

ISSUE 2 • JUNE 2024

(RE)CONNECTING WITH THE EMS COMMUNITY

AN EMS NEWSLETTER

The Master in Ethnic and Migration Studies (EMS) will soon have its 10-year anniversary. Over this time, EMS has developed into a highly sought after international program for students interested in critical migration studies and its intersections with race and racialisation and new bordering practices. As a two-year, trans-disciplinary program, EMS relates ethnicity and migration to the global economy, to cultural change, to social transformations and to systems of domination and movements of resistance. The program integrates the humanities and social sciences, with a commitment to problem-solving, critical and innovative approaches to concepts, theories and methodologies.

The EMS program benefits from the vibrant research, cross-sectoral links and international activities of the Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society (REMESO) at Linköping University that teaches this program. REMESO regularly welcomes international researchers, doctoral and postdoctoral candidates that also contribute to research and to the teaching and learning environment of EMS.

The EMS program thrives through its active students and alumni. EMS students come to LiU's campus Norrköping from all parts of the world. Each incoming student group creates their own approach to a supportive scholarly community with some truly amazing examples of commitment to local, Swedish, European, and global initiatives, research, and action. Some of these initiatives are seen in the internships discussed in this newsletter and in the reports from the 1st and 2nd year student representatives.

The REMESO Faculty of teachers and researchers are proud of the achievements of EMS alumni in the diverse roles they demonstrate in research, teaching, government and non-governmental roles and in their contributions to social change, advocacy and creative interventions on cross-cutting issues including climate risks, economic and social inequalities, racism and discrimination.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and stay connected with the EMS and REMESO community.

Claudia Tazreiter

Professor and Program Director



@emscommunity



EMS Community



EMS All Years



EMS Alumni Network



YEAR ONE

Nearing the end of the first year of our new lives here in Norrköping, we can say that it has truly been a whirlwind of a time and is unbelievable that the academic year is already coming to an end!

As I'm sure all alumni would know, the course materials have been a challenge that we have taken head on with vigour. Starting with Stefan's course, the readings and lectures throughout have been illuminating and have challenged our prior understandings of the topics. Even better have been the discussions we have had with each other. We are lucky to be around classmates with diverse backgrounds, which has added dimensions to our discussions that would never occur otherwise.

We have continued to be engaged in the community at large, through various volunteer activities as well events such as MigraMovies and Career Day (more on that later!). We have also had the pleasure of having many academic events to frequent, starting with the REMESO seminars but also with the open lectures held during the Anti-Colonial Scholarship and Global Social Theory workshop last fall and those done individually by scholars such as Sadia Abbas. They have allowed us to engage with ideas outside of the classroom and look forward to more opportunities in the upcoming academic year.

We will now go on a very much well-deserved summer break and after taking time to recharge, whether here in Sweden or somewhere else in the world, we are looking forward to continuing our journey here in the EMS program.



Finally, a huge thank you to everyone in EMS and Norrköping who have helped us. None of this would be possible without you and are looking to return the favor when the new students come in the new academic year.

Wishing everyone fair winds and following seas,

Grace and Sora
1st Year Student Representatives



YEAR TWO

The second year of EMS has been less eventful, more challenging but also rewarding. Many of our classmates have been away from Norrköping for exchange studies and internships during the first semester. However, we reunited again in the second semester which was dominated by the thesis writing process for most of us. Some of our classmates described the year with the following words:

- new friendships
- change
- full of knowledge
- political reawakening
- development
- friends without borders
- adapting other perspectives
- mind-blowing
- intense

Now that the large part of our class have submitted their master's thesis, many of us will go our separate ways. Nevertheless, we are certain that the strong friendships and shared memories we collected will lead to us crossing paths again.

We wish everyone a nice summer and a great future!

Nelly & Imran

2nd Year Class Representatives



COURSE WORK

INTERNSHIP COURSE

Internship with No Name Kitchen with a Focal Point in Protection - Serbia and Bulgaria

Choosing an internship as an elective course was fundamental for me, as I envision academia as a way to understand but also participate in social change. As a grassroots organisation supporting people on the move along the Balkan Route and in Italy and Spain, No Name Kitchen represented a great opportunity to learn about the migratory patterns along the Mediterranean Route. The organisation aspires to provide for the basic needs of people on the move such as food, clothing, first aid and access to showers. However, its main goal is justice for people on the move, by being politically active in denouncing the violent and illegal consequences of the European Union's migratory policymaking.

