HUMAN MIGRATION AND MOBILITY are as old as history, and they affect every society in the world. They also belong to history’s most changeable phenomena, as they are often linked to political conflicts, economic inequalities, environmental change, ethnic and racial discrimination, and social unrest. The numbers of labor migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people are increasing, totaling almost 400 million in 2022. Our time is an age of migration.

Animated by the need for adequate knowledge of international migration and ethnic relations, REMESO was founded in 2008 as a Centre of Excellence with funding from the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE), Linköping University and Norrköping Municipality. REMESO is today a university-wide institute and part of the Department of Culture and Society (IKOS). Situated at Campus Norrköping, it has about 30 faculty members and PhD students and collaborates with some 20 affiliated researchers. It regularly hosts international scholars and PhD candidates for research stays of various length.

REMESO is a major European hub for ethnic and migration studies. Our faculty attains considerable external project funding and publishes with major journals and leading international university presses. We are one of the few intellectual milieus in Europe that combine transdisciplinary research on migration and ethnicity with a complete range of educational programmes (bachelor, master, doctorate) that prepare new generations of world citizens and professionals to tackle one of the most urgent challenges of our time in responsible and sustainable ways.

What is REMESO?
- Institute for research on migration, ethnicity, and society
- Transdisciplinary research projects
- Doctoral programme
- International graduate school in migration and integration
- International master’s programme with global recruitment
- Bachelor’s programme in Social and Cultural Analysis
- Weekly and bi-weekly research seminars and workshops
- Public lectures and discussions
- Visiting guest researchers, PhD students, artists and writers
- Cooperation with social movements, migrant organizations, public agencies, and cultural institutions
- Collaboration with colleagues and institutions across the world
- Commentary and analysis in press and media
- Exhibitions

REMESO has a commitment to critical research, transformative education, and socially useful collaboration on issues, ideas, and migratory movements that define the future.
Areas of Research

REMESO’s research perspective synthesizes economic, ecological, technological, social, and cultural dynamics to understand social discrimination, migration, social justice, and social inclusion. We seek to explain how migration and displacement are caused by forces and events such as socioeconomic inequalities, precarious livelihoods, unfair labor conditions, climate change, and armed conflict. We examine how migration processes are met and managed by local, national, international, and geopolitical regimes of inclusion and exclusion. More specifically, this entails the study of our contemporary landscape of borders and border practices: an infrastructure of political regulations, economic policies, government agencies, and legal instruments, in addition to medical and digitized systems for surveillance, screening, admission, and exclusion. This landscape, our research examines the precarization of work and citizenship, the role of race and ethnicity in healthcare, schools, and urban segregation, and the effects of climate change, wars, and eroding state sovereignty on refugee movement and consequent transformations of the global, European and national asylum system. Equally important, we study how borders are transformed by the strategies and knowhow of migrants who seek inclusion by way of residency and citizenship, labor-market integration, education, language acquisition, housing, healthcare, and access to welfare and rights.

REMESO investigates how regulation of migration are intertwined with discourses of difference and structures of discrimination related to stratifications and identities of nation, race, class, gender, and sexuality. We examine the colonial and imperial legacies that underlie such structures. We analyze the rise of rightwing populism and racism, and explore how everyday ideas, media discourses, cultural expressions, and the arts relate to ethnicity and nationalism, including the ways in which digital infrastructures and media shape our imagination of national and cultural boundaries.

REMESO also emphasizes that research should embrace multiple perspectives and experiences, not least those of migrants and racialized groups. In many of our projects, we study the voices, agency and practices of migrant organizations and social movements, including their struggles for recognition, redistribution, and rights, as well as the artistic and aesthetic expressions of such struggles.

