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The Local Turns in the Field of Migration

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The Local Turns in the Field of Migration

Dilshad Muhammad¹

Abstract

This working paper is a systematic literature review of the term “local turn” in the field of human migration. It reviews 36 journal articles to answer the following questions: what are the subjects of the local turn? What is the stimulus behind the local turn? And what are its characteristics? The study analyses the literature by conducting a thematic analysis, both inductively and deductively. After presenting a manifest account of the characteristics of the local turn in migration, the paper discusses the validity and the consequences of using such a term. Instead of a single local turn, the paper finds that there is a multiplicity of local turns in migration. Moreover, the paper argues that the emergence and the development of this term take place almost exclusively within Europe and should therefore be perceived accordingly.

Introduction

Over the past two decades, an increasing number of studies have considered different aspects of human migration at the subnational level (Doomernik and Glorius 2016; Ferwerda et al. 2023; Shaev et al. 2022; Schmitz et al. 2022). Most of these works justify their focus on the sub-national level by referring to two interrelated factors: 1) that the actual migration dynamics, communal interactions and lived experiences of the migrants are taking place in the cities, towns and villages, and 2) that studying migration (exclusively) through the lens of the nation-state, i.e. on the national level, is a form of methodological nationalism that is not helpful, for example, at explaining the variation in practices and policies within one country as well as the similarities between localities among different countries. Within this framework, notions such as urban migration, local migration governance/management and migration in the cities have increasingly

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gained attention (Bauder 2021; Beversluis 2017; Stürner-Siovitiz 2022). Yet, this shift of focus towards what is more *local* is not an easy terrain to navigate, define or theorise about, probably because it involves complex, divergent and transdisciplinary topics. Nonetheless, there have been ongoing attempts to bring this shift of focus, and its components, under one umbrella category, namely the so-called “local turn”.

Against this background, this paper investigates the ways in which what is known as the local turn in migration is understood – and ultimately whether we can actually speak of a meaningful *turn* here – by conducting a systematic literature review (SLR). The study bases its analysis on 36 peer-reviewed journal articles published between 2015 and 2023. The paper starts by presenting the rationale for choosing SLR and other methodological details. It then describes (manifest) characteristics of the term “local turn,” focusing on the subject of the local turn and the stimulus behind it. Finally, the paper finishes with a discussion of these characteristics, while also shedding light on the methodological and ethical consequences of the use of the term. The paper finds that the term is mainly used in relation to multi-level governance and that its emergence and development in its current status is by and large a European phenomenon – a fact that has potential consequences for equality in knowledge production. In addition, given the variations in subjects, stimuli and characteristics of the local turn, the paper concludes that it is more appropriate to speak of a multiplicity of local turns rather than to talk about *the* local turn in migration studies.

1. Methods

To present a final and concise definition of the term “local turn” (LT) as it is applied in the field of human migration may be an elusive mission. Instead, this paper aims to understand this term – as it is currently discussed in the literature – by unpacking it into its potential components. The aim will be to answer the following sub-questions: The local turn of *what* exactly? What is the stimulus behind the local turn? What are its characteristics? This objective – to follow a term within its relevant literature – consequently necessitates a methodological approach that considers the term’s multiple and differentiated versions and conceptualisations. Navigating the scholarship by conducting a traditional literature review seems an inadequate approach here, however, potentially failing to encompass all relevant literature while risking the bias of favouring

some works over others. At this stage, conducting what is known as a systematic literature review (SLR) better serves the purpose of the paper – namely, to review the literature in a comprehensive and transparent manner. These two attributes, comprehensiveness and transparency, are in fact among the most widely discussed advantages of SLR over a traditional literature review (Dacombe 2018, p. 4; Daigneault et al. 2014, p. 268; Langer and Stewart 2014, p. 239; Petticrew and Roberts 2006, p. 6; Wetterich and Planitz 2021).

SLR, a firmly established method in medical and nursing studies, is increasingly being adopted in different fields of study. While it is widely considered as a rather new phenomenon in the social sciences, some scholars trace SLRs in these disciplines to the early 1980s (Chapman 2021, p. 2). Yet despite the advantages of SLR noted above, this method is criticised for being an “outdated” and prejudicial form of positivism (Dacombe 2018, p. 4; Hammersley 2020, p. 25). This concern is indeed a valid point of criticism. More often than not, SLR studies apply restricted criteria of literature selection, for example, according to journal-ranking metrics or the number of citations. Moreover, it is not uncommon that some SLR studies, especially meta-analyses, approach their data – which are usually obtained from selected literature – as objective facts and undisputed realities without assessing them or critically engaging with the entire research process that led to the results.

