Content

International migration has intensified and become more complex within the current globalized setting in which skilled migration has become a dominant component. The migration and mobility of scientists, engineers, and students have been increasingly seen as possessing the potential to provide benefits to the developing countries of origin, offering new dimensions for scientific cooperation based on the connectivity of diasporas through digital networks and other forms of engagements that promote knowledge circulation. Technological progress is changing the dynamics of skilled mobility and diaspora engagements. The new technologies that have altered the methods for the production, use, and transmission of information have made it possible for skilled migrants and scientific diasporas to participate intensively in transnational scientific and academic spaces, and to influence their home countries from a distance.

The challenge now is to understand the changes in the enactment of skilled migrants caused by these technologies and their effects. However, we also need to observe how these technologies can be used to trace and study skilled migrants and scientific diasporas, as well as their transnational practices and return to their home countries. The study of these new dynamics using digital data and information technologies will help reveal the trajectories, scientific performance, and collaborations of researchers and students from the global South within the current knowledge economy.

Objectives

We are organizing a one-day workshop on “Highly-skilled Migration, Diasporas and Digital Technologies” with the participation of selected specialists and young scientists. The theme will focus on recent research related to the interconnection of three areas:

1. highly-skilled migration and scientific mobility
2. diaspora-driven development
3. technology-based scientific communities

Our objective is to create an interdisciplinary platform to discuss and exchange knowledge and experiences on the latest research questions and findings related to the mobility trajectories and the participation of skilled migrants from developing countries of origin who are working or studying in European countries of destination within transnational knowledge networks. We will discuss the extent to which information technologies are changing the dynamics of skilled migration and diaspora engagements, and we will look at how they are generating new knowledge circulation opportunities that can benefit the countries of origin. We will also discuss some computer applications that are being used to examine the mobility trajectories, actions, and networks of skilled migrants in transnational scientific spaces.
**Organisation and participation**

The workshop will be co-organised by the Cooperation and Development Center (CODEV) at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), the Laboratory of Digital Cultures and Humanities (LaDHUL) of the University of Lausanne (UNIL), and the IDIAP Research Institute.

The expectations are for 15 to 20 persons from various scientific disciplines and backgrounds to participate in the workshop, and most of these people will be from Switzerland. We will be presenting a number of revealing empirical studies on particular case-study countries.

**Expected output**

This workshop is conceived as an initial step towards the preparation of a publication aimed at reviewing the current situation and advancing the academic discussion on the participation of skilled migrants and scientific diasporas from developing countries in transnational knowledge networks, changes to their dynamics caused by new information technologies and computer applications, and their return to their countries of origin.

More specifically, we are planning a special edition of the *Revue d'Anthropologie des Connaissances* ([http://www.socanco.org/](http://www.socanco.org/)) with contributions from workshop participants.

Workshop conveners:

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