? These are the questions to which this report will respond.

Our goal is, thus, to take an in-depth look at the field of migration and integration research as it is now, and to elucidate gaps that need to be examined in the years to come. This will be done by listening to the scholars themselves: to map out the research field, we conducted interviews in some 30 institutions in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, consisting of in-depth expert interviews of over 50 leading experts and prominent young researchers in the field. In addition, we created an online survey directed at Nordic migration and integration scholars, which received 356 responses (out of 698 scholars who viewed it, 51 percent).[1] To make this overview even more comprehensive it would have been necessary to listen to migrant and policy-maker voices, and conduct a second round of interviews to render the disciplinary and thematic composition of respondents more balanced. Due to time constraints, these endeavors – as well as the assessment of how Nordic research networks can be embedded into European and international ones – now fall outside the scope of this report.

The report is divided in six chapters. Chapter two looks into the global trends in international migration, reflecting the Nordic experts' assessment of the significance of these trends from the research perspective. Following this, the third chapter briefly outlines Nordic migration and integration research infrastructure, illustrating some of the features of the institutional setting within which these endeavors are pursued. In the fourth chapter, we produce an overview of research that has been conducted on migration and integration by Nordic scholars and discuss the current research themes and methodological approaches as evidenced by the online survey. The fifth chapter illustrates the lacunae, the significant thematic gaps in the research field named by the survey respondents and further elaborated by the expert interviewees. Finally, in the concluding sixth chapter, we offer our perspectives on how to develop 'Nordic added value' in migration and integration research, synthesize our main findings, and provide a call to action for Nordic scholars and research funders alike.

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1   A majority of the respondents were female (68%) and about two-thirds had at least a doctoral degree. The proportion of respondents by country was as follows: Denmark 14%, Finland 32%, Iceland 2%, Norway 16%, Sweden 30%, and other 7%.

2. GLOBAL TRENDS, LOCAL RESPONSES

We are living in what Stephen Castles and Mark J. Miller famously coined 'the age of migration' in 1993. The past decades have witnessed a significant increase in human migrations worldwide. In 2015, there were 244 million international migrants in the world, out of which 140 million (58 percent) were in the Global North. Between 1990 and 2015, the number of international migrants increased globally by over 91 million, or by 60 percent. The Global North gained a majority of these international migrants (58 million or 64 percent), and a major share of the migrants added in the North originated in the South (44 million or 76 percent). (United Nations 2016.)

The Nordic countries are very much part of this global trend. The percentage increase of the foreign-born populations for each Nordic country from 2000 to 2015 was as follows: Denmark 66 percent, Finland 148 percent, Iceland 163 percent, Norway 154 percent, and Sweden 67 percent (central statistics agencies in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden 2016). In 2015, the share of foreign-born individuals in the total population in the Nordic countries was 10.5 percent for Denmark, 5.8 percent for Finland, 11.9 percent for Iceland, 14.4 percent for Norway, and 16.4 percent for Sweden (Eurostat 2016).

The proportion of humanitarian migrants among all international migrants is rapidly growing. In 2015, the OECD countries received the highest number of asylum-seekers since World War II due to deteriorating security situations in countries such as Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, and the development of new smuggling routes in the Mediterranean and the Balkan area. Three-quarters of the 1.65 million asylum applications submitted in the OECD area in 2015 were lodged in an EU member state. In reality, the number of migrants seeking protection internationally is even higher; for example, between 2011 and 2015, 2.3 million Syrians arrived in Turkey but only a minority (9,000) applied for asylum (OECD 2016), in addition to which many are not able to leave their countries of origin.

Most researchers involved in demographic research see increasing attempts to produce population forecasts. While acknowledging the great challenge in reaching any reliable projections on the global scale, many respondents see promising avenues in focusing on the regional level. What is clear, however, is that the events in 2015–2016 will contribute to the increase in the proportion of humanitarian migrants among all international migrants globally. Already in 2014 (i.e. before the escalation of the refugee crisis), humanitarian migration was the fastest growing migration category in the OECD area, and the number of refugees worldwide reached the highest level since World War II, 19.5 million (United Nations 2016).

A global sense of crisis

According to the UNHCR (2016), 65 million people have been forced to leave their homes due to conflicts and violence at the end of 2015, out of which 41 million were internally displaced persons and almost 20 million international refugees. The total number of displaced people has increased by a staggering 86 percent since 2005, and this trend seems to be only accelerating, as the events taking place in Syria and Iraq indicate.

The refugee crisis has underlined the pervasiveness of an increased migration flow, but also revealed the unpreparedness of the international community in the face of an unprecedented volume of migration. Research on the Global South (and East) proliferates, commonly addressing the role of political instability, civil wars and other geopolitical upheavals in the sending countries, with post-colonial approaches also emphasizing the diffuse sources of global disparities of income, wellbeing and economic development as conditions contributing to migratory flows.

Nearly all respondents mentioned climate change as a long-standing interest, but mostly for future projection. While empirical research on the nexus between increased international migration and climate change (or, more specifically, possible environmental catastrophes caused by it) remains scant, there is a widely-shared consensus that both long-standing environmental changes (e.g. drought, rising sea levels) and sudden natural disasters are likely to cause large-scale human displacements in the future (OECD 2016). For example, between 2001 and 2011, about 268 million people were affected by nearly 400 major natural disasters worldwide (Guha-Sapir, Hoyois & Below 2013). While most people displaced by natural disasters remained in their countries of residence, environmental shocks are likely to considerably increase the number of displaced persons internationally.

Among the research community focusing on forced migration as a global phenomenon, there is an increased interest to find meso-level approaches between the migrant experience and the relatively exogenous structures that shape forced migration. Most respondents acknowledged that various perspectives addressing how the migration industry is driving migrancy and preparing people for mobility appear to be gaining wider traction surprisingly rapidly. Structural explanations are becoming complemented with studies of how actors on different levels with a financial or political agenda are able to facilitate, hinder, manage, privatize, and outsource mobility.

A local sense of crisis

Migrancy is increasingly understood as a phenomenon where the key drivers manifest beyond national borders. Vis-à-vis the refugee crisis, the policy responses, particularly in the EU, have focused on the containment of the situation through *ad hoc* migration and border control policies. There has been no consensus within the EU on the burden-sharing of the current crisis, which, consequently, has undermined the sense of solidarity between the member states (World Bank 2016).

Research on international law and human rights, in particular, is pointing to a general disillusionment with international means for controlling and managing migrancy and the treatment of migrants in the receiving countries. One of the reasons for this is that migrancy is changing at a pace that cannot be met with relatively rigid conventions that are slow to change. As a result, more and more migrants are becoming irregular in the sense that they cannot be fitted into any of the existing legal categories. As the temporary relief measures implemented by the international community fall short of offering durable solutions to the

crisis globally or locally, the vulnerability of the European project for managing migration in any harmonized manner becomes evident. With the inability of the EU to develop and enforce common, practicable guidelines, governments are increasingly seeking to interpret human rights from their own particular needs.

In the end, the repercussions of these global changes are felt locally. While there is much to be done in developing ways to anticipate and prepare for future migration flows internationally, the research funded by the states is increasingly pertaining to the local effects of the global crisis. Indeed, if effects of the increasing migration flows are not addressed in a timely and systematic manner with appropriate measures, there is a danger that the already divisive public debates on migration will become only more aggravated. Many expert interviewees see normative and methodological fault lines between what could be characterized as two 'epistemic research communities'. On the one hand, there are researchers who regard the recent sense of crisis as product of migrancy; on the other, there are those who see it first and foremost as a simmering crisis of national solidarity and societal heterogenization inevitably brought about by diversified flows of information. Policy responses reflect this juxtaposition, increasingly falling under ultra-technocratic and ultra-politicized approaches and framings.

As states increasingly seek to individually regulate who gets in and how to shape the incomers, research on multilevel governance is moving towards new directions. Critical border studies, and border theory in general, is seen as one of the more theoretically informed rising research trends on the global scale. This research addresses the former question, namely how we define the national space through various border infrastructures and techniques that allow some to pass while denying the entry from others. Rising trends in governance tend to be informed by the national turn, seeking to provide empirical evidence on how the states may steer the process of integration through various policies pertaining to labor markets, education, health, and urban and regional planning.

Studies on labor migration are increasingly seeking to compare the economic effects of various policy solutions on migrant employment. Relatively new research avenues include the longitudinal studies of self-employment under different regulatory regimes, the means to intervene with complex, intersecting patterns of precariousness and service sector migration, particularly the gendered global care chains.

Researchers on public health and education are also becoming increasingly interested in action research approaches, especially in municipal and regional pilot projects, with regard to increasing efficiency and scalability of novel policy proposals in different cultural and political contexts. Intercultural schooling and multilingual education, in particular, have emerged as buzzwords in the UN, OECD, and EU guidelines, calling for more evidence-based empirical research to back up promising initial findings. Overcoming education and income gaps between different minority groups and the autochthonous population has proven to be a markedly resistant challenge.

The observation that international migrants are typically overrepresented in urban areas has provided research on urban planning and 'smart cities' with distinct challenges of causally linking interrelated factors, such as housing availability, job opportunities, and migrant network effects (International Organization for Migration 2015; OECD 2016). One reason for this focus is that in many western cities, urban growth is mainly due to migration, both internal and international. This has been inadequately taken into account both in migration policy, which is typically a matter of national policy, and in urban development, which often leaves out the causes and consequences of international migration. In other words, there is a disjuncture between national and local level policies, and the contributions of international migrants in the city development are rarely recognized.

Nevertheless, as migrant integration largely takes place in cities and neighborhoods, there is an urgent need to evaluate the extent to which migration and integration should be understood as particular problems for the urban context. Some of the recent research approaches underline the importance of using more fine-grained register data together with ethnographic research for the purposes of rethinking the effects and the direction of causality between urban segregation and generalized social trust. At the same time, experiences from providing affordable housing to migrants in rural areas with access to less-skilled employment opportunities indicate careful but promising avenues for regional research in the Nordic context marked by expansive municipal self-governance.

Many of the new directly policy-relevant research trends are moving towards more nuanced approaches for assessing the long-term 'total costs' of migration, particularly concerning the role of contextual variables in understanding which policies of universalist welfare redistribution hinder and which facilitate migrant integration. This adds to the complexity of proliferating research designs aimed at 'stress-testing' the economic effects of migrancy to the welfare state.

With regard to trends in less directly policy-relevant research, most respondents refer to the increasing interest in local and transnational migrant networks, on the one hand, and in the politicization and polarization of migrancy related questions in civil society and the media sphere on the other. Interviewees point to the promise in more comprehensive longitudinal and life course approaches for understanding the everyday lives of transnational families and mundane manifestations of global caring patterns. The everyday encounters-perspective is also gaining surprising traction in political theory, as better understanding here can provide more evidence-based grounding for the debates on competing political goals.

