

HISTORY OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTATION  
**HIDDEN**  
IN EUROPEAN NATIONS

HIDDEN COST Action CA21120  
Year 3 Conference

The Past, Present and Future of Identity Documentation  
15-16 May 2025  
Maynooth University, Ireland



There is free access to WiFi on the MU Guest network  
Follow the HIDDEN Blueskey account: @hiddencostaction.bsky.social  
and use the hashtag #HiddenConference25  
For more info on the Action check out the website: [hidden-costaction.eu](https://hidden-costaction.eu)

## Day 1 Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> 2025

- 8.45 - 9.15 Registration, School of Education, North Campus, Ground floor foyer.
- 9.15 - 9.30 Welcome address Professor Rachel Msetfi, Vice President Research and Innovation and opening of the conference, School of Education, SEO14
- 9.30 – 9.45 HIDDEN COST Action review  
Dr Jennifer Redmond, HIDDEN COST Action Chair, Maynooth University.
- 9.45-10.45 Keynote by Dagmar Hovestädt, NUI Galway, former spokesperson for the Stasi Archives, Germany  
'Identity and the record. Observations on who we are in Data and Archives'.  
Chair: Dr Jennifer Redmond  
School of Education, SEO14 and available via Teams Webinar at this link:  
<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/57978ed6-b403-4612-ad94-390ef3ccb900@1454f5cc-bb35-4685-bbd9-8621fd8055c9>
- 10.45-11.15 Coffee Break, School of Education, North Campus, Ground floor foyer.
- 11.15 - 12.45 Plenary session  
A: HIDDEN Community Stakeholders  
"A Paperless Identity: Living Between Borders and Bureaucracies", Adam Labaran (Vice President of Refugees Union in Portugal – UREP)  
'Anti-colonial approaches to migration research: collaboration, ethics and care', Zoë O'Reilly, (Maynooth University).  
Sirazul Islam, (European Network on Statelessness)  
Dr Prince Okorie (Diverse Youth Northern Ireland)  
School of Education, SEO14.

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Chair: Dr Susan Beth Rottmann, (Özyeğin University)

12.45-1.00 Presentation from COST Action Science Communications officer and WG6 co-leader Dr Nađa Beglerović, International University of Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

1.00 - 2.15 Group photo followed by Lunch (delegates are free to make their own lunch arrangements)

2.15– 3.30 Parallel Panels

A: Colonial and non-colonial realities of identity: Iontas 2.33

Silvester Trnovec (Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava): *Education, Race, and French Citizenship in Colonial French West Africa, 1900–1945*

Dónal Hassett (Maynooth University): *Imperial Loyalty, Legibility and Legal Rights: The Function of the Veteran’s Card in Interwar French West Africa*

Francesca Piana (University of Trento): ‘Protection or Control? “The Nansen passport”, its application and limits

Chair: Dr Beatrice Scutaru (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

B: IDs and IDing in (Post-)Colonial Asia: Genealogies and Digital Futures:  
Iontas Room 1.33

Natalie Brinham (University of Bristol): *Framings of Freedom in the Bay of Bengal: IDs and Anti-trafficking*

Lucrezia Canzutti (King's College London): *Making Digital (non)Citizens: Digital Identity, Non-knowledge and Statelessness in Cambodia*

Humera Iqbal (University College London): *Suspended Identity: Statelessness, Citizenship Challenges and the Impermanence of Identity Status Faced by Pakistani Bengalis*

Chair: Dr Anita Lunic (University of Split, Croatia)

3.30 - 3.45pm Coffee Break

3.45 - 4.30pm Roundtable with HIDDEN Working Group Leaders, School of Education - SEO14

4.30-5.45pm Parallel Panels

A: Passport and ID docs/alternatives: Iontas 1.33

Speranta Dumitriu (University Paris Cité): *Three Reasons to Abolish Passports*

Natalija Shikova (International Balkan University): *The Role of Identity Documentation in Multicultural Societies: Lessons from North Macedonia*

Tugba Aydin Halisoglu (Tarsus University): *Identity Documentation and Turkey: Perspectives from the Turkish Grand National Assembly*

Chair: Dr Ibtisam Sadegh (University of Malta)

B: The Body as Identity: Iontas 2.33

Eszter Polonyi (University of Ljubljana): *Identity Documents Versus the Conceptualists and Post-Conceptualists: A Fraught Art History*

Edward Higgs (University of Essex): *Body/Person Doubling and Fleshy Data in the Modern Western History of Identification*

J. Pedro Silveira-Martins (Autonomous University of Barcelona): *Same-Sex Marriage as strategy for regularization in the EU*

Chair: Prof Ana Belén Martínez García (Universidad de Navarra)

5.45-7.00pm Drinks reception and reading by Evgenii Shtorn, *Refugee Chronicles: Extracts on Friendship, Instrumentalisation and Loss*

School of Education, North Campus, Ground floor.

