

**AHRC-funded Motherhood in post-1968 European Literature Network**  
*Aims and Research Questions for Workshop 4*  
**'Motherhood, Migration and Exile' (Friday 26 April 2013)**

**Aims:**

Workshop 4, 'Motherhood, Migration and Exile', will discuss a range of contexts and concepts in which the conditions of migration and exile impact on women's experiences and practices of motherhood. Europe is the site of a great deal of population movement (voluntary or forced), whether to and from outside European or EU boundaries or within them. The globalised world invites, requires or forces migration. Mothers are not always the prime movers, yet they have to deal with conditions of exile, not only for themselves, but also in relation to their children. The workshop aims, on the one hand, to identify specific problem areas relating to the analysis of motherhood and migration in Europe, asking what kinds of insights literature may offer to the issues raised. It also aims to explore positive strategies on the part of migrant or exiled mothers and of researchers who wish to understand and improve their situation.

**Research questions:**

1. What are the key contemporary issues which impact on motherhood and migration or exile, and how have they evolved since 1968?
2. What specific problem areas arise in debates around migration and exile, and how do these impact on mothers?
3. How do specific national contexts, laws and politics affect migrant or exiled mothers?
4. What particular insights can be gained from cross-cultural comparisons of migrant or exiled mothers?
5. How can these mothers get their voices heard in the public sphere, and their specific needs met?
6. What positive strategies do they find to deal with their conditions of exile, and/or being away from their home terrain?
7. What are the implications of their migrant status or exile for their mothering, and for their children?
8. How are the issues affecting migrant or exiled mothers specifically being theorised and approached within different disciplines?
9. How do literary texts respond to and/or shape debates or experiences of migrant/exiled mothers, and vice versa?
10. What kinds of literary techniques and effects are employed to convey meaning in relation to this topic?
11. What insights can literary narratives and representations relative to the topic offer to interdisciplinary discussion?
12. What kinds of relationships are there between literature and real life experience, and between literature and contemporary social issues regarding the topic?