Most network researchers agree that one way to escape the ubiquitous migrant self-selection bias can be found in adoption of more up-to-date methods and tools for studying mobilization and activism in social media. The mobilization of racialized youth across the migrant group boundaries holds particular promise for devising strategies for encouraging migrant political participation and prevention of extremist mobilization.

Research on civil society and the media sphere is seen as moving away from studies that merely examine attitudes and attitudinal climate towards more experimental and action research designs that seek to discover the best practices for alleviating polarization. Here, most researchers emphasize the promise in studying minorities and the majority population side-by-side, rather than in separate work packages.

In media research, there is an increasing interest in looking into the links between populist mobilization and the rapidly proliferating phenomenon of citizen journalism through alternative, 're-information' sites. An avenue with notable traction pertains to developing more rigorous research designs for evaluating the relative merits between certain prominent causal explanations on the proliferation of racist discourses. It is of particular interest to elucidate the conditions under which entering in dialogue with populist nationalists in the public sphere serves to normalize racist discourses on the one hand, and defuse the simmering radical potential, on the other.

3. OVERVIEW OF NORDIC MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

3. OVERVIEW OF NORDIC MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

This chapter briefly discusses some of the features of the research sites that participated in the expert interviews, providing an overview of the infrastructure discussed in this report. As such, the table below is not an exhaustive depiction of the Nordic research infrastructure, but it does illustrate what types of institutional actors play a role in this field.

Research on migration and integration takes place in a highly multidisciplinary field, where the majority of basic research is conducted by dozens of university departments, often not explicitly under the heading of 'migration of and integration studies'. In addition to the departmental research, there are several research centers and institutions where migration and integration comprise major thematic areas. Most research centers and institutes have limited, (semi)permanent annual funding from the university or the state, usually not exceeding one-third of the overall expenditure. Most of this funding is used in day-to-day operations, with the bulk of the research being conducted using externally applied project funding from governmental and EU sources (and, to a lesser degree, from private foundations).

These institutes and research centers typically collaborate closely with university departments. Some are also involved in work towards sector-based research as commissioned by municipal and governmental agencies, also producing policy-oriented reports in active collaboration with third-sector and various stakeholders – in addition to some basic research. While they commonly focus on a particular thematic field under the umbrella of migration and integration studies, they are staffed by personnel with an array of divergent, multidisciplinary expertise, often also taking responsibility for organizing graduate level courses and even degree programs. Research centers across the Nordic countries tend to exhibit the trend of specific thematic interests pursued from a variety of methodological and disciplinary points of departure.

Table 1. Nordic migration and integration research infrastructure (sorted by headquarter location)

Denmark	Finland	Iceland
• Centre for Advanced Migration Studies (AMIS), University of Copenhagen • Center for the Study of Migration and Diversity (CoMID), Aalborg University • Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) • Danish Research Centre for Migration, Ethnicity and Health (MESU), University of Copenhagen • SFI – The Danish National Centre for Social Research	• Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism (CEREN), Swedish School of Social Sciences • Migration Institute of Finland, Turku • Research Centre of Transnationalism and Transformation (TRANSIT)	• Research Centre for Migration and Multiculturalism, University of Iceland • Fjölmenningarsetur – Multicultural and Information Centre

Brief introduction of the research centers and institutions participating in the overview

AMIS (**Centre for Advanced Migration Studies**) is institutionally embedded in the Faculty of Humanities in Copenhagen, incorporating some 130 researchers with expertise from the disciplines ethnology, history, literature, religion, media studies, and linguistics. Even so, their research profile consists of projects revolving around issues such as health, pedagogy, and political theory, in addition to which they offer an MA program.

In Aalborg, CoMID (**Center for the Study of Migration and Diversity**) is a research group of six senior researchers and several affiliated PhD students and post docs. Their research interests range from labor market integration to anti-immigration sentiment in the media sphere and from minority self-understanding to transnational flow of ideas and resources.

The **Danish Institute for Human Rights** (DIHR) is a Copenhagen-based facility that advises national authorities in measures for promotion and protection of human rights, equal treatment of minorities and anti-discrimination. DIHR also cooperates with governments, NGOs and enterprises abroad to advance human rights globally. DIHR has a research staff of about 15 researchers, most of whom have a background in law, but who also have substantial expertise in several fields of relevant public policy.

In Copenhagen, MESU (**Danish Research Centre for Migration, Ethnicity and Health**) has some 20 researchers, approaching migration and integration from health perspective. In addition to specializing in medicine and public health, they also bring in expertise in social psychology, law, gender, and education.

FINLAND

CEREN (**Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism**) is a Helsinki-based research center at the Swedish School of Social Sciences (SSKH), whose 15 researchers specialize in immigration law, political sociology, politics of multilingualism, ethnolinguistic identity, expatriate experiences, and anti-immigrant populism in social media. CEREN also coordinates a Master's level degree program in Ethnic Relations (ERI).

Headquartered in Turku, **Migration Institute of Finland** participates in several externally funded research projects on migration and ethnic relations. The research staff has a diverse background in social sciences and humanities, consisting of some 15 project and network researchers, together with some 20 affiliated research

Norway	Sweden	Nordic research networks
• FAFO	• The Migration Studies Delegation (DELMI)	• The Society for the Study of Ethnic Relations and International Migration in Finland (ETMU)
• Bergen International Migration and Ethnic Relations Research Unit (IMER)	• Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University	• Imerförbundet, Sweden
• Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)	• Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare (MIM), University of Malmö	• Norwegian Network for Migration Research
	• Nordic Welfare Centre (NWC)	• Nordic Migration Research (NMR)
	• Nordregio	• Research Network on Nordic Populism (NOPO)
	• Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society (REMESO), Linköping University	• Nordic Political Science Association (NoPSA)
	• Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights (RWI)	• TheoryNord
		• Multidimentional Equality and Democratic Diversity (DEMDI)

fellows. In addition to its research tasks, the institute also has a government-funded role in documentation of migration-related research material, provision of information services on migration and in promotion of cooperation between universities and other migration organizations in Finland and abroad.

TRANSIT (**Research Centre of Transnationalism and Transformation**) is a major Finnish research group that is institutionally affiliated with the Faculty of Education at the University of Tampere. Its 60 affiliated researchers are united in the study of boundary-crossing mobility, bringing in expertise from a wide range of backgrounds such as management, translation studies, education, social work, geopolitics, and global care chains.

ICELAND

As a result of an initiative originating among Icelandic anthropologists, the **Research Centre for Migration and Multiculturalism** was founded in Reykjavik in 2016. Its members, now about 20 and steadily growing, seek to expand networks into the Nordic research of multiculturalism and migration, bringing in expertise from sociology, business and tourism, social and integration policy history and post-colonial theory.

Fjölmenningarsetur – Multicultural and Information Centre in Iceland is an institute with a supervisory role concerning the implementation and impact of national policy programs. With five employees, it has a mandate to conduct independent research although it has recently focused more on synthesizing annual reports on integration measures in Iceland, issuing statements and recommendations for best practices.

NORWAY

IMER Bergen (**International Migration and Ethnic Relations Research Unit**) consists of 20 researchers with background in political science, social anthropology, sociology, gender studies, law, and human geography. In its research profile, IMER Bergen emphasizes both the local and global level politics brought about by migrancy and boundary crossing mobility.

Established by the Ministry of Health and Care Services, **The Norwegian Centre for Minority Health Research** (NAKMI) is a research center that reports to the Directorate of Health. NAKMI promotes migrant and ethnic minority health through research, education, training and policy development. It has a staff of some 20 experts of medicine and health sciences, a third of whose tasks consist largely of research oriented activities.

SWEDEN

Research at the **Hugo Valentin Centre** (HVC) in Uppsala, Sweden, is conducted by ten staff researchers and ten affiliated scholars, who specialize either in research on minorities or genocide and holocaust studies. The minority studies area at the HVC encompasses research on linguistic and cultural rights (especially within the field of education), literature, and post-colonial theory development.

Located at the Malmö University, MIM (**Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare**) has some 30 researchers working in both locally funded and EU projects that range from ethnographic research on migrant everyday experience and public discourse around migrancy to more directly policy-relevant statistical analysis. Among the MIM competences are urban studies, economics, labor, law, entrepreneurship, nationalism, caring sciences, and gender and comparative religion.

Located in Stockholm, **Nordregio** is a Nordic and European research institute in the field of urban and regional studies. The research staff of some 30 persons is engaged in policy-relevant research projects on regional planning, population change, urban segregation and social sustainability, often with distinct linkages to questions of migration and integration.

Operating under the Nordic Council of Ministers, **The Nordic Welfare Centre** (NVC) is a Stockholm-based research center with a branch office in Helsinki. The institute's current project-based activities focus on labor market inclusion, participation of disabled people, welfare policy and technology, as well as issues related to substance abuse.

REMESO **(Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society)** – situated in Norrköping but institutionally part of the Linköping University – engages in research and education on transnational migration, particularly concerning the global transformations of labor and mobility. The 30 members of the academic staff participate in both qualitative and quantitative research projects that deal with the EU migration system, historical contextualization of migration trajectories, intersectional approaches to the development of working life, and post-colonial perspectives to the Nordic welfare states.

Many of the Nordic research institutes are not exclusively focused on migration and integration, although this thematic area features high in the research profiles of centers such as the **Danish National Centre for Social Research** (SFI), Norwegian **Fafo research foundation** (FAFO) and **Peace Research Institute Oslo** (PRIO), and Swedish **Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights** (RWI) and **The Migration Studies Delegation** (DELMI).

Research networks

In addition to university-based research centers and independent research institutes, Nordic research in migration and integration is also greatly facilitated by multidisciplinary research networks. While individual researchers' thematic and personal networks are often relatively short-lived, Nordic researchers are also connected across disciplinary fields by both national and Nordic networks.

Founded in 2003, **The Society for the Study of Ethnic Relations and International Migration in Finland** (ETMU) connects some 200 researchers in Finland. ETMU promotes multidisciplinary research on ethnic relations in Finland, participating in public debate and organizing an annual research conference.

Imerförbundet is the oldest network of (mostly) Sweden-based researchers, students, teachers and other professionals in international migration and ethnic relations. Since 1992, Imerförbundet has organized conferences on IMER topics.

Norwegian Network for Migration Research was founded in 2007. While it is not an organization with formal membership, it maintains a website and mailing list for all interested institutions and networks.

