

‘Mapping Migrancies’: A Conceptual Framework for Analysing Infrastructural Encounters through Migration Trajectories | Marina Khan

The recent focus on the ‘infrastructural turn’ in migration studies has provided valuable insights into the emergence and functions of the different aspects of migration infrastructure such as the commercial migration industry, migrants’ social networks, technological innovations, regulatory mechanisms and humanitarian organisations. There remains, however, a gap in exploring the multiplicity of infrastructural processes within singular and individual migration trajectories, which hinders our capacity to conceptualise holistically the process of migration. This paper explores this gap by arguing for a new research agenda on migration infrastructure, that begins by mapping when, where, and how various migration processes are navigated and experienced by migrants. Alongside ‘migration infrastructure’ as a key theoretical consideration, this paper proposes a ‘trajectory approach’ both as a conceptual framework, as well as a methodological tool to map the migration process. I draw from in-depth exploratory interviews, and mind-maps produced by skilled migrants in Australia and Canada to illuminate both visible and hidden components of migration infrastructure. By mapping when, where and how infrastructures are experienced by migrants, this paper proposes a theoretical and methodological framework to explore and conceptualise (a). the types of infrastructures that exist, (b). the entanglements between various infrastructural domains, and (c). how interplays between infrastructures shape the migration experience. The proposed framework provides nuanced understandings of the intersections between infrastructure and migration journeys.