

# MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

## A challenge for researchers in Serbia

The concept of MIGRANT INTEGRATION has been deeply contested due to:

**conceptual challenges** – it is overly abstract and captures little about informality and migrants' everyday lives;

**political challenges** – on the one hand, it provokes fear in host populations of being overwhelmed with migrants and on the other hand, it provokes fear in migrant populations of being assimilated into receiving country;



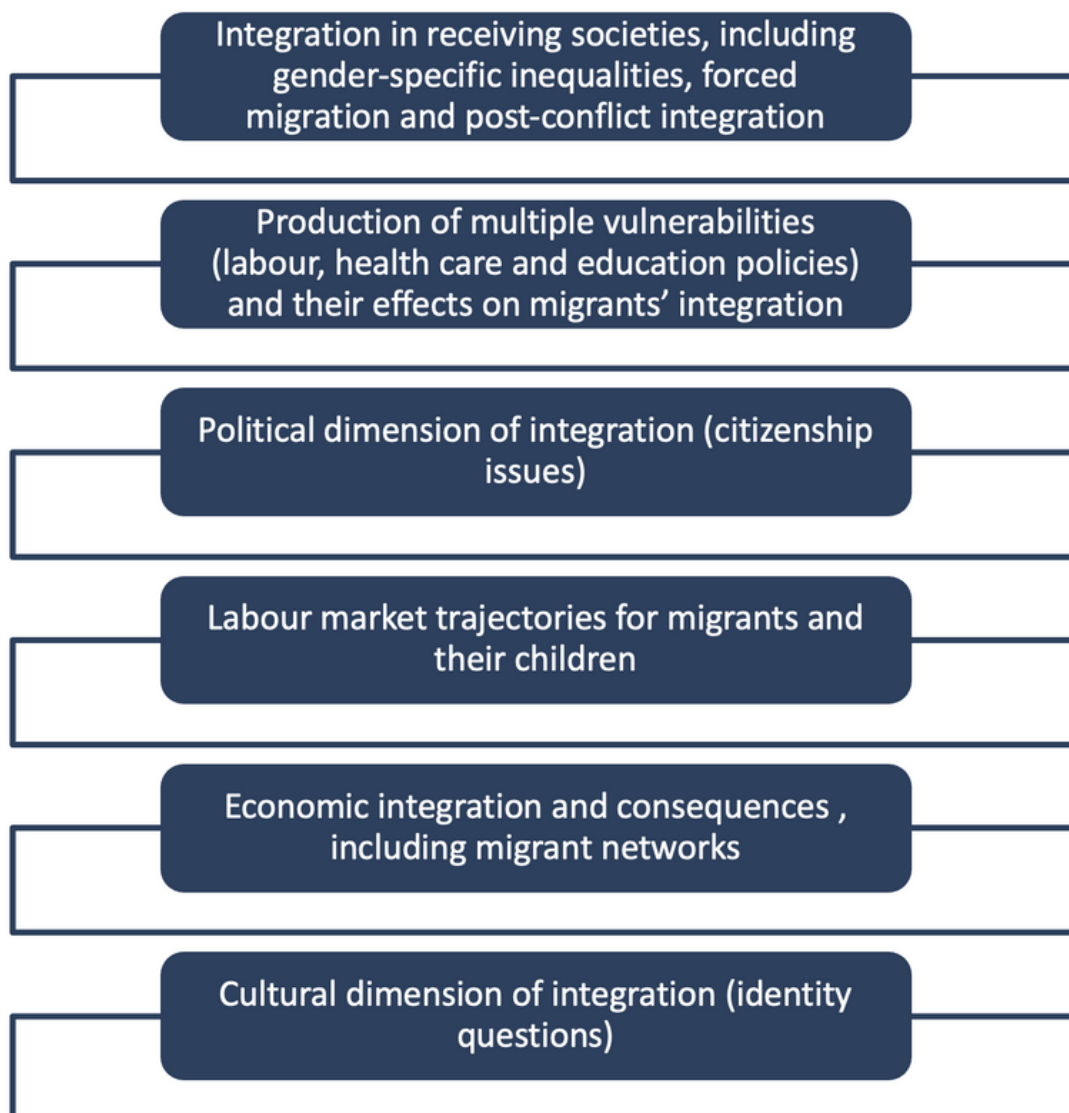
**policy challenges** – uncertainties of the actual meaning of integration, its indicators and the factors contributing to its functioning

Effects of research into MIGRATION and INTEGRATION should be:

- ✓ critically reflecting on theoretical concepts, methodological approaches and public discourses on migrants' integration through the lenses of policies, governance, multiculturalism and trans-nationalism;
- ✓ analysing international integration politics and concepts, operationalising theoretical concepts and monitoring the validity and usefulness of existing integration indicators in increasingly heterogeneous societies;
- ✓ addressing key questions around the economical, social, cultural/religious, political/legal and public policy dimensions of integration as well as the connections between institutional structures, integration policies and their mutual effects in those spheres;
- ✓ overcoming the polarised and largely limited research data favouring high income regions and countries, with an attempt to embrace the characteristics of the regional migration flows and patterns along with global orientation.

The rapidly changing nature of migration processes in many countries, new migration patterns and refugee crisis call for interdisciplinary research of all issues concerning the MIGRANT INTEGRATION in hosting countries, as well as reintegration of return migrants in countries of origin.

Some of the emerging complex and core issues under the topic of MIGRATION and INTEGRATION are:



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