Such criticism, however, is not a rule carved in a stone that is above debate. It is arguably possible to avoid (most of) such SLR positivist pitfalls, or at least to limit their impact, by addressing the essence of these concerns. For example, SLR studies may elaborate and reflect on the research processes of the selected studies and not simply accept their final outcomes/conclusions. This step can be incorporated in the selection criteria and/or the quality assessment of the literature. In other cases, it may also be technically feasible for SLR studies to include as many search results as possible in their analysis and hence avoid prejudicial literature selection. In the case of this paper, for example, the number of results of the initial search of different databases, was, fortuitously, limited (51 in total) and therefore all the items could be included in the analysis.

On another note, the very nature of some research questions renders SLR a fitting method to adopt. In the case of this paper, the use of SLR is suitable to answer our question: What is the local turn in the field of human migration? Here the aim is to systematically follow a specific term

within a specific field of study rather than seek supporting literature for a particular argument. Moreover, the fact that the aim here is to define a particular scope – in the sense of identifying an emerging body of literature – renders SLR even more suitable (Dacombe 2018, p. 7). In other words, while this paper does not seek to build its analysis simply on the final results of the literature, it is guided by a question that makes it possible to identify and gain a sense of the scholarship produced around the debates on the local turn in migration.

In these circumstances, the advantages of using the systematic literature review method, at least within the scope and purpose of this paper, outweigh the legitimate concerns that are generally raised against SLR in social sciences.

One of the fundamental steps of doing an SLR study is setting the search terms, as the results will shape the ensuing analysis. The selection of search terms may be guided conceptually, emerging from the conceptual framework of the study, or it can also be derived from the research question itself, as in the case of this paper: an examination of the specific term “local turn” in the field of migration studies. As such, the analysis began with a search for the term “local turn” with the Boolean operator AND, and the term “migration.” It looked for English-language² articles in peer-reviewed journals between 2000 and 2023,³ searching titles, abstracts and keywords.⁴ The main database used for the search was the Web of Science. The search was then repeated in both Mendeley and Google Scholar. The results from the three search engines were aggregated (n= 51) and 10 duplicates were removed, leaving 41 journal articles (see Table 1). The abstracts, introductions and conclusions of these articles were screened to assess their relevance for the research question. Articles no. 20, 22, 25 and 28 were excluded because they included the term “local turn” only superficially, without elaboration. Article no. 11 was excluded because it was published in German but had appeared in the English search because its abstract was also available in English. After excluding these five articles, the final number of articles included in the study was 36 (see Table 2 in the Appendix). These articles were then examined and later coded

² The use of only English-language sources is one of the limitations of this paper. Dines (2022, p. 207) for example, reminds us that the debate on urban migration in the Italian language “predates the declared ‘local turn’ in Anglophone migration studies”. A multi-lingual study would have therefore offered better understanding, but such a research design was unfeasible for practical and logistical reasons.

³ The earliest result (journal article) that appeared in searching the databases was published in 2015, which potentially indicates that the period 2000–2023 is a sufficient time span.

⁴ There are certainly numerous academic works that can be clustered under the concept of the local turn in migration. The focus of this paper, however, is to examine works that explicitly include and articulate the term “local turn.”

with the help of MAXQDA software. The coding process was conducted as described below, following both an inductive and a deductive approach.

In the first step, applying a bottom-up approach, a thematic analysis – following the widely applied approach of Braun and Clarke (2006, p. 87) – was conducted. The texts were coded with as many initial codes as possible. These codes were then clustered under potential themes of interest. In other words, the themes that were addressed in the texts were inductively drawn out, coded and later clustered into overarching themes. For example, any segments that referred to refugee mobility to/within Europe during the year 2015 were coded “2015.” Segments that included words such as “massive influx,” “mass influx,” “wave of refugees” and “migrant wave” were coded “wave.” These two codes, “2015” and “wave”, were then assigned to the potential theme “crisis framing”.

