

**IMISCOE SPRING CONFERENCE 2022**

# **SHIFTING RATIONALITIES IN MIGRATION POLICIES THROUGHOUT EUROPE?**

**THE (UN)MAKING OF INTEGRATION BY DISCOURSES, POLICIES  
AND MIGRANT STRATEGIES**



**MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> - MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**DUISBURG – GERMANY**  
(online via webex)

**IMISCOE SPRING CONFERENCE in cooperation with the Migration and Social  
Policy Research Group at the Institute for Work, Skills and Training and  
InZentIM at the University Duisburg-Essen**

**IMISCOE**

UNIVERSITÄT  
DUISBURG  
ESSEN  
*Offen im Denken*

 **InZentIM**  
Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für  
Integrations- und Migrationsforschung

**FIS** Fördernetzwerk  
Interdisziplinäre  
Sozialpolitikforschung

**MigSoz**  
**biWzoS**  
MIGRATION UND SOZIALPOLITIK

## Foreword

The history and industry of the Ruhr region is closely linked to its immigration history. People from 170 nations live in the "Revier" today. The University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) is located in the centre of the historic Ruhr metropolis. Discussions about belonging, changing migration policies, struggles for recognition... this has always shaped the Ruhr region in general and Duisburg in particular.

The postindustrial cityscape of Duisburg provides an exciting backdrop for discussing shifting rationalities in migration policies throughout Europe. We would have loved to welcome you all here in person and to bring you in touch with the industrial heritage and the multiple forms of migration, administrative practices and social activism. Unfortunately, the current Corona



*Landscape Park Duisburg-Nord © UDE*

situation has not allowed this to happen.



*Campus Duisburg © UDE*

However, the Migration and Social Policy Research Group at the Institute for Work, Skills and Training at the (UDE) is delighted to host the 2022 IMISCOE-Spring Conference – for the first time in Germany at all – as an online event. Over the course of three days you will have the opportunity to attend to ten panels and one roundtable that include several lectures by scholars from all over Europe and discuss their recent work on (1) national migration programs, discourses and rationalities, (2) multilevel governance and the gap between policies and (3) migrants' everyday life practices, strategies and identities. Keynotes by Prof. Dr. Lydia Morris and Dr. Ioana Vrabiescu round off the programme. Digital get togethers-tools enable informal exchange and 'joint' coffee breaks. We are very much looking forward meeting and discussing with you!

**Thorsten Schlee, Katrin Menke, Sandrine Bakoben and Andrea Rumpel**  
Migration and Social Policy Research Group and Conference Organiser

# Contents

University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) .....	4
InZentIM .....	5
The Institute for Work, Skills and Training (IAQ).....	6
Timetable .....	7
Abstracts .....	12

# University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE)

Located in the centre of the historic Ruhr metropolis, the University of Duisburg-Essen was created in 2003 following the merger of two universities in the cities of Duisburg and Essen.

It is therefore one of the youngest universities in Germany.



*Campus Duisburg © UDE*

The broad spectrum of subjects ranges from the humanities, social and educational sciences to economics and engineering, natural sciences and medicine. The UDE deliberately interlocks research and teaching as closely as possible in order to promote exchange of knowledge and perspectives.



*Campus Duisburg © UDE*

At the two campuses at Duisburg and Essen and the university medical centre, you can meet 42,000 students from more than 130 countries. The university embraces diversity and strongly supports exchange and collaboration, both regionally – as with our neighbouring universities in the University Alliance Ruhr – and worldwide, as in the network Aurora, or with the more than 250 Erasmus partner universities.

[More Information about the University of Duisburg-Essen und studying in the UA Ruhr.](#)

[Study at the UDE!](#)

[Facts and information on Duisburg](#)

# InZentIM

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Integration and Migration Research (InZentIM) documents the Universities strong focus on migration and integration related issues. Founded in 2016, the (InZentIM) concentrates and strengthens the research in integration and migration at the University of Duisburg-Essen, encourages collaboration with researchers from other scientific institutions and seeks to develop meaningful responses to contemporary challenges in society. The UDE's location in a region with a long history of migration is not insignificant for this research field. It therefore made sense that the first university centre for integration and migration research in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is be located here. The InZentIM is part of the DeZIM research community and has close ties with other research institutions, foundations, local authorities and communities, schools and various

initiatives in the Ruhr metropolitan area and the state.

Over 70 scientists from different disciplines and faculties at the University of Duisburg-Essen work in research and teaching on integration and migration. The work of InZentIM centres on key issues are organized into clusters (Multilingualism and Education; Labour, Education and Social Participation; Health and Medicine; Democracy; Transnational and Global Processes). Work in the clusters is accompanied by research on externally funded projects and communication in inter- and multidisciplinary research cooperation and an active junior researcher network.

Since 2019 InZentIM is part of the IMISCOE community and founding member of the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM) (2017).

# The Institute for Work, Skills and Training (IAQ)

...was founded in 2007 as a research institute in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Duisburg-Essen. It conducts interdisciplinary and international comparative social science research in the fields of work and employment, social protection, education, and training. The work of the IAQ is organized in four research departments: Employment – Integration – Mobility (AIM), Working Time and Work Organisation (AZAO), Learning and Education in Structural Change (BEST) and Flexibility and Security (FLEX). The distinctive feature of the Institute's research profile is the combination of basic and applied research on the sustainable design and organisation of employment, wage, social protection, and education systems considered against the background of social and technological change. As global mobilities affect the different research areas, the IAQ has a strong focus on migration issues and is

conducting research on topics like transnational labour representation, on education and integration on working conditions for European migrant workers, on local labour market policies for refugees or on the role of migrant organizations for social security practices.

Within this research infrastructure the [Migration and Social Policy Research Group](#) is founded by the ministry of Social Affairs between 2017 and 2022. Within four different qualification projects the research group members multidisciplinary focus on refugee related social policies and ask how refugees use local infrastructures for their aims and aspirations. In cooperation with InZenTIM the Migration and Social Policy Group within the Institut for Works Skills and Training organizes and takes responsibility for the IMSCOE Spring conference 2022 in Duisburg.



# Timetable

<b>Wednesday, March 16th</b>		
<b>13.00 – 17.00 (CET)</b>	<b>PhD-Network Welcome</b> <b>Katrin Menke</b> (University Duisburg-Essen, InZen-tIM)	<b>Board of Directors' Meeting</b>
<b>17:45 – 18:00 (CET)</b>	<b>Welcome Notes (Plenary Room)</b>  <b>Ute Klammer</b> (University Duisburg-Essen, IAQ) <b>Andreas Blätte</b> (University Duisburg-Essen, DeZIM) <b>Thorsten Schlee</b> (MigSoz)	
<b>18.00 – 19.30 (CET)</b>	<b>Keynote: Lydia Morris (University of Essex)</b> (Plenary Room The Moral Economy of Welfare and Migration)	

<b>Thursday, March 17th</b>		
<b>09:00 – 09:45 (CET)</b>	<b>Katrin Menke and Thorsten Schlee</b> (both Migration and Social Policy Research Group, IAQ, University Duisburg-Essen) (Plenary Room) <b>The Un-Making of Dis-(Integration) – Considerations and Findings in the tension between Migration and Social Policy</b>	
<b>10:00 – 12:00 (CET)</b>	<b>Stream I, Panel I Political Programs</b>  <b>Stream I Katharina Tittel</b> (Institut d'études politiques de Paris, France): Should They Come Or should They Go: Media (Mis)Representations of different groups of Immigrants across three European countries.  <b>Laura Westerveen</b> (Brussels School of Governance, Belgium): Individual or Structural? Representations of Racism in Policy Discourses.  <b>Karin Krifors</b> (REMESO, Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society): Logistics of refugee reception: spatial struggles of migrant distribution  <b>Barne Haferkamp and Karl Sandman</b> (Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden): Changing Perspectives // Rethinking external European land borders.  <b>Chair: Alexandra Graevskaia (University Duisburg-Essen, Germany)</b> <b>Discussants: Dr. Daniela Vintila (Centre d'études de l'ethnicité et des migrations (CEDEM), University of Liege, Belgium)</b>	
<b>10:00 – 12:00 (CET)</b>	<b>Stream II, Panel I Multilevel governance and the gap between policies</b>  <b>Hannes Schammann, Franziska Ziegler</b> (both University of Hildesheim, Germany),	

