

GRITIM-UPF Research in Progress Session

Thursday, December 14th 2017

12.00-14.00

Room 24.400

1. Redundancy and the Great Depression in the Metropolitan Region of Barcelona: Philanthropic records as a new source for the study of poverty

Juan Galeano

Center for Demographic Studies- UAB

Abstract

The years following the outbreak of the Great Depression of 2008 in Spain have been marked by a sharp increase in extreme and persistent poverty. This trend has been exacerbated by the retreat of the welfare state and a growing context of uncertainty. While official statistics have partly captured the large increases of poverty risk and persistence, a fuller picture is needed to assess the extent of growing extreme and persistent poverty using the extremely valuable information from the parallel assistance provided by social organizations such as Caritas. In this paper we demonstrate the usefulness of employing longitudinal data from the international charitable foundation Caritas to analyze the risk and duration of being on social assistance before and during the Great Recession in the Metropolitan Region of Barcelona between 2005 and 2013. Additionally, we examine whether the socio-demographic characteristics of individuals who seek help from this charity has changed over time.

2. Decision making in transit: the EU-Turkey deal

Sevda Tunaboynu

GRITIM-UPF

Abstract

This paper focuses on forced migrants who have been stuck in the Greek islands Lesbos and Chios after the infamous EU-Turkey statement. The central questions are how migrants use information and social networks to optimize their decision-making process in transit; how information or absence of information influence migrants decisions; how do states use information against migrants and control movement by using geography and space? The common assumption that forced migrants are fully informed decision-makers is flawed. Despite the developments in communication technologies, migrants still lack access to reliable and correct information. Subsequently, social networks play a role in the spatial searches that forced migrants conduct when trying to reach safety. The research questions are answered in the context of the EU-Turkey deal as a policy tool to control irregular migration. The deal was based on the premise that it would have a deterrent affect on migrants who would otherwise irregularly cross to Europe. However, people interviewed in this research were either not aware of the deal before they cross to Greece, or they were aware but still took their chances despite the risk of detention and deportation.