In the second step, applying a top-down approach, fitting segments were deductively derived according to their relevance for the three components of the research question: the subject or domain of the local turn (LT); the stimulus; and the characteristics of the LT. For example, any segments that included “local turn of ...” and “local turn in ...” were coded as “domain” and then assigned to the component “the LT of what exactly?” Any segments that referred to relations between local entities (e.g., municipalities, NGOs), national governments and supranational bodies were coded as “multi-level governance” (MLG) and then listed under “characteristics.”

The final step was the analysis of the results. The emerging themes took two main directions. In the first case, they could be linked to the three components mentioned in step two. For example, several articles referred to the sudden interest in the local turn in the field of human migration because of migrant mobility towards/within Europe in 2015, enabling the theme of “crisis framing” to be linked to the component of the stimulus behind the LT. Other results, however, followed independent paths that shed light on important issues that did not fall under the three components in step two. The discussion section below sheds light on some of these issues.

2. Characteristics and themes

The analysis revealed several manifest characteristics of the 36 articles examined. Timewise, all of the articles were published during the past eight years. At least 30 included empirical material, with most of them (21) dealing with case studies within Europe. The remaining articles focused on Canada, Indonesia, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE or the USA. While most of the publications appeared independently, nine articles were part of four special issues dedicated to the study of human migration at the local level, broadly understood. Furthermore, the articles varied considerably in the frequency with which they mentioned the term “local turn” in their respective texts. While these characteristics were easily observed in a cursory examination, a deeper look revealed interesting underpinning themes which will be touched upon in the discussion section. With regard to the three components of our research question – The local turn of what exactly? What is the stimulus behind the local turn? What are its characteristics? – the results of the analysis are discussed in the following sections.

2.1. The local turn of what exactly?

One of the issues that the paper investigated was the question of where the local turn actually takes place. Is it happening in migration-related policies, in the field of migration management or migration governance?⁵ Or is it specifically about the sub-field of integration policies? Unsurprisingly, no clear and unifying answer was provided in the 36 articles. In fact, all of these domains were covered in the body of the articles, albeit to various degrees (see Figure 1).

⁵ Migration management refers to the “corpus of worldviews and policy recommendations regarding the ways in which migration should be governed by states and the international community” (Pécoud 2021, p. 207), whereas migration governance refers to “regimes of governing practices ... [that] reside in highly structured and unequal relationships of power and [are] also made and remade in everyday action” (Carmel et al. 2021, p. 3). A comparison of the two concepts is beyond the scope of this paper.

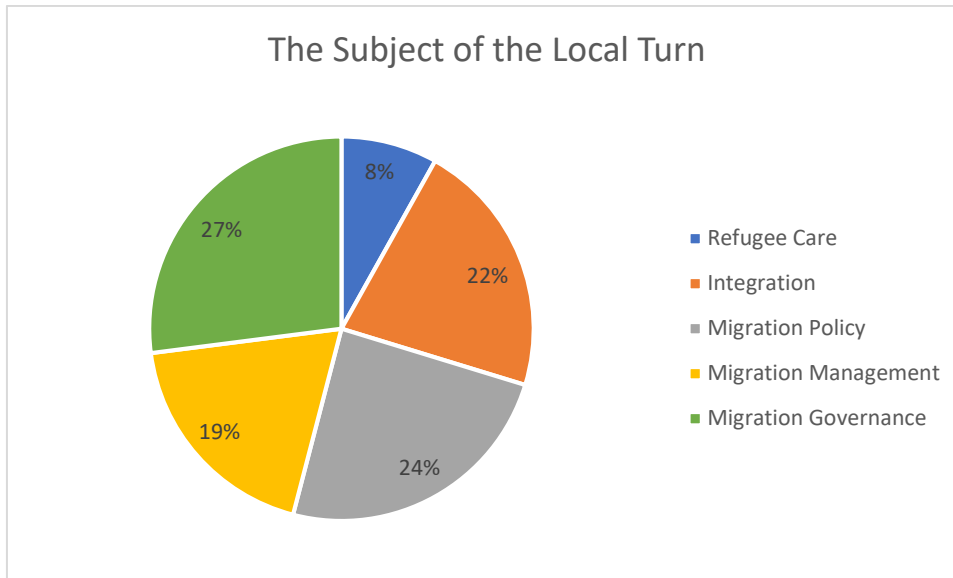


Figure 1 The local turn of / in ... (% out of the 36 articles)

2.2. What is the stimulus behind the local turn in the field of human migration?

Labelling something as a turn suggests that there has been a mainstream direction, area of focus or even a paradigm, from which this *turn* has diverged. In the given case, the local turn widely refers to a divergence away from the mainstream condition of dealing with migration (exclusively) on the national level. But which conditions have triggered this turn? The analysis of the 36 articles shows us several turn-triggering stimuli. According to the 36 articles reviewed, four turn-triggering stimuli can be observed: the pragmatic stimulus, the localist stimulus, the external/EU stimulus and the neoliberal stimulus.

