



Comparing Recent and Older Refugee Migration in and to Europe – Sociological Perspectives

Call for papers for the joint international conference of the Sections “Sociology of Europe” and “Migration and Ethnic Minorities” of the German Sociological Association (DGS)

2-3 March 2023, Otto Friedrich University Bamberg

Over the last decade, the European Union (EU) has been the destination of two large crises of forced displacement in its neighborhood. Following the eruption of the Syrian civil war and other conflicts in the Middle East and Northern Africa, the EU received around 1.2 million asylum applications in 2015 and 2016, respectively. A few years later, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, around 4.2 million Ukrainians have registered for protection in the EU.

According to international law, states are required to give persons fleeing from war and persecution access to their territory, and they are not to discriminate between them based on their national or ethnic background. Yet, the EU’s responses to both refugee movements differed markedly. In early 2022, the member states of the EU acted swiftly and unanimously to grant temporary protection to displaced Ukrainians. This contrasts with the EU’s response to the displacement in 2015/16, which caused severe conflicts over the admission and distribution of refugees and was predominantly tackled with restrictive measures.

Taking this observation as a starting point, the conference seeks to explore the EU’s and its member states’ varied responses to different refugee movements, and how these have influenced the situation of different refugee groups in their new host societies. To what extent and why do the EU and its member states react so differently to different refugee groups, such as Ukrainian, Syrian and/or other refugees? How does this affect the lived experiences of different refugee groups? What are the implications for the ways in which refugees – of both recent and previous movements – can participate in different spheres of their host society or are hindered from doing so?

Our conference aims at bringing together different perspectives on forced displacement and refugees. We welcome both theoretical and empirical contributions on these and related topics, including quantitative and qualitative methodologies, single case studies as well as comparative analyses across regional contexts, refugee groups, or over time.

Contributions tackling some of the following themes are particularly welcome:

1. Policies of refugee admission, integration and border control of the EU and its member states and the role of civil society actors.
2. Public discourses, framings and dynamics of socio-political conflicts regarding the reception of refugees.
3. Public attitudes towards the reception of refugees and their determinants.
4. The drivers and experiences of displacement as well as social and symbolic boundaries faced by refugees in destination countries.
5. Characteristics of refugee groups from different backgrounds (e.g. national, ethnic, religious, refugee status) and their participation in various societal domains across Europe.
6. Data collections about recent and older refugee groups.

We are looking forward to your proposal, including title, abstract (up to 500 words) and contact details. Please submit your proposal until 15 December 2022 via email to SektionMueM@gmx.de. Notifications of acceptance will be sent until the end of December 2022.

We welcome submissions from early career researchers.

Note: The conference is planned as an in-person event on the premises of Bamberg University, in accordance with the relevant hygiene rules related to the Covid-19 pandemic. If necessary, the conference will be moved to an online format on the same date.

For further questions on the conference, please contact the organizers:

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