

Call for Papers — Special Issue Proposal

Queer Migrants in Transnational Social Spaces: Sexualised Geographies of Power

Florent Chossière, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS-France)-Géographie-Cités

Carlo Handy Charles, University of Windsor (Canada) and University of Michigan (USA)

Framing

Over the past two decades, queer migration has emerged as a vital field of inquiry, drawing attention to the specific trajectories, exclusions, and lived realities of LGBTQI+ individuals in contexts of global mobility (Luibhéid and Cantú, 2005; Cantú, 2009; Chávez, 2013; Carrillo and Fontdevila, 2014; Mole, 2021; Jones, 2023). Scholarship has illuminated how queer migrants navigate departure, asylum, integration, and identity transformation, with a central focus on border regimes shaped by heteronormative and homonormative logics—especially within SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) asylum systems (Murray, 2014; Akin, 2017; Giametta, 2017; Tschalaer, 2019; Shakhari, 2020; Danisi *et al.*, 2021; Cesaro, 2023; Bouchet-Mayer and Ferez, 2024; Hamila, 2025; Lunau and Schröder, 2025). Yet, as Charles (2023, 2024) has noted, relatively little attention has been paid to how queer migrants inhabit *transnational social spaces*—the lived, affective, and material ties that span countries of origin, settlement, and beyond—after they have migrated. This gap is especially notable given the long-standing engagement of queer and LGBTQI+ studies with transnationalism.

Foundational debates on queer globalization and imperialism (Altman, 1996; Massad, 2002; Puar, 2007; Jackson, 2009; Perreau, 2018), the global circulation of sexual identity categories (Boellstorff, 2005; Roux, 2009), transnational activism (Ayoub and Patternote 2014; Manalansan, 2006; Cruz-Malavé & Manalansan, 2002), and North–South intimacies (Lewin & Leap, 2009; Nixon, 2015; Mitchell, 2016; Padilla, 2019) have laid the groundwork for a robust transnational critique. However, these interventions have often centred macro-level dynamics and asymmetrical global relations, sidelining the everyday practices, attachments, and tensions through which queer migrants enact, negotiate, and contest belonging across borders. This special issue aims to address this gap by queering the field of migrant transnationalism—foregrounding how LGBTQI+ migrants shape and are shaped by transnational connections, and how such practices reshape our understandings of queerness, space, and migration. The central contribution of this special issue is to theorize, through innovative empirical research, the mutual constitution of queer sexuality and transnational social spaces.

Queering Transnational Social Spaces

We begin by queering the concept of *transnational social space*, a central notion in migration studies that refers to the enduring social practices and identifications connecting geographically distant but socially linked locales (Smith and Guarnizo 1998; Faist, 2000, 2015; Levitt and Jaworsky, 2007; Satzewich and Wong 2011; Ma Mung 2012; Schmoll, 2017; Zéphirin 2018; Lacroix, 2019; Audebert 2020, 2022). While this concept has been instrumental in analyzing migrant networks and attachments, it often relies on heteronormative assumptions about kinship, belonging, and mobility. By introducing a queer lens, we

ask: how do sexuality and gender non-conformity transform the ways transnational spaces are inhabited, claimed, and contested?

Feminist geographers have long challenged celebratory narratives of transnationalism by emphasizing how power is distributed unevenly across spatial and social hierarchies (Pratt & Yeoh, 2003; Pessar & Mahler, 2003; Schmoll, 2017). Drawing from Pessar and Mahler's (2003) notion of *gendered geographies of power*—itself informed by Massey's (1994) theorization of power geometries—and building on the work of queer geographers who advocate for a multiscalar approach of sexuality research (Brown and Browne, 2016), we propose the concept of *sexualised geographies of power*. This framework foregrounds how queer migrants' positionalities—as racialized, sexualized, and gendered subjects—shape their attachments, exclusions, and strategies across transnational terrains. Contributions may explore how these social spaces are produced and contested through affect, legal regimes, familial expectations, and uneven flows of capital and desire.

Living Between Worlds: Queer Identity and Transnational Belonging

Queer migrants often maintain enduring and complex ties with countries of origin through kinship, diasporic networks, and affective or digital connections (Camminga and Marnell, 2022; Charles, 2024). These ties shape their negotiations of belonging and queerness in migrant reception contexts, creating new forms of visibility and vulnerability (Chossière, 2024; Yang, 2024). For some, this results in the strategic performance of normative roles in one space and queer identities in another—what Eboko and Awondo (2013) term “sexual nomadism.” Others may invert this pattern, concealing queerness in host societies while maintaining queer relationships transnationally (Charles, 2023).