<b>Stream II</b>	<p><b>Andreas Blätte and Christoph Leonhardt</b> (both University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany): Localities in sight! Tracing the ‘local turn’ over 70 years of parliamentary debates on migration.</p> <p><b>Karolina Łukasiewicz, Kamil Matuszczyk and Ewa Cichocka</b> (all University of Warsaw, Poland): Between migration mainstreaming and efficient poverty reduction. Local welfare system response to migrant poverty.</p> <p><b>Tiziana Caponio and Andrea Pettrachin</b> (both Collegio Carlo Alberto Turin, Italy): A New Governance Turn for Research on the Local Dimension of Migration Policymaking?</p> <p><b>Kristen Biehl and Meral Açıkgoz</b> (both Sabancı University Istanbul, Turkey): Turkey’s integration policy and multi-level governance from the perspective of small and medium size towns and rural areas.</p> <p><b>Chair: Thorsten Schlee (University Duisburg-Essen)</b>  <b>Discussants: Maria Schiller (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands) und Christine Lang (Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS), University Göttingen, Germany)</b></p>	
<b>10:00 – 12:00 (CET)</b> <b>Stream III</b>	<p><b>Stream III, Panel I Migrants’ everyday life practices, strategies and identities</b></p> <p><b>Anne Kubai</b> (Södertörn University, Sweden): Falling through the cracks in the system’- Undocumented African migrant women’s encounter with the social services and regulatory agencies in Sweden.</p> <p><b>Rita Udor</b> (Simon Diedong University of Business and Integrated Development Studies, Ghana) and <b>Bertha Essah</b>, (Research Officer - Office of the Attorney-General &amp; Ministry of Justice, Accra, Ghana): I prefer medicines from my country: Healthcare strategies among undocumented African migrants in South Korea.</p> <p><b>Karolina Barglowski and Lisa Bonfert</b> (both Technical University Dortmund, Germany): Transnational (un)belonging and social protection – The role of migrant organizations for belonging and social risk averting strategies of migrants in Germany.</p> <p><b>Hadi Farahani, Timo Toikko, and Mohammad Tavakol</b> (University of Eastern Finland, Finland): Mental health conceptualisations of Afghan forced migrants living in Finland: Narratives of Post-trauma Growth.</p> <p><b>Chair: Andrea Rumpel (University Duisburg-Essen (InZentIM), Germany)</b>  <b>Discussants: Anna-Lisa Müller (Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS), Osnabrück University, Germany)</b></p>	
<b>12:00 – 13:00 (CET)</b>	<b>Lunch (Plenary Room)</b> <b>“Activation and Mobility” (12:45 – 13:00) (University Sports-Offer)</b>	<b>Get together on wonder me</b>
<b>13:00 – 14:30 (CET)</b>	<b>Stream I, Panel II Political Programs</b>	



	<p><b>Elina Jonitz</b> (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands): Making Asylum Work? Civic Stratification and Labor-Related Regularization Among Rejected Asylum Seekers in Germany.</p> <p><b>Maria de Fátima Amante</b> (University of Lisbon, Portugal): The search for capital and innovation talent: redirecting Portuguese migration policy to categories of privilege.</p> <p><b>Eleonore Kofman</b> (Middlesex University London, England): Trajectories of Labelling and Stratifying in European Migration Policies in the Past Two Decades.</p> <p><b>Chair: Katharina Schilling (University Duisburg-Essen, Germany)</b>  <b>Discussant: Albert Kraller (Danube University Krems, Austria)</b></p>	
<b>13:00 – 14:30 (CET)</b> <b>Stream II</b>	<p><b>Stream II, Panel II Multilevel governance and the gap between policies</b></p> <p><b>Odessa Benson</b> (University of Michigan, USA): The materiality of integration practices: Examining space, infrastructure and relationalities of grassroots refugee-led organizations in endeavors of legitimacy.</p> <p><b>Maria Schiller</b> (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands): Governance dynamics in the super-diverse city: An institutionalist analysis of immigrant councils' co-optation.</p> <p><b>Ludmilla Bogdan</b> (Harvard University, USA): Human Trafficking, Information Campaigns, and Public Awareness in Moldova: Why do anti-trafficking organizations operate under inaccurate assumptions?</p> <p><b>Chair: Laura Dinnebier</b>  <b>Discussant: Andreas Blätte (University Duisburg-Essen, DEZIM)</b></p>	
<b>13:00 – 14:30 (CET)</b>	<p><b>Stream III, Panel II Migrants' everyday life practices, strategies and identities</b></p> <p><b>Stefan Röhrer</b> (Institute for Employment Research (IAB) Nürnberg, Germany): The Imperative of Integration and its Impact on arriving Refugees.</p> <p><b>Katja Fournier, Dirk Geldof, Kaat Van Acker and Anke Heyerick</b> (University of Antwerp and Odisee University of Applied Sciences Brussels, Belgium): Refugee children's everyday life practices, strategies and identities in asylum centres in Belgium.</p> <p><b>Markus Kohlmeier and Helen Baykara-Krumme</b> (both University Duisburg-Essen, Germany): Parental involvement programmes: Educational integration policies and migrants' strategies.</p> <p><b>Chair: Seyran Bostanci (Deutsches Zentrum für Integrations- und Migrationsforschung (DeZIM), Germany)</b>  <b>Discussant: M.L.J.C. Schrover (Leiden University, Netherlands)</b></p>	
<b>14:30 – 15:00 (CET)</b>	<p><b>Coffee Break (Plenary Room)</b>  <b>"Activation and Mobility" (University Sports Offer) (14:45 – 15:00)</b></p>	<p><b>Get together on wonder me</b></p>

<p><b>15:00 – 16:30 (CET)</b> <b>Stream I</b></p>	<p><b>Stream I, Panel III Political Programs</b></p> <p>Andréia Isabel Giacomozzi (Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil): Social Representations about (im)migrants in Brazil in times of covid-19.</p> <p>Albert Kraler (Danube University Krems, Austria) and Nuno Ferreira (University of Sussex, England): Figurations of protracted displacement in the EU: making sense of policy responses to displacement in the EU.</p> <p>Réka Benczes and Bence Ságvári (both Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary): Migrants still not welcome Metaphorical framing of fled people in Hungarian online media, 2015–2021.</p> <p><b>Chair: Julia Stier (Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), Germany)</b> <b>Discussant: Eleonore Kofman (Middlesex University, London, England)</b></p>
<p><b>15:00 – 16:30 (CET)</b> <b>Stream II</b></p>	<p><b>Stream II, Panel III Multilevel governance and the gap between policies</b></p> <p><b>Zsuzsanna Árendás</b> and <b>Vera Messing</b> (both Central European University Budapest, Hungary): Navigating integration of TCN immigrant youth in a non-integration regime.</p> <p><b>Marta Pachocka</b> and <b>Joanna Poplawska</b> (both Warsaw School of Economics, Poland): Integration policy towards migrants in Poland—national versus metropolitan policy.</p> <p><b>Ivana Rapoš Božič, Radka Klvaňová and Alica Synek Rétiová</b> (all Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic): The warmth of the welcome: The cultural armature of cities and its role in shaping migration attitudes at the local level.</p> <p><b>Chair: Felicitas Hillmann (Humboldt University, Germany)</b> <b>Discussant: Ute Klammer (University Duisburg-Essen, Germany)</b></p>
<p><b>15:00 – 16:30 (CET)</b> <b>Stream III</b></p>	<p><b>Stream III, Panel III Migrants' everyday life practices, strategies and identities</b></p> <p><b>Polina Manolova</b> (University of Tübingen, Germany): Inclusion through irregularisation? Exploring the politics of differential inclusion of EU migrants in Britain and Germany.</p> <p><b>Anna Amelina</b> (University of Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany): The Selective European Social Citizenship: Governance, Discourses and Experiences of Social Security Rights in the Cross-Border Space of European Union.</p> <p><b>Adriana Costa Santos</b> (University Saint-Louis Bruxelles, Belgium) <b>Jérémy Mandin</b> and <b>Elsa Mescoli</b> (both University of Liège, Belgium) Accessing welfare rights in Belgium: between street-level bureaucracy and immigrants' agency.</p> <p><b>Chair: Katrin Menke (University Duisburg-Essen (InZentIM), Germany)</b> <b>Discussants: Karolina Barglowski (Technical University Dortmund, Germany)</b></p>
<p><b>17:00 – 18:30 (CET)</b></p>	<p><b>Keynote: Ioana Vrabiescu</b> (Vrije University Amsterdam) (Plenary Room) The EU dynamics of integration and disintegration: another era for mobility and migration</p>