Nordic Migration Research (NMR) is the organization with the most comprehensive networks for research on integration, ethnicity, culture, religion, citizenship and nationalism. Financed by the Research Council of Norway, the NMR facilitates research visits, promotes educational collaboration for Master's and PhD level courses, coordinates the biennial Nordic Migration Research Conference and supports the organization of other national and international conferences. In 2011, it founded the open access **Nordic Journal of Migration Research** (NJMR) that is currently jointly published by ten institutions in Nordic countries.

There are also several smaller, more discipline-focused research networks that facilitate research on migration and integration within their fields, such as **TheoryNord** (media studies), **NoPSA** (political science) and **NOPO** (research of populism).

Nordic researchers and research institutes also take part in numerous professional European and international research networks. Among the most prominent of these is the IMISCOE (**International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion**) Network that includes 39 European research institutes, with nine from the Nordic countries. While this cooperation fell outside of the scope of this report, such networks are crucial in developing European and international research contacts and project cooperation.

4. CONTEMPORARY NORDIC RESEARCH TRENDS

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In this chapter, we outline prevalent trends in Nordic research on migration and integration, focusing on the time period from the early 2000s to the present. In addition to the interviews and the survey results, the analysis is based on an overview of the thematic foci found in the following sources: articles and their keywords in the multidisciplinary journal **Nordic Journal of Migration Research (NJMR)** since it was first published in 2011, migration-related keynote speeches, panels, and workshops in recent Nordic scholarly conferences in a variety of fields, funding decisions made by the major research-funding institutions in the five Nordic countries in the 2010s, and an overview of a selection of scholarly works published in the field (for details, please see the appendices).

In 2003, in the proceedings of the 12th Nordic Migration Conference held in Finland in 2002, Östen Wahlbeck described Finnish migration research as follows: "[U]ntil recently, Finnish migration researchers have seldom participated in international debates and much of the Finnish research has not been informed by, and has not seemed to be aware of, international theoretical debates in migration research" (p. 47). While this statement may have described Finnish research in the 1990s – perhaps less so research conducted in Denmark, Norway, or Sweden – today's Nordic research on migration and integration is not conducted in isolation from the rest of the world. On the contrary, nowadays trends in Nordic scholarship reflect what is going on in the field internationally. However, there are certain thematic foci which are particularly prevalent in the Nordic countries, as the following discussion will show.

Disciplinary boundaries, interdisciplinary collaboration?

Research on migration and integration is characterized by its multidisciplinarity. In the Nordic countries and beyond, migration-related phenomena are examined in a multitude of fields, including humanities, social sciences, international relations, law, health sciences, psychology, social work/policy, economics, and geography. Interdisciplinary dialogue and research cooperation is particularly vibrant between humanities and social sciences. However, some limitations appear to persist in research collaboration across disciplinary boundaries.

First, global migration is still often framed in research in a rather ahistorical manner, a point repeatedly brought to the fore by migration historians (e.g. McKeown 2004; Donato & Gabaccia 2015). However, many scholars who participated in this study either through the survey or the interviews noted the 'lack of using history as a parameter for understanding what is going on' as one interviewee put it. Second, migration and integration have been important research themes in health sciences, psychology, and social work/policy, but this vast amount of literature is largely invisible to scholars in other fields. Finally, researchers in humanities and social sciences rarely engage in scholarly exchanges with economists, and vice versa. This partly reflects the methodological divide between qualitative and quantitative approaches, but cannot be solely explained by methodological preferences.

Overall, despite the multidisciplinary nature of research on migration and integration, there is plenty of room for improvement in cooperation between humanists and social scientists. It seems likely that interdisciplinary collaboration could be facilitated and improved if it was properly financially incentivized. For example, climate change and future migration flows is a research topic that could bring together scholars from human and natural sciences.

Research themes since the beginning of the 2000s

Research on international migration can be roughly divided into three thematic areas: studies of movement, settlement, and control. The first line of research focuses on explaining and theorizing about why and how people move, the second on modes of migrant incorporation, and the third on the ways in which states attempt to prevent or facilitate movement and set terms of inclusion and exclusion. According to Kivisto and Faist (2010, p. 8), the research of mobility, "the causal mechanisms contributing to the flow of migrants across borders and the patterned or structured character of the migratory process over time", has largely been the domain of economists and demographers. Migration control, on the other hand, has interested political scientists and legal scholars in particular, although researchers in other disciplines, such as sociology, have become more involved in this field in recent years.

In the 2000s, Nordic scholarship focused heavily on questions related to migrant settlement. Scholars examined modes of migrant incorporation from a variety of perspectives in addition to 'classic' migrant integration studies with a focus on migrants' incorporation into the labor market or the educational sector of the receiving society (Essén 2002; Forsander 2002; Togeby 2003; Alitolppa-Niitamo 2004; Ekberg 2004; Söderling 2004; Lidén 2005; Hedetoft et al. 2006; Bevelander & Lundh 2007; Tranæs 2008; Bevelander et al. 2009). Following the critique presented against the 'methodological nationalism' – i.e. scholars' tendency to examine migration-related phenomena in the context of the nation-state (usually the migrant-receiving state) and to accept nation-state boundaries as given frames of analysis (Wimmer & Glick Schiller 2002) – Nordic scholars widened their scope to investigate migrant incorporation with regard to transnationalism and diaspora.

Indeed, one of the leading lines of research in the 2000s has been transnationalism – an inquiry of border-crossing connections between migrant sending and receiving countries (e.g. Povrzanovic Frykman 2004; Martikainen 2006). Transnationalism was introduced to the study of international migration by anthropologists in the early 1990s, after which the amount of research on migrants' connections to their diasporic communities has increased exponentially. Internationally, researchers of transnationalism have examined, for example, transnational political activism, formation of border-crossing communities, transnational consciousness marked by multiple identifications, webs of social fields that connect transnational actors to many localities, and capital flows spurred by transnational corporations (Vertovec 1999). Initially, transnationalism was often juxtaposed with integration, as migrants were suspected of directing their loyalties and resources away from their country of residence. However, scholars have showed in a multitude of studies how transnationalism and integration can be simultaneous processes in migrants' lives (e.g. Morawska 2003). In the Nordic countries, scholars have been particularly interested in transnational families and gender relations in a transnational context (e.g. Bryceson & Vuorela 2002; Zechner 2006; Hyvönen 2007; Tiilikainen 2007). Furthermore, the importance of transnationalism in maintaining ethnic and religious identities and communities has been an important area of research, again reflecting broader international trends (e.g. Jørgensen 2009).

Indeed, Nordic scholars have also produced a vast amount of scholarship on ethnicity, religion, and identity formation in the context of international migration. A large proportion of this scholarship has focused on particular ethnic or religious groups. Cross-Nordic comparisons have been rare. Concepts of home, belonging, and diaspora have been central to this line of research (e.g. Huttunen 2002; Wahlbeck 2002; Alsmark et al. 2007; Sicakkan 2007). Increasingly, scholars have also considered the situation of the '1.5 generation' or

the second generation (those who migrated as a child or who were born in the Nordic countries to migrant parents) (e.g. Fangen 2007; Martikainen & Haikkola 2010). This research focus follows a broader European trend of examining the children of migrants and the challenges they have faced when negotiating identities in a situation where their belonging is frequently questioned by the majority population (Rastas 2007). Scholars have also considered political mobilization and civic participation of migrants and the second generation in Nordic societies (e.g. Hussain 2002; Mikkelsen 2003; Saksela-Bergholm, Sagne & Willhelmsson 2004). Additionally, representation and participation of migrants and minorities in the mainstream media in the Nordic area has been a vibrant research area from the 2000s to the 2010s. (e.g. Eide & Simonsen 2005; Horsti 2005; Haavisto & Kivikuru 2007; Eide & Nikunen 2011).

The Nordic welfare state has provided the framework in which many of these questions have been studied. Scholars have examined the Nordic societies in depth from the perspectives of the welfare state, multiculturalism, and citizenship (Banting & Kymlicka 2006; Christiansen et al. 2006; Crepaz 2008; Kivisto & Wahlbeck 2013). In the aftermath of the so-called post-material turn and the increased focus on multiculturalism and identity politics, much of political scientific literature in the 2000s has been framed in terms of neoliberal focus on costs vs. gains and the assessment of policy impact from the point of view of economic efficiency (Rothstein & Steinmo 2002; Schierup 2006; Jurado & Brochmann 2013). While the global rise of populism, especially since the financial crisis, has been understood as a backlash to this technocratic, neoliberal political agenda, researchers on populist mobilization point out that welfare nationalist mobilization rhetoric makes use of the very same narrative, justifying the arguments for more exclusionary welfare redistribution for newcomers as the 'way for saving the future of welfare state' (Suszycki 2011; Pyrhönen 2015). These sustainability and efficiency-related framings likewise proliferate in research that is critical of the neoliberal agenda (Torfing 2003; Dahlstedt 2005).

More broadly speaking, Nordic scholars have inquired extensively about the ideologies informing the instruments intended to facilitate migrant integration. An important question for scholars of the 2000s included whether multiculturalism is compatible with the homogenizing tendencies of the Nordic welfare state (de los Reyes 2006; Brochmann 2003; Hagelund 2004; Borchorst & Siim 2008; Brochmann & Hagelund 2012; Larsen et al. 2012; Kivisto & Wahlbeck 2013). The bureaucratic machinery of the welfare state requires constant monitoring of migrant incorporation. In other words, migration is problematized through the constant measuring and governing of migrant integration (Lucassen 2005). Moreover, gender scholars have shown how the idea of gender equality, entrenched in the national self-images and the logics of the welfare state, can work as a tool for exclusion in the Nordic countries (e.g. Mulinari et al. 2009).

Image 1. Words used by the online survey respondents most frequently when describing their current research foci.

Current research themes

The word cloud in image 1 illustrates the most used terms when Nordic scholars wrote about their current research in the survey. It shows that the research themes mentioned above – integration, transnationalism, labor market, education, gender – continue to be prevalent in Nordic research on migration and integration. Chart 1 at the end of this chapter synthetizes the results of our analysis on the research themes found in the survey results, interviews, funding decisions, conference programs, and the five-year publication history of the **NJMR**. Together, the word cloud and Chart 1 reveal what appears to be specific for Nordic research: a very strong focus on migrant integration (e.g. Olwig 2011; Kilpi-Jakonen 2014b; Van Aerschot & Daenzer 2014; Emilsson 2015; Goli & Greve 2016; Jensen 2016).