With a focal point in Protection, I collected testimonies from people on the move about the human rights violations they experienced during their travels. I was mainly reporting, following a precise procedure, about experiences of refoulement and torture while crossing the internal borders of the EU. In addition, I had the opportunity to participate in the creation of a new project in Harmanli, a city which hosts the biggest refugee camp in Bulgaria—about 1,200 Syrians or Kurds from Syria.



This experience enabled me to develop multiple skills but also gave me access to a broad field of research for my master's thesis. In addition, it allowed me to organise an awareness-raising event in Norrköping when I came back, thanks to the EMS student organisation MigraMovies, by screening the Shadow Game and opening a discussion afterwards about the situation along the Balkan Route. This internship was an amazing opportunity, full of learning, questioning and beautiful people.

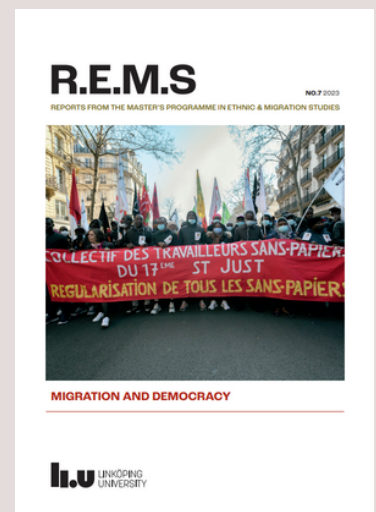
Chloé Correia
2nd Year Student

CRITICAL CASES

At the end of the first year of the Masters Program students work with the course "Critical Cases in Ethnic and Migration Studies", led by Erik Berggren. This course is different from previous courses, as it is primarily a practical exercise in which the students draft articles that form a report for the series Reports from the Masters Program in Ethnic and Migration Studies (REMS).

The report gives the students a chance to work with research communication and journalism, using many of the theories and cases they have read during the year, rather than producing scientific knowledge. Each year's report has a specific theme. Students' task is to find cases, people, organisations and write articles that address the theme from several angles. They then present their report to the public after it is published.

Previous years we have worked with themes such as migration and Covid-19; migration and Ukraine; and democracy and migration. **This year's theme is migration and culture.** It gives students a chance to work journalistically with questions such as how the cultural sphere plays a role in inclusion and exclusion, how migration is represented in cultural works, and how migrants negotiate and adapt to cultural differences. Students wrote on a wide range of topics, including debates around the Swedish cultural canon, postcolonial tourism, how migrant artists in Sweden play a role in social change, the importance of food and language in cultural life, representations of migration and belonging in Swedish reality television, and more.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

MIGRAMOVIES

Connecting the EMS Classroom to Norrköping's Cultural Life

Since its revival last academic year, MigraMovies has continued to grow and improve! This year we have hosted eight movies which covered contemporary and historical topics around the world, transporting us to the rainforests of China, an amusement park in Beirut, Native American reservations, a factory in Croatia, and much more.

With some screenings selling nearly seventy free tickets, we have been very pleased with the interest shown by people both within and outside the EMS program. After each screening we have had speakers, usually the film director or LiU professors, share some information about the topic and host a discussion amongst the audience. We are proud to bring critical, challenging discussions about migration, racism, and community to the public while also contributing to accessible cultural life in Norrköping. Through the powerful and provocative medium of film we are able to vividly showcase diverse realities, life stories, experiences, and perspectives.

Though cultural events in Norrköping are receiving less support from the municipal government, we are pushing for this successful and engaging student initiative to continue into the future and grow.



We are particularly grateful to the various organizations which have kindly collaborated and helped us continue to reach the community: CNEMA theater, LiU's research division of Migration, Ethnicity and Society (REMESO), the Department of Culture and Society (IKOS), the Sektion för Samhälls- och Kulturanalys (SKA), and many professors and students.

Curious to know more? To get in contact with us or to see which movies we have screened this year, check out the EMS Community page on Instagram (@emscommunity).

CAREER DAY

In March, the EMS Community hosted a career day, which was attended not only by students from the EMS program but also students from other Masters and Bachelors programs.

The eight speakers represented a fascinating array of careers students can pursue after graduation, from working with embassies and government agencies to human rights advocacy organizations, to doctoral studies and more.

With most of the speakers being EMS alumni, we were so encouraged to hear about their various career paths, and we were appreciative of the kind and honest advice they gave us. Many of us were pleased to learn about a job that we weren't previously aware of, and the Q&A sessions with each speaker provided useful insight into practicalities like their daily tasks, what they used most from their EMS education, and tips for finding jobs.



