

Current Issues

IN ASYLUM AND MIGRATION



**RESEARCH WORKSHOP
BAMBERG, 4-5 JUNE 2019
PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACTS**

**BAMBERG
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**



— Workshop Concept

The aim of the workshop is to bring together scholars who work on different current issues of asylum and migration research. The workshop will be structured along the following questions: How do asylum seekers select their destination countries (if at all) and how do they get there? How do states and the EU regulate asylum and refugee flows? What do we know about the implementation and outcome of migration and asylum policies, for instance regarding integration? And how does the native population react to asylum seekers and refugees? These research questions will allow us to approach the topic from both micro- and macro-sociological perspectives and on the basis of political science, sociological and economic theories.

Time Schedule

June 4-5, FG1/00.06

Tuesday, June 4

15:45 - 16:00: Registration & Welcome Coffee

16:00 - 16:15: Introduction

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Session 1: Reasons of migration and migration decisions

16:15 - 17:00: Zorzeta Bakaki

Environmental migrants: The impact of climate change on transnational migration - Discussant: Henning Finseraas

17:00 - 17:45: Bernd Beber

The Myth of the Misinformed Migrant? Insights from Nigeria

- Discussant: Claire Adida

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Wednesday, June 5

Session 2: Migration regulations

09:00 - 09:45: Jesús Fernández-Huertas Moraga

The effect of policies on European refugee arrivals - Discussant:

Regine Schmidt / Jörg Welker

09:45 - 10:30: Philipp Lutz

Humanitarian protection as a European public good: The strategic role of states and refugees - Discussant: Moritz

Marbach

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Time Schedule

June 4-5, FG1/00.06

Session 3: Policy implementation

10:45 - 11:30: Caroline Schultz

Deserving the right to work? Immigration officials and irregular migrants' work permit in Germany - Discussant: Zorzeta Bakaki

11:30 - 12:15: Tobias Eule & Anna Wyss

Discretion and Illegibility in the Implementation of Migration Law in the Schengen Area - Discussant: Marc Helbling

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Session 4: Migration and violence

13:45 - 14:30: Moritz Marbach

The Electoral Consequences of Restricting Labor Market Access for Refugees: Evidence from Germany - Discussant: Bernd Beber

14:30 - 15:15: Marc Helbling

Transnational Terrorism and Restrictive Immigration Policies - Discussant: Jesús Fernández-Huertas Moraga

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Session 5: Migrant integration

15:30 - 16:15: Regine Schmidt & Jörg Welker

Educational Selectivity among Refugees and Labor Migrants in Western Europe - Discussant: Philipp Lutz

16:15 - 17:30: Henning Finseraas

How Settlement Locations and Local Networks Influence Immigrant Political Integration - Discussant: Tobias Eule / Anna Wyss

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Keynote Speech: Claire Adida

University of California San Diego

June 5, 18:15 - 19:30, FG1/00.08

What makes people act on behalf of refugees?

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Social scientists have shown how easily individuals are moved to exclude outgroup members. Can we foster inclusion instead? This study leverages one of the most significant humanitarian crises of our time to test whether, and under what conditions, American citizens adopt more inclusionary behavior toward Syrian refugees. We conduct a nationally representative survey of over 5,000 American citizens in the weeks leading up to the 2016 presidential election and experimentally test whether a perspective-taking exercise increases inclusionary behavior in the form of an anonymous letter supportive of refugees to be sent to the 45th President of the United States. Our results indicate that the perspective-taking message increases the likelihood of writing such a positive letter by two to five percentage points. By contrast, an informational message had no significant effect on letter writing. The effect of the perspective-taking exercise occurs in the short run only, manifests as a behavioral rather than an attitudinal response, and is strongest among Democrats. However, this effect also appears in the subset of Republican respondents, suggesting that efforts to promote perspective taking may move to action a wide cross-section of individuals.

Zorzeta Bakaki

University of Essex

Environmental migrants: The impact of climate change on transnational migrants

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This research builds upon and extends earlier research by studying whether people leave their homes and migrate to other states due to weather changes associated with climate change. Empirically, the theoretical arguments are analyzed with recently compiled time-series cross-section data on transnational migration since the 1960s. The results suggest that temperature shocks are strongly and robustly associated with transnational migration. Controlling for unobserved influences via country and year fixed effects as well as a series of robustness checks further increases the confidence in this finding. This research substantially improves our understanding of climate-induced migration and emphasizes that it is, in fact, a global phenomenon.

