



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

This is a repository copy of *From international migration to freedom of movement and back? Southern Europeans moving North in the era of retrenchment of freedom of movement rights*.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:  
<http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/109027/>

Version: Accepted Version

---

**Book Section:**

Barbulescu, R (2016) From international migration to freedom of movement and back? Southern Europeans moving North in the era of retrenchment of freedom of movement rights. In: Lafleur, J-M and Stanek, M, (eds.) South-North Migration of EU Citizens in Times of Crisis. IMISCOE Research Series . Springer . ISBN 978-3-319-39761-0

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-39763-4>

---

**Reuse**

Unless indicated otherwise, fulltext items are protected by copyright with all rights reserved. The copyright exception in section 29 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 allows the making of a single copy solely for the purpose of non-commercial research or private study within the limits of fair dealing. The publisher or other rights-holder may allow further reproduction and re-use of this version - refer to the White Rose Research Online record for this item. Where records identify the publisher as the copyright holder, users can verify any specific terms of use on the publisher's website.

**Takedown**

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing [eprints@whiterose.ac.uk](mailto:eprints@whiterose.ac.uk) including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.



[eprints@whiterose.ac.uk](mailto:eprints@whiterose.ac.uk)  
<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/>

# **From international migration to freedom of movement and back? Southern Europeans moving North in the era of retrenchment of freedom of movement rights**

*Roxana Barbulescu*

ESRC Centre for Population Change and Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, University of Southampton  
r.barbulescu@soton.ac.uk

**Abstract:** First as migrant workers and later as European citizens with freedom of movement rights, Southern Europeans have established migratory routes to the more robust economies in Northern Europe. The Great Recession revives South-North mobility at a time when member states politically challenge and actively reduce freedom of movement rights. This chapter tracks down the evolution of freedom of movement into a regional mobility regime unique in the world and documents its retrenchment in the context of the crisis. The chapter argues that it is the mobility of Eastern European freemovers that triggered the restrictive wave, it has a more dramatic effect on Southern Europeans. This happens because the retrenchment comes at a time when they most use and most need these rights and because Southern Europeans have been socialised and experienced Europe as a continent of free mobility. Finally, the chapter posits that the loss of rights of rights and narrative change make freedom of movement increasingly similar with the regime for international migrants.

**Keywords:** freedom of movement, Southern Europe, economic crisis, EU citizenship, European integration