

The Cultural Evolution of Migration and Diversity

12th Annual Conference on Migration and Diversity

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, 24 September 2026

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|---------------|---|
| 16:30 – 16:40 | Opening statement by Ruud Koopmans |
| 16:40 – 18:00 | 6th WZB Annual Address on Migration and Diversity by
Michael Mutukrishna (New York University / London School of
Economics)
<i>Cultural distance labor penalty in Europe and the paradox of diversity</i> |

Friday, 25 September 2026

9:45 – 10:00

Welcoming remarks

10:00 – 11:30

Panel 1 – Migration and Cultural Variation

Chair: Jonas Wiedner

Adrian Bell (University of Utah)

*Migration's impact on cultural variation, complexity and social identity:
Integrating cultural evolutionary theory with ethnographic fieldwork*

Yağmur Erten (Groningen Institute for Evolutionary Life Sciences)

How do genes and culture evolve under migration?

Peter Richerson (University of California, Davis)

*Cultural diversity and migration: The engine of the great holocene
transformation*

11:40 – 13:10

Panel 2 – Acculturation I

Chair: Tae Kyeong Meixner-Yun

Irene Pañeda-Fernández (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)

*The cultural transmission of (im)mobility: The slave trades and present-
day migration aspirations in Africa*

Niccole Porras Alvarez (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary
Anthropology)

*On the interplay between migration and frequency-dependent
transmission in cultural populations*

Max Posch (University of Exeter)

Cultural similarity and the diffusion of development: Evidence from a century of US history

14:00 – 15:30

Panel 3 – Acculturation II

Chair: [Julia Stier](#)

Ruud Koopmans (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)

The cultural trade-offs of migration, innovation, assimilation and the maintenance of adaptive institutions and norms

Elias Dinas (European University Institute Florence)

The red stain: Political repression and the diffusion of ideology

Daniel Kerschke (University of Erfurt)

How does a math problem become readable? WEIRD schooling, migration, and the cultural evolution of sorting the world into kinds

15:45 – 17:15

Panel 4 – Ingroup / Outgroup Dynamics I

Chair: [Yossi Harpaz, Tel-Aviv University](#)

Étienne Le Rossignol (Stellenbosch University South Africa)

Out-group trust: Origins and consequences

Javier Polavieja (Spanish National Research Council)

Does phenotype trigger hiring discrimination? A field-experimental test of direct vs ecology-driven effects

Saturday, 26 September 2006

9:30 – 11:00

Panel 5 – Ingroup / Outgroup Dynamics II

Chair: Jeyhun Alizade

Michael Windzio (University of Bremen)

Durkheim, indoctrinability and the moral ambivalence of human sociality. An evolutionary multilevel model of cultural transmission, cooperation and group-boundaries.

Naama Lutz (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)

Adaptive hate: The cultural evolution of antisemitic codes across islamist, left-wing and right-wing radical spheres

Amalia Álvarez-Benjumea (Spanish National Research Council)

Uneven boundaries: Anti-discrimination norms and cultural membership among minorities in Germany

11:10 – 12:10

Panel 6 – Religion

Chair: Daniel Meierrieke

Nava Caluori (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

When religions converge: A cultural evolutionary perspective on religious hybridization

Steije Hofhuis (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)

A success model of toleration, immigration, and prosperity: the Dutch “Golden Age” as an evolutionary chance event

13:00 – 14:00

Panel 7 – Miscellaneous Topics

Chair: [Steijle Hofhuis](#)

Marc van Vugt (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Fault lines of culture: How earthquake risk shapes the evolution and transmission of leadership ideals

Lesley Newson (University of California, Davis)

The role of migration in the cultural evolution of low fertility

14:00 – 14:45

Closing Discussion

Chair: [Irene Pañeda Fernández](#)

Elias Dinas, Peter Richerson and Ruud Koopmans

What have we learned and where can we go from here?