## Friday, March 18th

08:45 – 09:00 (CET)	<b>Good Morning (Plenary Room)</b>	
09:00 – 11:00 (CET)	<b>Standing Committee on Immigration, Immigrants and the Labour market in Europe (IILME)</b>	
09:00 – 11:00 (CET) <b>Stream III</b>	<p><b>Stream III, Panel IV Migrants' everyday life practices, strategies and identities</b></p> <p><b>Tanzilya Oren</b> (Fordham University New York City, USA): Personal, communal, and political transformative organizing of asylum seekers in Berlin and New York.</p> <p><b>Ioanna Blasko</b> (Uppsala University, Sweden): Strategies for finding work: Labor market trajectories of highly skilled refugees in Sweden.</p> <p><b>Wegahtabrhan Sereke and Jolanta Drzewiecka</b> (both Università della Svizzera italiana Lugano, Switzerland): If you think I am ignorant because I am black, I challenge you! A case study of Eritrean forced migrants in Switzerland.</p> <p><b>Alexandra Pereira</b> (Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon): From Non-Documented to Temporarily Documented, Back Again and Ahead to Raspberry Passports: How Nepalese in Portugal Navigate Status Positioning.</p> <p><b>Chair: Sandrine Bakoben</b> (University Duisburg-Essen, Germany) <b>Discussants: Anja Bartel</b> (University of Strasbourg, France)</p>	
11:00 – 11:15 (CET)	<b>Coffee Break (Plenary Room)</b> <b>"Activation and Mobility" (10:45 – 11:00) (University Sports Offer)</b>	<b>Get together on wonder me</b>
11:15 – 12:45 (CET)	<b>Roundtable (Plenary Room) Bruno Meuss (KU Leuven), Miriam Neßler (ILS Dortmund) and Malte Gembus (Coventry University)</b> <b>Unstable Categories in Migration Research</b>	

# Abstracts

## Stream I – Panel I (Thu. 10-12 CET)

**Katharina Tittel (Sciences Po Paris & Institut Convergences Migrations)**

**Should They Come Or Should They Go: Media (Mis)Representations of different groups of Immigrants across 3 European countries**

Discourses and rationalities shape migration policies, which is problematic if discourses distort migrants' diversity in respect to class, gender, and race/ethnicity. This paper seeks to provide empirical evidence about how media reporting in three European countries (re)produces a distorted reflection of immigration realities. Using a unique large-scale dataset of newspaper articles from Germany, France, and the UK for a 15-year time period from 2004-19, this paper first empirically maps how media mentions of different migrant nationalities compare to actual migration figures from official statistical sources over time. It employs a novel half-automated approach using natural language processing techniques to detect mentions of nationalities and differentiate by gender. Second, it uses topic modelling on a machine-translated corpus to find which topics different groups of migrants (by gender and nationality) are associated to. It finds that the salience of one group is more related to political events than to actual immigration figures, and that relative coverage of one group compared to another in the three countries reflects differences in national immigration histories. The topic associations contribute to an understanding of how gendered and racialized representations of migrants produce "good" and "bad" migrants. For example, all countries are less likely to associate Eastern European migrants, compared to migrants from Middle Eastern and African countries, to family-related topics, crime, illegality, religion, and sexualized violence. These media (mis)representations are particularly relevant since they may indirectly shape the policies of inequality which currently stratify mobilities across Europe.

**Laura Westerveen (Brussels School of Governance, Belgium)**

**Individual or Structural? Representations of Racism in Policy Discourses**

Scholarly work has conceptualized racism in multiple ways demonstrating how it can manifest in both explicit and implicit forms, operate at both the interpersonal and institutional level, and how it can include an intersectional dimension. This shows that racism is not a unitary concept, but that different meanings are ascribed to it in different historical and geographical contexts. Considering these multiple conceptualizations of racism, it is important to explore what understandings of racism are reflected in policymaking and what understandings are left out of their scope. This paper addresses this question by analyzing how racism is represented in Belgian and German policy discourses in the fields of education and employment. Based on a critical frame analysis of 176 policy documents and interviews with policymakers and civil society representatives, the paper comparatively examines the different representations of racism in policy discourses and discusses the underlying conceptions of racism. Overall, it reveals an overwhelming silence on racism in Belgian and German policy discourses. Where discrimination is addressed as a cause of inequalities faced by migrants and minorities in education and employment, it is mostly talked about in a general sense, without using the term

racism. Additionally, where the term racism is mentioned, it is represented as an individual problem, excluding a structural understanding of racism. The paper concludes by arguing how this non-structural understanding of racism might be explained by a neoliberal rationality that 'privatizes' racism and redefines it as an individual rather than an institutional phenomenon.

**Karin Krifors (REMESO, Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society)**  
**Logistics of refugee reception: spatial struggles of migrant distribution**

The aim of this paper is to discuss how migration control and refugee reception in Germany and Sweden create different degrees of coercive geographies (Heinsen, Bak Jorgensen, Otto-way Jorgensen 2020) for asylum seekers. Germany is a model country of efficient refugee reception according to recent policy discussions in Sweden. The logistical rationalities of migration regimes (Altenried et al 2018) governs mobilities of refugees as labour, but also with regards to political understandings of integration. In the past, migrant mobility in Germany has been controlled not only at the national border (Karakayali 2015) but also between regions and jurisdictions.

I take as my starting point two policies in Germany, the *Residenzpflicht* and the *Wohnsitzauflage*, which both affect migrant opportunities to travel and reside in large cities. I discuss these together with recent restrictions in the Swedish migration policy that concern EBO, the right of asylum seekers to choose their own accommodation.

Strategies to distribute refugees nationally relate to overall governance of demographic changes, and to some extent migrantise (Dahinden 2016) these, in particular as this distribution relates to urban-rural lines of conflict. By analysing interviews with local politicians in regions with rural refugee reception, asylum lawyers and asylum rights activists about these policies in Germany and Sweden, I explore how priorities for the wellbeing of migrants in local settings are articulated. I discuss how the everyday life of asylum seekers is understood in relation to social and cultural security, housing and labour.

**Barne Haferkamp and Karl Sandman (Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden)**  
**Changing Perspectives // Rethinking external European land borders**

European migration politics is one of the most discussed topics in the multidisciplinary environment of liberal arts in higher European education. The subject Architecture bridges philosophical thinking as well as practical intervening, which enables the perspective of a long reaching impact. More precisely, the created space affects and effects social relations in the most profound ways, from the very personal (in a phenomenological engagement with stuff, space, light, materials) to the very political (in the way that the dynamics of power are played out in space) (Awan, Schneider and Till 2011). The undeniable impact on societies, systems and politics emerges from an iterative design process. This power relation can be used to explore varying and even controversial perspectives on societal issues, to raise awareness and eventually even incite shifts in these areas.

Can architectural design influence future decision making and shift paradigms in European migration policies? This paper aims to analyse through a design perspective, in what sense

current European migration policies are embodied in our build environment. Comparing the predominant design elements to an envisioned surrounding, which is based on an underlying contrary policy of being welcoming instead of deterring. Then condensing the desired paradigm shift into core design elements, resulting in immediately implementable interventions. Thus, aiming to define feasible small-scale actions, whilst intending to act as catalyst for large-scale improvement. Transitioning through design activism the aforementioned reality into an envisioned utopia.

## **Stream II – Panel I (Thu. 10-12 CET)**

**Hannes Schammann, Franziska Ziegler (both University of Hildesheim, Germany), Andreas Blätte and Christoph Leonhardt (both University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany)**

**Localities in sight! Tracing the ‘local turn’ over 70 years of parliamentary debates on migration.**

Migration scholars have been stating a ‘local turn’ in the politics of migration and migration-related diversity for many years. Several empirical studies have shown that especially cities and their networks are playing an increasingly important role in the multi-level governance of migration. Findings on (increased) municipal activity are usually complemented by the assumption that, over time, municipalities – and the role of the local level for migration policy outcomes in general – have also received growing attention by other political levels. This paper scrutinizes this widespread assumption for the German case: if the local level has indeed become more important in political debates on other political levels, particularly the federal level, this should lead to a higher visibility of municipalities, local actors, and local approaches in debates on those levels. Making use of the GermaParl corpus and applying methods of computer-assisted text analysis, we trace mentions of “the local” in parliamentary debates on migration in the German Bundestag over more than 70 years, i.e. from 1949 onwards. Our findings will answer the question whether the diagnosis of a ‘local turn’ is backed by evidence in the political discourse. Moreover, we will test some hypotheses why members of parliament mention localities, focusing on the ideological position of parties (right vs left), functions (government vs opposition), and the type of the individual MP’s mandate (direct mandates vs Länder lists). Discussing the findings, we will re-dimension some key aspects of the ‘local turn’.

**Karolina Łukasiewicz, Kamil Matuszczyk and Ewa Cichocka (all University of Warsaw, Poland)**

**Between migration mainstreaming and efficient poverty reduction. Local welfare system response to migrant poverty.**

This presentation aims to discuss research results of a comparative study of local welfare systems (LWSs) response to migrant urban poverty in Berlin, Stockholm, London, and NYC.

Scholars of international migration pay increasing attention to local policies. As a result, much is known about cities being innovative in their local immigrant integration policies and extending the protection of their immigrant populations at the times when some central governments curb migrants’ “social citizenship”. However, less is known about cities’ response to the needs of their marginalized immigrant populations struggling with poverty. Also, a handful of

studies analyze the obstacles and risks of shifting policies to the local levels. Using a framework of the LWS's response to migrant poverty we aim to address these gaps.