While questions related to integration are common in international research as well, especially in relation to the second generation, in Nordic scholarship integration is studied predominantly in relation to the labor market. This undoubtedly reflects the precarious employment situation that many migrant groups face in Nordic societies; the employment rate of migrants constantly lags well behind the native-born population, especially in the case of humanitarian migrants. Additionally, Nordic scholars continue to study integration in the educational sector. This thematic area includes studies that focus on integration and education in a variety of contexts: from early childhood education to vocational and professional training; in second language acquisition; and in integration and citizenship education offered to migrants, for example, through employment offices (e.g. Kilpi-Jakonen 2014a; Innes & Skaptadóttir 2016). The transition from educational institutions to the labor market has received attention by Nordic scholars as well. In addition, researchers have examined discrimination in the Nordic labor market (e.g. Rooth & Carlsson 2007; Larja et al. 2012).

In recent years, scholars have applied a more critical lens to the study of labor market questions in the Nordic countries. Scholars have noted how categories and practices from migration governance bleed into research, creating separate lines of analysis for different groups of migrants, such as labor, family, or humanitarian migrants. Lena Näre (2016) has recently pointed out how the labor market is often understood as a neutral space, detached from other social fields, such as family, and integration is intimately linked to acquiring employment and language proficiency. At the same time, the importance of family in migrant integration is ignored. Moreover, the extent to which migration governance – for example income requirements for family reunification – sets limits for integration and labor market participation is also a field that requires further examination.

Scholars have increasingly situated the Nordic labor market in the global scene, on the benefiting side of the deepening global economic inequalities, and examined precarity in the context of globalizing labor markets (Schierup et al. 2015). To name one example, Nordic scholars have examined ethnic, class, and gender hierarchies revealed by the commercialization and globalization of care work (Isaksen 2010; Wrede & Näre 2013). Research in this field is likely to remain important in the years to come due to the worsening dependency ratio in the Nordic countries and elsewhere in Europe.

Gender is an important category of analysis in research on care work, reflecting the gendered nature of the labor market. Overall, gender and sexuality are prevalent research themes in Nordic scholarship. In recent years, scholars drawing inspiration from postcolonial feminist studies have highlighted the importance of intersectional analysis and pointed to the denial of gendered racisms in the social organization of Nordic societies. Scholars have underlined the need to critically examine how ideas regarding 'race', understood as a socially constructed category, creates inequalities and exclusions in the Nordic countries, which have traditionally seen themselves as 'innocent' when it comes to colonial discourses (Gullestad 2006; de los Reyes et al. 2006; Keskinen et al. 2009; Mulinari 2010; Loftsdóttir & Jensen 2012; Leinonen 2017). Postcolonial critique has pointed to the prevalence of racialization processes in the way migrant minorities are marginalized in different spheres: in everyday encounters, labor and housing markets, and the media, to name a few examples.

Transnationalism continues to be a central research theme in the Nordic countries. For example, the transnational approach has informed studies on the 1.5 and second generation, following research trends elsewhere in Europe (e.g. Haikkola 2011; Alinia et al. 2014; Toivanen 2014). Additionally, according to our survey, transnational family life and family formation have attracted considerable attention by Nordic

scholars (e.g. Olsson & Farahani 2012; Pitkänen et al. 2012; Matyska 2013). Marriage migration and other forms of family formation in a transnational context have also inspired studies on migration governance (Lippert & Pyykkönen 2012; Schmidt 2011a, 2011b; Leinonen & Pellander 2014; Bech et al. 2016). Indeed, scholarship on governance and law – or migration control, as phrased by Kivisto and Faist (2010) – is a research area that has attracted an increasing amount of attention by Nordic scholars in recent years, also outside the fields of political science and law. Nation-states and supra-national bodies (such as the EU) are continuously revising their policies to control cross-border migration more efficiently. Moreover, there is constant tension between demographic and macroeconomic arguments for increasing migration and the states' need to control their borders and appease a native population often reluctant to accept large numbers of migrants (Portes & DeWind 2007; Green-Pedersen & Krogstrup 2008). A related question, which has also been studied extensively in Nordic migration scholarship, is the political inclusion of migrants (e.g. Mouritsen 2013).

Migration governance – laws, policies, and their implementation – remains an important research field, as countries in the Nordic region and elsewhere in Europe are tightening their migration rules, especially in regards to humanitarian migration and family reunification. Nordic scholars are already now examining forced migration from the perspective of migration governance, and the recent policy changes will necessitate further research. It has also been estimated that the current crisis and more restrictive migration policies will increase the number of undocumented migrants in Europe. Thus, we can anticipate an increased interest in the situation of paperless migrants, and, more broadly speaking, in the dynamics that produce undocumented migration (Leppäkorpi 2011; Thomsen & Jørgensen 2012). These include nation-states' escalating border enforcement and the simultaneous need for cheap labor, continuing (and growing) global economic disparity, and the development of a clandestine migration industry, to which those with no access to legal migration routes can resort (Portes & DeWind 2007).

In the field of forced migration research, scholars in health sciences, psychology, and social work/policy have produced a large amount of scholarship on migrant health and well-being (Overland et al. 2014). These questions are often examined in the context of migrant families and intergenerational relationships, as well as with a focus on certain migrant cohorts (e.g. minors, elderly). Unaccompanied refugee/asylum-seeker minors comprise a group that is receiving an increasing amount of attention by Nordic scholars (Valenta & Berg 2012; Vitus & Lidén 2013; Björklund 2015). We can expect to see more research on these areas in the future, as the number of minors seeking asylum alone has considerably increased in Europe in 2015–2016.

Finally, a vibrant field in the Nordic countries is research that applies spatial analysis, inspired by human geography, in the study of migration and integration. Scholars are increasingly examining issues such as segregation and ethnic enclaves, internal migration, and spatial considerations in migrant integration (Andersson 2010; Vaattovaara 2010; Larsen 2011; Gressgard & Jensen 2016). Furthermore, the so-called 'mobility paradigm' has inspired scholars in the Nordic countries and beyond to challenge the 'ontological predisposition to dwelling and stasis' (Rogaly 2015) common in migration research. This refers to scholars' tendency to focus on migrant settlement in the receiving country, as Kivisto and Faist (2010) also pointed out. Mobility scholars (e.g. Sheller & Urry 2006; Cresswell 2010; Söderström et al. 2013) argue for research that takes precisely movement – or, more specifically, meanings attached to movements, i.e. mobilities – as the focal point of research.

To sum up, there are certain research themes that have been dominant in Nordic migration research throughout the 2000s and 2010s. These include integration in the labor market and the education sector; transnationalism and diaspora; gender, sexuality, family, and generations; ethnicity and religion; welfare state, citizenship, and multiculturalism; and the politics of belonging in the first, 1.5, and second generation. While research still tends to concentrate on migrant settlement, studies on migration control are increasing rapidly, as are studies that take movement and spatial considerations as their primary foci. In addition to labor and family migration, forced migration research is a rapidly growing field. At the same time, scholars are questioning these rigid boundaries between different types of migrations, and considering how research design could help in transcending categories of governance created by nation-states. As such, challenging methodological nationalism continues to be an important pursuit in Nordic scholarship on migration and integration.

Chart 1. Current research themes

Theme	
Labor market	
Integration	
Family and generations	
Ethnicity and religion	
Transnationalism	
Governance and law	
Gender and sexuality	
Education	
Spatial perspectives	
Forced migration	
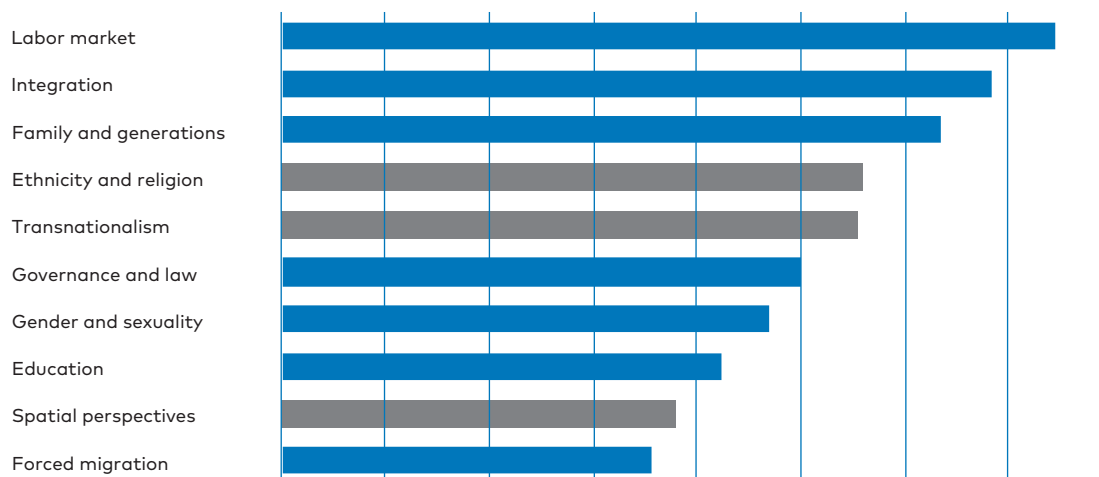
Chart 1 shows top-ten research themes based on five sources (the online survey, interviews, conference programs, funding decisions, and 22 issues of the NJMR published in 2011-2016). Length of bars represents the number of mentions for each theme. Individual responses may include multiple themes. Thematic coding by the authors.

The dark grey bars in chart 1 signify the three thematic areas (ethnicity and religion, transnationalism, and spatial perspectives) that have been dominant in Nordic research in the 2000s and/or the 2010s but that did not make it to the top-ten of themes needing further research, as identified by the survey respondents.

Chart 2. Future research needs

Theme	
Integration	
Forced migration	
Labor market	
Governance and law	
Discrimination and racism	
Methodology	
Family and generations	
Gender and sexuality	
Education	
Health and well-being	
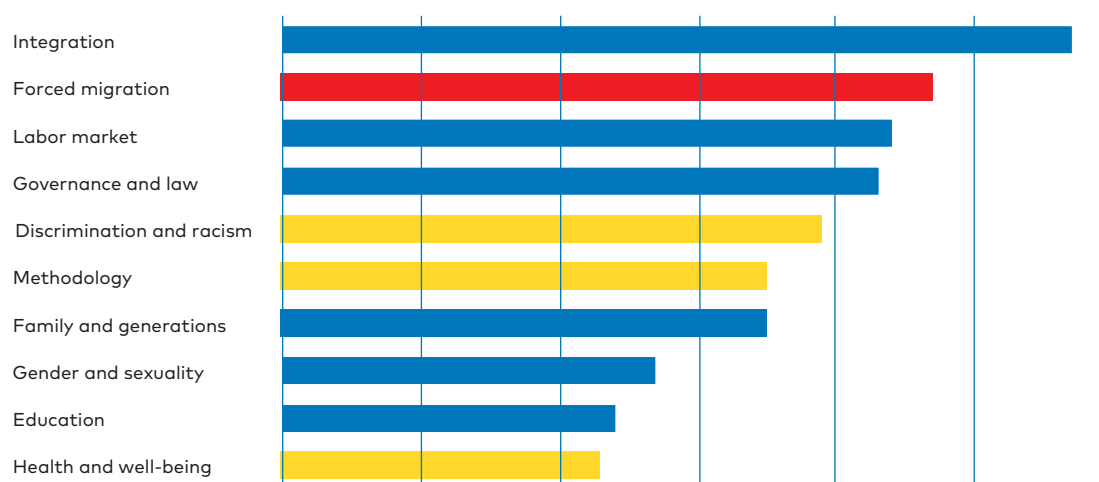
Chart 2 shows top-ten research needs based only on the online survey. Length of bars represents the number of mentions for each theme. Individual responses may include multiple themes. Thematic coding by the authors.