## Day 2: Friday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2025

8.45-9.15am                      Registration – all COST Action invitees/members must sign in again  
School of Education, North Campus, Ground floor foyer.

9.15- 11.00am                  Parallel Panels

A: Migration and identity documents: Iontas 1.33

Clara Isabel Serrano and Sérgio Neto (University of Coimbra and University of Porto): *Tracing Control: Identity Documents and their Role in Historical Regimes across Europe and Beyond*

Godfrey Baldacchino (University of Malta): *What's Brewing at the Heart of Europe.*

Altin Idrizi (University of Elbasan "Aleksander Xhuvani", Albania): *Albanian Migration to Malta: Challenges and Opportunities in Documentation Processes*

Krešimir Ivanda and Rebeka Mesaric Zabcic (University of Zagreb): *Fragmented Identity as a Challenge for Migration Studies: An Example of Croatian Emigration to South America at the First Half of the 20th century*

Chair: Prof Michael J. Geary (Norwegian University of Science & Technology, Norway)

B: Digital borders Iontas 2.33

Juan Francisco Rodríguez Gamal (University of Huelva): *On the Compatibility of Algorithmic Border Systems and European Digital Identity Infrastructure*

Andrea Berger (University College Dublin): *The Future of Origin Tracing? An Analysis of the Integrated Identity Management Measures of the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees.*

Chair: Dr Tugba Aydin Halisoglu (Tarsus University)

11.00-11.30                      Coffee, School of Education ground floor foyer

11.30 – 12.45      Parallel Panels

**A: Citizenship: Iontas 1.33**

David Edward Zammit and Ibtisam Sadegh (University of Malta): *Blood Ties, Semen, Money, and Political Connections: Citizenship in Malta*  
Patrizia Rinaldi (University of Granada): *Ius scholae: An Obstacle Race for Citizenship*

Lewis DeFrates (Maynooth University): *“Bona fide Americans”:  
Identification and Ambiguity among U.S. Overseas Citizens during the  
First World War*

Chair: Prof Godfrey Baldacchino (University of Malta)

**B: History of Papers: Iontas 2.33**

Igor Lyman Berdyansk State Pedagogical University): *Diplomatic  
Passports of the Ukrainian State and the Ukrainian National Republic  
(1918-1921)*

Luciana Jinga (Institutul de Investigare a Crimelor Comunismului și  
Memoria Exilului Românesc): *Unlocking Secrets: The Hidden World of  
Travel Document Regulations in Communist Romania*

Chair: Dr Aisling Shalvey (Maynooth University)

12.45-1pm      Close of Conference: Jennifer Redmond, HIDDEN Chair,  
School of Education - SEO14 (information on refund of  
expenses will be given in this session)

1.00-2.00pm Lunch (delegates are free to make their own arrangements).  
Core Group Meeting of WG leaders, Iontas Room 1.33

2.00-3.30pm Writing Workshops - if you are involved in a publication being  
planned through HIDDEN you will be contacted by the lead editor(s) and use a  
space to work on progressing the project.

*Keynote speaker: Ms Dagmar Hovestädt*

**Biography:**

Dagmar Hovestadt is a researcher, author and communication expert at the intersection of archives and transitional justice. She is currently an adjunct professor at the Irish Center for Human Rights at the University of Galway (2024 – 27) and works with human rights archives in Germany and Syria. From 2011 to 2021 she was the spokesperson for the Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Records in Germany. She started her career as an investigative journalist in post-unification Berlin and worked as a foreign correspondent from California. She is a trustee and board member of Correctiv, a German non-profit media house, a member of the collections committee of the Wende Museum in Los Angeles, a fellow with the Global Diplomacy Lab and the BMW Responsible Leaders Network and a Fulbright and Burns Alumnae.