The concept of LWS was developed by social policy and urban scholars to refer to the supply of welfare resources by different mixes of public and private actors in response to specific service demand and socio-economic and cultural conditions (Andreotti, Mingione, and Polizzi 2012). Using this sensitizing concept, we analyze data from a qualitative study including 72 interviews with direct service providers, local experts and migrants in four cities. The interviews have been transcribed and analysed using a grounded theory approach.

Our results reveal that the process of decentralizing migration and social policies on the one hand, bring local authorities more autonomy, local control and stimulate social innovations, but on the other hand, generates risks overlooked in migration scholarship. The latter include struggling with underfunding and unstable funding, unequal quality of fragmented services or coordination problems. Our research contributes to the current and ongoing discussion about the "local turn" by bringing our unique data and a novel theoretical framework of the local welfare system, that we use to critically analyze the links between migration and social welfare policies.

**Tiziana Caponio and Andrea Pettrachin (both Collegio Carlo Alberto Turin, Italy)**

#### **A New Governance Turn for Research on the Local Dimension of Migration Policymaking?**

Since the 1990s local migration policies have been the object of an increasing number of research works, which are broadly referred to as belonging to the so-called 'localist' and 'relational' approaches. This paper aims to make sense of the key insights produced by this literature and identify key gaps therein, with the specific aim to define an approach to study migration policymaking in small and medium-sized towns and rural areas, where the vast majority of immigrants that reached Europe in the last decade currently live. To do so, the paper conducts a systematic review of research items on local migration policies included in the Migration Research Hub database, arguably the most comprehensive indexed database on migration studies, containing over 100,000 indexed research items in migration studies from a wide range of disciplines. Through analyses of the subsample of items that focus on local migration policies (around 800 scholarly works) – conducted by calculating descriptive statistics – we define six key pillars of a third-generation research agenda on local migration policies. We conclude by identifying the potential for a new approach that moves beyond analysis of the outputs of local migration policies and rather aims to specifically assess local migration governance drivers, processes and dynamics.

**Kristen Biehl and Meral Açıkgöz (both Sabancı University Istanbul, Turkey)**

#### **Turkey's integration policy and multi-level governance from the perspective of small and medium size towns and rural areas.**

Over recent decades, Turkey has been rapidly transforming into a country of destination for immigration, a trend that peaked with the Syrian refugee crisis. Consequently, today Turkey hosts over 5 million foreign nationals, the majority being Syrians under temporary protection. While these populations are mostly concentrated in major metropolitan areas, due especially to the governments asylum dispersion policy migration impacts are being felt throughout the country, including also medium and small size towns and rural areas (SMsTRA). Against the



backdrop of this transformation, integration policy has emerged as a heated political and public issue, complicated by the multiplicity of actors operating at different territorial scales, involving EU, UN and humanitarian actors at the international, newly founded migration governance bodies and multiple ministries at the national, and growing municipal and civil society interventions at the local levels. Building on internationally and nationally comparative research being carried out as part of the EU funded WHOLECOMM project, this paper addresses integration policy making in Turkey from this context of multi-level governance, focusing on the involvement, roles, and relations of local (policy) actors in three different cases of SMsTRA.

### **Stream III – Panel I (Thu. 10-12 CET)**

**Anne Kubai (Södertörn University, Sweden)**

#### **Falling through the cracks in the system’- Undocumented African migrant women’s encounter with the social services and regulatory agencies in Sweden**

The Swedish system of collaboration between the social services and regulatory agencies is known to be ‘super organized’ and efficient. In a comprehensive welfare society, social service agencies are supposed to provide psychosocial, subsistence, and financial support to immigrants. In this effort, the regulatory agencies converge in the case-by-case assessment in order to make decisions about the migrant status of individuals. In the face of increased migration and human trafficking (since the so-called migration crisis), the social service system and regulatory processes have come under scrutiny. This study focuses on the African women who have been trafficked to Sweden through various methods, and their encounter with the local social services and regulatory agencies. The study examines the nexus of migration factors and the performance of regulation (governance of migration) and social services for this specific category of migrants. Another key contribution of the study is an analysis of the women’s strategies in the face of exclusion by a system that is supposed to respect their human rights, regardless of their migrant status, as well as the views of some of the relevant agencies. Some of the women participants in the research had obtained resident permits while others were still “paperless”. But both categories described their experiences with the various law enforcement agencies and the challenges of being “paperless”; being “not in the system” and being “already excluded in a system where a person exists as a number”. Many of them describe their experiences of violence at different levels and bewilderment at the way the system works. The study illustrates how they fall through the cracks in the system.

**Rita Udor (Simon Diedong University of Business and Integrated Development Studies, Ghana) and Bertha Essah, (Research Officer - Office of the Attorney-General & Ministry of Justice, Accra, Ghana)**

#### **I prefer medicines from my country: Healthcare strategies among undocumented African migrants in South Korea**

In addition to navigating complex healthcare regimes in host countries, undocumented migrants engage in transnational lifestyle to meet their healthcare needs. Yet, we know little about the strategies they adopt in meeting health needs and the factors that shape healthcare decision-making among undocumented migrants. Through an in-depth interview of 64 African migrants and a two-year ethnography study of African migrants residing in South Korea, this study reveals how undocumented status affects the health care options of migrants in host country. Furthermore, the study demonstrates how healthcare strategies are exacerbated by

gender and race. Through this, we demonstrate that undocumented African migrants combine services provided by hospitals, NGOs and pharmacies to meet health needs in host society. In addition to options available in host society, undocumented migrants depend on healthcare options in origin countries to meet certain health needs. Findings from the study also reveal that, the decision to not utilise healthcare options in host societies is not always attributed to lack of access and affordability, but due to mistrust in the efficacy of host nations' healthcare system and the belief that certain illness can only be cured with treatments from origin countries. Understanding how the intersection of legal status, race and gender affect strategies adopted by undocumented migrants to meet health needs can contribute to a more effective policy on healthcare for migrants. This study also contributes to growing literature on transnational healthcare.

**Karolina Barglowski and Lisa Bonfert (both Technical University Dortmund, Germany)**  
**Transnational (un)belonging and social protection – The role of migrant organizations for belonging and social risk averting strategies of migrants in Germany**

While studies on migrants' social protection have long concentrated primarily on policies and welfare state structures, scholarship nowadays considers informal sources of protection to be equally important aspects of migrants' risk averting strategies. In the face of these assemblages of formal and informal social protection components, belonging has been identified as a major factor influencing migrants' accessibility to different sources of social protection. This presentation focuses on the less often mentioned role of migrant organizations (MO) as places where migrants develop a sense of belonging and access a variety of social protection resources. Our presentation grounds on in-depth interviews and ego-centric network charts collected among migrants who are members of different MOs in North Rhine Westphalia. The findings indicate that MOs provide opportunities for lowering and circumventing barriers to accessing protective resources for many migrants, which derives from their threefold function: their networking, consultancy and acquainting function. Thus, although social protection is usually not a primary goal of these organizations, they are often invaluable sources of support for migrants to secure their livelihoods and increase their well-being and social status. MOs are particularly indispensable for those migrants with restricted social, cultural and economic resources and insecure legal status, as well as for those who identify strongly with their organization.

**Hadi Farahani, Timo Toikko, and Mohammad Tavakol (University of Eastern Finland, Finland)**  
**Mental health conceptualisations of Afghan forced migrants living in Finland: Narratives of Post-trauma Growth**

Afghans are considered as one of understudied refugee population in Finland even though they are the 5th largest refugee group. Generally, refugees coming from war-ridden countries are at greater risks of developing psychological symptoms. This study seeks to explore how Afghan refugees conceptualize mental health in the Finnish context. Furthermore, this research explores Afghan refugees' resilience, personal growth and the coping mechanisms used to overcome inadequacies in Finnish mental health services. Through narrative analysis theory and methodology, we interviewed 30 Afghan forced migrants living in Finland for more than 3 years. We used snow-ball sampling method to determine the interviewees. Findings suggest Afghan forced migrants understanding from mental health, is totally different than medical

definitions. They are sceptical to western mental health services and treatments. They tend mostly to use religion and cultural remedies to recover from mental health issues. The remedies come traditionally from their oral culture dominant in Afghanistan. Afghan men mostly feel excluded in Finland and demoted in the hierarchy of the family. Women on the other hand, are empowered and adopted to the Finnish tradition of the equality of men and women in practical life situations. We suggest more in-depth research in the issues of Afghan men in Finland concentrating on how to re-empower them.