This special issue seeks scholarship that interrogates how queer migrants navigate identity across these intersecting geographies. How do they experience queerness in contexts shaped by competing social expectations, legal frameworks, and affective obligations? What forms of agency, disidentification, or resistance emerge from these negotiations? How do class, race, nationality, gender, age, and legal status shape these experiences? And how do queer migrants themselves shape cultural imaginaries and sexual norms in their countries of origin—whether through remittances, digital engagement, or activism? We welcome contributions that challenge spatial binaries between the “liberated” Global North and the “oppressive” Global South, and instead conceptualize queer transnationalism as a site of fluid, contested, and generative identity-making.

Spatial Practices and the Everyday Lives of Queer Migrants

In response to Mahler's (1999, p. 713) call to “push the transnational gaze deeper into the ‘stuff’ of everyday life,” this special issue invites contributions that examine how queer migrants' transnational connections are spatially grounded. How do cross-border ties shape their everyday geographies in countries of arrival—at the national, urban, or neighbourhood scale? How are their relationships to diasporic spaces, LGBTQI+ venues, NGOs, or informal networks informed by these ties?

We are particularly interested in how queer migrants create or avoid specific spaces as they navigate issues of sexuality, safety, belonging, and visibility. These practices raise key questions for feminist and queer geography: how are identifications and disidentifications lived through place (Valentine, 2007)? How do trans-scalar dynamics—linking global flows to local embodiment—(Schmoll, 2017) intertwine in the lives of queer migrants? Finally, how do queer migrants inhabit digital spaces (Asante, 2018; Burgess *et al.*, 2016; Camminga, 2020; Duguay, 2022; Charles, 2023; Bayramoğlu, Szulc, and Gajjala, 2024)—via social media, dating apps, or activist platforms—as transnational tools for care, resistance, or connection? We

invite analyses that illuminate how digital and physical geographies shape queer migrants' spatial practices, affects, and forms of relationality across borders.

Border Regimes, Power, Legal Status, and Queer Resistance

We also invite contributions that explore the entanglements between state power and queer transnational life. Global migration regimes are structured through intersecting inequalities of class, race, gender, sexuality, and nation, and are deeply shaped by North–South power asymmetries (Luibhéid and Cantú, 2005; Manalansan, 2006; Cantú, 2009; Lee and Brotman, 2011; Carrillo, 2017; Murray, 2014; Lee, 2019; Andrikopoulos, 2023; Bhagat, 2023). Legal categories such as “asylum seeker,” “refugee,” “migrant worker,” “international student,” or “undocumented migrant” grant uneven access to protection, rights, and mobility (Satzewich, 2015; Audebert, 2017; Kyriakides *et al.*, 2019; Cénat *et al.*, 2020; Benhadjoudja *et al.*, 2025). These bureaucratic regimes profoundly shape how queer identities are expressed or suppressed across national and transnational spaces (Sari, 2021; Charles & NGoumou, 2024; Chossière, 2021, 2024; Jones, 2023, 2025).

At the same time, queer migrants often mobilize their transnational positionalities to contest and resist these power structures. Transnational queer networks have become important sites of political engagement, mutual support, and resistance to state-sponsored LGBTphobia (Chossière, 2022; Charles, 2023). Building on work on transnational queer activism (Ayoub & Bauman, 2018), this section invites explorations of how queer migrants enact counter-geographies of solidarity, challenge state narratives, or reimagine political belonging beyond the confines of national citizenship. How does queer transnationalism reconfigure our understanding of the state, rights, and power?

We look forward to receiving innovative and geographically grounded research that advances queer, feminist, and migration scholarship through critical analysis of transnational queer lives, spaces, and power.

Submission Guidelines and Timeline

We intend to submit the special issue proposal to the journal [Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography](#). The proposal will first be assessed for publication by the journal based on selected article abstracts. Please ensure that your proposal and abstract fall within the call for papers but also the [scientific scope of the journal](#).

Abstract submission: Please submit a 500-word abstract summarizing your argument, approach, methodology, queer migrant population, and fit within the issue's themes by **October 17, 2025**, to guest editors florent.chossiere@parisgeo.cnrs.fr and carlo.charles@uwindsor.ca.

Abstract selection: abstracts will be selected and contributors notified by **November 3, 2025**.