Research Concept

Migration and ethnicity require a transdisciplinary outlook and unorthodox methodological approaches. This recognition underlies our common theoretical platform: a dual critical commitment. On the one hand, our activities are characterized by a materialist, historicizing, sociological approach, where ethnicity and migration are studied in relation to ongoing transformations of the economy. On the other hand, we adopt a critical approach to textual objects, ideologies, and discourses, according to which ethnicity and migration are entities that demand sustained interpretation and conceptual clarification, or what may be called a ‘hermeneutics of suspicion’. This approach emphasizes how texts, in the broadest sense (language, symbol, document, archival object, speech, image, sound), serve to create and recreate society and human subjects.

This theoretical platform accommodates a broad multiplicity of methods, from quantitative sociology and economics to aesthetic analysis and history. The idea is not that each individual scholar should embrace the same set of theoretical and methodological approaches, but that the dual commitment creates a ground for critical dialogue. Research and teaching that connect the two perspectives can surpass the limitations inherent in academic disciplines and specialized methodological and theoretical traditions.

Visit liu.se/remeso to see ongoing and recently concluded research projects.

REMESO has become a leading centre for research on migration and ethnicity, with a growing reputation for the quality of its research both in the Nordic context, and more broadly in Europe and internationally.”

FORTE Centres of Excellence Evaluation, 2018
Research Collaboration – National and International

REMESO is a hub for research on ethnicity and migration at Linköping University, for other Swedish universities, and internationally. We are an active member of IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network), which organises Europe’s principal environments in migration research, and we benefit from several other partnerships and exchange agreements.

Examples of Our Research Projects

A sample of externally funded projects in process 2023 (with participating REMESO researcher/s and funding agency).

- “Läuft Afrika der EWG davon?” The Role of European Integration in the Colonization and Decolonization of Africa during the late 1950s and early 1960s (Peo Hansen, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond)
- Mobility Does Not End at the Border: Logistics of Refugee Reception in Sweden and Germany (Karin Krifors. Swedish Research Council)
- Democracy and the Politics of Exclusion in the European Union: Lessons from Southern Europe (Karin Krifors. Formas)
- Unpacking the Logistics Town: How Local Communities are Reshaped in the Wake of Amazon’s European Warehouse Expansion (Karin Krifors. Formas)
- The Social Life of XG: Digital Infrastructures and the Reconfiguration of Sovereignty and Imagined Communities (Stefan Jonsson, Mauricio Rogat, Karin Krifors. Forte/CHANSE)

Publication Highlights 2007–2023

REMESO scholars and PhD students publish many articles and books. Below is a small sample of all the publications that have contributed to our academic and intellectual profile over the years.

2007

2008
Hansen, P. EU:s migrationspolitik under 50 år: Ett integrerat perspektiv på en motsägelsefull utveckling. Studentlitteratur.

2009

2010
Slavnic, Z. “Political Economy of Informalisation.” European Societies.

2011
Gruber, S. “In the name of action against ‘honour-related’ violence: National nations, gender, and boundaries in the Swedish school’s ambitions to combat violence and oppression.” Nordic Journal of Migration Research.


2015


2016


2017


2018


2019


Bredström, A. “Culture and Context in Mental Health Diagnosing: Scrutinizing the DSM-5 Revision.” Journal of Medical Humanities.


2020


Tareiter, C. “Emotions, borders and the role of visual culture in refugee arrivals.” Critical Criminology.

2021


Bahram, H. “Towards a Stateless Standpoint Epistemology” The Statelessness and Citizenship Review.


2023


Ådahl, A. Inside the postdigital crowds: The aesthetics and politics of the mediation and governing of digitised crowds. Diss. Royal College of Art, London.

For a comprehensive list of publications: tinyurl.com/REME50pub
REMESCO doctoral dissertations

New research directions are often staked out by young researchers whose work identify emerging empirical areas and issues, just as they adopt and develop new theoretical and conceptual approaches. Listed below are the 25 doctoral and licentiate theses that have been completed since 2007, and the ones that are in process.