First, the vast majority of the articles refer to what is known as the pragmatic thesis of explaining the emergence of the local turn. In essence, such a stimulus occurs when local actors try to find and/or achieve pragmatic approaches to address migration-related issues that supposedly transcend political ideologies, party politics and governance preferences (Bernt 2019, p. 56; Hinger et al. 2016, p. 454; Kaya 2023, p. 2; Scholten 2018, p. 18; Zapata-Barrero et al. 2017, p. 3). Here, issues and situations that necessitate such pragmatic approaches usually stem from a constellation of factors that take place simultaneously on the local, national and supranational levels. A major example of this condition is the crisis-framed mobility of migrants that took place in 2015 to and within Europe. The absence of a coordinated EU policy and the ad hoc policies at

the national level led to the sudden arrival of a large number of (forced) migrants in several localities. This situation forced local actors to initiate programmes to deal with the new demographics. For example, even without political motivation, local governments might have initiated collaborations with and gathered information from migrant organisations to assist with the implementation of local policies (Zapata-Barrero et al., 2017).

Second, a few articles refer to what is called the localist thesis. Here any migration-related local activity is linked to, and supposedly stems from, the very local political, economic and cultural conditions (Emilsson 2015, p. 2; Filomeno 2017, p. 19).

Third, two articles refer to the influence of the EU as a supranational organisation pushing for a consolidated and more powerful role for local actors (Flamant 2020, p. 1984; Hackett 2017, p. 351).

Fourth, several articles draw our attention to a condition of a different type; namely, the neoliberal stimulus (Ahouga 2018; Emilsson 2015, p. 5; Errichiello 2023; Kaya 2023; Missbach and Adiputera 2021, p. 494; Schmidtke 2019, p. 38). This situation describes the partial retreat of national governments from their responsibilities of dealing with migration and their delegation of such responsibilities to the local level, usually without providing the corresponding necessary powers and funds for such responsibilities.

2.3. Which characteristics are related to the local turn?

A variety of characteristics were associated with the local turn (see Figure 2). Almost half of the 36 articles make references to multi-level governance (MLG). In essence, this is a form of governance that takes place on three main levels: local, national and supranational. A functioning MLG means a cross-level coordinated governance where different entities at the three levels have clearly defined powers, capacities and tasks. It is argued that localities within the European Union are probably the only places where such governance takes place. Considering that a good two-thirds (21 out of 30) of the empirical articles concern cases situated in Europe, it is unsurprising that MLG is the major topic associated with the local turn. The figure below shows the most dominant characteristics in the 36 articles.

