CFP: RGS-IBG AC2020
Of migration and markets: economic geographies of mobility and migration

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Mobility of people and migration are often seen through the lens of labour markets. Migrants fill labour market niches in sectors such as finance (Beaverstock 2002; Hall 2018). Migrants thus play a part in financial markets. However, migrants working in other sectors also arguably subsidise national labour by operating in transnational circuits of reproduction and global householding (Douglass 2015; Kofman and Raghuram 2015). They influence local labour markets – an arena which has received widespread attention in research on migration and mobility.

However, mobility regimes are also entangled in other markets – education, currency, real estate and so on. Student migrants pay tuition fees, thus intersecting with education markets. In some countries like the UK, they subsidise local students and the institution. Migrants also send money back as remittances or for diaspora philanthropy, but the value of these flows are affected by what is happening in currency markets. Migrants often adjust when they remit money based on the value of the currency. Demand for housing by wealthy student migrants and investment by their parents in housing also influences housing markets, both rental and for purchase. Migrants and mobility are thus entangled with markets other than those of labour alone. Some of these transfers may occur through informal markets like the hawala system while others involve a variety of formal intermediaries such as banking institutions and loan companies. The state also variously regulates how these different markets operate, are regulated and shapes the values and exchangeability of currencies.

Each of these markets has different spatialities. Some markets operate locally while others have different spatial connections and disconnections. For instance, international student flows from many West African countries will be affected by the colonial and postcolonial arrangements around the west African currency CFA and the role that France plays in shaping this currency. The colonial and postcolonial heritages associated with money and mobility thus intersect.

This session aims to extend current explorations of the entanglements between mobility and markets beyond that of labour markets alone. We welcome papers that explore the different actors, mechanisms, sites and spaces through which mobility and markets are played out. We are particularly interested in hearing from those who are exploring these entanglements in the context of finance, currency, education, real estate, health, care and tourism

Some of the questions explored might include (but not limited to):

- What is the relationship between these different mobilities and markets?
- How can insights from economic geography contribute to better understandings of migration and mobility
- What does the incorporation of mobility and migration mean for economic geography?

We welcome papers drawing on different methodological approaches.

Please send a 250 word abstract to Gunjan Sondhi (gunjan.sondhi@open.ac.uk), by February 13, Thursday, 5 PM GMT.