



# Mobility, Migration, Multilingualism: Shaping European Identities and Languages in Past and Present

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EPICUR, *the European Partnership for an Innovative Campus Unifying Regions*, is a first-generation European University Alliance, dedicated to shaping European Society in Transition through the development of collaborative **inter- and transdisciplinary** teaching, and learning. With support of Horizon 2020, EPICUR establishes a complementary research and innovation agenda. EPICUR aims to connect **Early Career Researchers (ECRs)** in new European networks. With the help of several open fora – the so-called EPICamps - EPICUR seeks to foster the formation of research groups across disciplines and national borders, who address one of three societal (EPI-) challenges: **sustainability, mobility/migration/identity, public health**. Under the umbrella of these EPIChallenges, EPICUR will organize six EPICamps throughout 2021/22, each narrowing in on different aspects of these broad themes and inviting a diverse round of researchers and societal partners to exchange ideas. Following the EPICamps, researchers in collaboration with external partners, will have an opportunity to apply for grants to augment their emerging research networks (the EPICradles) and transform research ideas into EPIClusters: collaborative, challenge-based research projects run by ECRs.

## Shaping European Identities and Languages in Past and Present

Mobility, migration, and multilingualism have shaped and challenged European societies for centuries; from **the Middle Ages to contemporary times**, movements of diverse population groups have changed the production and communication of knowledge and impacted linguistic, social, cultural as well as economic and political systems. The first EPICamp of 2021 will take place under the umbrella of the EPIChallenge “*Mobility, Migration, Identity*”, bringing together scholars from a broad spectrum of disciplines and fields so as to invite multiple perspectives on these topics.

From the impact of exploration and expansion by early elites to the many forms of voluntary as well as forced migration throughout the past centuries, Europe’s peoples have shaped and been shaped by the interactions with global forces as much as by inner-European movements. Many issues that affect our European societies today mirror developments, which have recurred throughout Europe’s long and complex history, creating linguistic and socio-cultural (e.g. ethnic, religious) plurality. This in turn engendered manifold forms of governing institutions and economic systems to address and steer such plurality. Trends and attitudes towards migration, mobility, and multilingualism observed today can be traced back to the past, which in turn foreshadowed the present. We invite scholars hailing from medieval studies to modern linguistic research, the social sciences and humanities to engage in lively conversations between and across disciplines with the aim of identifying the most fruitful areas for **innovative collaborative research**.

The EPICamp will offer thematic subsections within, between, and across a broad range of disciplines, including (but not limited to) medieval studies, linguistics, history, sociology, cultural studies, philosophy, and law:

- Subsection: Movement, Diversity, Language
- Subsection: Migration, Language, Identity
- Subsection: Knowledge in Motion
- Subsection: Language Acquisition and Development
- Subsection: Migration, Multilingualism, Educational Systems
- Subsection: Multilingualism, Emotions, Identity

Suggested topics to be covered within each subsection are provided below. We welcome additional topics and encourage submissions which are explicitly inter- and/or transdisciplinary in nature:

### Subsection: Movement, Diversity, Language

- Race before Race: Attitudes towards migrants and migration in pre-modern literature, politics, society
- Linguistic mechanisms of exclusion, xenophobia, and racism
- Evolving attitudes towards bi/multilingualism
- Major, minor, and minority languages and cultures in multilingual environments
- Lingua Francas from the Middle Ages to today

**Subsection: Migration, Language, Identity**

- Elite interconfessional/interreligious relations and legal aspects
- Foreign elites and new laws imposed by them
- Multilingualism of elites and other socio-economic professional, religious and cultural groups
- Migrant elites and indigenous populations
- Intellectual elites and their interactions with local populations

**Subsection: Knowledge in Motion**

- Scholarly mobility, knowledge, and transmission of culture
- Strategies of Social Mobility: Elites and social stratification
- From Dynasties to Democracies: Administrative elites and administrative knowledge
- Building and Dismantling Institutions: Transfer of elites and their knowledge

**Subsection: Language Acquisition and Development**

- Language awareness
- Second and third language acquisition
- Child bilingualism
- Heritage language acquisition
- Language policy in bilingual families
- Bi- and multilingual language processing