Puskás, Tünde (2009) ’We belong to them: Narratives of belonging, homeland and nationhood in territorial and non territorial minority settings.’ P.I.E. Peter Lang.


Rudeina Mkdad.


PhD dissertations in process – with preliminary titles

HAQQI BAHRAM. Between Statelessness and Refugeehood: Kurds from Syria and the Question of Citizenship.

NICOLINE EWARDS ÖBERG. Home making in times of changing migration regimes

ASHER GOLSTEIN. Indifference to Extraction

MAVIS HOOI. Informal learning. Social media activism. Intersectional antiracism

KELLI ORTEGA SOTO. Cultures of Resistance: rejections of migrants and authorities in the shadow of the corona pandemic in Sweden

KENNA SIM. Movement is Foundation: Cultures of Resistance in the Context of Climate Mobilities

JULIA WILLÉN. Navigating ‘Respectability’: The Relationship to the Family Center in Sweden for ‘Racialized Parents’ from Muslim-Majority Countries

Rudeina Mkdad.

Licentiate dissertations

Education

**PhD programme in Ethnic and Migration Studies**

The PhD programme at REMESO gives doctoral students insight into central dimensions of Swedish and international research on ethnicity, migration and society. The courses are distinctly interdisciplinary and usually offered in English. Course work and thesis writing are thoroughly integrated throughout the programme. PhD students are offered to teach at undergraduate level and complete training in pedagogics, to help prepare for their academic career. The PhD programme is connected to our International Graduate School, which offers students a range of mandatory or elective courses. The PhD programme is coordinated by REMESO’s Collegium of Supervisors.

On average REMESO recruits 1–2 new PhD students per year and has a cohort of 5–10 active students. Because PhD students enjoy the benefit of full-time employment, recruitment to the programme depends on available funding. We can not accept applications other than those that respond to issued calls for applications. These calls are announced at the university web pages.

**International Graduate School**

Our Graduate School in Migration and Integration is jointly run by REMESO and the University of Gothenburg’s Department of Sociology and Centre on Global Migration. The school is financed by a grant from the Swedish Research Council and provides Swedish and international PhD students with the opportunity to participate in advanced teaching and research training in the areas of migration and integration. Since these research fields suffer from weak representation within PhD education, the school serves as a national and international hub for PhD teaching, research-training and networking, with participation of students from Sweden and across the world. The partnership with the University of Gothenburg ascertains that students benefit from a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches and enables us to offer both comprehensive and specialized courses. The comprehensive courses cover main theoretical, methodological and empirical approaches while our specialized courses focus on key themes such as climate change, the labour market, welfare policy, housing segregation, political economy, citizenship and globalization. Our partnership thus allows for a dynamic curriculum that is responsive to both crucial issues and student demand.

**Courses offered by the International Graduate School**

- Theories and Politics of International Migration
- Theories of Ethnicity, Nationalism and Racism: Historical and Contemporary Debates
- Migration and Intersectional Perspectives
- Mixed Methods in Ethnic and Migration Research
- Citizenship, Civil Society, and the Welfare State
- Migration and International Law
- Climate Change and Migration
- Labour Market Integration, Decent Work and Sustainable Working Life
- Housing Segregation and the Challenge of Building Sustainable Migration Policies
- The Political Economy of Migration and Integration

Scan the QR code to read more about the PhD programme.

Scan the QR code to read more about the international graduate school.
Master in Ethnic and Migration Studies

The Master in Ethnic and Migration Studies is a two-year campus-based programme taught in English. Each autumn semester it welcomes between 30 and 45 new students from around the world. More than 70 nationalities are represented in our global classroom and among alumni. EMS relates ethnicity and migration to global economic and cultural change, as well as to systems of domination and movements of resistance. Students learn to analyze the causes of migration, as well as its consequences for emerging formations of race, gender, labor, citizenship, health care, welfare and culture.