The special issue proposal will be submitted to the journal by **November 14, 2025**.

First full manuscripts must be submitted for review by guest editors by **March 16, 2026**.

Feedback on full manuscripts from guest editors will be shared with contributors by **April 17, 2026**.

Revised manuscripts will be submitted to the journal by **May 29, 2026**. All articles will undergo the journal's standard blind peer-review process.

References

- Akin, D. (2017). Queer asylum seekers: translating sexuality in Norway ». *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 43 (3), 458-474.
- Altman, D. (1996). Rupture or continuity? The internationalization of gay identities. *Social Text*, (48), 77–94.
- Andrikopoulos, A. (2023). *Argonauts of West Africa: Unauthorized migration and kinship dynamics in a changing Europe*. University of Chicago Press.
- Audebert, C. (2017). “The Recent Geodynamics of Haitian Migration in the Americas: Refugees or Economic Migrants?” *Revista Brasileira de Estudos de População* 34(1): 55-71.
- Audebert, C. (2020). “Caribbean Migration Spaces and Transnational Networks: The Case of the Haitian Diaspora” in *Border Transgression and Reconfiguration of Caribbean Spaces*, Cham: Springer International Publishing, pp.71- 93.
- Audebert, C. (2022). Reconceptualizing the Haitian Migration System in the Caribbean Basin: A Spatial Approach to Multi-local Fields. *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, 27(3), 309-327.
- Asante, G. (2018). “Where is home?” Negotiating comm (unity) and un/belonging among queer African migrants on Facebook. *Borderlands e-journal*, 17(1), 1-21.
- Ayoub, P. M., & Paternotte, D. (2014). Transnational LGBT Activism in a New Europe. *Border Politics*, 230.
- Ayoub, P. M., & Bauman, L. (2018). Migration and queer mobilisations: how migration facilitates cross-border LGBTQ activism. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 45(15), 2758–2778.
- Bhagat, A. (2023). Queer global displacement: Social reproduction, refugee survival, and organised abandonment in Nairobi, Cape Town, and Paris. *Antipode*, 55(5), 1517-1537.
- Bayramoğlu Y., Szulc Ł. & Gajjala R. (2024). Transnational queer cultures and digital media: an introduction. *Communication, Culture and Critique*, 17 (3), 147–151.
- Benhadjoudja, L., Clark-Kazak, C., & Garneau, S. (2025). *Migration and Racialization in Times of “Crisis”: The Making of Crises and their Effects* (p. 188). University of Ottawa Press/Les Presses de l’Université d’Ottawa.
- Boellstorff, T. (2005). *The Gay Archipelago: Sexuality and Nation in Indonesia*. Princeton University Press.
- Bouchet-Mayer, C. & Ferez, S. (2024). Cross-effects of cultural and gay capitals in access to refugee status on the grounds of SOGI in France: Study of the formal and informal preparations of West African men for asylum trials, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 37 (3), 734–749.
- Burgess, J., Cassidy, E., Duguay, S., & Light, B. (2016). Making digital cultures of gender and sexuality with social media. *Social Media + Society*, 2(4).
- Brown, G. & Browne, K. (2016). *The Routledge Research Companion to Geographies of Sex and Sexualities*, London, Routledge.
- Camminga, B. (2020). Digital Borders, Diasporic Flows and the Nigerian Transgender Beauty Queen Who Would Not Be Denied. *Gender Questions*, 8 (1).
- Camminga, B., & Marnell, J. (Eds.). (2022). *Queer and trans African mobilities: Migration, asylum and diaspora*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Cantú, L. (2009). *The Sexuality of Migration: Border Crossings and Mexican Immigrant Men*. NYU Press.
- Carrillo, H. and Fontdevilla, J. (2014) Border crossings and shifting sexualities among Mexican gay immigrant men: Beyond monolithic conceptions, *Sexualities*, 17(8), 919-938.