### **Stream I – Panel II (Thu. 13-14:30 CET)**

**Elina Jonitz (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands)**

#### **Making Asylum Work? Civic Stratification and Labor-Related Regularization Among Rejected Asylum Seekers in Germany**

Rejected asylum seekers do often not return to their countries of origin and face precarious living conditions in destination countries. Taking Germany as a strategic case, we investigate whether labor-related regularization, or laborization, may serve as a solution for such migrants. We analyze factors determining access to labor-related regularization, and how it relates to migrants' needs and aspirations. Drawing upon the concept of civic stratification (Lockwood 1996, Morris 2003), we further explore to what extent gaining a labor-related legal status enables 'tolerated' rejected asylum seekers to move 'upward' within the stratified legal system in Germany, potentially accessing more rights and leaving their 'liminal legality' (Menjívar 2006) and 'deportability' (De Genova 2002) behind. Based on desk research and interviews with stakeholders, including (rejected) asylum seekers in Stuttgart, we find that laborization may provide resourceful and 'deserving' individuals with opportunities to realize their aspirations, while demoting and excluding those deemed 'undeserving' – that is, those who are not able to convincingly display their 'employability' and 'cultural conformity' and do not fit neatly into meritocratic notions of deservingness. Due to its restrictive access, laborrelated regularization is not (yet) a sufficient instrument to address the situation of rejected asylum seekers classified as 'non-deportable'. Given these limitations, we propose also considering other post-arrival policies such as introducing a special 'combination permit' in which humanitarian, economic and/or social aspects (e.g., family) are considered, doing more justice to migrants' needs and potential contributions as well as mixed migration motives.

**Maria de Fátima Amante (University of Lisbon, Portugal)**

#### **The search for capital and innovation talent: redirecting Portuguese migration policy to categories of privilege**

Increasing mobility across borders together with the 2008 severe economic crisis' backlash in Southern European countries redefined political agendas regarding immigration policy. From 2012 on, an important new trend was the design of policy aiming to attract specific social profiles as a way out of the crisis. By focusing on the case of Portugal I will identify and critically discuss policies that act as selection technologies, of which the Golden Visa and the Startup Visa Programs, are the most prominent. I will follow a line of inquiry that addresses the "political-technocratic desires of government" (Hess and Kasperek 2019) and 'governmental technologies' (Rose and Miller 1992) which are powerful not only in producing new categories of people but also in creating hierarchies of privilege amongst the foreign population. In doing

so I devote special attention to political discourses and bureaucratic technologies that selectively organize human mobility and immobility (Amelina, Horvath, and Meeus 2016). Focusing on a policy that is increasingly targeting categories of people, based on capital, education and proven talent, will build the argument that inequality in migration is bureaucratically constructed at its inception. Furthermore, this is a trend that is in stark contrast to the past in Portuguese immigration policy which more often than not depended on historical and cultural factors as criteria for immigration management.

**Eleonore Kofman (Middlesex University London, England)**

**Trajectories of Labelling and Stratifying in European Migration Policies in the Past Two Decades**

At the beginning of this century, attention turned among refugee scholars to the fractioning of labels (Zetter 2007) and the stratification of migrants (Kofman 2002; Morris 2002) in the development of managed migration policies in the context of increasingly diverse and large flows, anti-immigration and hostile attitudes and deepening insecurity about national identities in European countries. In the past two decades, these measures have been intensified in their proliferation and multiplication of insecure and temporary statuses and access to economic and social resources and welfare in an attempt to reduce those able to enter and gain residence. So too have such stratifying measures been extended to other flows, particularly that of family migration which raises issues of the potential for integration and participation in a modern society. In this presentation, I explore two policy interventions responding to different logics of managing diverse populations. The first involves the inclusion of the much debated criteria of vulnerability (Turner 2020) for refugees in relation to asylum determination and relocation and resettlement schemes in the interface between humanitarian interventions and the state, especially evident in the post 2015 flows in Greece. The second concerns family migrations with entry and settlement conditions in many Western European countries imposing income and other resource requirements for the sponsor and language and knowledge of society tests for the spouse. Such criteria can be said to reflect the introduction of a class dimension (Kofman 2019) or an economic turn (Staver 2015) in its filtering of future citizens, especially from Muslim countries (Kofman et al. 2015).

**Stream II – Panel II (Thu. 13-14:30 CET)**

**Odessa Benson (University of Michigan, USA)**

**The materiality of integration practices: Examining space, infrastructure and relationalities of grassroots refugee-led organizations in endeavors of legitimacy**

In critical discussions of integration practices, recent scholarship interrogates grassroots refugee-led organizations (RLO) vis-a-vis professionalized refugee-serving organizations as institutions in multilevel governance. Whereas the latter, as street-level bureaucracies, are constrained by policies, funding and the political sphere, refugee-led organizations enact resistances and affordances at the most local levels of governance. This paper contributes to this line of scholarship by way of a materialist, non-representational lens, honing in on the relevance of space, infrastructure and relationality in analyses of integration practices. Analysis applies an ethnographic approach and draws upon participant observation, focus groups and interviews with refugee leaders of four RLOs of Bhutanese and Congolese refugee communities in the United States as focus of study. This paper argues that RLOs' occupying of

physical space, use of digital tools and deployment of privatized resources are bound to their visibility as an institution and to the actuality of their integration practices. Borrowed office space, a WhatsApp group chat, one refugee's garage and another refugee's grocery store, for instance, emerge as salient in examining integration practices. The material is examined not merely with tangible qualities, but also with symbolic capacities. That is, the physical spaces, tools and resources of RLOs yield meaning—affordances and limitations—that are crucial for their work. Thus, in their grassroots endeavors of disrupting dominant integration practices, not only the symbolic legitimacy but also the institutional materiality of refugee-led organizations go hand-in-hand and are mutually accountable.

**Maria Schiller (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands)**

### **Immigrants' political representation, participation and involvement in urban governance: The limitations and potential of immigrant councils**

This article investigates the structural holes in networks of urban actors working on issue of diversity and inclusion, based on an in-depth case study of the city of Rotterdam. We draw on 22 semi-structured qualitative interviews as well as network maps drawn by urban actors working on issues related to diversity and inclusion to analyze if a network of actors that are working on issues related to diversity and inclusion exists in Rotterdam and what character this network has. To answer this question, we will examine (1) if and how non-governmental organizations working on issues of diversity and inclusion perceive and use notions of diversity and inclusion to define their work, (2) if and how these actors are connected to each other, and (3) which factors help us understand the character of this network of actors.

Counter to the existing literature that posits a trend towards the formation of governance networks and that would suggest the crystallization of an urban diversity and inclusion network, our findings provide mixed results. Whilst many of the actors would consider themselves as working in one way or the other on diversity and inclusion, our interview data exposes that there are also significant disagreements on the definition of notions of diversity and inclusion and authors are divided on whether they embrace or contest these terms. Looking closer at our network data on the ties of collaboration of urban actors working on diversity and inclusion, we identify different clusters or groups of actors.

**Ludmilla Bogdan (Harvard University, USA)**

### **Human Trafficking, Information Campaigns, and Public Awareness in Moldova: Why do anti-trafficking organizations operate under inaccurate assumptions?**

The assumption that the rural public lacks sufficient knowledge about human trafficking and that providing more awareness will reduce it still dominates the anti-trafficking field. However, relying on original empirical data from Moldova, I found that rural people are more informed about this problem than other surveyed groups. First, they became more knowledgeable about trafficking precisely because of organizations' targeting strategies. Second, they are more incentivized to learn about this problem because it happens in proximity, and the information spreads easier in rural places. This paper challenges the organizational assumptions in Moldova, relying on Grunig and Miller's theory on organizations with an asymmetrical worldview. I argue that anti-trafficking institutions' asymmetry leads to inaccurate assumptions and eventually can lead to flawed anti-trafficking policies.

## **Stream III – Panel II (Thu. 13-14:30 CET)**

**Stefan Röhrer (Institute for Employment Research (IAB) Nürnberg, Germany)**

### **The Imperative of Integration and its Impact on arriving Refugees**

The contribution proposed analyses the (German) discourse on integration and describes its effects on the level of subjects. While showing that the discourse of integration appears as an imperative to refugees, I draw on biographical narrative interviews to analyse how refugees from Syria are interpellated by this discourse and how they (can) react to it. It is shown that the case-specific understanding of integration has an enormous influence on the assessment and implementation of arrival processes. These reconstructed understandings of integration among the refugees who arrived here range from integration as reciprocity, integration as orientation towards fundamental rights or administrative act to an understanding of integration as overcoming one's own perceived cultural foreignness.

In doing so, I understand the discourse as Interpellation (Althusser) and the interview situation as articulation (Hall). This makes it possible, as suggested by Spies (2017), to use a concept of subject oriented towards Butler and Foucault in the sense of empirical subjectification research to ask about possible subject positions in discourse and their influence on subjects positioning as well as their power to act.

The study is based on a sociology of knowledge approach to discourse and two waves of narrative-biographical interviews with recognized refugees from Syria in a German city. Based on contrastive theoretical sampling we interviewed 42 refugees in a first wave in 2017 and 2018. In 2020 15 of these refugees participated in a second wave.