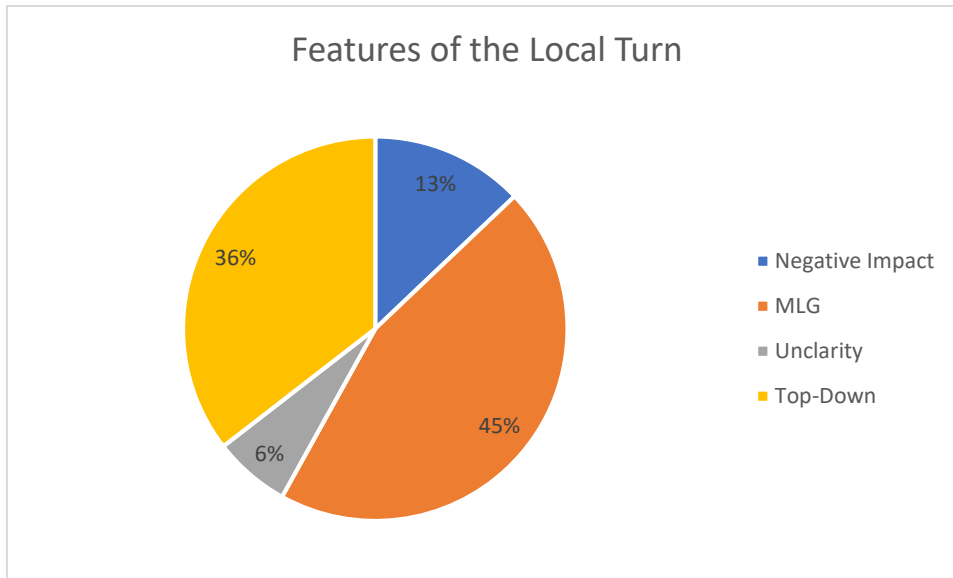


Figure 2 – The most dominant characteristics in the 36 articles (percentages of the total number of articles)

In addition to MLG, there are other interesting topics that are discussed in relation to the local turn. For example, while it is widely taken for granted that the local turn is a bottom-up process, several articles (36%) clearly show how the LT is rather (in)directly imposed on the local actors from the central government (Emilsson 2015; Missbach and Adiputera 2021; Dines 2022). With regard to this top-down process, a few articles (13%) argue that the delegation of responsibilities from the national to the local level often takes place without a corresponding allocation of power, funds or resources and that this process, consequently, generates a negative impact on the lives and livelihoods of the migrants (Kaya 2023, Missbach and Adiputera 2021; Missbach et al. 2018).

Association with such a negative impact is not the only challenge accompanying the local turn. A few articles (6%) make the case that the term “local turn” still lacks consistency and clarity. Schader (2020, p. 2028) argues that the local turn in migration studies still lacks sufficient theorisation, especially in comparison with the amount of theorisation on the national level. Similarly, Hinger et al. (2016, p. 2) argue that even when adopting a local turn perspective, it remains unclear what to focus on and what not when examining migration at the local level.

3. Discussion

The context of the local turn in human migration is large and complex and the apparent *local* processes do not take place in a vacuum. It is also not exactly clear from the reviewed literature for whose benefit the policies associated with the local turn are designed and implemented. Furthermore, the emergence and development of the LT in its current status is by and large a European phenomenon that has potential consequences on equality in knowledge production. But before touching upon all these important issues, is it actually appropriate to label the LT as an academic turn within the scholarship on migration?

A multiplicity of turns

There are multiple trends, traditions, approaches and paradigms that are labelled as (academic) turns in different academic fields, such as the linguistic turn in philosophy, the cultural turn in the social sciences in general and the local turn in peace studies. Some of these “turns” may have emerged and disappeared without leaving any kind of meaningful impact, whereas others have been so consequential as to shape entire disciplines. Turns such as the cultural turn and linguistic turn have had long-lasting and “broad-based” influences in several fields of study and have even been dubbed “mega turns” (Surkis 2012, p. 714; Zwischenberger 2023, p. 2). According to Zwischenberger (2023), for a turn to take place, numerous publications, scientific events and other similar activities covering the core of the potential turn must first exist before any turn can even be debated. Bachmann-Medick (2009, 2016) talks about another precondition for a concept to emerge as an academic turn: the concept needs to have the characteristics of an analytical category that is not limited to only one field of study. Taking into consideration these two prerequisites, there is an abundance of literature and academic activities that can be related to the local turn in the field of migration. While much of this literature may not have been explicitly labelled with the words “local turn,” the literature review conducted for this paper shows that there are a considerable number of journal articles and special issues dedicated to the local turn in migration. Yet even when these two prerequisites are met, it may still be early to talk of a meaningful local turn in migration studies. First, the term remains under-theorised; apart from two articles in this analysis (Ahouga 2018; Zapata-Barrero et al. 2017), most of the articles focus on empirical cases and only *tag* themselves with the term LT. Second, the (sudden) increase in

migration scholarship exhibiting the LT label is a recent phenomenon and, therefore, it may still be too soon to ignore the possibility that such usage might also indicate a decorative practice of employing fashionable buzzwords to meet certain scholarship-funding criteria.

As we saw in section 3, there are numerous topics (governance, policy, integration, diversity, etc.) that have been studied through, or in association with, the local turn. There are also quite a few attributes associated with the LT (bottom-up, top-down, neoliberal outcome, etc.). Therefore, it might well be more appropriate to speak of a multiplicity of local turns rather than to talk about *the* local turn in migration studies.