The programme trains students to understand and explain migration and ethnic relations at international, national and local levels. Graduates of the programme are prepared for professional careers in administration, communication, business, government, public life, media and the cultural sector, or other sectors and institutions that demand expertise in ethnicity and migration. The programme also equips its graduates to actively contribute with their acquired knowledge and skills to the analysis and debate on ethnicity and migration in a wide range of areas from culture, media and the arts to politics, business and administration. The EMS programme also offers a foundation for further postgraduate studies in the humanities and social sciences.

The programme is characterized by its effort to integrate the humanities and the social sciences. EMS provides a curriculum that enables a comprehensive grasp of ethnic and migration studies and offers opportunities for specialization through elective courses, internships and studies abroad. The EMS is a founding partner of the EuMIGS network, consisting of programmes that offer student exchange and a European master's double degree in migration studies.

Bachelor in Social and Cultural Analysis
Kandidatprogram i samhälls- och kulturanalys

One of the first educational programmes to be initiated at Campus Norrköping, the programme in Social and Cultural Analysis (SKA), is an interdisciplinary undergraduate education taught mainly in Swedish with some English courses. Students gain insights into historical conditions, learn to analyze contemporary societal conditions and acquire tools to work with change for the future. They study democratization, globalization, migration, racism, ethnic differences, class and gender from different theoretical perspectives and thus gain tools to analyze working life, welfare, integration, urban planning, and the emergence of different forms of society. The importance of economic and social conditions, as well as norms and values help students understand modern society and its changes.

Students experience an intimate intellectual environment in which committed teachers encourage and support analytical independence and writing skills. SKA alumni can be found in many different sectors, spanning from project leaders in private industries to case managers in municipal organisations or qualified administrators in NGOs. Many students have also continued to build successful academic careers.

SKA is a three-year programme (180 credits) of full-time studies. It accepts between 45 and 60 students each year.

Freestanding courses and commissioned courses

Many of REMESO’s courses at master’s and bachelor’s level are also offered as freestanding courses open to non-programme students. We occasionally develop basic orientation courses (7.5 credits) on topical issues in Ethnic and Migration Studies, such as nationalism, integration, racism, and diversity. We also tailor courses on migration, ethnicity, integration and diversity for specific professions and stakeholders. Organizations that have commissioned courses include the Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) and the Church of Sweden (Svenska kyrkan).

REMESO’s doctoral courses, offered by our international graduate school, are open to all PhD students in the humanities and social sciences and often also to eligible advanced students at master’s level.
Cooperation and Outreach

REMESO cooperates with civil society organisations, social movements, cultural institutions, businesses, and authorities on local, national and transnational levels. These cooperations involve education and knowledge exchange as well as project development and evaluation.

Engaging with our overall activities or specific projects, our partners include the Swedish Migration Board, Regional Board Östergötland, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare, Swedish National Agency for Education, Public Health Agency of Sweden, Swedish Employment Agency, Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, Global Challenge, PGA – Peoples’ Global Action for Migration, UN High Level Political Forum on Migration, UNESCO Council’s Social Science Program MOST, Ericsson, Tensta Art Center, Nörköping Art Museum and various Swedish Municipalities.

By collaborating in research, education, and dissemination, REMESO has built a network of affiliated researchers and experts. Our affiliated researchers are based at other institutes or universities and temporarily engage in our activities. These networks connect us to ongoing outreach activities involving think tanks, popular publications, podcasts and public events.

Exchanges with visual artists, writers and public intellectuals will continuously be a strong interest and commitment for the Institute. This is marked by the 2022 approval of a grant from the Swedish Research Council, “Communication alliance in the field of Migration and Integration: New forms of knowledge circulation for public education and societal dialogue”. Within this program REMESO will host artists, writers, and journalists in order to enhance knowledge circulation in the field of migration and integration and thus increase the wider societal knowledge on these issues.