Bernd Beber

WZB Berlin Social Science Centre

The Myth of the Misinformed Irregular Migrant? Insights from Nigeria

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The past decade has seen large numbers of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa attempt to reach Europe irregularly along the dangerous "Mediterranean route," a trend that is projected to increase in coming decades (Hanson and McIntosh 2016). In response, European governments have invested heavily in initiatives to deter irregular migration, including an explosive expansion of information campaigns designed to inform potential migrants about the dangers of the journey and the unwelcoming reception they might receive in Europe (Schans and Optekamp 2016). There is surprisingly little evidence about whether such campaigns accomplish their stated objectives, and whether potential migrants actually are misinformed about the costs of the journey and the benefits of Europe. We provide such evidence from a representative survey we conducted in Benin City, the epicenter of irregular migration out of Nigeria, which is itself the largest sub-Saharan African source of irregular migrants to Europe. We find that potential migrants in this context are better informed about destination contexts than European information campaigns assume, but are poorly informed about the journey itself, and we discuss correlates of migration-related knowledge.

Authors:

Bernd Beber, Alexandra Scacco

Jesús Fernández-Huertas Moraga

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

The effect of policies on European refugee arrivals

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More than 3 million asylum seekers arrived into Europe between 2014 and 2016. Germany was the main destination, attracting 42.5 per cent of the flow. This paper studies why this was the case. We estimate the effect of policies on arrivals. In addition to the usual recognition rates, we introduce the role of processing times and repatriation risks in the location decision of asylum seekers throughout Europe. We find that asylum seekers responded both to variations in processing times and in recognition rates and to their interaction. As the theory predicts, the effect of processing times is negative when repatriation risks are high but positive when recognition rates are low and repatriation risks are low.

Authors:

Jesús Fernández-Huertas Moraga, Simone Bertoli, Herbert Brücker

Humanitarian protection as a European public good: The strategic role of states and refugees

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The recent surge of refugee arrivals in Europe has accentuated the malfunctioning of the Common European Asylum System. Disagreements between member states made non-coordination between nation states and a failed common protection of refugees the main outcomes of the so-called 'refugee crisis'. This paper builds on public good and policy compliance literature in order to explain the failure of European countries to provide humanitarian protection to refugees. A sequential game-theoretical model serves to demonstrate the strategic interaction between member states and refugees in European asylum policy. The analysis demonstrates that although both actors benefit from a functioning European asylum system, they also both have few incentives to contribute to the public good. States aim to reduce their individual refugee-burden, and refugees seek protection in their preferred destination country. The findings suggest that an effective provision of refugee protection requires both member states and refugees to mutually contribute to the public good.

Authors:

Philipp Lutz, David Kaufmann, Anna Stünzi

Caroline Schultz

University of Bamberg

Deserving the right to work? Immigration officials and irregular migrants' work permit in Germany

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This paper investigates the role of deservingness conceptions in the implementation of migration policies. Studies on public attitudes suggest that concerns about deservingness shape individual attitudes toward asylum seekers and migrants, and it is also well established that deservingness is a central feature of media and political debates on migration. Yet, there is only very scarce research on the question of whether and how migration policy implementers employ ideas of deservingness. The paper investigates how immigration officials in Germany frame the (un-)deservingness of work permit applicants, considering also the political, legal and societal context in which they work. The analysis is based on a distinction of five deservingness criteria originally developed in the study of welfare attitudes and uses primary data of semi-structured interviews with senior officials in German municipal immigration offices. The paper finds that deservingness frames are both inherent in the relevant parts of the German Residence Law and frequently employed by the officials themselves. It is argued that looking at migration policy implementation from the angle of (un-)deservingness can help advance understanding of the complex processes of differential in- and exclusion in countries of immigration.

