

**Economic arguments in migrant health policy making:
bridging the evidence policy gap**

International Workshop – Ben Gurion University, 29-30 November 2017

Jointly organised by EUPHA Section on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health,
Center for Health, Humanism and Society and School of Public Health,
Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Meeting Location: Ben Gurion University of the Negev

The main arguments for improving access to health care for marginalised groups has often been primarily based on public health considerations, human rights claims and ethical principles of equity. However, the respective political debates often focus on economic arguments such as moral hazard, (presumed) related health expenses, and the need to safeguard scarce resources. Acknowledging the role of economic arguments in political discourses and decision-making processes, researchers and activists have begun to pay more attention to the fiscal implications of limiting health coverage for migrant and ethnic minority groups. As yet, however, empirical evidence on economic implications of policy responses to migration is scarce.

Therefore, at the workshop “Migrant health - Economics, Human rights, and Quality of Care” in November 2016 in Vienna, the Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health Section of the European Public Health Association has agreed to establish a work group dedicated to questions related to economic arguments in migrant and ethnic minority health policy making. The goals of this work group include synergizing existing attempts to generate economic evidence on migrant and minority health policies, addressing methodological issues, and developing ways to introduce evidence-based economic arguments into the political debates.

At this workshop we want to deepen our discussions and bring in civil society together with academic researchers and policy makers. The first day of the workshop is composed of presentations and in depth discussions, the second day is devoted to field visits and exchange with organizations and activists working with migrants in Israel.

The workshop is free of charge.

Wednesday, November 29

9:30-10am: Arrival at BGU, refreshments

10am: Welcome, introductions and overview

[Session format: Each speaker will make a presentation of 15-20 minutes (powerpoint will be available) to be followed by open discussion about parallels in other countries and possible ways to extend the research, or new ideas that the issues raise. Several additional BGU faculty and graduate students will be present to participate in the discussion, but will not make a formal presentation]

10:10-11:30am: Session 1 – Setting the stage

- Current and historical perspective on health and migration
 - Allan Krasnik (Copenhagen University and EUPHA), Migration and health: a challenge or an opportunity?
 - Amy Fairchild (Texas A&M), The historical perspective

11:45-13:00pm Session 2

- Economic aspects (I)
 - Sarit Shahaf (Ben Gurion University), Emergency Room Medical Treatment of Adult Immigrant Population
 - Yael Goor (Levinsky Clinic, Ministry of Health), TBD

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Session 3

- Economic aspects (II)
 - Zoe Gutzeit (Physicians for Human Rights-Israel), The health, ethical and economic costs of asylum seekers' exclusion from the public healthcare system in Israel
 - Tomer Weinstein (MigrantHealth:IL), Habtom Ghebrezghiaber (African Refugee Development Center), Willingness to pay for health insurance among Eritrean asylum seekers. A community-based participatory research and advocacy initiative

15:45-17:00 Session 4

- Moving forward
 - Ursula Trummer (Center for Health and Migration, Vienna), The costs of exclusion - which way forward?

Discussion, incl. topics for future collaborations and funding opportunities

Dinner

Thursday, November 30

Field Visits (TBD)