In chart 2, the red bar shows the research area (forced migration) which has had the steepest rise between these two charts. The yellow bars (discrimination and racism, methodology, and health and well-being) were identified as important areas of future research by the survey respondents but did not appear in the top-ten of current research themes.

5. GAPS IN THE RESEARH FIELD

5. GAPS IN THE RESEARH FIELD

Image 2. Words used by the online survey respondents most frequently when identifying future research needs.

This chapter discusses research gaps in Nordic scholarship on migration and integration, as identified by the researchers who responded to the survey and by the experts interviewed for this study. While integration is the most common theme studied by Nordic scholars, the survey respondents also identified it as the area in which more research is needed in the future – as Chart 2 and the word cloud above illustrate. However, many pointed out that integration should be studied in novel ways – a point that was also echoed by the experts interviewed for this report. For example, the respondents encouraged scholars to think about integration beyond the traditional focus on the labor market and education. This entails studying it longitudinally in order to understand integration outcomes in different life-stages and areas of life; examining it intersectionally, allowing analyses of how migrants' gender, ethnicity and class influence the integration process; and conceptualizing integration as 'an inherently political project' for the Nordic welfare state. As one respondent put it, [we need] "to take politics and the state more seriously as something fundamentally altering migration realities and subjectivities, rather than studying 'integration' or intercultural relations as something fundamentally apolitical." Additionally, scholars brought up the need to study integration in the context of increasing forced migration, and with a special focus on migrants' own agency and migrant networks in the integration process.

Thus, researchers articulated a clear need to 'revisit' integration research in multiple ways. This also extends to methodological considerations. Indeed, as Chart 2 reveals, methodological questions appeared among the future research needs most often mentioned by the survey respondents. In addition to longitudinal studies, scholars called attention to the need to conduct comparative research between the Nordic countries to find out what really works when it comes to migrant integration. The respondents also highlighted the importance of combining qualitative and quantitative methods – another point echoed by the experts in their interviews. Finally, many respondents also called for studies that offer avenues for 'self-empowerment and

mobilization from below' and for 'anti-oppressive and decolonizing & participatory research methodologies'. In other words, many researchers saw it as necessary to depart from 'top-down' studies that take migrants as research objects, but offer few possibilities for an empowering research design and rarely question the underlying assumptions that guide research.

When comparing the two charts above, it is worthwhile to note that transnationalism is no longer identified as a field that is in particular need of further research, along with ethnicity and religion and spatial perspectives. It is likely that scholars have observed that a certain saturation point has been reached in studying ethnicity in transnational settings. Furthermore, forced migration has moved towards the top of the list from Chart 1 to Chart 2. This undoubtedly reflects the current situation – the increasing numbers of humanitarian migrants arriving in Europe – as outlined in the previous chapters. A new theme in Chart 2, which also can be presumably linked to the current political situation, is discrimination and racism. Many scholars expressed concerns about the changes in the attitude climate towards migrants. The image of the Nordic countries as 'innocent' when it comes to racism and reproduction of colonial discourses needs to be questioned, and analysis is needed on racism and discrimination in different forms: from every-day racism to structural discrimination, for example, in the labor and housing markets.

In the next section, we discuss the seven gaps in the existing Nordic research on migration and integration that were most commonly mentioned in the expert interviews.

a. General research-related challenges

Researchers should be incentivized to develop harmonized mixed-method approaches and learn to use each other's data more consistently and on a more regular basis.

Nearly all respondents made references to their difficulties and shortcomings in trying to overcome the division between qualitative and quantitative research approaches. Some explicitly stated that it is not enough to have a separate qualitative and quantitative work packages in a research program, but that there is a need to nest these approaches within each other in a more intimate manner. Doing so would also open innovative avenues for comparative research and help to substantiate ongoing debates with new kinds of empirical evidence. While it is important to express the uniqueness of the phenomena researched as well, the expression of uniqueness should be subject to endeavors that consolidate divergent research designs so that results from different types of studies corroborate with each other.

b. Theoretical development from a Nordic perspective

Hard-core empirical work should adopt a more rigorous 'double critical approach', based on the development of Nordic and translocal theories and theoretically informed analysis.

The main reason given for the increased focus on theoretical development was the need to alleviate the definitional struggles that hinder harmonization of key concepts related to migrancy and integration and that also make nesting divergent approaches more difficult. Among the most commonly mentioned areas for theoretical development were methodological nationalism, critical border studies, rethinking of the legislative framework based on international conventions, and the notion of Nordic exceptionalism. Developing postcolonial and decolonializing theory from a Nordic perspective would facilitate studying the 'non-exogenous side of who ends up coming here' and 'the role Nordic countries may play in the migration industry at large', shaping migration patterns in both sending and receiving countries.

From the latter perspective, advances in political theory of multicultural welfare states were commonly called for in order to support more reflexive, nuanced, and theoretically informed studies of what the various options for developing multicultural societies that can be grounded in Nordic political realities. The respondents expressed optimism about the possibility of using new theoretical tools to search for syntheses to transcend several contested issues in the research field. A key issue explicitly mentioned is the polarization between the assimilative, welfare chauvinist and inclusionary approaches to migrant integration, particularly concerning migrants' access to labor markets, legal and symbolic recognition and belonging to the civil society and the national community.

c. Networks in civil society – from migrants to communities

We need more research that makes use of literature and media studies, and assesses how different policies shape the migrants' experience 'from the inside.'

Most researchers expressed a need to know more about the everyday lives of migrants for the purpose of better defining the goals of integration policy. Here, many respondents expressed the need to adopt network embeddedness as a premise for the study of migrant families. This would facilitate studying 'the intimate sphere' in conjunction with other relevant dimensions of migrant interaction, both transnationally and vis-à-vis the autochthonous population. This also produces more encompassing empirical evidence on how and where people meet and form new networks and the effects of these encounters on migrant well-being, avenues for shared value creation, and the strengthening and maintenance of social cohesion and shared value creation.

The proliferation of informal movements and the potential of relatively autonomous civil society engagement were mentioned as examples of 'direly underexplored' areas for network research. Specifically, the social mediatized organization of racialized minorities that transcends the boundaries of separate migrant groups was considered to be a particularly fruitful approach that calls for an adoption of new research tools developed for gathering data from various online arenas of migrant mobilization. New research methods, together with funding for resource-intensive longitudinal research and life-course approaches, would complement the traditional social scientific perspectives and help overcome the self-selection bias in survey-based network research.

d. Implementation of integration policies – governance and effects

The largely uncharted overlaps between different integration authorities, particularly the ad hoc division of governmental, municipal and third sector competences, is a big problem from the point of view of developing Nordic research on comparative governance and effects-based assessment of best practices.

Assessing and comparing the impact of various integration measures is commonly regarded as being hindered by the lack of research on the increasing complexity of mechanisms through which certain welfare policies, such as maternity leave practices, might work against integration. Nesting quantitative and qualitative approaches in research on intersecting vulnerabilities among migrants – and focusing on the embeddedness of these vulnerabilities in the existing systems of welfare redistribution – would help in alleviating this challenge. Many respondents emphasized that a decisive reintroduction of social class into these intersectional approaches would also produce more holistic results to guide policy implementation in a manner that is readily applicable to a wide range of people in a precarious position.

Promotion of public health was mentioned as an area where focus groups and case studies should be complemented with intersectional action-oriented research and municipal intervention pilot programs. This would produce guidelines for more extensively scalable health promotion models, and elucidate the extent to which we need to develop health services that can be aimed at the general and migrant population alike, general migrant-based health policy, and/or specific programs for specific migrant groups. Filling this gap with research that focuses on both direct and indirect economic impact could greatly increase the cost-efficiency of public health promotion in the long run.

Devising policy solutions for integrating migrants in general, and asylum-seekers in particular, would be further facilitated by collecting harmonized, Nordic data from these populations from day one of arrival and then following cohorts longitudinally. This would open new avenues for addressing specific problems of civic integration policies, particularly concerning the development of more nuanced intercultural schooling, urban segregation, and clientilizing practices that create various kinds of passivizing dependencies.

f. Labor markets

Without fine-grained and harmonized assessment of how various policies impact specific migrant groups and cohorts, we lack the capacity to compare experiences across the Nordic countries and produce synthesizing reports of how immigrants can be more efficiently and permanently integrated to labor markets.

Most respondents mentioned that the register data collected in the Nordic countries already allows more nuanced approaches for considering the specific problems different categories of migrants face. As such, we should break away from the tradition of estimating the fiscal impact of 'migrant unemployment'. Rather, we need longitudinal follow-up studies that focus on the divergent impacts that labor market regulations and integration policies carry for migrants of different backgrounds.

We should also rethink the methods for benchmarking what counts as successful labor market integration through Nordic comparison, since "only benchmarking against the native population, we are bound to write and rewrite a story of never ending failure." Studying the tradeoff between welfare redistribution and labor market intervention, particularly the question of how to further incentivize migrants to take entry-level jobs, should be better calibrated to Nordic political realities, public opinion and trade union involvement, which render the notion of creating a class of working poor unfeasible. Many respondents also mentioned the need to study which particular deregulations are most likely to facilitate labor market integration in conjunction with developing more grounded projections concerning how digitalization, automatization, and the dependency ratio shape the needs of the labor market even beyond the time frame of the next ten years.

g. Urban and regional challenges and possibilities

There are ample sources for providing historical and ethnographic contextualization of why the migrants may not want to stay in the nice enclaves they are assigned to.

We need to rethink the difficulties related to urban segregation with research from outside the Nordic context. This allows reassessment of the fears and more dystopic projections linked to 'the creation of parallel societies' with empirical evidence of when certain levels and types of segregation can be both necessary and benign. Qualifying future research design with these carefully contextualized considerations can lead to better informed research on municipally supported housing, and even open new possibilities for national or Nordic guidelines.