The presentation thus ties in with your thematic focus 3: The realities of migrants' lives are linked back to discourse, revealing not only its influence on migrants' everyday lives and identities but also their strategies for dealing with the discursively constructed imperative of integration.

**Katja Fournier, Dirk Geldof, Kaat Van Acker and Anke Heyerick (University of Antwerp and Odisee University of Applied Sciences Brussels, Belgium)**

### **Refugee children's everyday life practices, strategies and identities in asylum centres in Belgium**

The agency of migrants and refugees and their resilient moves remain often underestimated, in research as well as in service provision. This is even more true for the agency and the resilient moves of refugee children. What are refugee children's everyday life practices, strategies and identities in asylum centres and what can we learn from their perspectives, in research as well as for asylum policies?

In 2020 one out of four (24,1%) asylum seekers living in collective refugee centres in Belgium were minors: approximately 5.000 children and youngsters. The majority is living with family members, a smaller group are unaccompanied youngsters.

Most of the collective refugee or asylum centres in Belgium are hosted in infrastructures that served other purposes in the past. It are seldom child-friendly places. Living in a reception

centre alters child-rearing practices and family dynamics. How do children experience their stay in these centres and the period in limbo, after migrating with their family?

The paper is part of a multi-methods AMIF-research on children in Belgian collective refugee centres, including 123 in-depth interviews with parents (58), children (38) and staff of all levels (38) in 9 refugee centres in Flanders and Wallonia. In the paper, we focus on the children's perspectives and their strategies, practices and resilient moves to cope with the life in exceptional conditions: a period of limbo in collective asylum infrastructures. The analysis explores why it is important to add the perspective of children in research and asylum policies.

**Markus Kohlmeier and Helen Baykara-Krumme (both University Duisburg-Essen, Germany)**  
**Parental involvement programmes: Educational integration policies and migrants' strategies.**

In the past years, integration-related policies at local level have increasingly included parental involvement programmes in schools. Yet, surprisingly little is known about the impact of these programmes in schools on migration-related educational inequality. What aspects of programme-related parental involvement influence student achievements and why? Which educational strategies do immigrant families develop within these programmes? How do these programmes affect teachers' attitudes and behaviours in the everyday school setting?

Previous international research on parental involvement shows that subtle aspects of parental involvement, such as parenting style and parental expectations, have a greater impact on students' educational outcomes than the more obvious aspects of parental involvement, such as parental attendance and participation in school events (Jeynes 2011: 70). However, this research does not consider the specific case of migrant families and largely ignores the role of teachers. Moreover, these studies lack a focus on the programmes' effects on the development of educational strategies, including, for instance, the decision for vocational or rather academic educational tracks which is crucial for educational achievements in the stratified German education system.

Based on a local study in Duisburg with migrant and non-migrant parents and teachers in four schools – of which two have recently started a parental involvement programme and two have not – we aim to address the effects and underlying mechanisms of this specific programme for migrant and non-migrant families. It serves as an example of how politically structured (education) environments and integration policies might affect – or not – migrants' (education) strategies and outcomes.

### **Stream I – Panel III (Thu. 15-16:30 CET)**

**Andréia Isabel Giacomozzi (Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil)**  
**Social Representations about (im)migrants in Brazil in times of covid-19**

Informational polarization and fake news contributed to the misinformation about covid-19 worldwide. In addition, some political decisions have increased xenophobia in the pandemic context. We propose to analyze in this study what are the arguments that media and internet users use to attribute meanings to migrants in Brazil, in the period of intense social vulnerability such as the covid-19 pandemic (February to December 2020). Analyzing news reports



and internet users' comments on social networks offers an interesting case study for examining the rhetorical aspects of social contestation, since the comments may reflect social representations and shared collective beliefs, at least in a part of the Brazilian public. Method: The selection of newspapers was based on the criteria of the widest number of online readers. We selected three journals: G1 (Portal Globo), Folha de São Paulo, Estado de São Paulo and Mi-gramundo. We conducted the search through the Facebook platform, on the pages of news-papers, because on platforms such as Facebook, the reader, in addition to following the news, emits opinions and interacts with other profiles in the space for comments, expressing im-portant content about social representations. 134 news report compose the first corpus and 1295 comments composed the second corpus. Data were analyzed with the aid of the IRa-MuTeQ software. The results on the social dynamics of argumentative polarization about mi-grants in times of covid-19 pandemic can allow us to discuss the increase in violence and xen-ophobia with a view to facilitating and establishing a social dialogue.

**Albert Kraler (Danube University Krems, Austria) and Nuno Ferreira (University of Sussex, England)**

### **Figurations of protracted displacement in the EU: making sense of policy responses to dis-placement in the EU**

In this paper, we explore how the European Union (EU) legal and policy framework relates to protracted displacement, using the concept of figurations (Norbert Elias) as our main analytical tool. Figurations, according to Norbert Elias, are constituted by relations and interactions between different actors in specific social fields (such as migration and asylum), and involve norms and beliefs guiding these actors. Identified through analysis, figurations may overlap with but are usually not identical with formal structures (such as administrative bodies, a state, etc.), and thus make this approach particularly appropriate in a changing and multi-level policy field. In applying this theoretical approach to asylum and migration policy making in the EU, we argue that this field is shaped by at least three figurations: a humanitarian aid-refugee-relief-figuration, a protection-rights-figuration, and a migration-management-security-figura-tion, producing a distinct overall figuration of displacement in the EU.

Analysing the existing legal, policy and institutional framework addressing protracted displacement situations both in the EU and globally, including the Common European Asylum System, the 2015 'European Agenda on Migration', and the New Pact on Migration and Asy-lum and applying our figurational approach, we argue that while asylum and refugee policies in the EU follow different logics and involve different actors depending on individual figura-tions, the migration-management-security figuration has come to dominate also the content of the two other figurations identified.

We conclude that the EU is an actor that facilitates, rather than addresses protracted displace-ment, and the Pact on Migration and Asylum further cements that role.

**Réka Benczes and Bence Ságvári (both Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary)**  
**Migrants still not welcome. Metaphorical framing of fled people in Hungarian online media, 2015–2021**

From 2015 onwards, the topic of migration has been one of the primary narratives of the Hungarian government. Over the past six years the government launched several anti-migration initiatives (national consultation, referendum, legislation, billboard campaigns), all of which enjoyed intensive media coverage. In our research, we analysed a Hungarian online media corpus of over 100 million words collected between 2015 and 2021. This corpus allows us to explore the process by which the migration narrative has developed its own complex ‘linguistic toolbox’ in Hungary. Our research focuses on figurative framing, in the form of metaphorical expressions, which are especially effective in carrying conceptual content and affecting public opinion on migration. Framing starts with the label that is selected to refer to fled people: bevándorló (“immigrant”), migráns (“migrant”) or menekült (“refugee”). Depending on the label, different associations emerge, resting upon differing (metaphorical) conceptualizations evoked by the labels. Our results indicate that while all three keywords evoke predominantly negative frames and evaluations that build on stock metaphorical conceptualizations of fled people as also identified in the international literature – such as flood, object, business, war and crime –, the distribution of these metaphors does vary, depending on the selected keyword, and the political agenda of the media source. The presentation also demonstrates the main stages in the evolution of the complex political ideology built around the topic of migration.

**Stream II – Panel III (Thu. 15-16:30 CET)**

**Zsuzsanna Árendás and Vera Messing (both Central European University Budapest, Hungary)**

**Navigating integration of TCN immigrant youth in a non-integration regime**

In this paper, we conceptualize Hungary as a non-integration regime on a national-(state) level through a concise overview of backsliding mechanisms in immigration management and integration policies, which form the backbone of a non-integration regime. Yet, our aim is to further examine and deconstruct this regime and analyse how stakeholders involved in migrant integration navigate in the hostile environment. Our ambition is to arrive at a more nuanced understanding of this complex ‘integration regime’ than the usual approaches to the former ‘Eastern bloc’ countries as countries rejecting immigrant per se. For that end we take a closer look at the local level stakeholders- the civil organizations, grassroots, and informal immigrant networks active in social help and immigrant support. While presenting two case studies of the local level and scrutinizing the role stakeholders play in them, we want to make some important statements about the nature of immigrant integration in Hungary and show how stakeholders interested and active in supporting integration of immigrant population navigate a hostile, non- supportive policy and discursive environment.

Beyond providing a comprehensive overview of different types of organizations and initiatives active in the area of local-level immigrant integration, including a brief discussion of the profile- change in activities of the oldest NGOs active in this field, the paper offers two important/novel arguments. Firstly, we argue that the most efficient (immigrant) integration

takes place in organizations not labelled per se as immigrant helping organizations, rather as organizations providing social help to practically anyone in vulnerable condition. This becomes important in the current socio-political climate of Hungary: they remain out of the radar of the state authorities and can work less disturbed. While these organization open their scope of activities to anyone in a vulnerable situation (homeless, Roma, LGBT people, urban poor, immigrants, refugees), they also overcome the typical trap of essentializing immigrant people through targeted services, as they address needs through the concept of vulnerability. Broadening the scope also points towards deeper integration as specific types of vulnerable people (such as refugees, or immigrants) are not 'othered' from the 'mainstream', or from each other.