Tobias Eule & Anna Wyss

University of Bern

Discretion and Illegibility in the Implementation of Migration Law in the Schengen Area

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This presentation is based on the collaborative ethnography *Migrants Before the Law* (Palgrave 2019), an examination of migration control and resistance across the Schengen Area. While decisions are clearly framed by law, we find that street-level bureaucrats wield substantive discretionary powers. The paper explores how agents use their relative freedom to tinker around individual cases to find solutions. Here, individual perceptions and understandings of the law, attitudes towards migration as well as pragmatic attempts to ‘get things done’ shape decision-making. The paper argues that while ideas and understandings of black letter law clearly matter, we need to take informal knowledge and practices into closer consideration. Indeed, only in recognising the absence of black letter law in much of law enforcement can we make sense of practices that otherwise appear as arbitrary or even absurd. We suggest that the migration regime operates through illegibility, a perception that is curiously shared by all actors involved. Given the unreadability of law and legal practice, we explore how knowledge transfer takes place among migrants, state agents and other actors, and shows that rumours and other forms of uncertain information play a crucial role in shaping their actions. Indeed, by relying on vague ideas of law, state actors, legal advisors and migrants, respectively, appropriate the law and produce new hopes, opportunities and practices that are ‘true enough’ for them to act upon. We conclude that the reliance on informal knowledge about law is systemic to the migration regime and inherently productive.

Authors:

Tobias Eule, Anna Wyss, Annika Lindberg, Lisa Marie Borrelli

Moritz Marbach

ETH Zurich

The Electoral Consequences of Restricting Labor Market Access for Refugees: Evidence from Germany

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Governments across Europe are restricting labor market access for asylum seekers, with often detrimental consequences for the livelihood of refugees and the public finances of host societies. This raises the following questions: Are the benefits of restrictive immigrant policies political rather than economic, and do incumbent governments receive an electoral edge by implementing such policies? In this paper, we exploit a natural experiment in Germany, where, following a deterministic assignment rule, certain regions were exempted from a reform that liberalized labor market access for refugees. Using difference-in-difference and regression discontinuity designs, we find that the incumbent vote share sharply increases in regions with restrictive labor market access. Exploring different mechanisms, our results suggest that this effect is primarily driven by differential candidate entry: In regions with restrictive labor market access, fewer conservative and populist challengers are running for office. Our results suggest that not only do immigration inflows have direct electoral repercussions, but immigrant policies do also.

Transnational Terrorism and Restrictive Immigration Policies

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We study the effect of transnational terrorism risk perception on immigration policy change for a sample of 30 OECD countries between 1981 and 2010. We argue that to avoid electoral defeat governments may implement more restrictive migration policies during times of high terrorism risk to signal political resolve to an electorate that dislikes the fear and economic instability that are associated with terrorism. We find that an increased perception of transnational terrorism risk leads to stricter migration controls but does not affect general migration policy. We show that this finding holds for different operationalization of terrorism risk and when endogeneity is accounted for. Furthermore, we provide some evidence that the nexus between terrorism risk perception and immigration policy changed after the end of the Cold War, potentially as transnational terrorism by Islamist groups (which tends to be more bloody and directed at civilian targets) became more prominent.

Authors:
Marc Helbling, Daniel Meierrieks

Regine Schmidt & Jörg Welker

University of Bamberg

Educational Selectivity among Refugees and Labor Migrants in Western Europe

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Immigrant selectivity describes the notion that migrants are not a random sample of the population at origin, but differ in certain traits such as educational attainment from individuals who stay behind. In this article, we move away from group-level descriptions of educational selectivity and measure it as an individual's relative position in the age- and gender-specific educational distribution of the country of origin. We describe the extent of educational selectivity for a selection of destinations as well as a selection of origin groups ranging from recent refugee to labor migrant populations. By contrasting refugees to labor migrants, we address longstanding assumptions about typical differences in the degree of selectivity between different types of immigrants. According to our findings, refugee migrants are somewhat less positively selected than labor migrants are. However, these differences vary; and there are labor migrant groups that score similar or lower on selectivity than do the refugees covered in this study. Selectivity differences between refugees and labor migrants therefore seem less prominent than arguments in the literature suggest. Another key finding is that every origin group is composed of varying proportions of positively and negatively selected individuals. In most cases, the origin groups cover the whole spectrum of selectivity, so that characterizing them as either predominantly positively or negatively selected does not seem adequate.