Many respondents also pointed to the encouraging results from migrant integration in rural areas, suggesting that we need further research on how migrants can boost local economies in sparsely populated areas. Such research should nest qualitative and quantitative approaches in order to better assess how flexible municipal self-governance, lower population density, and higher communal social capital are linked in manner that can also facilitate deeper and more efficient migrant integration.

h. The public sphere, media and the attitudinal climate

The politicization of migrancy-related questions in the public sphere is spreading to academia, as we are witnessing a clash of totally opposite diagnoses on why increasingly radical discourses are proliferating in our midst.

Research on journalism and the media sphere needs to develop more rigorous methods that vest studies with more explanatory potential. This entails complementing the commonly descriptive and contemporary accounts with historical contextualization and sociological analysis. Such research should be more future-oriented, providing prognostics on the internalization of various discriminatory systems in civil society, and assess how the rise of ethnic supremacism and an exclusionary sense of national homogeneity can be challenged or countered, particularly in the media sphere.

Respondents both within and outside media studies agree that the research on majority and minority attitudes, behavior and perceptions should be examined in a much more intimately connected fashion. This would also pave the way for more efficient and better informed action research for combating racism, xenophobia, and stereotypes that are polarizing the public debate and undermining relations between the autochthonous population and migrant minorities, particularly Muslims and groups from sub-Saharan Africa.

6. CONCLUSION: PERSPECTIVES ON DEVELOPING NORDIC ADDED VALUE

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Based on the expert interviews (56 participants, see appendices A and C) and the online survey (356 participants, see appendices D and E), this concluding chapter synthesizes the insights concerning the value of Nordic contextualization in migration and integration research. With regard to the diverse range of disciplinary and thematic expertise among the respondents, the conclusion also functions as a distinct call to action. Accordingly, this chapter presents the most commonly suggested measures on how calls for research proposals may promote the strengths and bridge the gaps in contemporary Nordic research.

When challenged to assess how to justify the focus on the Nordic countries scientifically as an interesting and fruitful context for researching migration and integration (in addition to national, regional, area-based, and global perspectives), most respondents referred to 'the advanced welfare state', 'an array of model states' in 'a relatively small scale' with 'a forerunner position in state-led engineering of social mobility.' As one respondent put it, this is "the only region in the world where integration of migrants is so tightly connected to existing measures of welfare redistribution."

With excellent census and register data, the Nordic countries present themselves as an excellent laboratory for creation of the 'most similar' research design (in terms of political opportunity structures, welfare state tradition, and municipal self-governance, notwithstanding the divergent composition of migrant population across the five countries). This makes the Nordic context an ideal setting for gauging empirically the impact of implementation of various policy tools in the daily lives of both migrant and majority populations. With regard to the promotion of Nordic added value through the implementation of successful research in the future, however, the respondents discussed a several types of hurdles to be crossed.

While most respondents have an ample supply of personal connections and research exchanges with their peers in other countries, Nordic collaboration currently tends to take the form of relatively short-lived, ephemeral networks, and informal personal contacts. The researchers with a lower level of seniority stated that Nordic workshops and conferences, especially those providing even modest mobility grants, are crucial for networking and developing their research. At the same time, much of the core research is conducted in projects that involve little or no institutionally established collaboration between the Nordic countries, thus rendering the existing networks very person-dependent and vulnerable. The more senior researchers asserted that this was mostly due to the limited availability of funding that is explicitly aimed at joint projects involving two or more Nordic countries, in comparison to funding available for projects that only involve research facilities in a single country. The respondents also emphasized the importance of embedding Nordic networks into European and international ones, and using extra-Nordic countries as points of contrast in order to better assess the extent to which results and their scale are particular to the Nordic countries. A specific example would be the questions related to migrant housing and urban segregation, where the challenges, outcomes, and conclusions on policy implementation should be measured against countries with longer histories of migration.

According to many respondents, particularly among demographers, econometrists, and other quantitative researchers, Nordic joint and comparative research projects would benefit from further collaborative endeavors to harmonize data between the five countries, with an initiative already put forward and resourced by Statistics Norway. Together with ethnographers, social anthropologists, political scientists,

and sociologists, they also point out that the connections between migration and welfare redistribution are growing increasingly complex. As such, developing policy-relevant research also requires more rigorous nesting of qualitative and quantitative approaches. This would allow better grounded assessments, for instance, of the relative importance between the explanatory value of historical embeddedness and recently implemented policies. The respondents also often mentioned that certain redistributive measures, such as maternity leave, tend to incentivize people of migrant and autochthonous background differently, adding to the need to develop more fine-grained analysis informed by qualitative approaches. Here most researchers threw the ball to the funders, suggesting that calls for research proposals should more often explicitly require the incorporation of qualitative and quantitative approaches in the same work packages.

With the rapid increase in the governmental and sector-based funding for migration and integration research since the refugee crisis, many respondents are looking forward to wider opportunities to pursue more independent research, in terms of both theoretical development and experimental research approaches. Researchers acknowledged that some of the global migration-related complexities (such as the climate change and political instability) that are specific to the Global South and East may also be interconnected to the role the Nordic countries play as representatives of the Global North. Moreover, the post-colonial theory-based and decolonizing research approaches in particular would benefit from the chance to develop a genuinely Nordic theoretical frame for assessing "the degree of how exogenous it is who ends up coming here."

Concerning the funding for the development of novel and experimental research approaches, many respondents pointed to the promising findings from action research, especially within labor market research, intercultural education, and race-relations in the wider civil society. Here, respondents emphasized the importance of increasingly studying minorities and the autochthonous population side by side. The most commonly given examples pertained to participating in projects on workplace integration and urban development, where both groups can work together towards common goals in authentic, real-world situations that are moderated by researchers.

Among the most divisive issues within the Nordic research community was the notion of evaluating migrancy as something of a 'stress test' for the welfare state. Here, too, the bone of contention concerns the (theoretical) framing and the definitional struggles related to any such evaluation. The politicization and polarization of the public, political, and academic debates makes it challenging to agree on what, exactly, is to be tested. Adopting a common theoretical framework, harmonized data sets, commensurable thematic areas between the countries, and fitting extra-Nordic comparisons were commonly suggested as ways of approaching the question of stress testing in a more empirically grounded way. Another pertinent challenge mentioned by the researchers was related to the interpretation of results. Especially the researchers of education and labor markets point out that we need to complement the current focus on educational and employment gaps by developing novel ways for benchmarking migrant integration. As migrants are not likely to reach the levels of autochthonous population within these areas in the near future, there is a risk of producing a narrative of constant failure. In order to "find the seeds of a success story", as one respondent put it, we should increasingly consider how migrants fare in schools and labor markets both in absolute terms and in comparison to migrants outside the Nordic countries.

Yet another commonly mentioned impediment in benchmarking the migrant integration is related to the limited availability of funding for longitudinal and life-course research projects that trace trajectories of both migrant and native population simultaneously. Several respondents, particularly the researchers within health sciences, pointed out that while pilot studies for focus groups can be an expedient way to get an overview of uncharted research territories to inform future research, the gains to be reaped through such approaches are rapidly exhausted. Often, though, the funders are seen as prioritizing brief, inexpensive, and 'agile' projects even after this point, which the respondents viewed as counter-productive from the point of view of accumulation of new scientific understanding.

Finally, the respondents underlined the importance of funding experimental research that develops new methodological approaches, particularly related to technologies that can better facilitate harnessing the big data and the vast social media data sets. This may help in revealing many diffuse and hitherto opaque processes that contribute to the polarization of the civil society at large. Many researchers, especially within ethnic relations and media studies, suggest that wider adoption of such methodologies can also provide policy-oriented and action research with avenues for countering radicalization both among migrant groups and the majority population.

To sum up, there appear to be two divergent insights emerging from the research community on how to generate further Nordic added value within migration and integration research in the aftermath of the refugee crisis. On the one hand, the respondents hope to see research calls that are more open-ended and leave researchers with more freedom in devising the concrete aims, goals, and research design in general. This is also seen as one way to balance the growing demands for pre-ordered, thematically pinpointed 'strategic research' in governmental and sector-based calls. On the other hand, however, there is distinct enthusiasm to participate in calls that incentivize in institutionalized Nordic collaboration, require nesting qualitative and quantitative approaches into a single work package, merit incorporation of action research components, stakeholder involvement, and properly resource scientific interventions also through experimental methodological approaches.

While acknowledging that groundbreaking scientific results cannot, by definition, be predefined in research calls, there is consensus among the respondents that the most fruitful avenue for cultivating Nordic added value is through ambitious and demanding research programs. Ideally, such programs would demand several types of international, multidisciplinary, and cross-methodological boundary-bridging collaboration – as long as this gives the researchers the ultimate responsibility for coming up with the research questions and allows them to be innovative in how the questions are pursued.

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APPENDICES

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APPENDICES
A. Participants in the expert interviews

Country	Affiliation	People interviewed	Discipline(s)	Date
Denmark	Aalborg, AAU	professor **Christian Albrekt Larsen**	political science	11.10.2016
Denmark	Aalborg, AAU, CoMID	assistant professors **Martin Bak Jørgensen** & **Trine Lund Thomsen**	sociology	11.10.2016
Denmark	Aalborg, AAU, VIP SAMF	professor **Birte Siim** & associate professor **Susi Meret**	sociology, gender	11.10.2016
Denmark	Århus Uni.	professor **Per Mouritsen** & post doc researcher **Kristian Jensen**	political science	12.10.2016
Denmark	Roskilde Uni., Intercultural Studies	professor (MSO) **Garbi Schmidt**	history	13.10.2016
Denmark	Roskilde Uni., Changing Societies: Welfare and Diversity	professor **Bent Greve**, professor **Hanne Marlene Dahl** (MSO) & lecturer **Yvonne Mørck**	governance, social anthropology, political science	13.10.2016
Denmark	Copenhagen, SFI: Politics & Organization	director **Fredrik Thuesen**	sociology	14.10.2016
Denmark	Copenhagen Uni., AMIS	director, professor **Nils Holtug**	media studies	14.10.2016
Denmark	Copenhagen, Institute of Human Rights	PhD researcher **Nikolas Tan**	international law	14.10.2016
Denmark	Copenhagen Uni., MESU	director, professor **Allan Krasnik** & associate professor **Signe Smith Jervelund**	health sciences	17.10.2016
Finland	Helsinki Uni., SSKH/CEREN	senior researchers **Sanna Saksela-Bergholm** & **Rolle Alho**	sociology	15.11.2016
Finland	Helsinki Uni., SSKH	adjunct professor **Östen Wahlbeck**	sociology	23.11.2016
Finland	Turku Uni.	adjunct professor **Suvi Keskinen**	sociology	24.11.2016
Finland	Helsinki, City of H. Urban Facts	senior researcher **Pasi Saukkonen**	political science	25.11.2016
Finland	Oulu Uni.	professor **Vesa Puuronen**	sociology	26.11.2016
Finland	Tampere Uni., TRANSIT	professor, research manager **Pirkko Pitkänen**	education	16.12.2016
Iceland	Reykjavik Uni.	professors **Unnur Dís Skaptadóttir** & **Kristín Loftsdóttir**	anthropology	8.12.2016
Iceland	Ísafjörður, Multicultural and Information Centre	director **Rúnar Helgi Haraldsson**	governance	8.12.2016