The power dynamics of the local turn

The local turn is widely referred to as an analytical departure from so-called methodological nationalism, in which the perception of certain aspects of migration, viewed only through the lens of the nation-state level, gives an opaque and distorted image of the reality (Dines 2022, p. 215; Emilsson 2015, p. 1). Yet while acknowledging the importance of shifting the analytical lens towards the local level, we are reminded by several scholars that what is described as local is in fact embedded in other constellations and configurations that shape and reshape the local (Bernt 2019, p. 57; Hackett 2017, p. 341; Schammann et al. 2021, p. 2905).

This fact is of crucial importance, because it is easy at times to fall into what is known as the localist trap, where we forget that the power of the nation-state is not fading away, but rather taking different forms (Purcell 2006 in Glorius et al. 2019, p. 20). Nevertheless, the majority of the articles in this analysis approach the “local level” as a fixed and objective category within a supposed global-national-local hierarchy. Such an approach can at times be unhelpful for understanding the dynamics that shape and take place in what can be described as the local. One way to address this challenge is probably to relate local migration scholarship more to the political geography concept of scale. This concept has been part of a central debate in political geography (Clarke 2009; Marston et al., 2005; Moore 2008). According to Papanastasiou (2019, pp. 22, 25), the debate ranges from seeing scale as a mere category of analysis by social scientists to perceiving scale as a social practice, in the sense that labelling a specific space as a (local) scale can affect (enable/disable) our knowledge about that space (ibid., p. 13). As such, a local scale can more often than not be a social construct that shapes our knowledge and perception.

One example here is how several local issues are simply manifestations or aspects of global issues. Studying these seemingly local issues *locally* without taking their *globality* into consideration may thus offer a distorted understanding. Moreover, when it comes to the policy arena, actors usually are not bound to their scales, which may change in a process known as “scale jumping” (Smith 1992 in Papanastasiou 2019, p. 123). In addition, imposing fixed scales on the actors may produce hegemonic consequences in terms of limiting and constraining the agency of these actors. Such an approach, namely critically engaging with the hierarchising of the *local*, is therefore very important for studying migration phenomena under the guise of the local turn in migration (Papanastasiou 2019).

This analysis also observes that most of the articles focus on specific groups of local actors. In fact, the migrants, who should be at the centre of this debate, are rarely looked at when talking about the local turn. One article draws our attention to how the shift towards the local level is actually producing a negative impact on the migrants (Missbach and Adiputera 2021, p. 496).

Last but not least, one especially important point revealed by this analysis is that the local turn in the field of migration is primarily a European phenomenon. As already mentioned, two-thirds of the empirical articles study cases within Europe. Furthermore, the few articles that look at Morocco and Turkey do not study them independently, but rather in relation to European cities or because of the geopolitical significance of their proximity to Europe (Kaya 2023; Kutz and Wolff 2022). It can thus be argued that the term “local turn” in migration, in its current status, is thus far a European knowledge product. While this phenomenon mirrors what has been taking place in the field of migration studies in general, the presentation as generic of a term that emerged and developed based almost exclusively on empirical studies within Europe is somewhat problematic. Calling this phenomenon, the “local turn in migration” without a reference to its Europeanness – by prefacing it with the adjective “European”, for example – may give the impression that this is a *universal* local turn that exists equally all over the world.⁶ Indeed, such practices may unintentionally contribute to the process of the universalisation of knowledge produced in Europe and consequently contribute to the asymmetry and inequality of knowledge

⁶ The language bias (only English articles reviewed) in this analysis may have contributed to this conclusion. Further multi-lingual research may be useful here.

production. In this respect, it may sometimes be useful and sensible to use expressions such as “the European local turn in migration” rather than simply the “local turn in migration.”

Conclusion

Cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods are the actual spaces where migrants, local authorities and organisations, and local communities interact. These localities and demographics, even within one country, differ in their political, economic and social conditions. Studying migration at the subnational level, therefore, remains an important and much-needed practice. The term “local turn” has recently been applied to this approach in migration studies, as this paper has confirmed. One major aspect of this so-called “local turn” may be its Europeanness, whether in terms of the geographical focus of local turn scholarship or in terms of its development, which has been considerably shaped by the EU multi-governance mindset. Moreover, while several studies refer to the local turn, this paper tried to raise the question of whether this is a solid theoretical and methodological turn, or rather yet another example of short-lived noisy wording. The systematic literature review applied in this paper demonstrated that the term “local turn” has a wide scope and covers divergent and multiple thematic foci and characteristics. It may therefore be more useful to speak, if necessary, of local turns – instead of *the* local turn, singular – in migration studies.

