**The Politics of Social Cohesion**

**A research project hosted by Centre for Advanced Migration Studies.**

Public policies increasingly reflect a desire to promote social cohesion in response to challenges perceived to be due to diversity. More often than not, such policies rely on community conceptions, i.e., ideas about what kinds of bonds between community members are conducive to social cohesion. However, very little is known about the *effects* of different types of community politics. The aim of the current project is to improve our understanding of such policies, including their (underlying) values and effects on social cohesion, in particular trust and solidarity. The primary research question of the project can be summarized as follows:

*In what ways do public policies, discourses, individual attitudes and everyday practices in the selected countries rely on community conceptions; how do such different conceptions, expressed on these levels, relate to key aspects of social cohesion, including trust and solidarity; and to what extent can such conceptions be justified in terms of fairness?*

The project is highly inter-disciplinary; combines theoretical, quantitative and qualitative methods; and involves a transnational comparison of four countries that can be said to express highly different community conceptions, namely Denmark, Canada, France and the UK. It is funded by a Sapere Aude Top-Researcher grant for Nils Holtug from the Danish Council for Independent Research, and involves a collaboration between Centre for Advanced Migration Studies, University of Copenhagen, Department of Culture and Identity, Roskilde University, and Department of Political Science, University of Aalborg.