- Carrillo, H. (2017). *“Pathways of Desire: The Sexual Migration of Mexican Gay Men.”* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Cénat, J.M., Charles, C.H., and Kebedom, P. (2020). “Multiple Traumas, Health Problems and Resilience among Haitian Asylum Seekers in Canada’s 2017 Migration Crisis: Psychopathology of Crossing.” *Journal of Loss and Trauma* 25(5): 416-437.
- Cesaro, S. (2023). Silencing Queer Asylum Seekers within the French Reception System: an Intersectional Analysis of a Continuum of Institutional Violence, in Freedman, J., Latouche, A., Miranda, A., Sahraoui, N., Santana de Andrade, G. et Tyszler, E., (dir.), *The Gender of Borders. Embodied Narratives of Migration, Violence and Agency*, Londres, Routledge, pp. 51-66.
- Charles, C. H. (2023). *Transnational Space and Homosexuality: An Ethnographic Analysis of Same-sex Intimate Cross-border Relationships Among Men in Haiti and their Migrant Partners Across the Haitian Diaspora* (Doctoral dissertation), Sociology/McMaster University and Geography/Université des Antilles. Retrievable: <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/29141>.
- Charles, C. H. (2024). Perceptions of queer transnational migrants as importers of homosexuality into Haiti. *Journal of Haitian Studies*, 30(1), 122–159.
- Charles, C.H. & NGoumou, L.F. (2024). “Favoriser le bien-être et l’intégration sociale de la communauté racisée francophone LGBTQIA+ de Toronto et Ottawa.” *FrancoQueer and CIHR*.
- Chávez, K. R. (2013). *Queer migration politics: Activist rhetoric and coalitional possibilities*. University of Illinois Press.
- Chossière, F. (2021). Refugeeness, sexuality, and gender: Spatialized lived experiences of intersectionality by queer asylum seekers and refugees in Paris. *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*, 3.
- Chossière, F. (2022). Debunking the liberation narrative: Rethinking queer migration and asylum to France, in Camminga, B. et Marnell, J. (eds.), *Queer and Trans African Mobilities: Migration, Asylum and Diaspora*, Londres, Bloomsbury Academic, pp. 221-237.
- Chossière, F. (2024). « Approche scalaire de l’expérience minoritaire. Réflexions à partir de personnes demandant l’asile en France au motif de persécutions liées à l’orientation sexuelle », in Devaux C., Mahoudeau A., Oiry Varacca M. et Uhel M. (eds.), *Rapports de domination et résistances : approches de géographie sociale*, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, pp. 147-163.
- Cruz-Malavé, A., & Manalansan, M. F. (Eds.). (2002). *Queer Globalizations: Citizenship and the Afterlife of Colonialism*. NYU Press.
- Danisi, C., Dustin, M., Ferreira, N. & Held, N. (2021). *Queering Asylum in Europe. Legal and Social Experiences of Seeking International Protection on grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*, Cham, Springer.
- Duguay, S. (2022). *Personal but not private: Queer women, sexuality, and identity modulation on digital platforms*. Oxford University Press.
- Eboko, F. and P. Awondo (2013), ‘Homo-mobilités du Cameroun vers la France’, *Africultures*, 96 (6), 188–203.
- Faist, T. (2000). *The Volume and Dynamics of International Migration and Transnational Social Spaces*. Oxford University Press.
- Faist, T. (2015). Transnational social spaces. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38(13), 2271-2274.
- Faist, T., & Özveren, E. (2017). *Transnational social spaces: agents, networks and institutions*. Routledge.
- Giametta, C. (2017). *The Sexual Politics of Asylum: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the UK Asylum System*. Routledge.