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Appendix

Table 1

No.	Author(s)	Title	Periodical
1	Emilsson (2015)	A national turn of local integration policy	Comparative Migration Studies
2	Doomernik & Glorius (2016)	Refugee Migration and Local Demarcations	Journal of Refugee Studies
3	Hinger et al. (2016)	The Local Production of Asylum	Journal of Refugee Studies
4	Hackett (2017)	The “local turn” in historical perspective	International Review of Administrative Sciences
5	Zapata-Barrero et al. (2017)	Theorizing the “local turn” in a multi-level governance framework of analysis	International Review of Administrative Sciences
6	Ahouga (2018)	The local turn in migration management	Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
7	Missbach et al. (2018)	Is Makassar a “sanctuary city”?	Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies
8	Scholten (2018)	Beyond Migrant Integration Policies	Croatian and Comparative Public Administration
9	Bernt (2019)	Migration and Strategic Urban Planning	DISP
10	Glorius et al. (2019)	Refugee Reception within a Common European Asylum System	ERDKUNDE
11	Kuhn & Munch (2019)	Immigration Policy – A New Field of Activity for Cities?	DISP
12	Schmidtke (2019)	The Local Governance of Migration	DISP
13	Flamant (2020)	The local turn in integration policies	Ethnic and Racial Studies
14	Oliver et al. (2020)	Innovative strategies for the reception of asylum seekers and refugees in European cities	Comparative Migration Studies
15	Oliver et al. (2020)	Social contact and encounter in asylum seeker reception	Comparative Migration Studies
16	Oomen (2020)	Decoupling and Teaming up	International Migration Review
17	Schader (2020)	Externalization or imitation	Ethnic and Racial Studies
18	Schönwälder (2020)	Diversity in local political practice	Ethnic and Racial Studies
19	van Breugel (2020)	Towards a typology of local migration diversity policies	Comparative Migration Studies
20	Barbarino et al. (2021)	Migration-Led Institutional Change in Urban Development and Planning	Urban Planning
21	Demiroglu (2021)	“Compulsory” Migration Governance at Local Level	Lex Localis-Journal of Local Self-Government
22	Desille & Sa’di-Ibraheem (2021)	‘It’s a Matter of Life or Death’: Jewish Migration and Dispossession of Palestinians in Acre	Urban Planning
23	Missbach & Adiputera (2021)	The Role of Local Governments in Accommodating Refugees in Indonesia	Asian Journal of Law and Society
24	Schammann et al. (2021)	Defining and transforming local migration policies	Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
25	Schrover (2021)	Rats, Rooms and Riots: Usage of Space by Immigrants in the Dutch Town Utrecht 1945–1970	Journal of Migration History
26	Darling (2022)	The politics of discretion: Authority and influence in asylum dispersal	Political Geography
27	Dines (2022)	How far can we compare?	International Migration
28	Korneev (2022)	Learning in, about and from the field?	Central Asian Survey
29	Kutz & Wolff (2022)	Urban Geopolitics and the Decentring of Migration Diplomacy in EU-Moroccan Affairs	Geopolitics
30	Memisoglu & Yavcan (2022)	Beyond ideology – a comparative analysis of how local governance can expand national integration policy	Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
31	Panebianco (2022)	Migration Governance in the Mediterranean	Geopolitics
32	Pisarevskaya et al. (2022)	Classifying the Diversity of Urban Diversities	Journal of International Migration and Integration

33	Schmiz et al. (2022)	Cities and Migration – Bibliometric Evidence from a Spatially Biased Field of Knowledge Production	Geographical Review
34	Shaev et al. (2022)	Refugees, expellees and immigrants	Urban History
35	Sturner & Heimann (2022)	The EU Urban Partnership on Inclusion	International Migration Review
36	Zardo & Wolff (2022)	Decentering the Study of Migration Governance in the Mediterranean	Geopolitics
37	Errichiello (2023)	The “Local Turn” and Everyday Integration.	Journal Of Immigrant & Refugee Studies
38	Kaya (2023)	The Neoliberal Face of the “Local Turn” in Governance of Refugees in Turkey	Journal of International Migration and Integration
39	Lukasiewicz et al. (2023)	Local welfare system response to refugees	Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
40	Zapata-Barrero (2023)	New scales of migration governance in the Mediterranean	European Urban and Regional Studies
41	Zapata-Barrero (2023)	Urban migration governance under the resilience lens	Ethnic and Racial Studies