Secondly, we would like to present grassroots, non-institutionalized and informal networks of immigrant self-help initiatives too, as outstanding examples of immigrant solidarities and of efficient micro-level integration. Some of these initiatives trace back their origins to the 2015 'refugee crisis', others mean a helping network of people with typically well-respected, charismatic immigrant characters in the centre, who feel inspired to help other immigrants.

**Marta Pachocka and Joanna Poplawska (both Warsaw School of Economics, Poland)**  
**Integration policy towards migrants in Poland—national versus metropolitan policy**

At the end of February 2020, the number of foreigners living in Poland was estimated at more than 2.2 million. Of these, 63% were Ukrainians (CSO 2020). Despite such a significant and growing number of foreign residents, Poland does not have a strategy for integrating migrants at the national level. As a result, the activities conducted in the public policy framework towards this group of people are not consolidated into one document. Moreover, different state and non-state actors are engaged in the whole process. Lack of systemic solutions and regulations addressing the integration-related challenges makes the role of local governments in shaping the integration policy crucial.

Our presentation aims to analyse the integration policy of Lublin and Wrocław, comparing municipalities' declarations and activities. The cities were chosen due to their declared openness to multiculturalism. In 2017, both Lublin and Wrocław signed a declaration on cooperation in the field of migration and integration. However, their different geographical location (former at the eastern border of Poland and latter at the western border) means that the regional and local conditions for the integration of migrants are various. In the presentation, three research questions will be considered: whether and to what extent the examined cities carry out activities that can be understood in a formal sense as an integration policy, to which groups of foreigners they target their activities, and what specific activities in the integration policy framework are undertaken? The presentation was based on analysing the content of official documents of the examined cities, the content of their websites, and the literature on the subject.

**Ivana Rapoš Božič, Radka Klvaňová and Alica Synek Rétiová (all Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic)**

**The warmth of the welcome: The cultural armature of cities and its role in shaping migration attitudes at the local level**

There is a growing consensus among migration scholars concerning the need to move beyond methodological nationalism and look at the local and transnational contexts of migration processes. This trend has been, however, largely disregarded in some fields; for example, the nation-state continues to represent the basic unit for the exploration of migration attitudes. In our research, we address this deficiency. Relying on qualitative research methods and a meaning-centered cultural-sociological perspective, we shift our focus to the “cultural armature” (Jaworsky et al 2012) of cities and explore its role in shaping migration attitudes. Jaworsky et al. define cultural armature of cities as a combination of 1. local history and cultural geography; 2. urban self-representation; 3. municipal responses to migration; and 4. cultural responses to demography. We use this approach to study the migration attitudes in two Czech locales with a higher than an average number of residents with a migratory background, which have recently become centers for migration-related public controversy. We argue that the cultural armature of city represents an influential cultural repertoire that informs migration attitudes and thus also symbolic boundary work among the native born and the general warmth of their welcome towards residents with a migratory background.

**Stream III – Panel III (Thu. 15-16:30 CET)**

**Polina Manolova (University of Tübingen, Germany)**

**Inclusion through irregularisation? Exploring the politics of differential inclusion of EU migrants in Britain and Germany**

In 2014 the last remaining restrictions to intra-EU labour mobility for Bulgarians and Romanians have been dropped, an act that has been perceived as marking the full incorporation of new member states' citizens as legal and moral equals in an integrated union. The stark discrepancy between the formal economic, social and political rights granted by EU citizenship and their enactment in everyday practices has signalled the existence of more and less tangible barriers to welfare and labour market incorporation affecting these particular groups of EU migrants. This paper explores the range of institutionalised and informal mechanisms of exclusion deployed by local authorities across the UK and Germany in the molding of a group of Bulgarian 'free-movers' with permanent settlement plans into a precarious and super-mobile labour force. I demonstrate how upon their arrival Bulgarian would-be 'settlers' are implicated in a socio-political and legal process of irregularisation that precludes their access to welfare protection and service provision by directing them into 'illegal' forms of employment and housing arrangements, as well as to an encapsulation in the 'migrant economy'. The adoption of an 'ethnographic regime approach' (Hess and Tsianos 2010) to irregularisation allows me to recognize such multiscalar 'tactics' of governing (De Genova 2004) not just as deliberate state control mechanisms but as also stemming from migrants' practices, perceptions and positionings within discursive frameworks, such as welfare shaming and ideas of entrepreneurial citizenship.

**Anna Amelina (University of Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany)**

**The Selective European Social Citizenship: Governance, Discourses and Experiences of Social Security Rights in the Cross-Border Space of European Union**

Why is mobile EU-citizens' equal treatment for access to social security rights so contested? What are mobile EU-citizens' experiences of transnational social protection and portability, and what do they reveal about social citizenship in practice in the EU? Addressing the nexus between intra-European mobility and welfare provision in the European Union, the talk presents main outcomes of the TRANWEL project (2015-2018) that focuses on (labour) mobility between four pairs of EU8 and EU15 member states (Hungary-Austria, Bulgaria-Germany, Estonia-Sweden and Poland-UK). Theorizing European social security coordination as the emergent transnational social citizenship, the presentation, first, indicates main moments of institutional selectivity of European social security governance (which disadvantages frequent movers and movers in irregular employment). Second, it provides insights in main discourses of belonging, which frame European social security governance by semantics of self-sufficiency and sedentarism. Finally, the talk shows how the selectivity of European social security governance contributes to inequality in welfare opportunities among mobile EU citizens. It identifies dominant patterns of mobile Europeans' lived experiences (i.e. humiliation etc.), their coping strategies (i.e. accessing relevant information etc.) and the important role of migrants' relatives in the sending countries. The talk does not only present conceptual innovations in the field of the transnational citizenship and related empirical outcomes, but it also reflexively inspects core categories of current European migration studies.

**Adriana Costa Santos (University Saint-Louis Bruxelles, Belgium) Jérémy Mandin and Elsa Mescoli (both University of Liège, Belgium)**

**Accessing welfare rights in Belgium: between street-level bureaucracy and immigrants' agency**

The access to welfare benefits is critical for many immigrants as it helps to provide resources that can be essential to the incorporation in society. Such access depends on the interactions between immigrants, the system of rules and regulations governing welfare rights, and the front-line workers who translate rules into concrete decisions. As a huge corpus of literature has shown, discretion operates at the streetlevel in the process of allocation of rights. Front-line workers have room to facilitate immigrants' integration, or to make it more difficult. While studies have shown the

influence of stereotypes and social norms in shaping the decision of front-line workers, few have addressed how immigrants experience these interactions. What are the consequences of social workers' decisions for immigrants' integration? What are the strategies that immigrants develop to deal with such consequences and to cultivate a form of agency when interacting with social workers? This presentation addresses these questions building on a set of qualitative interviews conducted with both social workers and immigrant beneficiaries in Wallonia and Brussels (Belgium). It contributes to an analysis "from below" of immigrants' access to welfare benefits in the host country. We will first introduce the perspective of social workers and analyze how they assess the needs and the situation of the newcomers – also in terms of deservingness (or not) of the social aid. Second, it describes how newcomers perceive the social workers' work and the effects on their life and which strategies they develop to try to accommodate with them.

## **Standing Committee on Immigration, Immigrants and the Labour market in Europe (IILME) (Fri. 09-11:00 CET)**

### **Migrant work and policies and regulations during and beyond COVID-19**

For years, the tensions between state policies to stop refugees from reaching the shores of Europe and policies to enhance labour mobility and migration have been visible. Yet, in this 'time of migration' (Castles and Miller 1993), the COVID-19 pandemic breaks out, plainly revealing that mobility and migration form a vital source of labour within our societies today, despite decades of restrictive migration policies and popular anti-immigration rhetoric.

Where borders close and new borders are set up to prevent the virus from spreading, mobility and migration of labour within and across state lines is both restricted and enhanced. When air traffic came to an almost complete stop all over the world, the Austrian government arranged to fly in migrant care workers nonetheless. Despite lockdowns, an air bridge between Germany and Rumania was established, so that Rumanian workers could be flown in for the German asparagus harvest. These are some of many examples where policies accommodate persistent labour market reliance on migrant labour. How (non)existing, emerging, changing or conflicting state policies and regulations in times of and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic shape labour market opportunities and conditions for migrant work in European labour markets is subject to this panel.

We discuss papers that look into the (conflicting) interaction between different policy domains (migration, labour market, education, ...) during the COVID-19 pandemic and how this impacts migrants' well-being and their labour market position in different nation states. Papers included in this panel take an institutional or migrant perspective, or both. The papers are part of a special issue, that is being put together.