EUMIGS PROGRAM

The EuMIGS network is Europe's largest network of master's programmes in the field of ethnic and migration studies, involving 13 partner institutes, of which 7 universities offer a double master's degree. This year, 3 students from partner universities came to do their second year of studies in the EMS program, and 4 EMS students are completing their double degree at partner universities in Salzburg, Osnabrück and A Coruña.

In November, 20 EUMigs students and 10 coordinators attended a kick-off trip in Salzburg, Austria. The programme included a panel discussion on career paths in migration research, a visit to the Red Cross refugee accommodation centre, and participation in tours, social activities, film screenings, and group projects. 4 EMS students also attended the EuMIGS Winter Workshop at the University of Liège, Belgium.

The academic year ends with the IMISCOE conference in Lisbon in July, in which all double degree students participate in two panels organized by the network.



Next year the EMS programme will have 2 incoming students, and 3 EMS students have been appointed to the double degree programme and will do their second year in Liège, Osnabrück and Neuchâtel. The EMS Programme will host the kick-off in November.

Anna Bredström

Professor and EuMIGS Coordinator

A MIND-BLOWING YEAR

Imagine the scene: After driving for two days with a car packed to the brim, you arrive at your new little apartment, pick up the keys, and 48 hours later, your bicycle is stolen. To make matters worse, you have to contact the police over the phone in a foreign language. This was my introduction to life here, the first story that also spread through my new class. What a start!

Fortunately, I met very kind people and experienced a welcoming atmosphere, which helped turn around the beginning of this remarkable year at EMS.

I am from France, and I have been living in Germany for a while, where I also completed my first Master's year at the IMIS Institute in Osnabrück. Thanks to the EuMIG Program, I was able to join the EMS for my second Master's year, offering me numerous opportunities for discovery.

One of the first was the chance to travel to Salzburg (Austria) and Liège (Belgium), as well as Lisbon (Portugal) soon as part of the EuMIGS program. These travels have greatly expanded my network and knowledge in an intensive and enjoyable manner.

Sweden and Norrköping especially are a beautiful place to live, though the winter is incredibly long. Thankfully, the abundant snow and the elective courses I took this winter kept me from succumbing to seasonal depression.



The most impactful course was on Borders and Identities with Madina Tlostanova, where we had long discussions about the impact of colonialism on our daily lives and habits.

Through new texts, various authors, and consistently positive and constructive feedback on my work throughout the year, I improved not only my English but also my self-confidence and ability to develop a comprehensive understanding of global structures.

I can't thank enough all the people, classmates, and teachers I met here who contributed to my new perspective on the world. I return to Germany with stars in my eyes and exciting projects' ideas for the future.

Apolline Plantard

EuMIGS Student



ALUMNI UPDATES

AIDAN McGIRR

Graduated 2022

Tjena from New York!

As the EMS network continues to grow, it's more exciting than ever to hear about new students starting the program and the things one can do with their Master's degree.



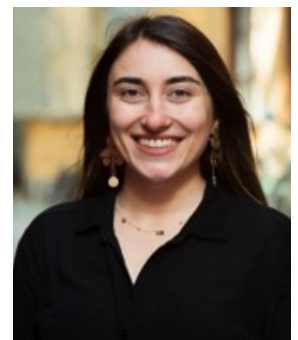
Post-EMS, I bounced between New York City and Ireland, studying and working in law. Currently, I am studying law at New York University with a fellowship at the Lowinson Institute for International Law and Justice. The EMS degree opened the pathway for me to work with the UN General Assembly and the International Committee for the Red Cross, and I hope it has afforded you all equally satisfying opportunities as well.

I often miss the lakes of Östergötland and all my brilliant colleagues too. If you all are ever in New York, please do drop a line and say hello!

HAZAL TUĞRA HONGUR

Graduated 2021

Hazal Tuğra Hongur has been working as a Cultural Orientation Trainer at ICMC Istanbul, Turkey since 2021. In her role, Hazal facilitates cultural orientation classes for refugees, including sessions for adults and youth to support their



resettlement to the United States. Prior to this role, Hazal worked as a Community Engagement Officer at Maya Foundation's Social Cohesion through Education Programme.

Many thanks to all EMS students, alumni, and faculty who contributed texts and photos to the newsletter.

To keep up to date with EMS activities and news, follow the EMS community on:



[@emscommunity](https://www.instagram.com/emscommunity)



[EMS Alumni Network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/emscommunity)



[EMS Community](https://www.facebook.com/emscommunity)



[EMS All Years](#)

