



THEMATIC WORKSHOP CULTURE, NARRATIVES AND HUMAN MOBILITY

MUSÉE NATIONAL DE L'HISTOIRE DE L'IMMIGRATION - NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION HISTORY (MNHI),
PALAIS DE LA PORTE DOREE, 293 AVENUE DAUMESNIL, 75012 PARIS
27 JUNE 2023 - 08:30-18:00 (THEMATIC PANELS)
FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTION, DINNER AND CONCERT 18:00-22:00

CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

27 JUNE 2023

BACKGROUND

The GFMD has been focusing on the theme of public narratives on migration as well as the socio-economic contributions of diasporas over the years. The French Chairmanship aims to further pursue and enrich the dialogue on these important thematic areas by adding an innovative angle through the lens of culture.

The **Culture, Narratives and Human Mobility** event will be a unique opportunity to broaden the focus of discussions by addressing the cultural contributions of migration and diasporas for the development of origin, transit and destination countries. To introduce the cultural dimension of migration to the GFMD agenda, the French Chair is organizing an event in an emblematic space, the National Museum of the History of Immigration (MNHI) in Paris, in partnership with a broad range of specialists in the field.

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide a cultural dimension to the GFMD discussions.
2. Enhance reflections initiated within the GFMD Roundtables 1 on *'The impact of climate change on human mobility'* 3 on *«Diasporas: actors of the economic, social and cultural development of regions»* and 5 on *«Improving the perception of migration in public opinion: narratives, culture, emotion and rational discourse»*, and through the Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration, engaging a variety of actors.
3. Bring to the fore of the GFMD art works and other cultural creations that enrich the dialogue on migration and development.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- To promote a better understanding of human mobility as a diverse and broad-ranging phenomenon to build and nurture a balanced, fair and informative public discourse on displacement, migration and development.
- To define new dialogue spaces for climate, migration and development policy makers, diasporas and cultural actors.
- To start a reflection on the role of culture as a crucial factor in migration, development and international relations.

FORMAT OF THE EVENT

This event is organized within the framework of the French Chairmanship of the GFMD and is open to all GFMD stakeholders and observers, including Member States, local and regional governments, civil society, the private sector, youth, international organizations, as well as other institutional partners.

Three panels will be followed by a visit to the Museum collection, dinner and a concert. The event will be hybrid allowing streaming of the opening session, panels and written questions for remote participants during the Q&A sessions. Interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish. Capacity for in-person attendance is limited to 170 participants.

ORGANIZATION

Workshop sessions. The event will be structured around three thematic panels:

THEMATIC PANEL 1: *Narratives and public perceptions on displacement and migration: How to build and nurture a balanced, fair and informative public discourse including with respect to climate change?*

Public narratives on migration and displacement can convey a partial and sometimes biased portrayal of the phenomenon of human mobility. Often driven by immediate reactions to news rather than analysis, migration narratives tend to mask the reality of an evolving and multidimensional phenomenon, which contributes to cultural, scientific, social, economic and human development. The narrative on the impact of climate change on human mobility is also an emerging area in public discourse that deserves attention and requires to be better informed by existing data and analysis. This panel aims to discuss ways to promote a more balanced public discourse on migration and the centering of migrant and refugee voices within this work, with the broader prospect of putting the cultural dimension of migration on the global agenda.

THEMATIC PANEL 2: *Diasporas as actors of cultural, economic and social change: how do diasporas contribute to innovation and human development?*

Often referred to with respect to the weight of economic remittances, diasporas influence the countries they leave, cross, join and often return to through their lived experiences, ideas, talent, skills and creativity. Diaspora groups are diverse and multifaceted, they are often highly entrepreneurial and make a substantive contribution to the culture and creative sectors both at home and in the countries where they live. This panel will discuss the contribution of diasporas as cultural and economic bridges and as key contributors to social, cultural and economic development.

THEMATIC PANEL 3: *Migrations, culture and creations: How does human mobility contribute to cultural and artistic development?*

The program for this panel is coordinated by the Museum and Samuel Nja Kwa, journalist, author and cultural adviser.

The aim of this panel is to explore artistic expressions that focus on migration and showcase creative and cultural experiences inscribed in contemporary artistic productions by artists «in circulation». The objective is to provide artists and cultural actors with an opportunity to engage the GFMD audience in discussions on the relevance and impact of human mobility on cultural works and arts creation and highlight more broadly linkages between culture, arts, migration and development in countries of origin and destination that are often not featuring in public discourse and policy circles.

CULTURAL COMPONENT

A **cultural itinerary** will feature the contributions of migration to society in countries of origin and destination through art, culture and history: a visit to the new permanent exhibition of the museum will follow the panels, and a concert will close the event. A special edition of the Museum's publication will be distributed to the participants, featuring a compilation of articles on the relationship between culture, narratives and human mobility.

PARTICIPANTS

This event aims to gather **170 participants** engaged in migration and development as well as on cultural issues, including artists and multi-disciplinary experts in related areas. The event will aim to strengthen synergies among actors, foster partnerships and the implementation of concrete actions. In accordance with the GFMD's spirit of inclusiveness, the GFMD Chair France will endeavour to give voice to a wide range of stakeholders: Representatives from national, local and regional governments, civil society, private sector and youth; migrant artists and representatives of diaspora organizations; experts and professionals from a variety of fields, to address in a transversal way the links between culture, migration and development, including journalists, international cooperation practitioners, actors from the cultural and artistic world, and researchers.