#### **Panel participants:**

- Almina Bešić, Andreas Diedrich & Petra Aigner - Integration of refugees in European labour markets during the Covid-19 pandemic – policy changes and consequences;
- Anita Böcker, Tesseltje de Lange, Sandra Mantu, Natalia Skowronek & Lisa Berntsen - Who cares about EU mobile workers' rights in Dutch (and German) slaughterhouses in times of, and beyond, COVID-19,
- Deborah J. Milly - Multilevel Policy Responses and Foreign Labor in Japan during the Pandemic;
- Quivine Ndomo, Ilona Bontebal & Nathan Lillie - Invincible?: African migrant workers and the Covid-19 Pandemic in Finland;
- Cecilia Vergnano - Placing the state at the centre. State-promoted employment of cheap migrant workers in the EU agro-industrial sector;
- Nuno Dias - Covid-19 and the looming crisis of care: social and economic impacts of the pandemic on migrant labor;
- And organizers of the IILME Standing Committee Stefania Marino, Nahikari Irastorza, Anders Neergaard, Rinus Penninx, Lisa Berntsen;

### **Stream III – Panel IV (Fri. 09-11:00 CET)**

**Tanzilya Oren (Fordham University New York City, USA)**

#### **Personal, communal, and political transformative organizing of asylum seekers in Berlin and New York**

The intensified political violence against LGBTIQ people in Russia and the neighboring countries prompted a wave of asylum seekers coming to Western Europe and the United States. The study focuses on the multi-level (personal, community and political) transformative organizing of two similar grassroots groups of the Russian-speaking LGBTIQ immigrants in Berlin (QUARTEERA) and New York (RUSA LGBT). A qualitative case study with a participatory approach uses a thematic analysis of in-depth interviews with leaders of the groups and artifacts such as digital media, news stories, and public events and interviews. Translocational positionality and belongings (Anthias, 2021) frame the analysis. On a community level, responding to the new needs, these groups mobilize resources to provide direct material support and help navigate the LGBTIQ legal asylum's forced coming out and construct the required by the migration control bodies narratives. On a political level, the groups use various strategies to transform their environment. They speak out against the violence of the state asylum processes, fight the diaspora's homophobia through Russian-speaking Prides, and stage protests against the Russian government. On a personal level, the hybrid identities of the group members, who come from various ethnic, cultural, and class backgrounds, do not fully fit the new shorthand essentialized identity of a "Russian-speaking LGBTIQ refugee." The new LGBTIQ immigrants experience personal transformation in the context of the different asylum regimes in Germany and the United States, struggling to move from the margins, (re)construct their social positions by trying to avoid deskilling, and carve their unique spaces.

**Ioanna Blasko (Uppsala University, Sweden)**

#### **Strategies for finding work: Labor market trajectories of highly skilled refugees in Sweden**

Refugees with a tertiary education face particularly complex paths when attempting to integrate into their receiving country's labor market, often being required to complement their education, translate their diplomas, and learn a new language in order to continue their career paths. Other challenges include a lack of social networks, psychological issues due to previous traumas, and obstacles associated with legislation, policy, and bureaucracy. This presentation focuses on the pathways towards employment of highly skilled refugees in Sweden and the strategies they develop in order to attain their goal of employment within the structured environments of the Swedish labor market and migration policy. It examines labor market integration, workplace inclusion processes, and the effects that policies, regulations, and norms have on the pathways and strategies chosen. The analysis is conducted using a structure and agency lens, exploring how skilled refugees maneuver within these social structures in their everyday lives, including the ability to exercise agency in their labor market trajectory. These issues are investigated on the basis of document and text analyses, observations, and semi-structured interviews with highly skilled refugees, employers who hire highly skilled refugees, and representatives of integration initiatives aimed at helping refugees enter the labor market. Refugee career paths and strategies are shown to be multi-faceted. Perhaps most importantly, although refugees exercise agency in their labor market decisions, this agency is strongly affected by structural processes that both constrain and enable their choices.



**Wegahtabrhan Sereke and Jolanta Drzewiecka (both Università della Svizzera italiana Lugano, Switzerland)**

**If you think I am ignorant because I am black, I challenge you! A case study of Eritrean forced migrants in Switzerland**

Scholars have been criticising the concept of integration arguing for its revision or abandonment all together (Mcpherson 2010; Penninx 2019; Schinkel 2018; Wieviorka 2014; Vasta 2014; Klarenbeek 2019). Klarenbeek (2019) conceptualized integration as a dynamic two-way process between migrants and insiders who are unequally positioned in relations of power. While much scholarship examines various ways in which migrants further their integration, studies of the relational dynamics are still relatively few (Muller 2018; Watt 2006). In particular, little attention has been paid to tactics migrants use to turn to their own ends the forces of racist exclusions and the dominant strategies of the state integration institutions. Drawing on the theoretical framework of Certeau (1984), we argue that conceptualizing integration through the notion of tactics gives us an insight into processes inclusion and exclusion of migrants as power struggles. Furthermore, the notion of tactics gives us analytical vocabulary to address how migrants use different tactics to subvert acts of exclusion, ineffective bureaucracy, misinformed policies, practices, and programs of integration strategies not only to survive but to wield power and achieve their purported goals. Based on the work of de Certeau as our theoretical and analytical lens, we conduct an empirical analysis based on the interviews with 65 Eritrean refugees living in Switzerland. Our preliminary findings demonstrate migrants use five different forms of tactics: pedagogical, relational, instrumental, playful, and belligerent to respond to everyday strategic racism and other forms of exclusions that impede inclusion and a sense of belonging and animate local and oppositional forms of belonging.

**Alexandra Pereira (Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon)**

**From Non-Documented to Temporarily Documented, Back Again and Ahead to Raspberry Passports: How Nepalese in Portugal Navigate Status Positioning**

In this study, we depart from a critical perspective regarding the concept of “integration”, the controversy surrounding its colonial implications and what refers to a certain homogenization of society that is supposedly taken for granted or underlying whenever the term is used in research (cf. Anderson, 2013; Mezzadra/Nielson, 2013; Korteweg, 2017; Schinkel, 2018; Morris, 2020; Meissner and Heil, 2020), while other authors’ defend its use, differentiating it further (cf. Penninx, 2019; Abdou, 2019; Klarenbeek, 2019; Gisselquist, 2020). We will also depart from Scholten’s (2020) description of complexity governance through “alienation” to analyze how Nepalese migrants in Portugal navigate their status positioning, mainly as “non-documented migrants” (or - a pandemic after-effect - “temporarily documented while the pandemic lasts, for sanitary purposes only”). This is a qualitative and interpretative research, combining data from semi-structured interviews to 6 Nepalese migrant key-informants (living in different parts of Portugal) with participant observation, the field diary and ethnographic method. We will describe in detail the impacts of migration policies and their local implementation on the everyday lives of Nepalese in Portugal, as well as the effects of “alienation” or a “bouncing back/back and forth” legal status on their identities and practices. Concluding, we will be able to embed migrants’ strategies within a specific politically and economically structured environment, as well as learn from migrants’ practices and describe the role played by categories such as class and gender for them.

## **Roundtable Unstable Categories: The ‘Newcomer’ in Academic, Administrative and Everyday Discourses. (Fri. 11:15-12:45 CET)**

**Organisers: Miriam Neßler (ILS Dortmund), Malte Gembus (Coventry University), Bruno Meuss (KU Leuven)**

### **Roundtable Participants:**

**Janine Dahinden (University of Neuchâtel), Helga de Valk (University of Groningen / NIDI), Elisabeth Kirndorfer (University of Bonn)**

In a number of countries, the term ‘newcomer’ (‘nieuwkomer’ in Dutch and Flemish, ‘primo-arrivant’ in French, ‘Neuzugewanderte(r)’ in German) has emerged in the rhetoric and bureaucratic practice of government agencies or NGOs, usually related to integration policies. Within these administrative and even juridical jargons the term sometimes defines a precise group of people but in other situations it is a more open and vague descriptor. In academia, the term ‘newcomer’ appears in publications and research projects in the field of migration studies, but how is the term used in different fields and sites? To what extent is the academic and analytical use of the term related to the bureaucratic categories of the ‘newcomer’? What implications does the usage of such categories have and what kind of socially constructed identities are produced through it? While working within two multi-sited research projects on ‘newcomers’ in three different cities in Belgium, Germany, and the UK and confronted with the multiple meanings and connotations of the term ‘newcomer’ in our fieldwork, we have felt the need to unpack the term and explore its various indexicalities. These confrontations sparked many conversations within our team which we would like to extend to the IMISCOE-public in form of a hybrid roundtable discussion with other scholars invested in migration-related inquiry. We aim to provide a platform to collectively unpick the analytical and common-sense categories (Dahinden 2016) surrounding arrival and highlight some of their implications.