Authors:

Regine Schmidt, Jörg Welker, Christoph Spörlein, Cornelia Kristen

Henning Finseraas

Institute for Social Research, Oslo

How Settlement Locations and Local Networks Influence Immigrant Political Integration

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To what extent do early experiences in the host country shape the political integration of immigrants? We argue that the initial neighborhoods immigrants settle in establish patterns of behavior that shape downstream political participation. Drawing on Norwegian administrative register data, we leverage quasi-exogenous variation in the placement of quota refugees to assess the consequences of assignment to particular neighborhoods. We find that the difference in electoral turnout between refugees initially placed in 20th and 80th percentile neighborhoods is 12.6 percentage points, which is 47 percent of the observed gap between refugees and residents. To assess the mechanism, we draw on individual-level data on all neighbors present at the time of each refugees' arrival, and evaluate the relative impact of local socioeconomic characteristics and available social networks. Our findings suggest that while neighborhood socioeconomic factors play a limited role, early exposure to politically engaged peer networks increases immigrants' subsequent electoral participation.

Authors:

Henning Finseraas, Bernt Bratsberg, Jeremy Ferwerda, Andreas Kotsadam

SERVICES

Accommodation

All external participants have their accommodation booked at the Hotel Europa, which is located on Untere Königstraße 6-8, Bamberg. The hotel is 9 minutes on foot from Bamberg train station. For more information: <https://www.hotel-europa-bamberg.de/>.

Refreshment Breaks & Lunch

In the morning breaks and afternoon breaks, coffee, soft drinks and small snacks are offered in front of the seminar room. For lunch on Wednesday, June 5, we booked a table for 13 persons at Il Cartoccio (Italian), Kloster-Banz-Straße 53 for 12.45. The restaurant is only a few minutes away by foot from the seminar location.

Wi-Fi

You will also have free Wi-Fi access at the University of Bamberg. In Bamberg in general you have many hotspots that support @BayernWLAN, which is a free Wi-Fi service provided by the Bundesland of Bavaria.

Public Transportation

The most frequent bus connection from the conference venue to the city center is bus number 931. It stops in front of the cafeteria/Mensa at Feldkirchenstraße (Stop: Universität, see campus map). Busses leave at xx:02, xx:12, xx:22, xx:32, xx:42 and xx:52. Bus #931 stops at the train station and ends at the central bus station (ZOB). Bus tickets are available from the bus driver. The single fare is EUR 2.00, alternatively, you could get a multi-trip ticket for four trips which costs EUR 6.80. Please note that you have to pay in cash with the bus driver.

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Conference Venue

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University of Bamberg
Feldkirchenstraße 21,
Wing FG1,
96052 Bamberg
Seminar Rooms:
FG1/00.06 + FG1/00.08

Workshop Dinner

Tuesday, June 4
19:30 [Das Eckerts](#)
Obere Mühlbrücke 9,
96049 Bamberg
Wednesday, June 5
20:00 [Hofbräu](#)
Karolinenstr. 7,
96049 Bamberg

Further Questions?

For all further questions, please refer to our staff at the registration desk. They will be available to support you throughout the workshop.

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Marc Helbling



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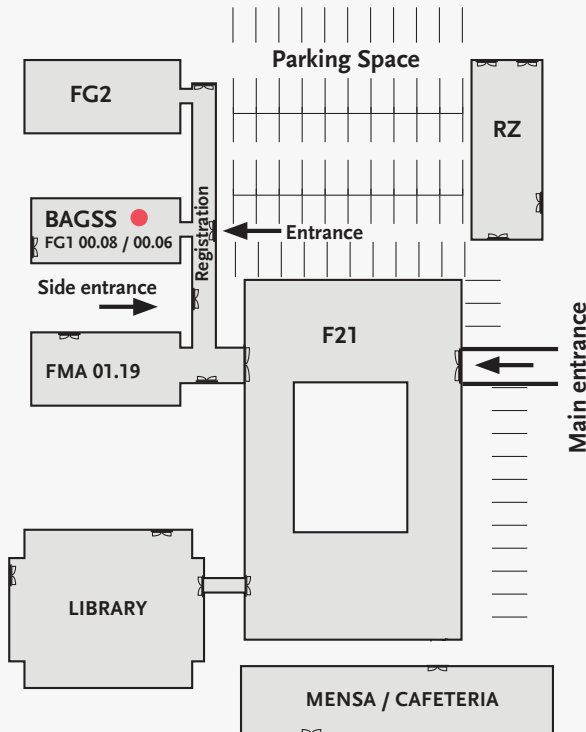
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