On Campus Nörköping REMESO runs since 2017 an exhibition space – LOBBY – in which contemporary artists are invited to address and confront issues linked to our research. Exhibitions that reformulate, challenge and translate issues of ethnicity and migration are aimed at other researchers, students as well as the general public.

The Nordic Migration Research Conference 2018 was organized by REMESO on the topic of New (Im)mobilities.

Follow REMESO on social media
facebook.com/remeso
twitter.com/LRemeso
ANNA ÅDAHL  Postdoc

ALEKSANDRA ÅLUND  Professor emerita

EBIK BERGGREN  Lecturer
Political theory. Art and critique. Right-wing populism and fascism.

ANNA BREDSTRÖM  Associate professor and Docent
Medical sociology. Feminist intersectionality theory. Biometrics and border technologies.

POURAN DJAMPOUR  Postdoc

KARIN KRIIFORS  Associate professor

BRANKA LIKIC-BRBORIC  Senior associate professor
Global migration governance and sustainability. Comparative studies of inclusion and citizenship. Post-socialist transformations and EU enlargement.

CATRIN LUNDSTRÖM  Senior associate professor
Migration. Whiteness. Gender.

ANDERS NEERGAARD  Professor

OLAV NYGÅRD  Associate professor
Social stratification. Education. Integration.

MAURICIO ROGAT  Postdoc
Anthropology of migration and mobility. Housing. Logistics and infrastructure.

CARL-ULRIK SCHIERUP  Professor emeritus
Ethnicity, nationalism and race. Political economy of migration and citizenship. Precarity, governance and social transformation.

ZORAN SLAVNIC  Professor
Informal economy. Political economy of international migrations. Data epistemologies and interpretive ethics.

CLAUDIA TAZREITER  Professor
Forced migration and social change. Memory studies and belonging. Visual cultures and methodologies.

XOLANI TSHABALALA  Postdoc

JULIA WILLÉN  Lecturer
Postcolonial history and memory. Intellectual history from the South.

PhD students
HAQQI BAHRAM
NICOLINA EWARDS ÖBERG
ASHER GOLSTEIN
MAVIS HOOI
LISA KARLSSON BLOM
RUDEINA MKDAD
CELINA ORTEGA SOTO
KENNA SIM
JULIA WILLÉN

Administration and study advisors
GUNILLA BYGGED  Administrator
EVA REINHOLM  Coordinator
FRIDA LOG  Coordinator
JONAS JOHANSSON  Study Advisor
ANNA MARTIN  Study Advisor

Organization and leadership
Head of Division: Stefan Jonsson
Research Director: Anders Neergaard
Deputy Research Director: Claudia Tazreiter
Director of PhD program and Graduate School: Peo Hansen
Program Director: MA program in Ethnic and Migration Studies: Claudia Tazreiter
Program Director: Fil kand. Samhälls- och kulturanalys: Karin Krifors
Director of Studies (undergraduate level): Olav Nygård

BOARD
A forum for strategic discussion to develop REMESO as a research environment.

President
LISA PELLING  Political scientist, director of Arena Idé

Members
MATTIAS GARDELL  Professor, Uppsala University
ANNA LUNDBERG  Professor, Linköping University
LAWEN MOHTADI  Publisher, author, journalist
KITIMPWA SABUNI  Organisational developer, Stockholm County Administrative Board
ADRIENNE SÖRBOM  Professor, Södertörn University
PED WIRTÉN  Writer, critic and political commentator

DOCTORAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
BRIDGET ANDERSON  Professor, University of Bristol, UK
GURMINDER K BHAMBRA  Professor, University of Sussex, UK
MANUELA BOJADŽIJEV  Professor, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany
EDUARDO BONILLA-SILVA  Professor, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA
THOMAS FAIST  Professor, Bielefeld University, Germany
ANNA TRIANDAFYLLIDOU  Professor, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

Visit liu.se/remeso if you want to know more about our staff and organization.