Country	Affiliation	People interviewed	Discipline(s)	Date
Iceland	Reykjavik Uni.	PhD students **Anna Wojtynska**, **Linda Sólveigar Guðmundsdóttir** and **Guðbjört Guðjóhnsdóttir**	sociology, gender studies	9.12.2016
Norway	Trondheim NTNU	professor **Carla Dahl-Jørgensen**	social anthropology	7.11.2016
Norway	Trondheim NTNU	professors **Jorn Rattsø** & **Fredrik Carlsen** & associate professor **Hildegunn Stokke**	economics	7.11.2016
Norway	Bergen Uni., International Migration and Ethnic Relations	professor **Elizabeth Ivarsflaten**	comparative politics	8.11.2016
Norway	Oslo, NAKMI	research leader **Esperanza Diaz**	medicine, health sciences	8.11.2016
Norway	Oslo, SSB Norway	head of research **Erling Holmøy**, senior adviser **Silje Vatne Pettersen**, senior researchers **Lasse Sigbjørn Stambøl** & **Terje Skerpen**	statistics	9.11.2016
Norway	Oslo, PRIO	senior researcher **Marta Bivand Erdal**	human geography	9.11.2016
Norway	Oslo Uni.	professor **Elisabeth Eide**, lecturer **Anders Knudsen** and PhD researcher **Anja Naper**	media studies, journalism	9.11.2016
Sweden	Uppsala Uni., Hugo Valentin Centre	professor **Satu Gröndahl** & professor emerita **Leena Hossa**	comparative literature	31.10.2016
Sweden	Stockholm Uni.	senior lecturer **Karen Haandrikman** & PhD researcher **Natasha Webster**	human geography	1.11.2016
Sweden	Stockholm, Nordregio	senior research fellows **Timothy Heleniak** & **Moa Tunström**	urban planning, human geography	1.11.2016
Sweden	Linköping Uni., REMESO	professors **Peo Hansen**, **Stefan Jonsson** & associate professor, deputy head of REMESO **Anders Neergaard**	sociology, history, ethnic studies	3.11.2016
Sweden	Malmö Uni.	professor **Philip Lalander** & reader **Pernilla Ouis**	youth studies, criminology, gender studies	4.11.2016
Sweden	Lund Uni. & Raoul Wallenberg Institute	research director **Thomas Gammeltoft-Hansen**	international law	4.11.2016

B. Bibliographic overview appendices

Conference programs reviewed:

— Biennial Conference of the Finnish Anthropological Society 2015: Landscapes, Sociality and Materiality, Helsinki, Finland, October 2015

— 27th Conference of the Nordic Sociological Association: Exploring Blind Spots, Lund University, Sweden, August 2014

— 28th Conference of the Nordic Sociological Association: Knowledge-Making Practices and Sociology's Global Challenge, Helsinki, Finland, August 2016

— 28th Congress of Nordic Historians, Joensuu, Finland, August 2014

— 29th Congress of Nordic Historians, Aalborg University, Denmark, August 2017

— EUPHA's 6th European Conference on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health, Oslo, Norway, June 2016

— Finnish Anthropology Conference 2011: Dynamic Anthropology: Tensions between Theory and Practice, University of Helsinki, Finland, October 2011

— Finnish Anthropology Conference 2013: Culture, Creativity and Performativity, University of Tampere, Finland, May 2013

— NORA (Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research) Conference: Voices in Nordic Gender Research, Roskilde University, Denmark, November 2014

— 21st Nordic Conference for Sociology of Religion, Umeå University, Sweden, August 2012

— 22nd Nordic Conference for Sociology of Religion, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 2014

— 23rd Nordic Conference for the Sociology of Religion, Helsinki, Finland, August 2016

— Nordic Demographic Symposium 2017, Turku, Finland, June 2017

— Nordic Geographers Meeting, Turku, Finland, June 2009

— 4th Nordic Geographers Meeting: Four Days of Critical Geography, Roskilde, Denmark, May 2011

— 5th Nordic Geographers Meeting, Reykjavík, Iceland, June 2013

— 6th Nordic Geographers Meeting: Geographical Imagination: Interpretations of Nature, Art and Politics, Tallinn & Tartu, Estonia, June 2015

— 7th Nordic Geographers Meeting, Stockholm, Sweden, June 2017

— 8th Nordic Health Promotion Research Conference (NHPRC), Jyväskylä, Finland, June 2016

— XIV Nordic Labour History Conference, University of Iceland, Reykjavík, November 2016

— 16th Nordic Migration Research Conference & 9th ETMU Days: Immigrants and Civil Society, Turku, Finland, August 2012

— 17th Nordic Migration Conference: Flows, Places and Boundaries – Migratory Challenges and New Agendas, Copenhagen University, Denmark, August 2014

— 18th Nordic Migration Conference: Migration and Social Inequality: Global Perspectives – New Boundaries, Oslo, Norway, August 2016

— Nordic Law and Gender Conference, Turku, Finland, May 2017

— Sosiaalilääketieteen päivät: Interventiot ja indikaattorit kansanterveystyössä, Tampere, Finland, October 2016

— Terveydenhuoltotutkimuksen päivät: Sosiaali— ja terveydenhuollon kokonaisuudistus, Helsinki, Finland, November 2015

— The Annual Convention of Finnish Anthropologists: Continuity through Change: Anthropological Perspectives in the Contemporary World, Tampere, Finland, May 2009

Funding decisions in the 2010 reviewed in the following research funders' online databases:

Denmark: Ministry of Higher Education and Science

Finland: The Academy of Finland

Iceland: The Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannís)

Norway: The Research Council of Norway

Sweden: The Swedish Research Council

C. Expert interviews semi-structured outline

Topics to be covered in the expert interviews:

1. **Research profile:** How would you describe the research profile of your institution (and sub-unit, if applicable) in terms of thematic areas of expertise, research interests and methodological approaches?

2. **Budget and personnel:** How is the research funding organized in your institution and what kind sources you receive funding from? How many people, both research and administrative personnel, work with you permanently and temporarily?

3. **Nordic collaboration:** Which are your most significant research partners in the Nordic context? What are the different means of collaboration and how fruitful do consider them?

4. **Research impact measurements (academic and/or policy-relevant):** How do you measure the impact of your research? How do you see the significance vs. burden related to enhancing the impact measurements?

5. **Public engagement:** What role does public engagement play in your research strategy? How and how actively have sought to promote it? How impactful and resource intensive do you consider popularization of research in your institution or in your field in general?

6. **Interdisciplinary dialogue:** How well do you think interdisciplinary dialogue is currently working in your field? Are some institutions or research areas isolated or separated from the migration/integration research scene at large? Are some disciplines or research approaches currently lacking in migration or integration research within your national context or in the Nordic countries at large?

7. **Representation of different research approaches:** Are some types or themes of research currently over/underrepresented in the Nordic context (quantitative, qualitative, survey, register, case study, ethnography etc.)?

8. **Global trends:** Which global trends concerning migration and integration research do you regard as offering most important avenues for future research in your institution? To what extent can these be observed in the research currently conducted in you national context?

9. **"The Nordic added value":** Which migration and/or integration-related research areas would currently benefit the most from more rigorous implementation a comparative Nordic approach? Does the Nordic context provide some "added value" for migration research?

10. **Lessons from the 'The Refugee Crisis':** What do you regard as the most important things (e.g. substantive scientific knowledge, research designs, political implications) we have learned from 'The Refugee Crisis' that we did not know in early 2015?

11. **Particularly successful migration/integration -relevant studies, research projects and publications:** Using criteria you consider appropriate, can you give a few examples of research from the past ten years or so that you regard as particularly successful (originating in the Nordic context)?

D. Online survey questions

Researching migration and integration in the Nordic countries

The Migration Institute of Finland is mapping the state of Nordic migration research. The study looks specifically at research on international migration and migrant integration, but you may also address other migration related research (e.g. internal migration) in your response. The results will be analyzed by senior researchers Johanna Leinonen and Niko Pyrhönen and published online in December 2016 as part of a report to the board of NordForsk.

The questionnaire will not take longer than 5 minutes to complete. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2016. Thank you for participating!

• What is the highest degree/title you currently hold?

Bachelor's degree

Master's degree

Doctoral degree

Title of Docent

Associate professor

Professor

Other, please specify

• How many years of experience do you have in migration and/or integration research?

0-4 years

5-9 years

10-14 years

15+ years

• What is your primary field of study?

