

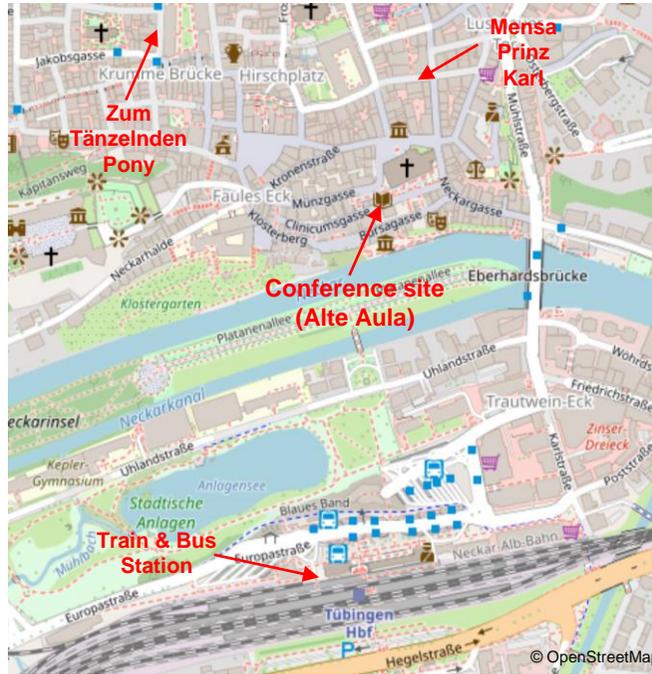


IMISCOE Standing Committee
“Reflexivities in Migration Studies”

The aim of this standing committee is to push forward a reflexive (and self-reflexive) perspective within migration studies. Given the growth, relevance and responsibility of migration studies, we strive to promote reflexivity in our research and to investigate on how the field of migration studies has emerged. Being reflexive in these two senses involves investigating how knowledge on migration is produced, circulated and utilized – both by us as researchers as well by other actors in the field. This endeavour tackles the embeddedness of the field of migration studies in wider societal and power relations and the risk to reproduce hegemonic structures.

For migration studies as field of research, becoming reflexive changes its positionality. The reflexive approach that we pursue emphasizes the boundedness of knowledge about migration to specific epistemological, methodological and political modes of knowledge production. The awareness that modes of conceiving and researching migration are inevitably historical and theoretically contingent shall feed back into the ways of how knowledge is produced. Consequently, the objectives of this SC are to

- promote reflexivity amongst migration scholars
- provide a platform for research on knowledge production, circulation and utilization in migration studies
- address the risk of migration studies of reproducing hegemonic structures and problem definitions
- develop alternatives in theory, empirical research and science-society dialogues.



Venue
Alte Aula
Münzgasse 30
72070 Tübingen

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IMISCOE
reflex_studies

Migration Studies and Social
Theory: Problematizing
Ontologies; De-Centering
Migration

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Tübingen, 14-15th September 2023

Organized by:
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Anja Weiß

www.imiscoe.org/research/standing-committees/reflexivities-in-migration-studies

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Conference Programme

Increased reflexivity in migration research has changed the focus and identity of migration studies. Since migration-related differences are no longer seen as 'natural', it seems less self-evident and legitimate to treat migration or migrants as an exception to 'normal sedentary life'. Thus, migration and migration studies are 'de-centered'. Relativizing and complexifying difference draws attention to the 'ordinariness' of migrations and migrants in many realms of social life. In consequence, migration studies cease to differ from other fields of sociology. How can de-centering transform the 'epistemic object' of migration studies in a manner that pushes migration studies forward, i.e. out of its sociological niche in order to mainstream 'the migration question'? How can we both de-migrantize migration studies and migrantize social theory?

Following this line of thinking, this conference revisits the question of what migration studies can and should achieve after the reflexive turn. It aims at bringing together research perspectives that do not marginalise mobile, legally excluded, and symbolically othered populations but ask for the role they - and the research on them - play in the reproduction and/or contestation of social order(s). We aim to bring together and discuss conceptual foci and research results that contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of society of which migration and mobility are integral. As we take stock of how the reflexive turn has transformed the ways 'migration' is researched, we hope to open a way towards novel theory-making beyond groupism and migrant exceptionalism. We are especially interested in whether and how we can build theory by bringing reflexive migration research in dialogue with wider social theories. Therefore, theoretical and conceptual contributions, especially in their connection with empirical research (design), are especially encouraged.

THURSDAY, 14/09/2023

- 13.30 **Welcome and Arrival**
- 14.00 **Introduction by Organizers**
- 14.30 **Panel I: Ontologies**
Chair: Andreas Pott
The (non-)relation between migration studies and social theory
Helge Schwiertz (University of Hamburg)
- Science and Technology Studies (STS): exploring potential use for a demigrantized view on integration**
Nadine Blankvoort (Maastricht University)
- Turning the gaze on the global north: Reciprocal research as the new frontier in decolonising migration studies research**
Khangelani Moyo (University of the Free State)
- Theorizing migration-making: Exploring new modes of incorporation from the perspective of European colonialities and intersectionality**
Karolina Bargłowski (University of Luxembourg) & Anna Amelina (BTU Cottbus)
- 16.15 **Coffee Break**
- 16.30 **Panel II: Normativities**
Chair: Boris Nieswand
The Moral Economies of Reflexive Migration Research
Laura Stielike, Inken Bartels, Philipp Schäfer, Maurice Stierl (IMIS, University of Osnabrueck)
- Justifying Integration Requirements: The Sedentary Bias of Political Philosophy**
Stefan Manser-Egli (University of Neuchâtel)
- Certainties unearthed: lessons on migration?**
Johannes Kögel (LMU Munich)
- 19.00 **Conference Dinner**
(Wirtshaus zum tänzelnden Pony
Schmiedtorstraße 5; 72070 Tübingen)

FRIDAY, 15/09/2023

- 9.00 **Panel III: Social Change**
Chair: Stefan Manser-Egli
Migrantising field theory: Analysing social change through migration
Wiebke Sievers (Austrian Academy of Sciences)
- De-centering migration to research relationships in professional fields**
Maja Povrzanovic Frykman (Malmö University)
- 'What is it that is at crisis here?' Interrogating the class fault lines in debates on migration in South Africa**
Khanyile Mlotshwa (University of KwaZulu-Natal)
- 10.30 **Coffee Break**
- 11.00 **Panel IV: Representations**
Chair: Nadine Blankvoort
Visibility, conjuncture, agency: working through the representational order of 'crisis'
Jan Dobbernack (Newcastle University)
- Refugees in irregular migration flow: Agency as a double-edged sword**
Lejla Sunagic (Lund University)
- 'Ideology never says: I am ideological.' On the politics of interpretation in the organization of migration**
Thorsten Schlee (University of Duisburg-Essen)
- 12.30 **Lunch Break** (Mensa Prinz Karl)
- 13.30 **Panel V: Space & Time**
Chair: Anja Weiß
Including space into reflexive migration research: the focus on spatializations of migration
Christine Lang & Andreas Pott (IMIS, University of Osnabrueck)
- Beyond the Present, the Nation & Europe: Three Things Reflexive Migration Studies Might Learn from Global History**
Isabella Löhr (Centre Marc Bloch) & Christiane Reinecke (Europa-University Flensburg)
- 15.30 **Closing of the Workshop**