

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The multidimensional nature of human mobility on a global scale is today understood not merely as a demographic or economic phenomenon, but as a dynamic field of transformation intertwined with social, cultural, institutional, and political processes. In an era marked by accelerating international migration, increasing forced displacement, and deepening interactions between migrant communities and host societies, it has become increasingly important to address migration studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. In this context, the *International Journal of Human Mobility (IJHM)* continues to serve as a significant academic platform for studies that examine migration across diverse analytical dimensions.

The April 2026 issue of our journal brings together contributions that explore various manifestations of human mobility, ranging from the economic impacts of migration to education systems, from cultural practices to institutional settings such as closed environments. By combining micro-level experiences within the Turkish context with macro-level global analyses, this issue highlights the multilayered nature of migration.

One of the articles featured in this issue, Kayhan Öcal's study titled "Migration and Economic Wealth: A New Analytical Framework at the Macro Level," examines the relationship between international migration and economic wealth within the context of advanced economies. Moving beyond conventional single-indicator approaches, the study employs the Economic Wealth Index (EWI) to analyze the economic, social, and institutional dimensions of migration within a comprehensive framework. The panel data analysis covering G7 countries reveals a positive and statistically significant relationship between international net migration and economic wealth. These findings demonstrate that migration cannot be confined to narrow interpretations such as labor supply or economic growth; rather, it is directly linked to institutional capacity, human capital, and long-term development processes. In this respect, the study makes a significant methodological and conceptual contribution to the literature on the economic impacts of migration.

The study by Alper Ateş and his colleagues, titled "Migration, Gastronomy, and Cultural Integration: Spatial and Economic Interactions at the Micro Level," focuses on the case of Konya and examines the profiles of restaurants owned by Syrians under temporary protection. The research highlights the interaction between migration, economy, and culture by conceptualizing restaurants not merely as economic enterprises but also as spaces where cultural identities are reproduced and social interactions take place. The findings demonstrate that Syrian entrepreneurs in Konya achieve both economic integration and cultural continuity through gastronomy. The interaction between local cuisine and migrant culinary traditions is analyzed within the framework of cultural hybridization and integration processes, revealing that these establishments play significant roles in social cohesion, economic integration, and cultural diplomacy. This study offers an original contribution to understanding migrant entrepreneurship and urban cultural transformation.

The article by Songül Pektaş and Burak Can Kaya, titled “The Migrant Experience in the Education System: A Teacher Perspective,” addresses the challenges faced by migrant and foreign students in educational settings from the viewpoint of teachers. Conducted using a qualitative research approach, the study identifies language barriers and cultural differences as the primary obstacles in the educational process. These challenges are shown to have a direct impact on students’ academic performance, particularly on their musical development. At the same time, the study emphasizes the potential of music as a universal language capable of bridging cultural differences. By presenting teachers’ proposed solutions, the study underscores the importance of inclusive education policies and provides valuable insights into the transformations brought about by migration in the field of education.

Ümit Ünsal Kaya’s study, “Bridging Policy and Practice: A Thematic Synthesis on Refugee Education,” analyzes the recommendations found in doctoral dissertations on the education of Syrian refugee children in Türkiye and explores the relationship between policy and practice. The study systematically classifies these recommendations at the micro (individual), mezzo (school–community), and macro (policy) levels and demonstrates how they can inform educational policy-making. Key areas such as language education, teacher support mechanisms, school-based social services, and multicultural education approaches emerge as central themes offering concrete solutions to structural challenges in refugee education. In this respect, the study represents an important contribution by bridging the gap between academic knowledge production and policy design.

Another significant contribution in this issue is the study by Atik Aslan and Mehmet Ateş, titled “Migration and Social Cohesion in Closed Institutions: The Case of Prisons,” which examines the social adaptation processes and susceptibility to social conflict among migrant inmates in the context of Adana. The findings indicate that factors such as language barriers, economic deprivation, discrimination, and social isolation complicate the social integration of migrant prisoners. Nevertheless, the study reveals that migrant inmates generally exhibit low levels of conflict and aggression and tend to display adaptive behaviors. By questioning prevailing assumptions about the relationship between migration and crime, the study offers a more nuanced understanding of migrants’ experiences within closed institutional settings and provides important implications for prison policies and rehabilitation processes.

When considered collectively, the studies featured in the April 2026 issue clearly demonstrate how migration is shaped across micro, mezzo, and macro levels. The broad spectrum of analyses—from economic structures to cultural practices, from education policies to institutional frameworks—underscores that human mobility is far too complex to be explained through single-dimensional approaches.

This issue strongly highlights that migration is not merely a matter of mobility, but is deeply intertwined with processes of economic transformation, social integration, cultural interaction, and institutional restructuring. Through such interdisciplinary contributions, IJHM continues to advance migration studies at both theoretical and applied levels.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all authors, reviewers, and contributors whose efforts have made this issue possible and strengthened the academic quality of our journal. We hope that the studies presented in this issue will contribute to deepening scholarly debates in the field of human mobility and provide valuable insights for both the academic community and policy-making processes.

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