



## **The role of Switzerland in the Global Migration and Development Forum (2011): Swiss national policies on migration, mobility and movement**

Migration to and out of Switzerland, as in other countries across the globe, has emerged as key theme in international and national political debates. Located in the middle of Europe, at the crossroads of European migration routes, bordering the European Union countries and being part of the Schengen agreement, Switzerland is currently facing changes in its migration (out- and immigration) policies. In addition, this year (2011), Switzerland holds a chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, a global process of regulating and coordinating international, regional and national migration policies. National and international policymakers and development organisations see great potential in migration as a way of reducing poverty and promoting development, particularly in migrants' countries of origin. However, researchers emphasize the need for nuanced, region-specific knowledge of the factors limiting or supporting migrants' contribution to development. To what extent are these optimistic views shared in Europe and in Switzerland – as origin and destination countries? A new field of "mobilities research" has arisen, encompassing complex studies of global, national and local movements of people, objects, capital, and information. Increasingly in the European Union context, people's level of mobility determines their access to health services, education, employment, and various resources. While labour mobility within certain parts of Europe is encouraged, immigration from outside of the EU is often portrayed as threat to 'national' political, security and economic interests, national 'identity' and cohesion. While through free flow of people within the EU human mobility is encouraged, at the same time, migration is being increasingly securitized.

In the context of the global, regional and national discourses on migration, the main research questions of the proposed research are 1., What is the role of Switzerland in these global, regional and international processes given its own migration policies?, 2., What type of global governance of migration and development does Switzerland promote in the GFMD?, and 3., How is migration and mobility understood in the context of Switzerland by key government officials and experts?

The Master study is carried out within the framework of the NCCR North-South, as part of the research project "Migration & Mobility". It includes approximately three months of fieldwork in Switzerland, mainly Berne and Geneva to be conducted between November and December 2011. The student is expected to participate in the GFMD events and to conduct interviews with key informants. Preparation work should start at the latest in October 2011.

### Qualifications

- BSc in geography
- Fluent in English (spoken and written)
- Ready to travel within Switzerland

### Supervision:

Dr. Susan Thieme, University of Zurich, Dept. of Geography  
Dr. Katarzyna Grabska, Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel

Please contact until September 14th 2011 both: [susan.thieme@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:susan.thieme@geo.uzh.ch) and [katarzyna.grabska@unibas.ch](mailto:katarzyna.grabska@unibas.ch)