

Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP), 2024-2025

JOHANNES GUTENBERG
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ



TITLE: INVISIBILITIES AND VISUALITIES OF MIGRATION Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)/Summer School in Mainz September 8th-12th, 2025

Description

The FORTHEM-lab “Diversity and Migration” in Mainz is organizing a multidisciplinary Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)/ Summer School on the topic of **Invisibilities and Visualities of Migration**. We take the current paradigmatic shift of decentering migration studies as a starting point to critically engage with existing methods and approaches, and to question how we conceptualize “the migrant”, “mobility”, “vulnerability” and other common terminologies in the context of European migration- and borderscapes.

The visual turn has brought attention to the visibilities, yet invisibilities and visualities of migration and migrants. We would like to invite for research contributions but also for creative formats, such as photography, audio-visual formats, film, music, maps and other artistic formats, to explore, understand and learn from and with migrants in their living worlds, engaging with presence and absence of possibilities, people, and resources. This way, we seek to encourage debates that enquire current media depictions of migrants and migration and immerse into the consequences of mediated discourses and strategies. Drawing on these interventions, we will also leave the academic sphere to encounter activists, art-makers and engaged people from NGOs and civil-society actors working with and for migrants in the Rhine-Main-region (Mainz, Frankfurt, Wiesbaden) in Germany.

Target group

The proposed topic is deeply rooted within the aims and actions of the Forthem Alliance's Diversity and Migration Lab, trying to be an operational tool with respect to these objectives. For this reason, the program is mainly, but not exclusively, addressing European students at Forthem universities. The approach of this BIP is highly transdisciplinary, therefore inviting many different perspectives from social sciences and humanities – such as human geography, sociology, anthropology, psychology, philosophy, law, media studies, political science, urban planning, architecture, migration and diaspora studies, critical race studies, environmental humanities and many more.

Programme

The programme has a two-fold structure: We will have a 1-day **virtual training** for preparation between **September 1st and 3rd, 2025**, followed by a **summer school** that will take place in Mainz from **September 8th to 12th, 2025**.

The summer school will have a strong collaborative character to experience different voices, perspectives, methods, and ideas for activists, civil-society actors and creative research. Artistic or creative outputs and portfolios are explicitly welcome.

Some featured subtopics for the summer school will be:

Topic 1: Ethics and techniques of visuality

Topic 2: Current theories for migration to Europe

Topic 3: Political subjectivation, empowerment of migrants

Topic 4: Multivocalities and audiovisual methods

Topic 5: Opportunities and risks of invisibilities and visualities

Topic 6: Media activism: counternarratives and strategies

Topic 7: The depiction of “otherness”: Historical colonialities in audiovisual media

Organisation

The summer school will welcome around **20-25 students** (advanced undergraduates, Master students, and PhD candidates) from European universities and beyond, interested in the complexities of knowledge production and transfer, as well as the representation of activities and studies in the field of migration. In particular, the summer school will welcome incoming students enrolled in the fields of social sciences and humanities.

Application

Students will be selected on the basis of their **CVs** and **motivational letters** (1 page) and will be assessed on the basis of their participation, assigned tasks and a final project related to one of the seminar topics. At the end of the programme, participants will receive a **certificate of attendance** and the recognition of **3 ECTS**.

If you are interested to participate, please submit a **short bio (1 page)** and a **motivational letter (1 page)**, highlighting your interests in your studies and your expectations of the summer school) by **February 28th** in digital format to:

Veronika Cummings (cummings@geo.uni-mainz.de) and Paul Hummel (paul.hummel@uni-mainz.de).

Lecturers and students will be able to participate with their university's **Erasmus+ 2021-2027 funds**. Please contact the Forthem lab diversity and migration coordinators at your university or your international office/ Erasmus office directly for the application for the funding.