Anthropology

Cultural studies

Demography

Economics

Education

Ethnology

Gender studies

Geography

Governance

Health sciences

History

Law

Linguistics

Literature

Media studies

Political Science

Psychology / Social psychology

Religious studies / Theology

Sociology

Other, please specify

• **What are your thematic areas of specialization (e.g. migrant integration, education, labour market, gender, transnationalism, etc.)?**

• **Which Nordic research networks and/or joint projects have you participated in during the last ten years?**

• **What themes should Nordic migration and integration research focus on in the future?**

• **How satisfied are you with the current state of Nordic collaboration in:**

– migration and integration research in general (scale 1-10)

– your field of expertise (scale 1-10)

• **Country of residence**

Denmark

Finland

Iceland

Norway

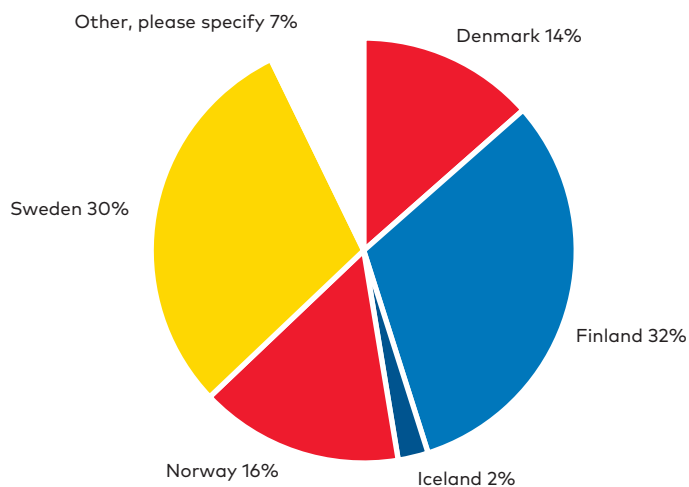Sweden
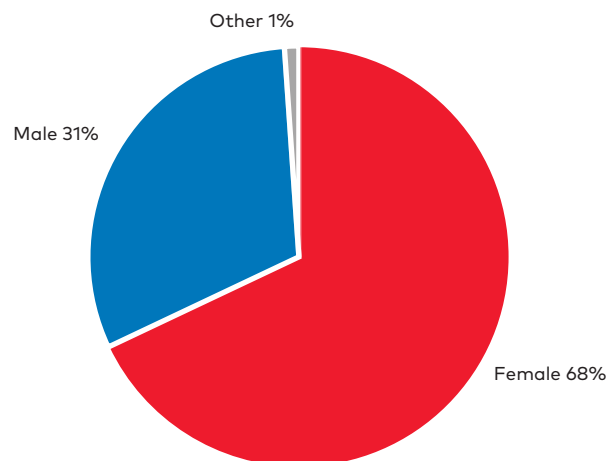
Other, please specify

• **Year of birth**

• **Gender**

• **Please upload your list of publications (optional)**
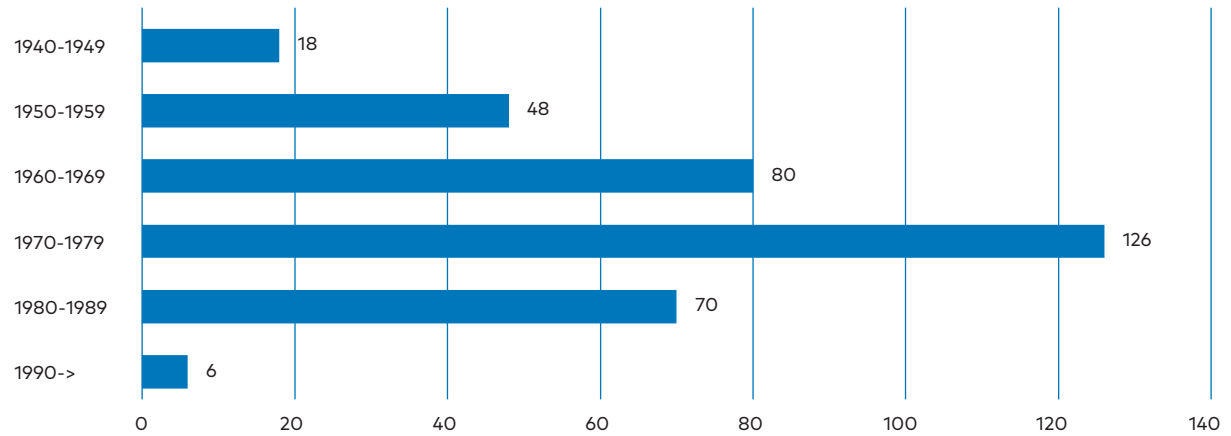
E. Online survey participant background (n=356)

Respondents by the country of residence

Other, please specify 7%

Denmark 14%

Sweden 30%

Finland 32%

Norway 16%

Iceland 2%

Respondents by gender

Other 1%

Male 31%

Female 68%

Respondents by age cohort

Age cohort	Value
1940-1949	18
1950-1959	48
1960-1969	80
1970-1979	126
1980-1989	70
1990->	6

Respondents by years of experience in migration and/or integration research

- 0-4 years: 28%
- 5-9 years: 32%
- 10-14 years: 15%
- 15+ years: 25%
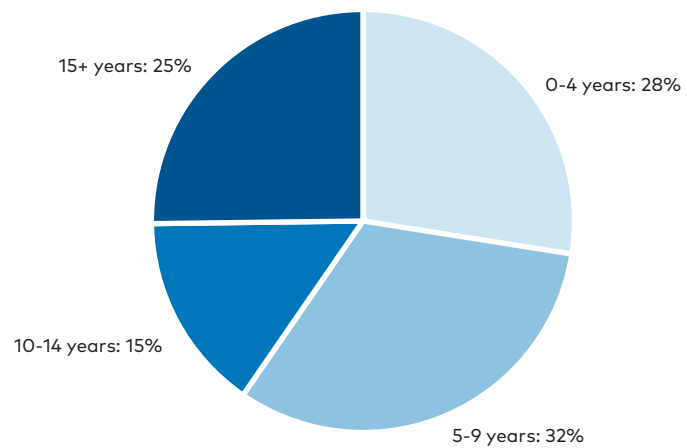
Respondents by the primary field of study

Field	Value
Anthropology	48
Cultural studies	24
Demography	7
Economics	9
Education	24
Ethnology	8
Gender studies	22
Geography	17
Governance	6
Health sciences	24
History	24
Law	14
Linguistics	7
Literature	3
Media studies	18
Political science	34
Psychology/social psychology	14
Religious studies/theology	19
Sociology	89
Other, please specify	66

0 %   5 %   10 %   15 %   20 %   25 %   30 %
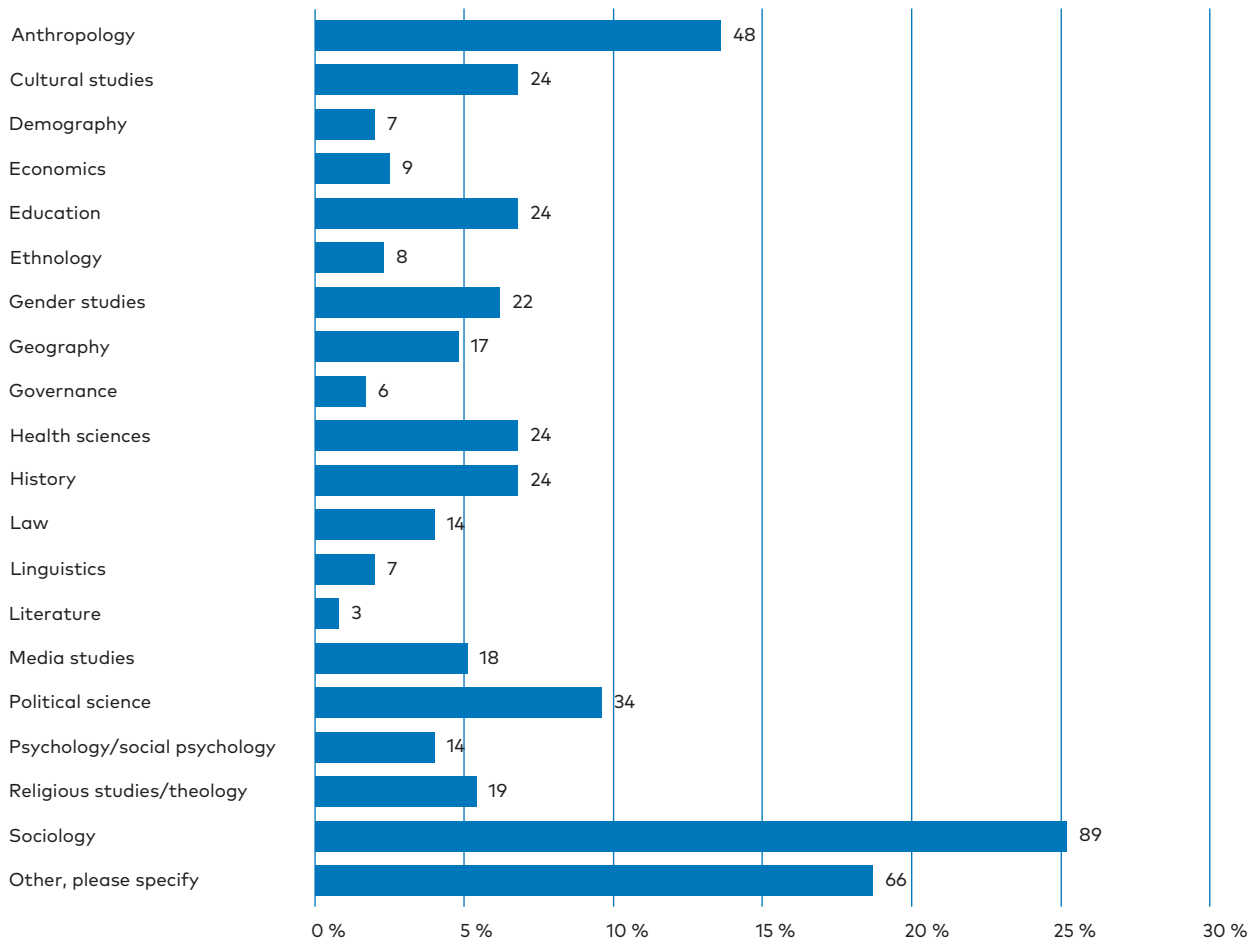
Respondents by the highest degree/title currently held

Degree/title	Value
Bachelor's degree	~1 %
Master's degree	~26 %
Doctoral degree	~36 %
Title of Docent	~8 %
Associate professor	~15 %
Professor	~16 %
Other, please specify	~9 %
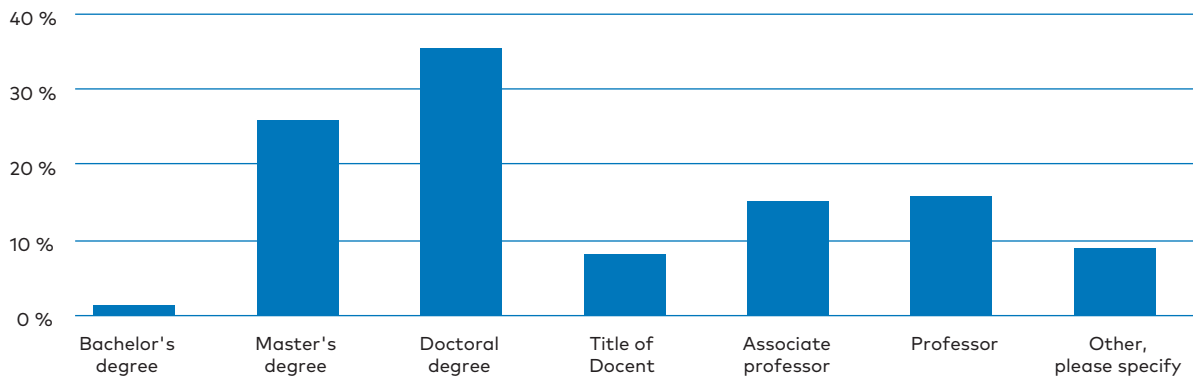
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