Table 2

No.	Author(s)	Empirical focus	Frequency	Research purpose
1	Emilsson (2015)	Europe	5	Study of local integration policies through a power perspective lens.
2	Doomernik & Glorius (2016) SI 1	-	1	[Introduction to the Special Issue]
3	Hinger et al. (2016) SI 1	Europe	2	Rethinking space, locality, and time from a migration-regime perspective
4	Hackett (2017)	Europe	12	Consequences of “local turn” on MLG of migration and integration policies
5	Zapata-Barrero et al. (2017)	-	5	[Introduction to the Special Issue]
6	Ahouga (2018)	-	26	What is the role of local actors in the migration management paradigm?
7	Missbach et al. (2018)	Indonesia	27	Study the debate on regional solutions to accommodating migrants in Indonesia
8	Scholten (2018)	Europe	9	Reconceptualising of urban governance of migration-related diversity.
9	Bernt (2019) SI 2	Europe	10	Study the role of migration-related issues in urban development strategies
10	Glorius et al. (2019)	Europe	7	Comparing asylum governance at the local level between Germany, Luxembourg, and NL.
11	Schmidtke (2019) SI 2	Canada	2	How Canadian cities are addressing local labour need, becoming “welcoming communities,” and providing a sense of urban citizenship.
12	Flamant (2020) SI 3	Europe	9	Comparing integration policies in French cities
13	Oliver et al. (2020) Editorial	Europe	6	[Introduction to the Special Issue]
14	Oliver et al. (2020)	Europe	2	Study of the co-housing relations between local tenants and asylum seekers
15	Oomen (2020)	Europe	5	Decoupling the local migration policies from the national within the TMNs
16	Schader (2020) SI 3	Europe	1	The consequences of the 2015/16 immigration movement on the local administration.
17	Schönwälder (2020) SI 3	Europe	1	[Introduction to the Special Issue]
18	van Breugel (2020)	Europe	4	How local governments, of different sizes, respond to migration related diversity
19	Demiroglu (2021)	Turkey	4	How and why do districts in Istanbul produce different responses to international migration
20	Missbach & Adiputera (2021)	Indonesia	15	Comparing refugee accommodation in two local governments in Indonesia.
21	Schammann et al. (2021)	Europe	1	Finding a conceptual framework of local migration policymaking
22	Darling (2022)	Europe	4	How discretion operates within the accommodation and support of asylum seeker
23	Dines (2022)	Europe, Morocco	4	Investigating the limits and consequences of comparing local migration policies.
24	Kutz & Wolff (2022) SI 4	Morocco	1	The local aspects of Moroccan migration governance as a geopolitical action vis-à-vis the EU.
25	Memisoglu & Yavcan (2022)	Turkey	3	Comparing migration policies in two localities in Turkey.
26	Panebianco (2022) SI 4	Europe	4	Investigating the features of Mediterranean migration governance between 2013–2018.
27	Pisarevskaya et al. (2022)	Europe	4	Empirically and theoretically understanding the diversity of urban diversities.
28	Schmiz et al. (2022)	-	3	Which sites are relevant for knowledge production in the field of city-related migration?
29	Shaev et al. (2022)	Europe	5	Cross-city historical comparison of migration policies in three European cities.
30	Sturmer & Heimann (2022)	Europe	5	Understanding MLG through local-EU agenda-setting and cooperation in the Urban Partnership on Inclusion.
31	Zardo & Wolff (2022)	-	1	[Introduction to the Special Issue]
32	Errichiello (2023)	UAE	5	Everyday integration and social inclusion in the UAE.
33	Kaya (2023)	Turkey	18	
34	Lukasiewicz et al. (2023)	USA	1	Analysing the structure of demand and supply of immigrant integration policies in New York.
35	Zapata-Barrero (2023)	-	4	How cities can shape regions in the Mediterranean migration governance.
36	Zapata-Barrero (2023)	Europe, Tunisia	7	Urban resilience as a category of analysis and practice in urban migration governance.

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