- Hamila, A. (2025). La jurisprudence de la Cour de justice de l'Union européenne sur les demandeurs d'asile LGBTI : une perspective queer postcoloniale, *Genre, sexualité & société*, 31.
- Jackson, P. A. (2009). Global Queering and Global Queer Theory: Thai [Trans]genders and [Homo]sexualities in World History, *Autrepart*, 49 (1), 15-30.
- Jones, C. (2023). Balancing safety and visibility: Lesbian community building strategies in South Korea. In *Geographies of Sexualities* (pp. 100-113). Routledge.
- Jones, C. (2025). Jigsaw migration: how mixed citizenship LGBTQ families (re) assemble their fragmented citizenship. *International Migration Review*, 59(1), 444-467.
- Kyriakides, C., Taha, D., Charles, C. H., & Torres, R. D. (2019). The racialized refugee regime. *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees*, 35, 3.
- Lacroix T. (2019). Transferts migratoires, institutions sociales migrantes et territorialité morale transnationale, *L'Espace Politique*, 38(2).
- Lacroix, T., Levitt, P., & Vari-Lavoisier, I. (2016). Social remittances and the changing transnational political landscape. *Comparative migration studies*, 4(1), 16.
- Lee, E. O. J., & Brotman, S. (2011). Identity, refugeeness, belonging: Experiences of sexual minority refugees in Canada. *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie*, 48(3), 241-274.
- Lee, E. O. J. (2019). Responses to structural violence: The everyday ways in which queer and trans migrants with precarious status respond to and resist the Canadian immigration regime. *International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies*, 10(1), 70-94.
- Levitt, Peggy and B. N. Jaworsky. 2007. "Transnational Migration Studies: Past Developments and Future Trends." *Annual Review of Sociology* 33:129–156.
- Lewin, E., & Leap, W. L. (Eds.). (2009). *Out in Public: Reinventing Lesbian/Gay Anthropology in a Globalizing World*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Luibhéid, E. & Cantú, L. J., (2005). *Queer Migrations: Sexuality, U.S. Citizenship, and Border Crossings*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Lunau, M. & Schröder, R. (2025). Coloniality In queer asylum: towards theorising 'colonial surveillance' and its resistances. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 51(9), 2166–2182.
- Mitchell, G. (2016) *Touristic Desire: Traveling Gay Men in the Global South*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Nixon, A.V. (2015) *Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi.
- Mahler, S. J. (1999). Engendering transnational migration: A case study of Salvadorans. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 42(4), 690–719.
- Massad, J. (2002). Re-Orienting Desire: The Gay International and the Arab World, *Public Culture*, 14 (2), 361-386.
- Ma Mung, E. (2012). Migrations et transmigrations dans la diaspora entrepreneuriale chinoise. *Multitudes*, 49(2), 53-61.
- Manalansan, M. F. (2006). Queer intersections: Sexuality and gender in migration studies. *International Migration Review*, 40(1), 224–249.
- Massey, D. (1994). *Space, Place, and Gender*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Mole, R. C. M. (2021). *Queer Migration and Asylum in Europe*. UCL Press.
- Murray, D. A. B. (2014). Real queer: "Authentic" LGBT refugee claimants and homonationalism in the Canadian refugee system. *Anthropologica*, 56(1), 21–32.

- Padilla, M. B. (2019). *Caribbean Pleasure Industry: Tourism, Sexuality and AIDS in the Dominican Republic*. University of Chicago Press.
- Perreau, B. (2018). « Mondialisations queers », in *Qui a peur de la théorie queer ?*, Paris, Presses de Sciences Po, pp. 165-214.
- Pessar, P. R., & Mahler, S. J. (2003). Transnational migration: Bringing gender in. *International Migration Review*, 37(3), 812–846.
- Pratt, G. and Yeoh, B. (2003). « Transnational (Counter) Topographies », *Gender, Place & Culture*, 10(2), 159-166.
- Puar, J. K. (2007). *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*. Duke University Press.
- Roux, S. (2009). « On m’a expliqué que je suis “gay” ». Tourisme, prostitution et circulation internationale des identités sexuelles, *Autrepart*, 1 (49), 31-45.
- Sari, E. (2021). Lesbian refugees in transit: The making of authenticity and legitimacy in Turkey. In *Lives That Resist Telling* (pp. 84-102). Routledge.
- Satzewich, V. and Wong, L. (2006). *Transnational Identities and Practices in Canada*. British Columbia: University of British Columbia Press.
- Satzewich, V. (2015). *Points of Entry: How Canada’s immigration officers decide who gets in*. British Columbia: University of British Columbia Press.
- Schmoll, C. (2017). *Spatialités de la migration féminine en Europe du Sud. Une approche par le genre*, Habilitation à diriger des recherches, Université de Poitiers, 271 p.
- Shakhsari, S. (2020). *The Queer Politics of Migration: Refugees, Citizenship, and the State in Iran and the Diaspora*. Duke University Press.
- Smith, M. P. & Guarnizo, L. E. (Eds.). (1998). *Transnationalism from Below* (Vol. 6, *Comparative Urban and Community Research*). New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.
- Tschalaer, M. (2019). Between queer liberalisms and Muslim masculinities: LGBTQI+ Muslim asylum assessment in Germany. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 43(7), 1265–1283.
- Valentine, G. (2007). Theorizing and researching intersectionality: A challenge for feminist geography. *The Professional Geographer*, 59(1), 10–21.
- Yang, T. S. (2024). Rethinking queer migration: the case of skilled Chinese LGBTQ+ migrants in North America. *International Migration Review*, 58(4), 1792-1818.
- Zéphirin, R. (2018). “The Americas’ Multi-Polar Displacements as A New Pattern in Haitian-French Guyanese Migrations.” *International Migration*, 57 (1): 58-74.