



University of Trento, Department of Sociology and Social Research

Summer School in Ethnography – 8<sup>th</sup> edition

## The Mobile and The Immobile

5-8 September 2022



Alexander Calder, *mobile* (© Calder Foundation, New York)

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Under the heading *The Mobile and The Immobile*, the 2022 edition of our Ethnography summer school (first launched ten years ago, in 2012) invites scholars to investigate mobility from the perspective of the practices, affections, and imaginations that breed it or, contrarily, deny it. Our broader aim is to ask what lies at the bottom of our relation to space and place in complex social situations, always shaped as they are by legal, economic, political and cultural arrangements and entanglements.

The migrant and the nomad, in their diversity, represent two key figures of the present. Forced migrants and refugees have been for more than two decades now, not only the test of European democracies – a test at which they have scored poorly, to be true – but also a crucial driver of social transformations in resident populations well beyond their direct exposure to such subjects. What seems to be more deeply at stake is, indeed, the reshaping of the global imagination of local space. Besides the glaring examples of mobility offered by



migrants and refugees, more opaque and controversial forms, we believe, must likewise be addressed, among which rests the figure of ‘the nomad’. Whereas traditional nomads may not be numerically relevant in Western societies, it may nonetheless be the case that ‘nomadising’ touches upon something that is pivotal to contemporary social life. The nomad plugs into a territorial imagination that is completely different from the modernist one, and becomes all the more compelling – sometimes even terrifying – in our historical juncture.

We believe that theoretically-informed ethnographic research offers a distinctive and unique way to approach these issues in the most fruitful way. The Trento Summer School has all along its history provided a forum for informal, in-depth reflection into social research methods as well as the underlying questions of social theory. The Summer School provides participants with an inside view on the practice and the skills of ethnographic practice across the social sciences. The School offers a forum where adepts, students, cadets and scholars can familiarise themselves with the status of the discipline, absorbing the tools as well as the ‘tricks of the trade’ directly from long-time practitioners.

The teaching format is grounded in frontal lectures, where cutting-edge research is presented, complemented by interactive workshops, data sessions, and roundtables. Participants have a chance to present their current research projects, so as to receive commentaries and recommendations from the guest professors. Reading materials are circulated well in advance among participants, ensuring that they arrive at the in-person meeting with a shared focus.

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**2022 edn. Convenors:** Andrea Mubi Brighenti and Paolo Boccagni, University of Trento

**2022 Guest Professors:** Les Roberts, University of Liverpool; Inka Stock, University of Bielefeld; Henrik Vigh, University of Copenhagen.

**Registration fee:** Euro 200 [does not cover expenses for travel and accommodation in Trento]

**How to apply:** Please submit a 2-page CV, a short motivation letter, and a 2-to-4-page research proposal to [ethnography.soc@unitn.it](mailto:ethnography.soc@unitn.it) by **20 April**

**More info:** <https://event.unitn.it/ethnography/> ; [ethnography.soc@unitn.it](mailto:ethnography.soc@unitn.it)

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### ***Endorsements***

'A fantastic space for open and thoughtful discussions, new research ideas to flourish, and future collaborations to develop. It is an intellectually dynamic and rich space that also offers colligability and optimal opportunities for refining ideas, crafting projects, and soaking up the vast knowledge from a truly diverse disciplinary group of scholars. It's a fantastic opportunity for Ph.D. students, beginner scholars, and senior researchers to come together. Highly, highly recommended!' ***Cecilia Menjivar*** (*UCLA and ASA 2022 President*)

'One thing about this School of ethnography: they know how to make you feel at home. You'll have a stimulating and enjoyable time.' ***Ghassan Hage*** (*University of Melbourne*)

'A great moment for exchange among scholars coming from diverse disciplinary background, united by their interest in centering 'experience' as the key epistemological angle through which understanding local and translocal processes. A terrific opportunity for PhD scholars, not to be missed'. ***Michele Lancione*** (*Politecnico di Torino*)

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