**Subsection: Migration, Multilingualism, Educational Systems**

- History of education and re-education
- Language policies on multilingualism
- Minority groups in educational systems
- Teaching multilingualism / Multilingual schooling
- Tertiary language education
- Economics of multilingualism

**Subsection: Multilingualism, Emotions, Identity**

- Multilingualism and cognition
- The psychology of decision making in a foreign language
- On the interplay between language nativeness and emotion processing
- Translating and interpreting emotions in diachronic perspective
- (Foreign) language and identity construction
- Minority language and identity preservation

**EPICamps – New Collaborative Formats**

As societies struggle to address and govern increasingly complex challenges which defy the bounds of modern states, governmental institutions, such as the European Union, turn to research communities to provide answers. According to the European Commission (EC) and its funding schemes, this requires a new – larger and more intensive – collaboration between researchers across Europe and in all research fields. With its support of European University Initiatives, the EC thus seeks to contribute to the establishment of research collaborations reflecting the diversity of Europe.

Expanding the concepts of traditional scientific conferences and workshops, **EPICamps will be open gatherings engendering new partnerships and serving as seedbeds for research ideas beyond the scopes of single disciplines or fields.** They will feature various formats, ranging from short presentations and panel discussions to academic matchmaking events and interactive ad-hoc discussion rounds, from virtual posters and project exhibits to search/offer blackboards. EPICamp will offer emerging scholars the opportunities to present their research, interests, and ideas as well as discover and meet with peers who complement and expand their work. To foster manifold exchanges, the EPICamps – in addition to thematic sessions – will also give room to researchers and non-university partners to connect over questions of methodology, tools, ethical queries and data management, didactics, science communication and other aspects of academic pursuits.

## Submissions and Participation

EPICUR invites scholars, NGOs including public institutions, institutes, social organizations, funding agencies, infrastructure providers (such as archives, libraries, museums etc.), businesses etc. to come together and share their insights, concerns, needs and vision for the future. There are **three options for participation in the EPICamp**:

- 1) **Participation with Thematic Contribution:** you may submit a proposal for one of the following potential formats. As EPICamps are non-traditional gatherings, so are potential submissions. We invite prospective participants to apply with innovative and creative formats as well as submissions that are more traditional in format but aim for inter- and/or transdisciplinary exchange. Applicants may choose one of the following proposed formats or add their own:
  - Panel Discussions: full panels with 50/50 early career / senior researchers may be submitted as well as open panels, which will be filled on the go
  - Posters introducing current research as well as research ideas
  - Short-Thesis Presentations (5min) this is primarily aimed at late-stage PhD researchers or recent graduates who wish to continue their research in the coming years
  - Open Discussion Groups / Special Target Discussion Groups: please submit your topic/theme along with at least three discussion questions, indicating your intended target group (disciplines; career stages etc.)
  - Workshops & Skill Presentations: please submit a short paragraph outlining the particular topic/method/skill you wish to address in a mini-workshop
  - Data sessions for scholars working within a Digital Humanities framework
  - Interventions
- 2) **Participation with Organizational Contribution:** you offer to moderate a format (open discussion), facilitate group interactions, or report on sessions in which you participated. Applicants will receive their assignments and guidelines from the organizing team.
- 3) **Participation as an active attendee / Registration:** you simply join the EPICamp as a participant actively listening and contributing to the discussions and networking activities.

**ALL applications**, regardless of the manner of participation, have to be submitted through this **form** [<https://forms.office.com/r/GkkzDkFixB>]. We highly encourage to fill out all relevant sections with care, as matchmaking and networking events will be based on these responses.

**Applications must be submitted by September 15th for due consideration, with the exception of the third option registration, which will be considered until October 5, 2021.**

You can contact the EPICUR organizing team ([epicur-research@mail.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:epicur-research@mail.uni-freiburg.de)) for all questions.

### Disclaimer: Equity – Diversity - Inclusion

EPICUR is an alliance dedicated to the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion and aims to provide a space that is welcoming and encouraging to all scholars, particularly those, which have been traditionally underrepresented in academic environments. We, therefore, welcome all suggestions and ideas that help us make this event as inclusive and useful to the EPICUREan community of researchers as possible, with special regard paid to the need of early career researchers. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at any point before, during or after the EPICamp.